

New Mexico High School Graduation Requirements

As the world of learning continues to respond to a changing economy, as our education system works to recover from the Covid-19-induced interruptions to learning, and as our understanding of what jobs in coming decades may look like, it is increasingly imperative to ensure New Mexico's education system is designed to serve students in a way that provides them opportunity beyond high school.

2021 LESC Interim Overview

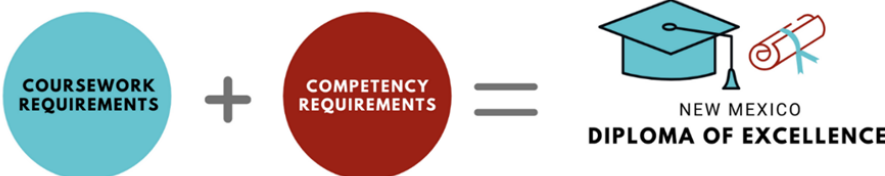
During the 2021 interim, the LESC spent significant time learning about New Mexico's current high school graduation requirements. The committee also discussed: 1) how states across the U.S. structure graduation requirements; 2) best practices related to re-envisioning high school, career technical education, engaging students in career preparation beginning in middle school; and 3) research about what students need to be prepared academically, socially, and civically. Related LESC briefs include:

- [New Mexico High School Graduation Requirements](#) (May 2021)
- [What do Students Need to Know? A Review of High School Expectations and Pathways](#) (June 2021)
- [High School Graduation Requirements: An Analysis of State Options](#) (August 2021)

What are New Mexico's graduation requirements?

Unit Requirements

New Mexico requires high school students to complete 24 units to earn a high school diploma, known as a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence in state law. See **Table 1: New Mexico Statutory High School Graduation Requirements** and **Attachment A: PED Handout of Graduation Course Requirements for Students**.



Key Takeaways

LESC began its study of high school graduation requirements in 2021, covering information about state policy options, the role of career technical education, and how to use middle school years to prepare students for high school.

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The only diploma offering in New Mexico is known as a "Diploma of Excellence." It requires students to complete 24 specified course units and demonstrate competency to graduate.

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State options for designing graduation requirements vary across the United States with no standardized approach nationwide.

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Table 1: New Mexico Statutory High School Graduation Requirements

Subject Area	Required Units	Additional Requirements and Detail
Mathematics	4	One unit must be the equivalent to or higher than the level of algebra II. Per Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978, the algebra II requirement stands "unless the parent submitted written, signed permission for the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit."
English Language Arts	4	Must include a major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing, and literature.
Science	3	Two of the units must include a lab component.
Social Studies	3.5	Must include U.S. history and geography, world history and geography, government and economics, and 0.5 unit of New Mexico history.
Physical Education	1	Options vary by school district, but can include marching band, JROTC, and/or interscholastic sports.
Electives	7.5	Electives must meet PED content and performance standards.
Career cluster, workplace readiness, or a language other than English	1	
Total Units	24	

Source: LESC review of Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978

Notes: At least one of the units required for graduation must be earned as an advanced placement or honors course, a dual credit course, or a distance learning course; A course in health education is also required prior to graduation, but can be offered in either middle or high school, as determined by each local school district.

State law requires students to take algebra II, or its equivalent, unless a parent has submitted a written, signed permission for the student to complete a lesser mathematics unit.

Competency Requirements

In addition to completing the required 24 units, New Mexico students must also demonstrate competency in all core academic subjects to graduate. Students may demonstrate competency through federally-required assessments, local demonstrations of competency, or innovative assessment options.

