

**Future-Ready Course of Study (22 credits): Students entering Grade 9 in 2021-2022 and beyond**

Students entering ninth grade for the first time in 2021-2022 or afterwards must pass the following courses and earn at least 22 credits:

**Four sequential English credits which shall be:**

1. English I
2. English II
3. English III
4. English IV

**Four Mathematics credits which shall be either:**

1. NC Math 1, 2, and 3 and a fourth mathematics course to be aligned with the student's post high school plans
2. In the rare instance a principal exempts a student from the Future-Ready Core mathematics sequence, except as limited by N.C.G.S. §115C-81(b), the student will be required to pass: NC Math 1 and Math 2 plus two additional courses identified on the NC DPI Math options chart.

Notes: A fourth-level mathematics course is required for UNC minimum requirements, this includes Math IV, Precalculus, and other higher level courses.

**Three Science credits which shall be:**

1. a physical science course
2. Biology
3. an earth/environmental science course

**Four Social Studies credits which shall be:**

1. Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy
2. Economics and Personal Finance
3. American History
4. World History

**One Health and Physical Education credit:**

1. Students are required to successfully complete CPR instruction to meet Healthful Living Essential Standards as a requirement for high school graduation.
2. Accommodations/alternative assessments for students identified by ADA or IDEA will be provided.

**Two Elective credits of any combination from either:**

1. Career and Technical Education (CTE) or
2. Arts Education or
3. World Language

Note: For clarification, possible elective combinations may include 2 World Language credits; or 1 CTE credit and 1 Arts Education credit; or 2 CTE credits; or 1 Arts Education credit and 1 World Language credit; or other combinations from a, b and c.

**Four Elective credits from the following (four-course concentration recommended):**

1. Career and Technical Education (CTE)
2. ROTC
3. Arts Education (e.g., dance, music, theater arts, visual arts)
4. Any other subject area or cross-disciplinary courses (e.g., mathematics, science, social studies, English and dual enrollment courses)

NOTE: Beginning in fall 2022, students entering Grade 6 and subsequently entering Grade 9 for the first time in 2025-26 shall have at least one arts education course in grades 6-12.

- a. Students must complete the standard course of study (no local electives) for a given arts education course in its entirety to satisfy this requirement. After-school activities or partial courses do not fulfill this graduation requirement.
- b. Students who transfer into a public school unit beginning in the ninth grade or later may be exempt, if such a requirement would prevent a student from graduating with the graduation cohort to which the student was assigned when transferring.

NOTE: Students entering Grade 9 in 2026-27 will have an additional requirement to take a credit in Computer Science. Electives will be reduced from 6 to 5.