

# Graduation Requirements for a NC High School Diploma

FOR 9TH GRADERS ENTERING IN 2009 TO 2012-13

**English – 4 credits**

**Mathematics – 4 credits**

*(Includes Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or  
Integrated Math I, II & III)*

**Science – 3 credits**

*(Physical Science, Biology & Environmental Science)*

**Social Studies – 3 or 4\* credits**

*(Civics and Economics, World History, & US History\*)*

**Health and Physical Education – 1 credit**

**World Languages – 2 credits\*\***

**Elective Credits – 2 credits**

*(Any combination of either Career and Technical  
Education, Arts Education or World Languages)*

**Elective Concentration – 4 credits**

*(Career and Technical Education, JROTC, Arts Education,  
or any other subject area is recommended)*

**TOTAL 21 OR 22\* CREDITS**

*(plus any local requirements)*

\* For Ninth Graders entering in 2012-13 and later: US History II  
or AP US History is also required for a total of 22 Credits

\*\* Required for admission to a university in the UNC system



## College & Career Planning Websites

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

[www.betterhighschools.org](http://www.betterhighschools.org)

[www.careersinthemilitary.com](http://www.careersinthemilitary.com)

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

[www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)

[www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov)

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

[www.collegecapital.com](http://www.collegecapital.com)

[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

[www.embark.com](http://www.embark.com)

[www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](http://www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)

[www.ncpublicschools.org](http://www.ncpublicschools.org)

[www.ncicu.org](http://www.ncicu.org)

[www.supercollege.com](http://www.supercollege.com)

[www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)

[www.collegesavings.org](http://www.collegesavings.org)

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

[www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com)

**Academic Services/Instructional Support Division**  
6341 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27601

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## Parent's Fast Facts for College & Career Planning



**PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

## Helping Your Child Plan for College and Career

It is never too early to begin college and career planning. Middle school is an important time for parents to help their children plan their educational and career goals. Help your child fulfill their college and career ambitions by:

- discussing with your child his or her interests and abilities;
- exploring careers and college majors that may be related to your child's interests;
- encouraging your child to attend any school career days;
- enrolling your child in rigorous and/or advanced middle school courses such as Algebra I;
- encouraging your child to develop strong study skills and maintain good grades;
- gathering the facts about careers and the college admissions process; and
- sharing your child's college and career goals with his or her counselors and teachers.



*Middle school is a great time for your child to start making college and career plans.*



*College and career readiness begins with planning.*

## Set College and Career Plans in High School

Recent studies have shown that students who take challenging courses in middle school often perform better in high school. In order to prepare for college and a career, it is important that students continue their momentum through their senior year. From ninth through 12th grade, students should:

- strengthen reading, math and writing skills by taking rigorous high school courses;
- meet with their school counselor to ensure that they are taking appropriate courses for their college or career interests;
- develop effective study habits and time management skills;
- participate in school sports, clubs, or community activities;
- explore career interests and possible college majors through mentoring programs, job-shadowing or college campus visits;
- if eligible, participate in pre-college programs sponsored by your local college or community organizations;



- continue to gather information about careers and colleges;
- make sure you meet all admission deadlines; and
- obtain information about the costs of career preparation programs and other financial aid opportunities.

## Making the Transition to College and Career

There are a variety of options for students after high school: two-year colleges, certificate programs, four-year colleges, the military and job/career training programs. Parents can help their children by exploring each of these options and pursuing financial aid and scholarship resources.