- **ESSA-Required Assessments** include 11th grade required assessments such as the SAT, SBA exams, Transition exams, PARCC scores from previous years, New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness (NM-ASR) exams, or other nationally-recognized tests such as the ACT, ACCUPLACER, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), or Advanced Placement (AP), among others. Students must still earn passing scores on these assessments.
- **Local Demonstrations of Competency** may include a variety of options such as rigorous portfolio projects and competency-based options. Local demonstrations other than the portfolio and competency-based options must still be approved by PED.
- **Innovative Assessment Options** are being developed by PED in partnership with a community of practice. These options will be made available statewide, culminating in student exhibitions to demonstrate learning.

State law does not allow graduation requirements to change for a student once they have entered ninth grade.

What does research say about what students need to learn in high school?

In addition to preparing students for civic life, a high school education ideally ensures students are prepared for any chosen pathway after completing school: either

postsecondary education or the workforce.

A [2018 audit and study](#) of nationwide high school graduation requirements by the Center for American Progress (CAP), an independent nonpartisan policy institute, found most state high school graduation requirements are so poorly designed they often trap students in a “preparation gap,” where they don’t qualify for admission to public universities and are also inadequately prepared for other job and postsecondary prospects. Many states also leave crucial advising decisions up to students by not offering sufficient preparation or guidance counseling. Rigorous academic expectations must be matched with systems of support, excellent teachers, effective curricula and instructional materials, guidance in planning for goals after high school, and access to challenging coursework.

Research cited in the CAP study suggests a core 15-credit “college-ready curriculum” can be of high value to students, whether they intend to go to college or not. This includes four years of English; three years in math up to algebra II; three years of laboratory science, including biology and chemistry or physics; three years of social studies, including U.S. or world history; and two years of world language study in a single language.

Rigorous academic expectations must be matched with systems of support, excellent teachers, effective curricula and instructional materials, guidance in planning for goals after high school, and access to challenging coursework.

A [2016 report](#) by the Center for Public Education (CPE), a nonprofit educational organization founded by the National School Boards Association, assessed the outcomes of high school graduates that do not go to college and found that for students to graduate college and career ready, high schools must ensure students complete a rigorous curriculum, which CPE defines as including “math at least through algebra II, or its equivalent, and high-level lab sciences.” CPE also recommends students have access to modern CTE programs focused on building knowledge and skills in a specific labor market field and that guidance counselors play an essential role in communicating varied options to students. CPE also notes high-level math and science courses, as well as vocational courses, are not just for college goers. CPE writes “life does not always go to plan.”

Rigorous curriculum, combined with access to high-quality CTE courses, is important to give all students options after high school. [Previous LESC research](#) suggests no state has committed to statute combining rigorous academics with access to modern CTE options.

How do states design graduation requirements?

When it comes to state approaches for designing graduation requirements, there is no standardized method, set of courses, or set of competency options used across the United States. Previous LESC analysis of state education systems revealed significant variation in course requirements as well as governance in regard to which entities—state legislatures, state education departments, or local education authorities—decide what courses students must take and how students demonstrate competency in academic subjects. See **August 2021 LESC Brief: [High School Graduation Requirements: An Analysis of State Options](#)**.

How does New Mexico compare regionally?

Building upon this previous knowledge, an additional analysis of high school graduation requirements in states regionally located near New Mexico—or with other similarities, such as rural population or ranking of quality of education system—is provided in this brief. See **Attachment B: Regional Analysis of High School Graduation Requirements**.

The additional information includes the following states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Washington. In this review, LESC staff continued to find that there is no singular way to design high school graduation requirements. A brief review of graduation requirements in states geographically closest to New Mexico is included below:

