

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Students must successfully complete the courses required by the Iowa Department of Education and by the Board of Education in order to graduate from the Waterloo Schools. Students must have attended a high school within the Waterloo Community Schools for at least one semester immediately prior to graduation. It shall be the responsibility of the High School Principal to ensure that students who have completed the district graduation requirements are recommended to the Superintendent for graduation

I. CREDIT REQUIREMENTS (Classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010)

English	8.0
Mathematics	4.0 (must include Algebra equivalency)
Physical Education	2.0
Science	4.0 (must include 2 biology credits and 2 physical science credits)
Social Sciences	
US History	2.0
US Government	1.0
World Studies	2.0
Economics	1.0
World Language/Fine Arts	2.0
Career and Technical Education	2.0
Behavioral Sciences	2.0
Electives	10.0

Minimum Credits for Graduation 40

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS (Starting with Class of 2011)

English	8.0
Mathematics	6.0 (must include Algebra equivalency)
Physical Education	2.0
Science	6.0 (must include 2 life science credits and 2 physical science credits)
Social Sciences	
US History	2.0
World Studies	2.0
Contemporary Affairs	1.0
US Government	1.0
Economics	1.0
World Language/Fine Arts	2.0
Career and Technical Education	2.0
Behavioral Sciences	2.0
Electives	9.0

Minimum Credits for Graduation 44

The **World Language/Fine Arts** requirement may be met by taking courses primarily in the following departments: Music, Art, World Language, and Theatre.
 * Refer to High School Program of Studies for specific courses that meet this requirement.

The **Career and Technical Education** requirement may be met by taking courses primarily in the following departments: Business Education, Computer Technology, Family and Consumer Science, and Industrial Technology.
 * Refer to High School Program of Studies for specific courses that meet this requirement.

The **Behavioral Sciences** requirement may be met by taking the following courses such as: Personal/Social Responsibility, Contemporary Parenting, Psychology, Early Childhood Education, Leadership, Sociology, Expanded Learning Program, Adult Living, JROTC, etc.

** Students must complete a minimum of 2 credits each in World Language/Fine Arts, Career and Technical Education, and Behavioral Sciences. A completed course may **not** be counted as meeting the requirement in more than one area.

II. IOWA TESTS OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENT

Beginning with the Class of 2001, all students will be evaluated to determine if they have developed minimal achievement competencies for graduation. The test used to determine these competencies will be the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED). Each student must achieve a standard score of (251) on Math Total and Reading Comprehension or Reading Total to meet the minimum competencies for graduation. Norms used for the minimum score in these areas will be national norms. Students with a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) may be exempt from this requirement if so stated in their IEP. Students must attain 251 on the designated tests to graduate.

III. SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Graduation requirements for special needs students shall be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in their IEP. Prior to a special needs student's graduation, the IEP team shall determine whether the graduation requirements have been met.

IV. ALTERNATIVE CREDIT

- A. Students may earn credit towards graduation upon completion of approved alternative courses of study. Approval of such courses shall be determined by the principal. No more than a total of four (4) credits or two (2) units of credit for courses will be approved to apply toward graduation. Procedures for Homebound Instruction are covered under policy 603.4 and 603.4-R.

B. Military Credit

1. Credit will be granted for educational experience in the armed services, which are certified by the United States Armed Forces Institute, or the training centers where the training was received, or through certification of training on U.S.A.D. I. Form 47, signed by the commanding officer of the person requesting the credit.
2. In all cases, the amount of credit granted is determined by the "Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services", American Council on Education, Washington D.C.
3. Before a diploma is granted, the student must meet statutory requirements and school requirements in those subjects originally required for graduation, such as American History, English, and others.
4. No more than a total of four (4) credits or two (2) units of credit for courses will be approved to apply toward graduation.

V. EARLY GRADUATION

A student who completes the credit requirements in all areas except physical education is eligible for graduation, without regard to the length of time such student has been enrolled in the school.

VI. GRADUATION CEREMONY

- A. Students participating in the graduation ceremony must have earned all required credits by the graduation date.
- B. Students are not required to participate in the graduation ceremony.

VII. GRADUATION CLASS

A student who has not met the graduation criteria in time for May graduation with his or her class and:

- A. who meets the requirements prior to school resuming in the fall shall be counted as a graduate with his/her current class. The graduation criteria would need to be met prior to school resuming for the upcoming school year.
- B. who does not meet requirements prior to school resuming in the fall and is not enrolled for the fall semester by October 1, will be counted as a drop out.
- C. who meets graduation requirements during a subsequent fall or spring, will graduate with that year's class.

281 I.A.C. 12.2; .3(7); .5; 41.404(6)(e).

Cross Ref.: 102.0 Educational Philosophy
106.0 School District Goals and Objectives
505.6 Academic Progress – Promotion/Retention
603.4 Home or Hospital Services
602.9 Physical Education

ADOPTED: 2/11/91, 3/14/94, 2/12/96, 9/13/99, 3/10/03, 6/13/05, 4/14/08, 6/8/09

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