

Dolores School District Graduation Requirements

In pursuit of its mission to ensure that all students reach their learning potential, the Board of Education has established the following graduation requirements.

Demonstrate competency in state minimum academic requirements and district content standards:

All students will demonstrate mastery of the district academic content standards by completion of general education requirements and a designated pathway. The pathway will include a Capstone Project with a community service component that begins in the second semester of the sophomore year, and ends in the spring of the senior year.

General Education Requirements:

9th and 10th grade:

English: English I (2 sem.), English II (2 sem.)

Math: Algebra I (2 sem.), Geometry (2 sem.)

Science: Integrated Science (2 sem.), Biology (2 sem.)

Social Studies: US History (2 sem.) , Civics (1 sem.),
Economics (1 sem.)

Tech Literacy: 1 semester (9th grade required)

Physical Education: 2 semesters

Electives (outside Fine/Practical Arts): 4 semesters

Before Graduation:

Physical Education: 2 semesters add'l

Fine/Practical Arts: 2 semesters

Health: 1 semester

Computers: 1 semester

Completion of the Individual Career and Academic Plan
(ICAP)

****In rare cases (such as student late transfer into the district), these requirements could be demonstrated within the capstone, upon review and recommendation of the Academic Review Committee. See below****

In order to satisfy demonstration of minimum competencies required by the State of Colorado, each student must achieve a minimum score on one or more assessments from the menu of options approved by the Colorado State Board of Education in September 2015, listed below:

Menu of Options	English	Math
ACCUPLACER	62 on Reading Comprehension	61 on Elementary Algebra
ACT	18 on ACT English	19 on ACT Math
ACT Compass	79	63
ACT WorkKeys - National Career Readiness Certificate	Bronze or higher	Bronze or higher
Advanced Placement (AP)	2	2
ASVAB	31	31
Concurrent Enrollment	Passing grade per district and higher education policy	Passing grade per district and higher education policy
Industry Certificate	Individualized	Individualized
International Baccalaureate (IB)	4	4
SAT	430	460

****In rare cases, reviewed by an Academic Review Committee on a case-by-case basis, a student may petition to have his/her Capstone Project substitute for the minimum competency score. In these cases, the student's adviser and the Academic Review Committee will ensure that the minimum competencies are demonstrated within the Capstone Project.****

These requirements can be modified for students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP), which may include modified district academic content standards and state minimum competency demonstrations.

A course is defined as meeting five days per week for a minimum of 40 minutes daily for at least 36 weeks or the equivalent.

Successful completion means that the student obtained a passing grade for the course.

College Sports Eligibility—NCAA Clearinghouse:

****Please note:** Students interested in pursuing athletics in college must meet the minimum NCAA Clearinghouse recommendations outlined below:

Division I: 16 Core Courses	Division II: 14 Core Courses (if enrolling prior to August 1, 2013) 16 Core Courses (if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013)
4 years of English	3 years of English
3 years of math (algebra 1 or higher level)	2 years of math (algebra 1 or higher level)
2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered)	2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered)
1 extra year of English, math, or science	2 extra years of English, math or science; 3 extra years if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013
2 years of social science	2 years of social science
4 years of additional core courses (from any category above, or in a foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy)	3 years of additional core courses (from any category above, or in a foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy); 4 extra years if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013

Academic standards

Division I eligibility

- All students entering college must have completed **16 core courses** in high school.
- Students must earn a minimum required GPA in core courses and a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches this GPA on a sliding scale, which can be found in the [NCAA Eligibility Center Quick Reference Guide \(.pdf/270K\)](#).

Division II eligibility

- All students entering college prior to August 1, 2013, must have completed **14 core courses** in high school.
- All students entering college on or after August 1, 2013, must have completed **16 core courses** in high school.
- Standards require a minimum GPA of 2.0 and a combined minimum SAT score of 820 or sum ACT score of 68.

NCAA core courses definition

- An academic course in one or a combination of these areas: English, mathematics, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy.
- A four-year college preparatory course and a course at or above the high school's regular academic level, for example, an AP® class or outside college course.

Students who intend to play college sports should see their Academic Adviser in the spring of their freshman year in order to register with the clearinghouse.

High School Course Completion Prior to High School:

Students who complete a high school class with a “C” or better prior to their Freshman year will be able to apply that course (if applicable) to the high school general ed requirements. This will show on the high school transcript; however, it will not be calculated in the student’s high school GPA.

Walking at Graduation without Completed Credit:

Students who lack no more than one course completion toward meeting the graduation requirements at Dolores High School may petition the Academic Review Committee for permission to walk in graduation ceremonies. Permission must be sought in writing, prior to the second semester of the year in which the student is seeking graduation.

The written request for permission must be accompanied by a detailed description of an appropriate summer school, correspondence, college or other course to be completed within one year from the date of the graduation ceremonies. However, such student shall receive a blank folder. A diploma shall be awarded only upon successful completion of the approved course.

Students who are lacking required coursework toward graduation at any point during high school (i.e., failing grades) will meet with their

academic advisor, the school counselor, parents, and registrar in order to create a coursework recovery plan within the first two weeks of the next grading period. The student will be required to complete the recovery coursework prior to the beginning of the next school year.

Credit from other institutions and home-based programs: All students entering from outside the district must meet the district graduation requirements. The Academic Review Committee shall determine whether courses taken outside the district will satisfy required coursework toward graduation. Students who are currently enrolled in the district and wish to obtain credit from outside institutions, or through “online” programs, must have prior approval from the Academic Review Committee. The district will review the transcripts and course syllabi from a home-based educational program in order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with district requirements and district academic standards prior to approving the coursework completion toward graduation requirements.

Class rankings and grade point averages: Graduating seniors shall be ranked within the graduating class for each high school upon the basis of grade-point averages for the four-year program, including the last semester of their senior year. For purposes of determining valedictorian and salutatorian, grades for regular classes will be given the following values: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, and grades for college/honors courses will be given the following values: A=5, B=4, C=3, D=1. After a course has been passed, no future grade earned in the same course shall be used to determine class rank or grade point average. Certain courses may be taken more than one time (ex: yearbook/web design, PE, etc.) The student with the highest weighted GPA will be valedictorian. When more than one student has the same weighted GPA, all students with that GPA will be declared co-valedictorians. When transcripts of transfer students show grades such as pass or satisfactory, such grades shall not be counted in determining class rank or grade point average. Transcripts of transfer students will be reviewed prior to calculating GPA.

Independent study: Independent study, work experience and experienced-based programs approved in advance by the Academic Review Committee may be taken for high school credit. Students must submit a request for approval that includes a summary of the educational objectives to be achieved and monitored by a faculty member.

Student course load: The course load for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors shall be a minimum of 6 courses per semester. Seniors must be enrolled for a minimum of 5 courses per semester. Study Hall and Teacher Assistant courses will not count toward GPA or pathway completion.