- **Arizona:** Requires students to complete 22 units to graduate. Of note, in Arizona's English language arts coursework requirements note that of the four required units, students can take either English or English as a second language.
- **Colorado:** With the exception of a course in civics that must cover "history and civil government of the United States and of the state of Colorado," all graduation requirements are set by local school districts. A Colorado bill enacted in 2020 is also requiring the phase in of a course that includes Holocaust and genocide studies, which will begin to be required in July 2023. School districts in Colorado set graduation requirements using guidelines from the Colorado Department of Education, as well as academic standards, higher education standards, competency-based programs, and skills defined by employers and industry.
- **Nevada:** Requires students to complete 22.5 units to graduate as part of its standard diploma, although Nevada also offers an "advanced or college and career ready" diploma to students that requires 24 units to graduate. The "advanced or college and career ready" diploma has more rigorous math, science, and social studies coursework requirements, requiring for example, four units in math instead of three units.
- **Utah:** Requires students to complete 24 units to graduate with similar coursework requirements to New Mexico although Utah also requires one unit of a career technical education course, 0.5 unit of digital studies, and 0.5 unit of financial literacy.
- **Texas:** Requires students to complete 24 units to graduate with similar coursework requirements to New Mexico, although Texas also requires two units of either the same world language or of a computer programming language.
- **Oklahoma:** Requires 23 units to graduate with similar coursework requirements as New Mexico.

A detailed review of these states, and all others listed above, can be found in **Attachment B: State Scan of Graduation Requirements**.

Considerations

While this review, and previous LESC reviews of state graduation requirements, reflect state law that guides graduation requirements, it does not reflect state-specific practices, administrative rule, or other factors that may influence the high school experience outside of what is mandated by law. As previous LESC research has noted, statutory requirements undoubtedly shape the courses offered to—and taken by—students, but these are not the only mechanisms that influence a student's high school experience. For example, content standards used by a state education department can influence specific course information students learn, even if state statute requires a particular class to be offered. Similarly, administrative rule can impact how state law is interpreted. Further, in states where all education curriculum decisions are decided by local education authorities, state statute may not influence course content offerings in many, or any, meaningful ways.

Graduation Course Requirements for Students in the Graduating Classes of 2022-2025
Students entering 9th grade in 2018–2019, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22

ATTACHMENT A

One unit must be honors, Advanced Placement, dual credit, or distance learning.

Content Area	Coursework Requirements	Coursework Options
Mathematics	4 credits of math in high school, one of which shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of Algebra II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Science A* • Computer Science Principles* • Algebra I • Algebra II • Algebra II/Trig • Applied Math • Financial Literacy • Fractal Mathematics* • Geometry • Integrated Pathway: Math I • Integrated Pathway: Math II • Integrated Pathway: Math III • Mathematical Modeling * • Probability and Statistics • Scientific Technologies * • AP and IB courses in Mathematics • Courses at a higher level than Algebra II (see Fourth Math Course Options List)
Reading and Writing	4 credits of English with major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing, and literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA 1/ELA-ELD I** • ELA 2/ELA-ELD II** • ELA 3/ELA-ELD III** • ELA 4/ELA-ELD IV** • SREB Literacy Ready • AP and IB courses in English Language Arts
Science	3 credits of science 2 credits must include a lab component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary courses under STARS codes in the 1700s (includes AP and IB courses in science) • Computer Science A* • Computer Science Principles* • Fractal Mathematics* • Mathematical Modeling* • Scientific Technologies*
Social Studies	3.5 credits to include U.S. history and geography, world history and geography, government and economics, and 0.5 credit of N.M. history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US History and Geography • World History and Geography • 0.5 U.S. Government • 0.5 Economics • 0.5 N.M. History • AP and IB courses in Social Studies
Physical Education	1 credit in physical education	<p>Options vary by school. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marching band • JROTC • Interscholastic sports
Career Cluster, Workplace Readiness, Language	1 unit in a career cluster course, workplace readiness, or a language other than English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options vary by school.
Electives	7 elective units that meet department content and performance standards	<p>Options vary by school. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student service learning • Pre-apprenticeship programs • Media literacy • Additional courses in core subjects
Health	1 course (0.5 or 1 credit) in health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health (taken either in high school or middle school)

*Students who demonstrate proficiency on the ESSA-required mathematics assessment and meet the Algebra II graduation requirement may use a qualifying computer science course for mathematics graduation credit. Students who demonstrate proficiency in the science assessment may use a qualifying computer science course and earn a science credit.

