

Current Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements 2025-26

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 for the various content area credits and additional requirements needed 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 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)

3.0 credits of Social Studies: **3.5 credits beginning with incoming 9th graders in 2026-27 SY** (pg. 5)

1.5 credits of The Arts (pg. 6)

0.5 credits of Health Education (pg. 6)

1.5 credits of Physical Education (pg. 6)

1.0 credit of Career and Technical Education (pg. 6)

0.5 credit of Digital Studies (pg. 7)

0.5 credit of General Financial Literacy (pg. 7)

5.5 credits of Electives: **5.0 credits beginning with incoming 9th graders in 2026-27 SY** (pg. 7)

Additional guidance for each subject area can be found in board rule R277-700-6.

NOTE: *Concurrent enrollment courses offered from college/university language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies 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 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 International Baccalaureate AP Literature & Composition AP Language & Composition	English 12 English 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 AP World Languages
School-Sponsored Verbal Communication Credit up to 0.5***			

* Students who took ENGL 1010 to fulfill their ELA 11 credit before the 2026-2027 school year will still have that credit honored.

**[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 Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements

Mathematics – 3.0 Credits

Foundational Courses

Secondary I or Secondary IE

Secondary II or Secondary IIE

Secondary III or Secondary IIIE

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

Advanced Courses (Secondary III Pre-requisite)

AP Calculus AB or BC

AP Statistics

AP Pre-Calculus

College Prep Math

Concurrent Enrollment* 1010, 1030, 1040, 1050, or 1060

International Baccalaureate

Introductory Calculus

Applied Courses (Secondary II Prerequisite)

Must meet the following criteria:

- Alternative Selections for Secondary III opt out 1.0 credit required
- Teacher must hold a mathematics endorsement for courses to count for math credit.

Accounting I (0.5)

Accounting II (0.5)

Computer Programming (0.5)

Introductory Statistics or Intro to Data Science (1.0)

Mathematical Decision Making for Life (non-CE course) (1.0)

Mathematics of Personal Finance (Does not count for General Financial Literacy) (1.0)

Medical Math (Teacher must fulfill requirements of Medical Math endorsement) (0.5)

Modern Mathematics (1.0)

Small Business Math (0.5)

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Current 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 Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements

Social Studies – 3.0 Credits

(3.5 credits beginning with incoming 9th graders in 2026-27 school year)

3.0 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 (.5 min required)

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

World Geography (.5 min required)

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

U.S. History 2 (1.0 min required)

- 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 (.5 min required)

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

American Constitutional Government and Citizenship: .5 minimum required beginning with incoming 9th graders in the 2026-27 school year

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 Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements

The Arts 1.5 credits

See list of approved courses for graduation credit in CACTUS for Dance, Film/Media Arts, Music, Theatre, or Visual Art.

Health Education 0.5 credits

Health II

Physical Education 1.5 credits

The 1.5 credit must be from each of the following areas:

- .5-Participation, Skills, and Techniques
- .5-Fitness for Life
- .5-Individual Lifetime Activities

Career and Technical Education (CTE) 1.0 credit

Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides all students with access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value. A total of 1.0 credit from any courses in the following career cluster areas must be completed:

Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering
Agriculture
Arts, Entertainment & Design
Business Management & Entrepreneurship
Construction
Digital Technology
Education

Energy & Natural Resources
Financial Services
Health Care & Human Services
Hospitality, Events & Tourism
Marketing
Public Service & Safety
Supply Chain & Transportation

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Current Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements

Digital Studies 0.5 credit

The Digital Studies credit requirement is intended to advance students from being computer users to being computationally literate creators. To achieve this, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may choose for students to take one of the six approved courses.

The Digital Studies credit includes competencies associated with the field/discipline of computing, aligned to current trends in technology, providing problem solving, reasoning, communication, and computational thinking.

The six approved courses that count towards the Digital Studies 0.5 required graduation credit are:

Business Office Specialist
Computer Programming 1
Computer Science Principles

Digital Business Apps
Exploring Computer Science
Web Development 1

General Financial Literacy 0.5 credit

The 0.5 credit for General Financial Literacy can be met through the following courses: General Financial Literacy or Finance CE.

Electives 5.5 credits

(5.0 beginning with incoming 9th graders in 2026-27 school year)

- A course used to fulfill elective credit does not necessarily have to only contain elective credit. Any course that provides state level credit can be counted toward the 5.5 required elective credits once the requirements for the content area of the course has been fulfilled.
- A student may take a recurring course more than once per [R277-717-2\(5\)](#) in order to further the student's understanding and skills in the course subject, such as journalism or band; or satisfy a different credit requirement that the course may fulfill, such as an art class that fulfills an elective requirement and an art requirement.

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