

H.O.P.E. Accountability Group

Ranking Policy

Curriculum Requirements for a South Carolina High School Diploma

The student must earn a total of 24 units of credit in state-approved courses. Your child may earn more than the total number of 24 credits at the completion of 12th grade. I strongly recommend checking with the college your child may be attending *prior* to his senior year. This will insure that he meets their entrance requirements.

The unit requirements are distributed as follows:

Subjects Units Required

English/Language Arts 4.0	Physical Education or Junior ROTC 1.0
Mathematics 4.0	Computer Science (Incl. keyboarding) 1.0
Science 3.0	Foreign Language or Career and Technology Education 1.0
U.S. History and Constitution 1.0	Electives 7.0
Economics 0.5	Total 24
U.S. Government 0.5	
Other Social Studies 1.0	

* For a student in a College Prep program to meet the state high school diploma requirements, one unit must be earned in a foreign language (most four-year colleges/universities require at least two years of the same foreign language); one unit must be earned in Career and Technology Education.

Grading

High school students' grades must be reported as numerical grades (not letter grades) for transcripts for college applications and for class ranking purposes. The SC legislature approved a Uniform Grading Scale that is used to determine the student's grade point average for all the completed high school level courses. The information can be found on the SC Dept of Education website. Calculating the GPA is fairly complex. HOPE will do this for you when we make your transcript. We also calculate all seniors' GPAs for the class ranking, as well as juniors' GPAs for Junior Marshall's.

The South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy provides for different course levels depending on the difficulty of the work done. Courses with more difficult work may be given honors level status provided you complete the Honors Certification form (link id on our downloadable forms page) and will receive a higher score when converted to the uniform grading scale.

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Class ranking

In calculating the GPA for class ranking, only courses considered as high school level classes and above will be included.

All students who submit grades by January 10 and June 10 in 9th – 12th grades will be included in the class ranking. *If grades are not submitted on time, HOPE reserves the right to not rank your child or to list them at the bottom of the class.*

College Prep (CP) courses

College Prep courses use standard high school textbooks and are the standard high school level courses. The student must complete the majority of the text. You may use a combination of curriculum or unit studies, but be careful to research what the public school's class involves and plan to meet or exceed that level. High school college prep course standards can be found at the SC Department of Education website.

Honors (H) courses

Honors courses are advanced courses offered in the core subject areas (science, math, history, English.). They are also offered in the third level of any other course except for Physical Education. The requirements for honors courses are greater than for college prep courses. Textbooks and/or other course materials must be differentiated and more rigorous than those used in college prep courses. For all Honors courses, the Honors Certification form must be completed and submitted with your grades.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses

Advanced Placement courses are taught at college level using college level textbooks. AP courses have pre-requisites at the high school level. (For instance, to take AP Biology, a student would need to have completed high school biology and chemistry.) Home schoolers may call a course AP if they meet the requirements for that course set out on the AP website. Homeschoolers may take any AP exam - even if they have not taken an AP level course. Successful completion of an AP exam does not allow you to call the course AP. The course must meet the AP requirements.

Dual Credit (Dual Enrollment) classes

Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment courses are those taught at a local college. The student is given credit for both the high school (1 unit) and college level (typically 3 hours). Some of the local colleges which offer dual enrollment classes are Southern Wesleyan University, Tri-County Tech, Anderson University, North Greenville University and

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Piedmont Tech. You must supply the college with a current transcript. Some colleges require the ACT or SAT to be taken prior to acceptance. Others have an entrance exam of their own. You are responsible for any fees incurred with dual enrollment. To receive proper credit on the high school transcript, please submit a copy of the college transcript. Only credit bearing courses are eligible for dual credit. Remedial courses and courses which do not list credit earned will not be accepted. If your child fails a credit college course, this will be reported on the high school transcript. Dual Credit courses receive a higher credit point than typically college prep courses.

Electives

This is where you get to be creative as you build upon your child's interests and strengths. You can create a course that meets your child's needs. A 1-semester course equals about physical 150 hours. These hours can be spent reading books on the subject, writing reports on the subject, creating a project or actual participation. Keep track of the hours spent on the activity and you have met the requirement. If you need help on what to include, check out a high school catalog with course descriptions. Here are some suggestions:

- P.E. - any type of sports or lessons such as archery, tennis, etc.
- Home Economics - Planning and preparing meals, sewing, 4H programs, budgeting, child care
- Music - Lessons, practice, theory study, choral societies
- Foreign Language study
- Art - Lessons, self-taught programs, videos
- Theater - Play performances (attendance, actual participation on stage, behind the scenes)
- Bible Studies
- Carpentry
- Car Repair
- Computer Science

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Honors

In order for your child to graduate with honors he/she must meet the following requirements:

- 3.5 grade-point average based on a 4.0 scale.
- test score of 1200 (SAT) or 26 (ACT) or 120 (Verbal/Math – PSAT)
- 90% on the composite battery on the IOWA, Stanford, or California achievement tests would also be accepted.

High School credit before 9th grade

Students in 7th and 8th grade may earn high school credit for courses in core subjects (not including Electives or PE). Typically, one may be earned in 7th grade and two in 8th grade and should be transferable to another school.

Taking a course for high school credit in 7th or 8th grade does NOT automatically make it Honors. The Honors Certification form must be completed to indicate what is included in the course.