**ELD courses are intended for English learners (ELs) whose proficiency level is nearing proficiency, as measured by the PED-approved English language proficiency assessment.

State Graduation Requirements: Regional and Select State Comparison with New Mexico

	State	Diploma Type	English Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	World Language	PE/Health	Arts	Electives	Other	Total Unit Requirements in State Law or Administrative Code	Notes	
1	Alabama	Standard	4 Must include English I, II, III, IV	4 Must include 1 unit of algebra I, 1 unit of geometry, and 1 of algebra II*	4 Including 1 world history, 1 U.S. history I, 1 U.S. history II, 0.5 U.S. government, 0.5 economics	4 Including 1 biology and 1 physical science**	-- No specific language requirements but students must complete 3 units chosen from career technical education, foreign language, or arts education	1.5 Including 1 unit lifelong individualized fitness education and 0.5 unit health education	-- No specific arts requirements but students must complete 3 units chosen from career technical education, foreign language, or arts education	2.5	4 1 unit of career preparedness and 3 units chosen from career technical education, foreign language, or arts education	24	*4th unit math must be chosen from Alabama course of study: math or career technical education/AP/IB/postsecondary equivalent courses **3rd and 4th unit science must be chosen from Alabama course of study: science or career technical education/AP/IB/postsecondary equivalent course	1
2	Alaska	Standard	4	3	3	2	--	1	--	--	--	21	*Each chief school administrator shall develop and submit to the district board for approval a plan consisting of district high school graduation requirements. The plan must require that, before graduation, a student must have earned at least 21 units of credit. Specific subject area units of credit requirements must be set out in each district plan and must require students to complete the 13 units specified in this table. **Alaska adopted a list of recommended and required units, sometimes recommending more units than are required: as example, the state recommends 4 units of math, but requires 3 units; the state also recommends 2 units of a world language in the same world language, Alaska Native language, or in American Sign Language, but requires no units to graduate.	2
3	Arizona	Standard	4 Can be English or English as a second language*	4 Must include 3 units containing content aligned to the Arizona math standards for algebra I, geometry, and algebra II**, 1 unit that includes significant math content***	3 Must include 1 unit of American history (including AZ history), 1 unit of world history/geography, 0.5 unit U.S. government (including civics and AZ government), and 0.5 unit economics	3	--	--	1 May be a unit in arts or career technical education and vocational education	7	--	22	*Units shall include but not be limited to the following: reading American and other world literature, reading informational text, writing, research methods, speaking and listening skills, grammar and vocabulary. **The requirement for the 3rd credit covering algebra II may be met by but is not limited to the following: a math course comparable to algebra II course content, computer science, career technical education and vocational education, economics, science and arts courses as determined by the local school district governing board or charter school. ***As determined by local school district or charter school.	3
4	Colorado	Standard*	With the exception of 0.5 unit U.S. and Colorado government, all graduation requirements set by local districts	With the exception of 0.5 unit U.S. and Colorado government, all graduation requirements set by local districts	0.5 unit U.S. and Colorado government	With the exception of 0.5 unit U.S. and Colorado government, all graduation requirements set by local districts	With the exception of 0.5 unit U.S. and Colorado government, all graduation requirements set by local districts	With the exception of 0.5 unit U.S. and Colorado government, all graduation requirements set by local districts	With the exception of 0.5 unit U.S. and Colorado government, all graduation requirements set by local districts	With the exception of 0.5 unit U.S. and Colorado government, all graduation requirements set by local districts	With the exception of 0.5 unit U.S. and Colorado government, all graduation requirements set by local districts	--	*The state's high school graduation requirements for the standard diploma changed starting with the graduating class of 2021. All districts must adopt graduation requirements that at a minimum meet the requirements of state board-set graduation guidelines. State-level menu of options identifies minimum cut scores or other metrics in English and math on the following measures: Accuplacer, ACT, ACT WorkKeys, AP, ASVAB, concurrent enrollment, district capstone, industry certificate, IB, SAT and collaboratively developed, standards-based performance assessment. Districts may make all options available or select from the menu of options to make available to students. Students select from district-determined menu of options how they will demonstrate college- and career-readiness in ELA and math. Students may use different options to demonstrate college- and career-readiness in English and math. Districts may raise minimum scores required on an option for the standard diploma, add graduation requirements in other content areas or adapt the college and career demonstrations necessary to earn a standard high school diploma to accommodate for English learners, gifted students and students with disabilities.	4

