



## GRADUATION INFORMATION

### REQUIREMENTS

The proper selection of courses by learners is an important matter. It is important to the learners that each course should be carefully selected as an integral part of the learner's four-year educational plan. Carefully thought-out course selections are equally important to the school district as commitments for staffing for the ensuing year are based on the learner selections. Therefore, changes in learner course selections after May 31 will only be made in cases of extreme hardship. All changes must have the approval of the schools' assistant principal or principal.

Required Courses	Credits
English	4
Health	½
Mathematics- at least 1 credit in Trans Math or Algebra 1	3
Physical Education- ½ credit each year <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limit to one summer school PE course</li></ul>	1.5
Science- Physical Science (or 1 year of Physics + 1 year of Chemistry), Biology, and 1 more	3
Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• World Geography</li><li>• Western Civilization or AP European History</li><li>• US History</li><li>• US Government</li><li>• Economics</li></ul>	½ 1 1 ½ ½
<b>Required Units</b>	<b>15.5</b>
<b>Elective Units</b>	<b>7.5</b>
Three credits must be a combination of Foreign Language, Fine Arts, or Career & Technical Education courses	
<b>Units of credit required for graduation</b>	<b>23.0</b>

### ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for graduation, a senior must have been enrolled in a high school during grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 for four separate school year terms. An exception to this policy may be made for learners if they have the approval of their parents and the principal. In addition, according to school board policy, learners must have completed all requirements for the high school diploma in order to participate in commencement exercises.

Learners shall be enrolled each year in courses that will give them at least 6 credits unless an administrator has granted permission to take a reduced load. Additional courses may be taken from the list of electives each year to meet the minimum requirements.



Learners must make an effort to make up any course failures through summer school, on-line recovery, or the Center for Distance Education before the next fall term starts. Courses failed and not made up by the beginning of the next school year must be scheduled for that school year. Special permission must be obtained to take further courses in the same field until failures have been removed.

## **CEREMONY PARTICIPATION**

West Fargo Public Schools holds high expectations for participating in the ceremony of graduation. It is a privilege to walk in the graduation ceremony.

To participate in the graduation ceremony, graduating seniors must:

- Complete all outstanding obligations, prior to graduation rehearsal, inclusive of but not limited to:
  - Serve any and all detention hours
  - Pay any and all parking tickets
  - Pay any and all school fees
  - Return any and all athletic uniforms and equipment
  - Return all instructional resources
    - iPad and iPad accessories
    - Textbooks
    - Library books
    - Other teacher obligations (gym lock, calculators, etc.)
- Attend the mandatory graduation rehearsal as scheduled.

Participation is also contingent upon learner attendance and behavioral issues as determined by the school administrative team.

## **COMMENCEMENT RECOGNITION**

Graduating seniors who have attained any or all the following will be given special recognition during commencement exercises:

- Active membership in the National Honor Society
- A grade point average (weighted) of 3.50 or better for all courses grades 9-12 taken up to and during the first semester of the senior year (Graduating with Honor). Learners who receive S/U grading are not eligible for graduating with honor.

## **COMMENCEMENT DRESS CODE**

All graduating seniors are expected to abide by the following guidelines if they choose to participate in the ceremony:

- The graduation robe is in school colors with a V neckline, which will show part of your clothing underneath. Jewelry, flowers, or other decoration may NOT be added to the robe.
- The mortarboard should be worn with the front point over the forehead, so the flat board is parallel to the floor. Caps may NOT be decorated.
- Graduating seniors that are active members of the National Honor Society will be given an honor cord to wear. No other cords or stoles may be worn.



- Per ND Century Code 15.1-19-28, graduating seniors may wear an eagle plume or feather in recognition of their tribal heritage.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC CAMPUSES IN THE NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Certain high school courses are required if the learner plans on enrolling in a four-year public college or university in North Dakota. These campuses are: North Dakota State University, University of North Dakota, Dickinson State, Mayville State, Minot State, and Valley City State. In order to enroll in one of these institutions the following must be completed:

- 4 units of English
- 3 units of mathematics including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II
- 3 units of laboratory science, including at least 2 in biology, chemistry, physics, or physical science
- 3 units of social studies, excluding consumer education, marketing, orientation to social studies, and marriage/family

In addition, it is strongly recommended that the learner also complete:

- 2 units of a single classical or foreign language, including American Sign Language and Native American Language

The GPA and ACT guidelines for learners seeking admission to schools in the North Dakota University System suggest that a learner possess a minimum GPA of 2.75 and an ACT score of 22 or higher. Learners who do not meet these minimum guidelines will still be considered if there is evidence in the learner's academic record that demonstrate high probability of success. Learners with higher GPA's and lower ACT scores, or conversely, lower GPA's and higher ACT scores will also be given consideration.

The number of required core classes may increase incrementally through the fall of 2018. In addition to the current core areas (4 years of English, 3 years of math at algebra I and above, 3 years of lab sciences, and 3 years of social sciences), learners will have the option to count two additional credits from the existing core subject areas or the newly identified areas. These new identified areas for possible core courses will likely include foreign or world language and fine, visual, or performing arts.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC CAMPUSES OTHER THAN NORTH DAKOTA**

State university systems outside of North Dakota also maintain high school preparation standards. For those requirements, please visit with one of the high school counselors.

## **DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM**

The dual credit program allows sophomores, juniors, and seniors to take courses offered by an approved post-secondary institution for both high school and post-secondary credit. Learners interested in this program must consult with their administrator before enrolling in a course for dual credit. A three or four semester hour course offered by a post-secondary institution is equivalent to a half credit high school course. Credit is earned at both the high school and the post-secondary institution. Credits earned through dual credit will count toward the grade point



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average at both institutions. The learner and the learner's parent or legal guardian are responsible for all costs related to receiving post-secondary credit.