

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Students must complete content required by the Iowa Department of Education and reflected in courses required by the Waterloo Schools Board of Education to receive a diploma signifying graduation from Waterloo Community Schools. The content and courses are specific to preparing students for college, career, and citizenship. Students must have attended a high school within the Waterloo Community Schools for at least one semester immediately prior to graduation. It shall be the responsibility of the High School Principal to ensure that students who have completed the district graduation requirements are recommended to the Superintendent for graduation.

WCSD recognizes a three-tiered approach for completing graduation requirements. The *Standard Diploma* is the path that the majority of students will follow. The *Honors Diploma* reflects a more rigorous path that includes advanced courses. The *Core Diploma* reflects an alternative choice for students who need to meet graduation requirements in a differentiated manner.

Both the *Honors Diploma* and the *Core Diploma* require approval from school and district administrators, counselor(s), and parents/guardians. Approval is provided through an application process that should occur during the first semester or later of the third year of high school.

The Core Diploma is not applicable for early graduation and students must be in a four-year (or more) high school course of study.

Graduating Classes of 2020 and 2021

I. STANDARD DIPLOMA CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

	Credits
English (must include English 9, 10, Am. Lit./Comp)	8
Mathematics (must include Algebra I or equivalency)	6
Science (must include 2 biology and 2 physical science)	6
Social Sciences	
U.S. History	2
World History	2
Contemporary Affairs	1
U.S. Government	1
Economics (Economics, JA Economics, or Consumer (Personal) Economics, Virtual Econ)	1
C ³ Foundations	1
Health	1
Physical Education (or equivalent exemptions)	4
Career Technical Courses/Electives	9-11+
Standard Diploma Credits for Graduation	44+

II. HONORS DIPLOMA CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

	Credits
English (must include English 9, 10, Am. Lit./Comp)	8
Mathematics (must include Algebra I or equivalency)	6
Science (must include 2 biology and 2 physical science)	6
Social Sciences	
U.S. History	2
World History	2
Contemporary Affairs	1
U.S. Government	1
Economics (Economics, JA Economics, or Consumer (Personal) Economics, Virtual Econ)	1
C ³ Foundations	1
Health	1
Physical Education (or equivalent exemptions)	4
Career Technical Courses/Electives	18-20+
Honors Diploma Credits for Graduation	53+

Additionally, to earn an *Honors Diploma*, students must also successfully complete five advanced courses from PSEO (Post-Secondary Enrollment Option), AP (Advanced Placement), IB (International Baccalaureate), and/or Concurrent Courses, which can include CTE (Career Technical Education) courses. The five advanced courses must be year-long courses. Semester courses would count as .5 in meeting the requirement of five advanced courses.

III. CORE DIPLOMA CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

	Credits
English (must include English 9, 10, and a writing course)	8
Mathematics (must include Algebra I or equivalency)	6
Science (must include biology and physical science)	6
Social Sciences (must include US History, World History, and US Government)	6
Economics	1
C ³ Foundations	1
Health	1
Physical Education (or equivalent exemptions)	4
Career Technical Courses/Electives	2-10+
Core Diploma Credits for Graduation	35 – 43

Starting with the Graduating Class of 2022**I. STANDARD DIPLOMA CREDIT REQUIREMENTS**

	Credits
English (must include English 9, 10, Am. Lit./Comp)	8
Mathematics (must include Algebra I or equivalency)	6
Science	
Earth & Space Science	2
Biology	2

And One of the Following Combinations:

Physical Science A & B	2
Physical Science A & Chemistry A/B	3
Physical Science B & Physics A/B	3
Chemistry A/B & Physics A/B	4
Social Sciences	
U.S. History	2
World History	2
Geography	1
U.S. Government	1
Economics (Economics, JA Economics, or Consumer (Personal) Economics, Virtual Econ)	1
C ³ Foundations	1
Health	1
Physical Education (or equivalent exemptions)	4
Career Technical Courses/Electives	9-11+
Standard Diploma Credits for Graduation	44+

II. HONORS DIPLOMA CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

	Credits
English (must include English 9, 10, Am. Lit./Comp)	8
Mathematics (must include Algebra I or equivalency)	6
Science	
Earth & Space Science	2
Biology	2
And One of the Following Combinations:	
Physical Science A & B	2
Physical Science A & Chemistry A/B	3
Physical Science B & Physics A/B	3
Chemistry A/B & Physics A/B	4
Social Sciences	
U.S. History	2
World History	2
Geography	1
U.S. Government	1
Economics (Economics, JA Economics, or Consumer (Personal) Economics, Virtual Econ)	1
C ³ Foundations	1
Health	1
Physical Education (or equivalent exemptions)	4
Career Technical Courses/Electives	18-20+
Honors Diploma Credits for Graduation	53+