State Graduation Requirements: Regional and Select State Comparison with New Mexico

	State	Diploma Type	English Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	World Language	PE/Health	Arts	Electives	Other	Total Unit Requirements in State Law or Administrative Code	Notes	
5	Hawaii	Standard*	4 Including 1 unit English Language Arts 1, 1 unit English Language Arts 2, 0.5 unit expository writing, and 1.5 units Common Core aligned language arts electives or proficiency based equivalents.	3 Including 1 unit algebra I, 1 unit geometry, and 1 unit of a mathematics basic elective	4 Including 1 unit U.S. history and government, 1 unit world history and culture, 0.5 unit modern history of Hawaii, 0.5 unit participation in a democracy, and 1 unit of a social studies elective	3 Including 1 unit biology and 2 units science basic electives	-- No specific unit requirements in world language but students must take 2 units in world language, fine arts, career technical education, or JROTC	1.5 Including 0.5 unit physical education lifetime fitness, 0.5 unit physical education basic elective, and 0.5 unit in health today and tomorrow	-- No specific unit requirements in arts but students must take 2 units in world language, fine arts, career technical education, or JROTC	6	2.5 0.5 unit of a personal transition plan and 2 units in world language, fine arts, career technical education, or JROTC	24	*Hawaii also offers additional designations and certifications beyond its standard diploma. For an honors recognition certificate, students must attain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above, complete both algebra II and 1 unit beyond algebra II, 4 units of science, and 2 units from an AP, IB, or Running Start course. For a career technical education honors designation, students must complete a program of study and earn a B grade or better in their coursework as well as meet or exceed proficiency on corresponding performance-based assessments. For a STEM honors designation, students must complete 4 units of math including algebra II and 1 unit beyond algebra II, 4 units of science (1 of which must be in biology or its equivalent), and successful completion of a STEM capstone project.	5
6	Louisiana	Standard (TOPS University Diploma)	4 Including English I, English II, English III or an alternative and English IV or alternative	4 Including algebra I, geometry, and algebra II OR integrated math I, II, and III, and a 4th math unit	4 Including 1 unit U.S. history, 1 unit chosen from civics with a section on free enterprise, government, or AP U.S. government and politics, and 2 additional units	4 Including biology I, chemistry 1, and 2 additional units	2 2 units in the same world language	2 Including 1.5 units physical education and 0.5 unit health	1	3		24		6
7	Mississippi	Standard*	4 Including English I, English II	4 Including algebra I	4 Including 1 unit world history, 1 unit U.S. history, 0.5 unit geography, 0.5 unit U.S. government, 0.5 unit economics, and 0.5 unit Mississippi studies	3 Including 1 unit biology		1 Including 0.5 unit physical education and 0.5 unit health	1 1 unit arts	5	2 1 unit of college and career readiness and 1 unit technology or computer science	24	*In addition to its standard (traditional) diploma, Mississippi offers a traditional diploma with a career technical education endorsement, a traditional diploma with an academic endorsement, a traditional diploma with a distinguished academic endorsement, and an alternate diploma, all of which have specific requirements exceeding the 24 units included in the traditional diploma.	7
8	Nevada	Standard*	4 Including reading, composition, and writing	3	2 Including 1 unit American government and 1 unit American history	2	--	2.5 Includes 0.5 unit in health and 2 units in physical education	1 Can be 1 unit in arts and humanities, JROTC, or career and technical education	7.5	0.5 0.5 unit in use of computers required	22.5**	In addition to core academic subjects, the following subjects must be taught as applicable for grade levels and to the extent practicable in all public schools: the arts, computer education and technology, health, and physical education. *Nevada offers both a standard and advanced diploma. **Nevada's standard diploma requires students to earn a minimum of 15 units in required courses and 7.5 units of elective courses for a total of 22.5 units.	8
9	Nevada (continued)	Advanced or College and Career Ready	4	4	3	3	--	2.5 Includes 0.5 unit in health and 1.5 units in physical education	1 Can be 1 unit in arts and humanities, JROTC, or career and technical education	6	0.5 0.5 unit in use of computers required	24*	*Nevada's advanced diploma requires students to earn a minimum of 18 units in required courses and 6 units in electives for a total of 24 units. The advanced diploma also requires a GPA of 3.25 for all units of credit applicable toward graduation.	9

