

HICKORY CITY ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL UNIT
432 Fourth Avenue SW
Hickory, North Carolina 28602

FILE: IHF
Instructional Program

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board recognizes the importance of setting rigorous graduation requirements in order to help ensure that students are receiving an education that will prepare them to be productive members of society.

The principal shall ensure that students and parents are aware of all graduation requirements. Guidance staff shall assist students in selecting their high school courses to ensure that students are taking all of the required credits and selecting electives consistent with their post high school plans.

For students who transfer to Hickory Public Schools during high school, or who for other reasons have completed course work outside of the school system, the principal shall determine what course work will be applied as credit toward graduation. The principal shall consider the requirements of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (Board policy JBI, Children of Military Families) and the requirements of this policy in determining the graduation requirements for children of military families.

Effective with the graduating class of 2001, and thereafter, students who transfer into the system will be required to earn a total number of credits equal to the number of courses the student could have earned, minus four, as necessary to move from year-long courses to block scheduling.

Regular attendance at school is required. If a student accumulates more than six (6) absences during a semester, that student may receive a grade of “no credit” for the course or courses from which the student has been absent. Students who are excessively absent due to extended illness may appeal to the High School Attendance Review Committee, which in turn may recommend a waiver of the attendance requirement to the principal. The principal will make the final decision as to whether a waiver to the attendance requirement should be granted.

Students entering the 9th grade in Hickory Public Schools in the fall of 1994 and thereafter must earn a minimum of 28 credits in order to graduate with a diploma. Beginning with students entering the 9th grade in the 2009-2010 school year, students must fulfill the requirements of the Future Ready Core Course of Study, unless they are approved for the Occupational Course of Study. Students entering the ninth grade before the 2009-10 school year must fulfill the requirements of the Career Prep, College Tech Prep, College/University Prep or Occupational Course of Study. All students must meet the minimum course requirements for the specific course of study chosen by the student as outlined in the following table. As a local requirement, in addition to the course requirements outlined below, students will be required to earn one (1) credit in Fine Arts, one (1) credit in Vocational Education, and five (5) additional elective credits.

CONTENT	CAREER PREP	COLLEGE	COLLEGE/	OCCUPATIONAL	FUTURE READY
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AREA	(For 9 th graders entering between 2000 – 2008-09)	TECH PREP* (For 9 th graders entering between 2000 – 2008-09)	UNIVERSITY PREP (For 9 th graders entering between 2000 – 2008-09)	(For 9 th graders entering in the year 2000 and beyond)	CORE (For 9 th graders entering in 2009-2010 and beyond)
English	4 credits I, II, III, IV	4 credits I, II, III, IV	4 credits I, II, III, IV	4 credits Occupational English I, II, III, IV	4 credits I, II, III, IV
Mathematics	3 credits Including Algebra I (This requirement can be met with Integrated Math I & II when accompanied with the Algebra I EOC.)	3 credits Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, OR Algebra I, Technical Math I & II, OR Integrated Mathematics I, II, III	4 credits Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and higher level math course with Algebra II as prerequisite OR Integrated Mathematics I, II, III and a credit beyond Integrated Mathematics III	3 credits Occupational Mathematics I, II, III	4 credits (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II), OR (Integrated Math I, II, III) 4 th Math course to be aligned with the student's post high school plans. At the request of a parent and with counseling provided by the school, a student will be able to opt out of this math sequence. He/she would be required to pass Algebra I and Geometry or Integrated Math I & II and two other application-based math courses.
Science	3 credits A Physical Science course, Biology, Earth/Environmental Science	3 credits A physical Science course, Biology, Earth/Environmental Science	3 credits A physical Science course, Biology, Earth/Environmental Science	2 credits Life Skills Science I, II	3 credits A physical Science course, Biology, Earth/Environmental Science
Social Studies	3 credits Civics and Economics, U.S. History, World History ****	3 credits Civics and Economics, U.S. History, World History ****	3 credits Civics and Economics, U.S. History, World History ****	2 credits Social Studies I (Government/U.S. History) Social Studies II (Self-Advocacy/ Problem Solving)	3 credits Civics and Economics, U.S. History, World History ****
Second Language	Not required	Not required*	2 credits in the same language	Not required	Not required for graduation. Required to meet minimum applications requirements for UNC.
Health and Physical Education	1 credit Health/Physical Education	1 credit Health/Physical Education	1 credit Health/Physical Education	1 credit Health/Physical Education	1 credit Health/Physical Education

- Deleted:** Computer ¶ Skills
- Deleted:** No specific course required; students must demonstrate proficiency through state testing.
- Deleted:** No specific course required; students must demonstrate proficiency through state testing.
- Deleted:** No specific course required; students must demonstrate proficiency through state testing.
- Deleted:** Computer proficiency as specified in IEP
- Deleted:** No specific course required; students must demonstrate proficiency through state testing

