

Current Core Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) requires a minimum of 24 units of credit earned, through course completion (R277-700) or through competency assessment (R277-705), to graduate with a diploma from a Utah public high school.

The USBE sets the minimum requirements, however, each Local Educational Agency (LEA) is able to set higher graduation requirements as long as the state minimum requirements are met.

This document outlines the criteria of the four core subject areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Other subject area content, such as, Art, Health, Physical Education (P.E.), Career and Technical Education (CTE), Digital Studies, Financial Literacy, and electives are also required to earn a high school diploma in the State of Utah.

The Alternate Diploma for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities must also meet the 24-credit minimum. Please contact the Special Education Department at the USBE for additional details.

The four subject areas outlined in this document are:

4 credits of Language Arts (pg. 2)

3 credits of Mathematics (pg. 3)

3 credits of Science (pg. 4)

3 credits of Social Studies (pg. 5)

In addition to the credit requirements of the four core subject areas listed above, student will need to earn credits in the following content areas:

1.5 credits of The Arts

0.5 credits of Health Education

1.5 credits of Physical Education

1.0 credit of Career and Technical Education

0.5 credit of Digital Studies

0.5 credit of General Financial Literacy

5.5 credits of Electives

There is additional guidance for each subject area and can be found in board rule R277-700-7.

Note: All students must also pass the Basic Civics Test or Alternate Assessment as described in 53E-4-205 and R277-700-8 to receive a high school diploma.

NOTE: *Concurrent enrollment courses offered from college/university language arts, mathematics, or science departments.

NOTE: Teachers currently meeting state license and endorsement requirements for an approved applied or advanced course are qualified to teach that course

For more information about course cactus numbers, please contact Cathy Gray at cathy.gray@schools.utah.gov.

Current Core Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements

Language Arts - 4.0 Credits

Three Courses from the Foundational plus one course from the Applied and Advanced List

Foundational Courses (3 credits)			Applied & Advanced Courses (1 credit)
9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
English 9 English 9H	English 10 English 10H AP Seminar	English 11 English 11H Concurrent Enrollment International Baccalaureate AP Literature & Composition AP Language & Composition	English 12 Concurrent Enrollment International Baccalaureate AP Literature & Composition AP Language & Composition
			Applied/Advanced Courses* Business Communication Creative Writing 1 and 2 Debate 2 and 3 Humanities Journalism 1 and 2 Literary Magazine Mythology Speech 2 Professional & Technical Communication World Languages 3, 4, or AP
			School-Sponsored Verbal Communication Credit up to 0.5**

* [Supplemental Standards](#) are provided for these Applied/Advanced courses and should be used as a *supplement* to the [core ELA 11/12th grade Utah Standards](#).

**Refer to Graduation Communications Credits Guidance for more information regarding the school-sponsored verbal communication credit option

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Current Core Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements

Mathematics – 3.0 Credits

Secondary I, II, and III. Secondary III can be replaced by an Applied Course with written parent request (opt out form recognizing not being prepared for college).

Foundational Courses

Secondary I or Secondary IE
Secondary II or Secondary IIE
Secondary III or Secondary IIIE

Advanced Courses (Secondary III Pre-requisite)

AP Calculus AB or BC
AP Statistics
College Prep Math
Introductory Calculus
Concurrent Enrollment* 1010, 1030, 1040, 1050, or 1060
International Baccalaureate

Applied Courses (Alternative Selections for Secondary III Opt out) (Secondary II Prerequisite)

Accounting I and II
Computer Programming
Introductory Statistics/Intro to Data Science
Mathematical Decision Making for Life (non-CE course)
Mathematics of Personal Finance Medical Math
Modern Mathematics

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Current Core Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements

Science – 3.0 Credits

A total of two courses from two of the five areas of science on the Foundational Courses list plus one credit from the Foundation Courses list or Applied and Advanced Courses list

Foundational Courses

Biology

- Biology
- Biology: Agricultural Science⁺
- AP or IB Biology
- Biology with Lab CE SEEd*

Chemistry

- Chemistry
- AP or IB Chemistry
- Chemistry with Lab CE SEEd*

Computer Science

- AP Computer Science⁺
- Computer Science Principles^{***}
- Computer Science Advanced^{***}