State Graduation Requirements: Regional and Select State Comparison with New Mexico

	State	Diploma Type	English Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	World Language	PE/Health	Arts	Electives	Other	Total Unit Requirements in State Law or Administrative Code	Notes
10	New Mexico	Standard	4 Must include a major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing, and literature	4 1 unit must be the equivalent to, or higher than, the level of algebra II	3.5 Must include U.S. history and geography, world history and geography, government and economics, and 0.5 unit of New Mexico history	3 2 of the units must include a lab component	--	1		7.5	1 Career cluster, workplace readiness, or a language other than English	24	At least one of the units required for graduation must be earned as an advanced placement or honors course, a dual credit course, or a distance learning course. **A course in health education is also required prior to graduation, but can be offered in either middle or high school, as determined by each local school district.
11	North Dakota		4 Must be from a sequence that includes literature, composition, and speech	3 May include 1 unit computer science	3 Including 1 U.S. history and either 0.5 unit U.S. government and 0.5 unit economics, or 1 unit problems of democracy and 1 unit or 2.5 units of any other social studies, which may include civics, civilization, geography, and history, multicultural studies, or North Dakota studies	3 Must consist of 1 unit of biology, 1 unit of chemistry, and 1 unit of physics OR 1 unit of biology, 1 unit of physical science, and either 1 unit of or 2 0.5 units of any other science	-- No specific foreign language requirements, but as noted in "other" students must take 3 units that can be in a foreign language, Native American language, fine art, or career and technical education course	1 May be 1 unit of physical education or 0.5 unit of physical education and 0.5 unit of health	-- No specific arts requirements, but as noted in "other" students must take 3 units that can be in a foreign language, Native American language, fine art, or career and technical education course	5	3 Any 3 units of foreign languages, Native American languages, fine arts, or career and technical education courses	22	
12	Oklahoma	Standard*	4 Including grammar, composition, literature, or any English course approved for college admission requirements	3 Limited to algebra I, algebra II, geometry, trigonometry, math analysis, calculus, AP statistics, or any math course with content and/or rigor above algebra I and approved for college admission requirements	3 Including 1 unit American history, 0.5 unit Oklahoma history, 0.5 unit U.S. government and 1 additional unit**	3 Must be lab science, including 1 unit or set of competencies of life science, meeting the standards for biology I; 1 unit or set of competencies of physical science, meeting the standards for physical science, chemistry or physics; and 1 unit or set of competencies meeting the standards for chemistry or physics			1 Must be 1 unit or set of competencies in fine arts or speech	8	1 World language or computer technology	23	*All requirements are framed as "units or sets of competencies." **From the subjects of history, government, geography, economics, civics or non-western culture and approved for college admission requirements. ***Unit or set of competencies in English, math, lab science, history and citizenship skills, foreign language or computer technology, or career and technology education courses, concurrently enrolled courses, AP courses or IB courses approved for college admission requirements.