Additionally, to earn an *Honors Diploma*, students must also successfully complete five advanced courses from PSEO (Post-Secondary Enrollment Option), AP (Advanced Placement), IB (International Baccalaureate), and/or Concurrent Courses, which can include CTE (Career Technical Education) courses. The five advanced courses must be year-long courses. Semester courses would count as .5 in meeting the requirement of five advanced courses.

III. CORE DIPLOMA CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

	Credits
English (must include English 9, 10, and a writing course)	8
Mathematics (must include Algebra I or equivalency)	6
Science (must include Earth and Space Science, biology and physical science)	6
Social Sciences (must include US History, World History, Geography and US Government)	6
Economics	1
C ³ Foundations	1
Health	1
Physical Education (or equivalent exemptions)	4
Career Technical Courses/Electives	2-10+
Core Diploma Credits for Graduation	35 – 43

IV. IOWA ASSESSMENTS REQUIREMENT

The Iowa Assessments have been retired as of 2018. The new state test, the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) will be administered for the first time in the spring of 2019. As a result, starting with the graduating class of 2020, students will be exempt from the 263 Iowa Assessment requirement. Students in the class of 2019 will still be required to meet the 263 Reading and Math national standard score.

V. STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS

Graduation requirements for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) shall be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in their IEP. Prior to the student's graduation, the IEP team shall determine whether the graduation requirements have been met.

VI. ALTERNATIVE CREDIT

A. Students may earn outside credit towards graduation upon completion of approved alternative courses of study. Approval of such courses shall be determined by Educational Services. No more than a total of four (4) credits or two (2) units of credit for courses will be approved to apply toward graduation. Procedures for Homebound Instruction are covered under policy 603.4 and 603.4-R.

B. Military Credit

1. Credit will be granted for educational experience in the armed services, which are certified by the United States Armed Forces Institute, or the training centers where the training was received, or through certification of training on U.S.A.D. I. Form 47, signed by the commanding officer of the person requesting the credit.

2. In all cases, the amount of credit granted is determined by the “Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services”, American Council on Education, Washington D.C.
3. Before a diploma is granted, the student must meet statutory requirements and school requirements in those subjects originally required for graduation, such as American History, English, and others.
4. No more than a total of four (4) credits or two (2) units of credit for courses will be approved to apply toward graduation.

VII. EARLY GRADUATION

A student who completes the credit requirements in all areas except physical education is eligible for graduation, without regard to the length of time such student has been enrolled in the school. However, students will be encouraged to stay in school to take advantage of postsecondary opportunities while in high school rather than graduate from high school early.

VIII. GRADUATION CEREMONY

- A. Students participating in the graduation ceremony must have met all graduation requirements by the graduation date.
- B. Students are not required to participate in the graduation ceremony.

IX. GRADUATION CLASS

A student who has not met the graduation criteria in time for May graduation with his or her class and:

- A. who meets the requirements prior to school resuming in the fall shall be counted as a graduate with his/her current class. The graduation criteria would need to be met prior to school resuming for the upcoming school year.
- B. who does not meet requirements prior to school resuming in the fall and is not enrolled for the fall semester by October 1, will be counted as a drop out. Students will be encouraged to re-enroll at any point prior to the age of 21, earn credits toward graduation, and graduate with later cohorts.
- C. who meets graduation requirements during a subsequent fall or spring, will graduate with that year’s class.

Legal Ref.: Iowa Code §§ 256.11, .11A; 279.8; 280.3, .14.
281 I.A.C. 12.2, .5; 12.3(5).

Cross Ref.: 106.0 School District Strategic Plans (Goals and Objectives)
505.6 Academic Progress – Promotion/Retention
602.9 Physical Education
603.4 Home or Hospital Services

ADOPTED: 2/11/91
3/14/94
2/12/96
9/13/99

3/10/03
6/13/05
4/14/08
6/8/09
5/14/12
8/24/15
7/10/17
3/11/19

Reviewed: 12/95, 6/10/99, 2/6/03, 3/6/08, 5/7/09, 4/5/12, 8/6/15, 6/1/17, 2/7/19