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**Governor, State of Hawai'i**

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# Graduation Requirements

for Hawai'i Public School Students



*If you have any questions regarding the graduation requirements,  
 please see your school counselor or principal.*

Keith T. Hayashi  
 Superintendent of Education

Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design  
 Hawai'i State Department of Education • July 2023

# Graduation Requirements

**GRADE POINT AVERAGE** — Cumulative Grade Point Average applies to all graduates: Cum Laude: 3.0 to 3.5 | Magna Cum Laude: 3.5+ to 3.8 | Summa Cum Laude: 3.8+ and above

A Hawai'i High School Diploma shall be issued to students who meet these minimum course and credit requirements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS*	HAWAI'I HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
<b>English</b>	<b>4.0 credits</b> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Language Arts 1 (1.0 credit); and</li> <li>English Language Arts 2 (1.0 credit); and</li> <li>Expository Writing** (0.5 credit); and</li> <li>ELA Basic electives (1.5 credits)</li> </ul>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>4.0 credits</b> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. History and Government (1.0 credit), and</li> <li>World History and Culture (1.0 credit); and</li> <li>Modern History of Hawai'i (0.5 credit); and</li> <li>Participation in a Democracy (0.5 credit); and</li> <li>Social Studies basic elective (1.0 credit)</li> </ul>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>3.0 credits</b> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra 1 (1.0 credit); and</li> <li>Geometry (1.0 credit); and</li> <li>Mathematics basic elective (1.0 credit)</li> </ul>
<b>Science</b>	<b>3.0 credits</b> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology 1 (1.0 credit); and</li> <li>Science basic electives (2.0 credits)</li> </ul>
<b>World Language, Fine Arts, or Career &amp; Technical Education (CTE)/JROTC</b>	<b>2.0 credits</b> in one of the specified programs of study
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>1.0 credit</b> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Education Lifetime Fitness (0.5 credit);</li> <li>Physical Education basic elective (0.5 credit)</li> </ul>
<b>Health</b>	<b>0.5 credit:</b> Health Today & Tomorrow
<b>Personal Transition Plan</b>	<b>0.5 credit</b>
<b>Electives</b>	<b>6.0 credits</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24.0 credits</b>

\*The DOE has a process for requesting and approving equivalent credit courses.

\*\* Or equivalent course.

## HONORS RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting the requirements for the Hawai'i High School Diploma, the following must be met with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above for a honors recognition certificate in one or more of the following:

### ACADEMIC HONORS

**Four credits of math:** The four credits must include one credit for Algebra 2 and one credit beyond Algebra 2. The credit beyond Algebra 2 must be earned via the following courses or equivalent Running Start math courses: Algebra 3, Trigonometry, Analytic Geometry, Precalculus, Probability, Statistics, Introduction to College Mathematics, Calculus, AP Calculus, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, IB Math Studies, or IB Math Standard Level

**AND**

**Four credits of science:** Of the four credits, one credit must be in Biology 1 or equivalent IB Biology, or AP Biology courses

**AND**

**Two credits minimum** from AP/IB /Running Start courses (equivalent to credits for two college courses).

#### World Language:

Two credits in a single World Language. Credits must be taken in sequence with consecutive course numbers in the study of one language.

**OR**

**Fine Arts:** Two credits in a Fine Arts discipline which includes Visual Arts and Performing Arts. Credits do not need to be in a single discipline.

**OR**

**Career and Technical Education (CTE):** Two credits in a single career pathway program of study sequence, OR  
**JROTC:** Two consecutive JROTC courses fulfill two CTE credits for diploma requirements.

### CTE HONORS

Complete a two-course sequence in an approved CTE program or program of study.  

- Earn a B or better in each course of the two-course sequence; and
- Meet or exceed proficiency on a performance-based assessment for the corresponding program or program of study.

### STEM HONORS

**Four credits of math:** The four credits must include one credit for Algebra 2 and one credit beyond Algebra 2. The credit beyond Algebra 2 must be earned via the following courses or equivalent Running Start math courses: Algebra 3, Trigonometry, Analytic Geometry, Precalculus, Probability, Statistics, Introduction to College Mathematics, Calculus, AP Calculus, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, IB Math Studies, or IB Math Standard Level.

**AND**

**Four credits of science:** Of these, one credit must be in Biology 1 or equivalent IB Biology, or AP Biology courses.

**AND**

**Successful completion of a STEM Capstone Project** in one of the approved ACCN courses.

## COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Students shall be permitted to participate in commencement if they:

- 1) meet the requirements for a diploma or certificate;
- 2) have fulfilled their financial obligations; and
- 3) meet other conditions, as established by the Department, which meet the standards of clarity, reasonableness and justifiability.

## SEAL OF BILITERACY

Established by the Hawai'i State Board of Education to be awarded upon graduation to students who demonstrate:

- a high proficiency in both of the state's two official languages (English and Hawaiian) **OR**
- either of the state's two official languages and at least one additional language, including American Sign Language.

Please visit [bit.ly/HISeal](http://bit.ly/HISeal) for the eligibility criteria and additional information.