State Graduation Requirements: Regional and Select State Comparison with New Mexico

	State	Diploma Type	English Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	World Language	PE/Health	Arts	Electives	Other	Total Unit Requirements in State Law or Administrative Code	Notes
13	South Dakota	Standard	4 Must include 1 unit of writing, 0.5 unit of speech or debate, and 1 unit literature that must include 0.5 unit of American literature	3 Must include 1 unit of algebra I	3 Must include 1 unit of U.S. history and 0.5 unit of U.S. government	3 Must include 1 unit of biology*		1 0.5 unit of health or health integration or 0.5 unit of physical education	1 1 unit of fine arts	5.5	1.5 Including 1 unit or more in any combination of the following: approved career technical education courses, a capstone experience, and world languages; and 0.5 unit of personal finance or economics	22	A state-approved advanced computer science course may be substituted in lieu for 1 unit of science but may not be substituted for biology.
14	Texas	Standard (Foundation)	4 Including English I, English II, English III (or AP or IB), and an advanced English course selected from specified courses	3 Including 1 algebra I, 1 geometry, 1 advanced math selected from specified courses	3 Including world history or world geography, U.S. history, 0.5 unit economics with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits, 0.5 unit U.S. government	3 Including 1 unit biology, 1 unit chosen from integrated physical and chemistry, chemistry, or physics and 1 unit of an advanced science course	2 2 units same language or 2 units computer programming languages, including computer coding**	1 1 unit physical education	1 1 unit fine arts	5		22	*Integrated physics and chemistry; chemistry; physics; principles of technology; or a comparable AP or IB chemistry or physics course that does not count toward another credit required for graduation. **To be selected from computer science I, II, and III, AP computer science principles, AP computer science A, IB computer science standard level and IB computer science higher level.
15	Utah	Standard	4	3 Must include secondary math I, II, III*	3 Must include 1 unit of U.S. history, 0.5 unit of geography, 0.5 unit of civilization, 0.5 unit of U.S. government and citizenship, and 0.5 unit of social studies per local education agency discretion	3 Must include 2 units from two of the following five science foundation areas: earth science, biological science, chemistry, physics, computer science, plus 1 unit from an approved list	–	2 Includes 0.5 unit of health and 1.5 of physical education, which must include 0.5 unit participation skills, 0.5 unit fitness for life, and 0.5 unit of individualized lifetime activities	1.5 The 1.5 units can be from any of the following performance areas: visual arts, music, dance, theatre, or media arts	5.5	2 Utah requires 1 career technical education course from menu of options, 0.5 digital studies, and 0.5 general financial literacy	24	*Utah defines secondary math in its state rules and has opt-out provisions from secondary math III similar to New Mexico where a parent can opt-out with a signed note although a third math credit is still required. In addition, a student who successfully completes a calculus course with a “C” grade or higher has completed mathematics graduation requirements, regardless of the number of mathematics credits earned.
16	Washington	Standard*	4	3 Must include algebra 1 or integrated math 1, geometry or integrated math 2, and a third unit of math	3 Must include 1 unit U.S. history and government, 0.5 unit contemporary world history, geography, and problems, 0.5 unit civics, and 1 unit of a social studies elective	3 Must include at least 2 lab sciences and a third unit of math	2 Can be 2 units in a world language or personalized pathway requirement	2 Must include 0.5 unit of health and 1.5 units of fitness	2	4	1 1 unit of career technical education that may be an occupational education course	24*	*Washington state revised graduation requirements to increase units from 22 to 24, beginning with the class of 2019. In addition to course requirements, Washington state students must complete a "high school & beyond" plan as part of graduation requirements. These are started in seventh or eighth grade and revised throughout high school. **Up to 2 credits can be waived locally based on a student's circumstances.