Earth Science

- Earth and Space Science
- AP Environmental Science
- IB Environmental Systems

Physics

- Physics
- AP or IB Physics
- Physics with Lab CE SEEd

Applied or Advanced Courses

Agricultural Biotechnology⁺
Agricultural Science⁺ I, II, III, IV Aquaculture⁺
Animal Science⁺ I or II
Astronomy^{**}
Biotechnology⁺
Biology Elective CE No SEEd*
Botany
Chemistry Elective CE No SEEd*
Electronics⁺ 1,2,3
Engineering Principles⁺ 1, 2
Engineering Capstone⁺
Environmental Science^{**}
Equine Science⁺
Genetics^{**}

Geology^{**}
Human Anatomy^{**}
Marine Science
Materials Science⁺
Medical Anatomy and Physiology^{***}
Medical Forensics⁺
Meteorology^{**}
Natural Resource Science⁺ I, II
Physics Elective CE No SEEd*
Plant and Soil Science⁺ I^{**}, II
Robotics⁺ 1, 2
Veterinary Assistant⁺ 1, 2
Wildlife Biology
Zoology

⁺ CTE Courses

^{**} Includes CE and/or AP Courses

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Current Core Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements

Social Studies – 3.0 Credits

2.5 from the foundational required course list (or their equivalent) and .5 elective from any course from the Applied/Advanced social studies area, which could include an additional half credit added to any of the required half-credit courses.

Foundational Courses

World History

- World Civilization
- World History
- AP European history
- AP World History
- HIST 1100 & 1110 CE* (if both taken)

World Geography

- Geography for Life
- World Geography
- AP Human Geography
- World/Cultural Geography CE*

U.S. History 2

- U.S. History 2
- AP US History
- HIST 1700 CE* (if offered in a full year)
- HIST 2700 & 2710 CE* (if both taken)

U.S. Government and Citizenship

- U. S. Government and Citizenship
- AP US Government & Politics
- Political Science 1100 CE*

Applied or Advanced Courses (not a comprehensive list)

Advanced Geography

Advanced Psychology

American Government and Law

Anthropology

AP Economics-Macro

AP Economics-Micro

AP Psychology

Civics

Criminal Justice

Current Issues

Economics

Economics Elective CE*

Geography II

Introduction to Philosophy

Introduction to Philosophy CE*

Native American Studies

Navajo Culture, Language, and Government

Political Science

Political Science Elective CE*

Psychology

Psychology CE*

Sociology

Sociology CE*

Student Government

World Civilizations II

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Current Core Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements

Applied, advanced, or equivalent courses may be added to the list using the following procedure and criteria.

Language Arts

Determined by the local school board and approved by Utah State Board of Education (USBE), using the following criteria.

- (i) courses are within the field/discipline of language arts with a significant portion of instruction aligned to language arts content, principles, knowledge, and skills; and
- (ii) courses provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the nature and disposition of language arts; and
- (iii) courses apply the fundamental concepts and skills of language arts; and
- (iv) courses provide developmentally appropriate content; and
- (v) courses develop skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and presentation.

Mathematics

Determined by the local school board and approved by Utah State Board of Education (USBE), using the following criteria.

- (i) courses are within the field/discipline of mathematics with a significant portion of instruction aligned to mathematics content, principles, knowledge, and skills; and
- (ii) courses provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the nature and disposition of mathematics; and
- (iii) courses apply the fundamental concepts and skills of mathematics; and
- (iv) courses provide developmentally appropriate content; and
- (v) courses include the five process skills of mathematics: problem-solving, reasoning, communication, connections, and representation.

Science

Determined by the local school board and approved by Utah State Board of Education (USBE), using the following criteria.

- (i) courses are within the field/discipline of science with a significant portion of instruction aligned to science content, principles, knowledge, and skills; and
- (ii) courses provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the nature and disposition of science; and
- (iii) courses apply the fundamental concepts and skills of science; and
- (iv) courses provide developmentally appropriate content; and
- (v) courses include the areas of physical, natural, or applied sciences; and
- (vi) courses develop students' skills in scientific inquiry.

NOTE: *Concurrent enrollment courses offered from college/university language arts, mathematics, or science departments.

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Current Core Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements

Social Studies

Determined by the local school board and approved by Utah State Board of Education (USBE), using the following criteria.

- (i) courses are within the field/disciplines of social studies with a significant portion of instruction aligned to social studies content, principles, knowledge, and skills; and
- (ii) courses provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the nature and disposition of social studies disciplines; and
- (iii) courses apply the fundamental concepts and skills of social studies; and
- (iv) courses provide developmentally appropriate content; and
- (v) courses develop students' skills in social studies inquiry.

NOTE: *Concurrent enrollment courses offered from college/university language arts, mathematics, or science departments.

NOTE: Teachers currently meeting state license and endorsement requirements for an approved applied or advanced course are qualified to teach that course

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