




High School Graduation Requirements


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Freshman & Sophomore
Parent Power Hour

Tonight's Graduation POWER HOUR Information

- ▶ State of Florida Graduation Requirements
 - Number of credits required under two grad options
 - Specific courses required under two grad options
 - GPA required under both options
 - ▶ State Assessments required for Graduation
 - ▶ Explore Pinellas' Pathways to Graduation
 - Which Pathway will best help my student accomplish his/her post-secondary goals?
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Number of Credits Required for Graduation

- ▶ Two Options are available:
 - Traditional 24 credits
 - Accelerated 18 credits
 - BOTH options are also available for Exceptional Students on Access Points
 - ▶ Both options can be finished in 4 years or earlier (usually 3 years for early graduation)
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Grade Point Average Required for Graduation

- ▶ Students must maintain a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 overall
 - This is equivalent to a C grade when ALL grades are average together each year
- ▶ Credit Recovery and Grade Forgiveness is available in ALL schools
 - System is called APEX
 - Available: During the day AND after school in Extended Learning Programs (ELP) & Summer

Specific Courses within 24 credit option (core academics)


- ▶ 4 Credits in English Language Arts
 - English 1, 2, 3, and 4 which can include Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, AICE*, or Dual Enrollment (SPC) English classes

- ▶ 4 Credits in Mathematics
 - Which must include Algebra 1 and Geometry


*AICE= Advanced International
Certificate of Education

Specific Courses within 24 credit option (core academics)


- ▶ 3 Credits in Science
 - Which must include Biology and 2 other “equally rigorous” science courses

 - ▶ 3 Credits in Social Studies
 - Which must include World History, US History, Economics, and Government
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Specific Courses within 24 credit option (other areas)

- ▶ 1 Credit in Health Options Physical Education
 - ▶ 1 Credit in fine arts OR performing arts OR practical arts courses
 - ▶ 8 Elective Credits
 - the State University System admissions process does require 2 of these electives to be 2 years in a World Language
 - ▶ And ONE course within the 24 credits in the last 2 slides must have been an asynchronous ONLINE course
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Online Course Explained...


- ▶ The online course requirement may be met with a course worth a FULL CREDIT or a course worth a HALF CREDIT
 - ▶ It just must be a complete course
 - ▶ And it must be **ASYNCHRONOUS**
 - Which is why all the MY PCS ONLINE classes we ran last year due to COVID do not count as per the State to meet this requirement
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Specific Courses within 18 credit option (Accelerated)


- ▶ ALL the CORE classes are required exactly the same as the 24 credit option
- ▶ The difference is:
 - 5 Elective Credits required
 - No PE required (so no HOPE class)
 - And No ONLINE Course required

*AICE= Advanced International
Certificate of Education

18 Credit Accelerated Option


- ▶ May be completed in 2 years, 3 years, or the full 4 years!!!
 - ▶ Students wishing to finish early need to ...
 - Start high school ENGLISH and MATH classes while in middle school, OR
 - Double up on ENGLISH and MATH classes in high school during their 9th and 10th grade years
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Finally, State Assessments Requiring a Passing Score for Graduation

- ▶ 10th grade Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) in English Language Arts and Reading
 - ▶ Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment (usually given in the 9th or 10th grade)
 - ▶ Students who do not pass either of these tests the first time they take them become Re-Takers
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Pinellas Pathways to Graduation

WHAT ARE THE PATHWAYS?

- ▶ They are GUIDES for course selection each year for students/parents
 - ▶ Course selection is the most important factor in college admissions decisions
 - ▶ These Pathways help you select courses that will best prepare, are best aligned, with your post-high school plans!
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Pinellas Pathways to Graduation

- ▶ PCS Pathways are aligned to the State's Diploma Designations:
 - Advanced Scholar– Exclusive to PCS!!!
 - College Pathway (Scholar)
 - Technical/College (Merit)
- ▶ Designations award students seals for their diplomas (*more on this at the end!*)
 - [Diploma Designations](#)


Advanced Scholar Pathway

- ▶ This course of study includes a rigorous level of required and elective courses that best prepare students seeking admittance to **competitive** four-year universities both in and out of state.
 - All students in IB or AI/CE programs, will qualify for the Advanced Scholar Designation
 - Students in ALL high schools, in any program or academy can pursue this designation!

College Pathway (Scholar)

- ▶ This course of study includes a rigorous level of required and elective courses that best prepare students for entry into a college (2 year) or four year university both in and out of state.

Technical/College (Merit) Pathway


- ▶ This course of study offers the opportunity for students to challenge themselves in specific academic and elective areas of interest, earn nationally recognized industry certifications, and pursue entry into a post- secondary technical school or state college.
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Can students move between pathways?

- ▶ Yes! 😊
- ▶ There is great flexibility
- ▶ These are guides
- ▶ Students can start in one and end in a different pathway in 12th Grade

Let's GO to the PATHWAYS!!!

► Pinellas' Pathways to Graduation



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Pinellas Pathways to Graduation - Course Requirements



Use the following information to track your progress towards graduation and get help!

As always, ask your School Counselor or Teachers have questions about your course selections.

Let's start with the basics, these are the course requirements for a standard 24 credit diploma:

Graduation Requirements- Standard High School Diploma



[Contact us](#)

How do you know which Pathway your student has chosen?

Just contact:

- ▶ Your student's school counselor
- ▶ Your school's Assistant Principal for Curriculum

Diploma Designations

Diploma Designations

- ▶ There are TESTING requirements for each of the state's 2 Diploma Designations:
 - Scholar and Merit
 - Let's go there!



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Diploma Designations

Students who earn a high school diploma can also earn diploma seals: a Scholar designation or a Merit designation. Students will also have the opportunity to earn Pinellas County Schools Advanced Scholar designation. Students may earn any or all of these designations, but they are not required to do so.

State "Scholar" Designation

In addition to the requirements for a standard diploma, students seeking a state Scholar designation must satisfy specific course and testing

Who can help with questions?

- ▶ Your student's school counselor
 - ▶ Your school's Assistant Principal for Curriculum
 - ▶ Your school Principal
 - ▶ Valerie Santos– District School Counselor Supervisor (santosv@pcsb.org)
 - ▶ Rita M. Vasquez, Executive Director, High School Education (vasquezr@pcsb.org)
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