Electives or other requirements***	2 elective credits And other credits designed by LEA	2 elective credits And other credits designed by LEA	2 elective credits And other credits designed by LEA	Occupational Preparation I, II, III, IV** Elective credits/ completion of IEP objectives/ Career Portfolio required	2 elective credits of any combination from either: - Career and Technical Education (CTE) - Arts Education - Second Languages 4 elective credits strongly recommended (four course concentration from one of the following: - JROTC - Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theater arts, visual arts) - Any other subject area (e.g. mathematics, science, social studies, English)
Career Technical	4 credits in Career/Technical Select courses appropriate for career pathway to include a second level (advanced) course; OR	4 credits Select courses appropriate for career pathway to include a second level (advanced) course	Not required	4 credits Career/Technical Education electives	
JROTC	4 credits in JROTC; OR				
Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)	4 credits in an Arts discipline Select courses appropriate for an arts education pathway to include an advanced course				
	Recommended At least one credit in an arts discipline and/or requirement by local decision (for students not taking an arts education pathway.	Recommended At least one credit in an arts discipline and/or requirement by local decision.	Recommended At least one credit in a arts discipline and/or requirement by local decision	Recommended At least one credit in an arts discipline and/or requirement by local decision	
Total	20 credits plus any local requirements	20 credits plus any local requirements	20 credits plus any local requirements	22 credits plus any local requirements	21 credits plus any local requirements

*A student pursuing a College Tech Prep course of study may also meet the requirements of a College/ University course of study by completing 2 credits in the same second language and one additional unit in mathematics.

**Completion of 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment.

***Examples of electives include JROTC and other courses that are of interest to the student.

****Effective with 9th graders entering in 2003-2004, World History must be taken to meet the requirements of World Studies.

Beginning with students entering the 9th grade in the 2006-2007 school year who are taking the Career Prep, the College Tech Prep, or the College/University Prep courses of study, students must meet the high school exit standards in order to graduate. In addition to achieving proficiency on five end-of-course assessments (Algebra I, Biology, English I, Civics and Economics, and U.S. History), students will be required to complete a graduation project. Requirements of the graduation project must include:

- A review process;
- An eight to ten page research paper written on an approved topic of the student's choice;
- A product related to the paper that requires significant hours of work;
- A portfolio that reflects the senior project process;
- A presentation to a panel of community and faculty members; and
- Literature, service-based learning or work-based learning experiences as defined by state models.

The superintendent or designee shall give special consideration to children of military families as well as transfer students arriving in the second semester of their senior year.

Each senior must pass a minimum load of any two courses during the first semester and any two courses during second semester of his or her senior year (unless the senior qualifies for and chooses early graduation). Early graduation can occur at the end of the student's junior year or at the end of the first semester of the senior year if the student has met all graduation and attendance requirements during his or her high school career. An early graduate will be issued a diploma at the regularly scheduled spring graduation. The principal or designee will provide a final transcript and letter certifying that graduation requirements have been met at the time of course completion.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA

Effective with the 2007-2008 school year, an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program was implemented at Hickory High School. Students enrolled in the IB diploma program will have additional requirements that include an extended essay, a theory of knowledge course, and 150 hours in the areas of creativity, action, and service. Based on these additional requirements for this diploma program, the local requirement that students complete one unit of study in the vocational education program will be waived.

21-UNITS OF CREDIT DIPLOMA

Effective with the 2006-2007 school year, Catawba Valley High School will offer a 21 units of credit diploma as defined in the State Board of Education policy on graduation requirements. Under this program, students could apply to graduate with minimum requirements in the Future Ready Core Course of Study under the following conditions:

- Students must be 18 years of age;
- Students must have three years in high school and have less than 21 units of credit;
- Students must apply to the program;
- Students will be screened by home school counselors and principals for eligibility;

Deleted: In addition to the state and local course requirements, effective with the class of 2001, all students must attain passing scores on competency and computer proficiency tests as adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education. Students who satisfy all state and local course requirements but who fail the competency or computer proficiency tests will be eligible to receive a certificate of attendance and transcript and may be allowed to participate in graduation exercises.¶

- Students and parents meet with members of the Catawba Valley High School Leadership Team;
- Students must be approved by the CVHS Leadership Team;
- Students receive final approval for participation in the program from the Superintendent;
- Students who are approved will be transferred to Catawba Valley High School;
- Staff at Catawba Valley High School will develop appropriate course plans and schedules based on individual students' needs for credit;
- Student accepted into this program must meet all North Carolina requirements to receive a diploma not a Certificate of Attendance;
- Students and parents/guardians will participate in a 10-hour career/academic counseling program; and
- This program will be reviewed annually by the Hickory Board of Education.

CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES

In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the Board adopts the following provisions for students covered by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Specific course work required for graduation will be waived if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school system. If a waiver is not granted, school administrators shall provide the student with reasonable justification for the denial. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the superintendent or designee shall provide the student with an alternative means of acquiring the required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.

The superintendent shall accept the following in lieu of tests required for graduation in North Carolina: (1) exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state; (2) national norm-referenced achievement tests or (3) alternative testing, in lieu of any tests required for graduation in North Carolina.

If a child of a military family transferring at the beginning or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school system after all the alternatives listed above have been considered and the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school, then school officials from the school system and the sending school system shall collaborate to ensure that the student will receive a diploma from the sending board of education.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -174.11, -276, -288, -407.5; 16 NCAC 6D .0502, 16 NCAC 6D .0503; State Board of Education Policies HSP-N-000, HSP-N-003, HSP-N-004

Adopted: March 9, 2009