

Graduation Requirements

Board Policy: C-1
 Adopted: May 11, 1992
 Revised: November 8, 2012
 Revised: July 15, 2013

I. General Policy Statement

In addition to meeting the North Carolina Competency requirements, the North Carolina State Board of Education and the Haywood County Board of Education require a minimum of units for graduation from high school as listed below. A student must have been enrolled four (4) full years in grades 9-12; exceptions to the four-year requirement will be handled by the school principal on an individual case basis. Exceptions include but are not limited to, students approved for early release and early graduation.

II. NC Course of Study Graduation Requirements

<i>Content Area</i>	Occupational Course of Study (IEP Required)	Future Ready Core 9th Graders Entering 2009-2011	Career and College Ready 9th Graders Entering 2012 and Later
English	4 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits
Mathematics	3 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits
Science	2 Credits	3 Credits	3 Credits
Social Studies	2 Credits	3 Credits	4 Credits
World Language	Not Required	MAR*** for UNC System	MAR*** for UNC System
Health & PE	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit
Pathway Career/Technical (or) JROTC(or) Arts Education	4 Credits	NA	NA
State Electives or other Requirements	6 Credits <i>Occupational Preparation</i>	6 Credits (See HCS Options)	6 Credits (See HCS Options)
Local Electives	NA	1 – CHH 4 – THS 8 – PHS/HEC	0 – CHH 2 – THS 6 – PHS/HEC

Haywood County Schools - Minimum Credits needed to graduate:

- Central Haywood = 22 of 28-32 Courses
- Haywood Early College = 24 of 28 Courses **
- Tuscola High = 24 of 28 Courses
- Pisgah High = 28 of 32 Courses

* North Carolina Scholars Program requires 1 Career Technical Elective and 1 Arts Education elective in the College/University Prep Course of Study.

** Haywood Early College students will also complete community college courses to fulfill the requirements of an Associates Degree.

*** MAR = Minimum Academic Requirements for the University of North Carolina System

Mathematics – specific courses are required in each Course of Study

Science – courses are a Physical Science, Biology, and Earth/Environmental Science

Social Studies – courses are World History, US History 1, US History 2, Civics and Economics

III. Program Constraints

- A. No student will be permitted to register for a load of less than 7 courses at Tuscola High School and 8 courses at Pisgah High School and Central Haywood High School per year unless he or she has special permission from the principal.
- B. Students will not be allowed to take more than one English course during the regular school day. Initial enrollment in a high school English course will not be allowed outside the regular school day. Exceptions may be handled by the high school principal.

IV. Additional Requirements for Graduation

Students are required to perform at Achievement Level III or above on all state required EOC assessments. For any student who does not score at Level III or above on the assessment or on Retest 1 of the assessment if available, local review /waiver procedures have been established. (See Policy SA-13 for specifics).

All high schools will follow the Standards of Quality for Graduation Projects as approved by the State Board of Education. The principal of each high school shall monitor the implementation of the NCGP and compliance with regard to the Standards of Quality. The superintendent will certify compliance to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction of each high school as outlined by the Department.

V. Transfer and Foreign Exchange Students

Transfer students and Foreign Exchange student's transcripts will be reviewed by school committee and principal using the following criteria:

- 1. Transfer credit from high schools recognized by national, regional or state accrediting agencies will be accepted without further validation.
- 2. Transfer credit from non-accredited schools shall be reviewed using the following available criteria:
 - a. an analysis of instructional hours per course
 - b. an analysis of the previous school's curriculum
 - c. a review of available student work
 - d. a review of the student's assessment data and scholastic performance as it relates to the course
 - e. the results of assessments administered by Haywood County Schools or courses that require End-of-Course test in North Carolina
 - f. the state or federal "status" (ABC, AYP, etc.) of the previous school

VI. North Carolina Academic Scholars Program

To be recognized as an NC Academic Scholar, students must meet the course requirements as set forth by the North Carolina State Board of Education and possess an unweighted GPA of 3.5 or higher.

VII. Exit Documents

- 1. **Diploma** – Granted to students who satisfy all state and local graduation requirements.
Merit Sticker – Granted to students who satisfy all state and local graduation requirements, whose rank is in the top ten percent of the graduating class and have a score on the SAT or the ACT which is higher than the "national average" for the previous year.
- 2. **Graduation Certificate** – Granted to exceptional students identified by G.S. 115C-109 who do not meet: 1) all the North Carolina and Haywood County requirements for a high school diploma. Students must successfully complete 21 course credits as defined by State Board Policy GCS-N-004 and all IEP requirements, or 2) the student has passed all the requirements of the Occupational Course of Study other than the 360 hours of competitive employment.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-105.40; State Board of Education Policy