

Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2014-2015 School Year

What Students and Parents Need to Know

What are the diploma options?

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

What are the state assessment requirements?

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 ELA (or ACT/SAT concordant score)
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) or a comparative score on the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.)

Students must participate in the EOC assessments and the results constitute 30 percent of the final course grade. These assessments are in the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- Biology I
- Geometry
- U.S. History
- Algebra II (if enrolled)

What is the credit acceleration program (CAP)?

This program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- U.S. History
- Biology I
- Algebra II



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What are the requirements for the 24-credit standard diploma option?

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| 4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ELA I, II III, IV ▪ ELA honors, Advanced Placement (AP), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), International Baccalaureate (IB) and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement |
| 4 Credits Mathematics |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One of which must be Algebra I and one of which must be Geometry ▪ Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra I and Geometry) |
| 3 Credits Science |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One of which must be Biology I, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses. ▪ Two of the three required credits must have a laboratory component. ▪ An industry certification that leads to college credit substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I) ▪ An identified rigorous Computer Science course with a related industry certification substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I) |
| 3 Credits Social Studies |
| 1 credit in World History 1 credit in U.S. History .5 credit in U.S. Government .5 credit in Economics with Financial Literacy |
| 1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts* |
| 1 Credit Physical Education* |
| To include the integration of health |
| *Eligible courses and eligible course substitutions are specified in the Florida Course Code Directory at http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/default.asp . |
| 8 Elective Credits |
| 1 Online Course |
| Students must earn a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. |

What are the requirements for standard diploma designations?

Scholar Diploma Designation

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must

- Pass the ELA Grade 11 statewide assessment;
- Earn 1 credit in Algebra II (must pass EOC);
- Pass the Geometry EOC;
- Earn 1 credit in Statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course;
- Pass the Biology I EOC;
- Earn 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics;
- Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics;
- Pass the U.S. History EOC;
- Earn 2 credits in the same World Language; and
- Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.

A student is exempt from the Biology I or U.S. History assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology I or U.S. History course and the student

- Takes the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment; and
- Earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

Merit Diploma Designation

- Meet the standard high school diploma requirements
- Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)

Can a student who selects the 24-credit program graduate early?

Yes, a student who completes all the 24-credit program requirements for a standard diploma may graduate in fewer than eight semesters.

What is the distinction between the 18-credit ACCEL option and the 24-credit option?

- 3 elective credits instead of 8
- Physical Education is not required
- Online course is not required

All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per section 1003.4282(10)(d)1.-5., Florida Statutes [F.S.]).

Where is information on Bright Futures Scholarships located?

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding to attend a postsecondary institution in Florida. For more information, go to

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>.

What are the public postsecondary options?

State University System

Admission into Florida's public universities is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous curriculum in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first-time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements:

- High school graduation with a standard diploma
- Admission test scores
- 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses
- 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language)
- 2 approved electives

<http://www.flbog.edu/forstudents/planning>

The Florida College System

Includes 28 state colleges. These institutions offer career-related certificates and two-year associate degrees that prepare students to transfer to a bachelor's degree program or to enter jobs requiring specific skills. Many also offer baccalaureate degrees in high-demand fields. Florida College System institutions have an open door policy. This means that students who have earned a standard high school diploma, have earned a high school equivalency diploma or have demonstrated success in postsecondary coursework will be admitted to an associate degree program.

<http://www.fldoe.org/fcs>

Career and Technical Centers

Florida also offers students 46 accredited career and technical centers throughout the state, which provide the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. Programs are flexible for students and provide industry-specific education and training for a wide variety of occupations.

<http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/pdf/DistrictTechnicalCenterDirectors.pdf>

Where is information on financial aid located?

The Office of Student Financial Assistance State Programs administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships.

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>