

Graduation Requirements

Except as noted, to be eligible for graduation, students must successfully complete 24.0 units of credit from courses as described in the annual *Program of Studies* for grades 9 through 12 as follows:

- 4.0 Credits in English to include 1.0 credit in World Literature, 1.0 credit in American Literature and two additional yearlong courses* or Credits in English to include 1.0 credit in World Literature or Literary Foundations, 1.0 credit in American Voices, 1.0 credit in Language and Composition and one additional yearlong course**
- 3.0 Credits in Mathematics.
- 3.0 Credits in Science to include 1.0 credit in Biology.
- 3.0 Credits in Social Studies including 1.0 credit each in World History, United States History and United States Government/Economics.
- 1.9 Credits in Health/Physical Education (See details below).
- 2.0 Credits in World Languages to be fulfilled by the completion of a Level II course in a second language or its equivalent. (See details below).
- 2.0 Credits in core electives to include 1 course from each of the following three areas: Business/Technology, Visual and Performing Arts, and Family and Consumer Sciences. (See details below).
- 4.9*** Credits in electives; any course that has not been counted to fulfill or other graduation requirements as indicated in the *Program of Studies*.
- 5.1**** Extended learning opportunities listed in the *Program of Studies* shall also satisfy this requirement (See details below).
- 0.2**** Credits in College and Career Transition (See details below)

24.0 Total credits

- * Graduating classes prior to 2023
- ** Graduating classes of 2023 and beyond
- *** Graduating class of 2020 and beyond
- **** Graduating classes prior to 2020

A student who successfully completes coursework in Computer Science shall be permitted to apply up to one credit toward the Mathematics credit requirement for graduation. Computer Science courses that qualify for Mathematics credit shall be published annually in the *Program of Studies*.

Health/Physical Education (1.9 credits)

All students must complete the Health and Fitness course (0.5 credit) designed for ninth grade students. This course includes required instruction in Health and 1 semester of Physical Education (PE). All students must be enrolled in a PE course for the other seven semesters of attendance for a total of 1.4 PE credits, not including the Health and Fitness course. Up to six semesters of PE (1.2 credits) may be satisfied through the Team Sport or Extended Experience programs.

Students who are no longer enrolled at Conestoga but are pursuing a diploma through the Early College program will not be required to take PE if they have met State requirements. They will still need to provide 24 credits in total and meet all other specific requirements.

World Languages (2.0 credits)

Students will demonstrate proficiency in a second language by successfully completing Level II (that is, up to and including a second year course in one language). Students with documented specialized instructional needs may be exempted from this requirement with prior approval of the principal. Students who have completed the second year course in a language prior to entering high school shall be required to take one additional year of World Languages and to fulfill the second credit in an elective course in any area.

Core Electives (2.0 credits)

Students must earn 2.0 credits in core elective areas to include one course in the Visual/Performing Arts, one course in Business/Technology and one course in Family and Consumer Sciences. Courses that award credit in more than one department shall count only as one of the three elective areas. Physical Education, Highway Safety, and Health courses shall not count as credits toward the core electives requirement.

Electives (4.9 or 5.1 credits)

Electives include courses not otherwise applied to meet graduation requirements. Extended learning opportunities may earn credits that count as elective credits. These programs focus on global and community partnerships, social responsibility, self-direction, collaboration, technological proficiency and experience-based learning. Activities that qualify for these credits shall be identified annually in the *Program of Studies* and may include approved online coursework, independent study, service learning and co-curricular activities. Students in the graduating classes prior to 2020

must earn 5.1 credits in Electives. Students in the graduating classes of 2020 and beyond must earn 4.9 credits in Electives.

College and Career Transition (0.2 credits)

Beginning with the graduating class of 2020, students must complete the required course in College and Career Transition.

Academic Proficiency

To be eligible for graduation a student must demonstrate proficiency in core academic subjects according to State requirements outlined in the Pennsylvania School Code, Second 4.24. This may include performance at established proficiency levels on State-approved standardized tests. Course credit shall not be granted through the successful performance on State assessment without first having completed the course.

Other Requirements

Students in grades 9 and 10 must schedule at least 36 class periods, or the equivalent, per six-day cycle. Students in grades 11 and 12 must schedule at least 32 class periods, or the equivalent, per six-day cycle. Approved individualized educational programs and science labs may be counted for purposes of this scheduling requirement as described in the *Program of Studies*.

Student shall be awarded a maximum of 8.4 credits per academic year. Exceptions to this limit may be granted for students in danger of not fulfilling graduation requirements by the end of the senior year or for students who have applied for Early College or Graduation. Other exceptions may be granted for circumstances deemed appropriate by the Principal.

In the event that the State Board of Education should mandate additional requirements for graduation, Conestoga High School students will be required to fulfill these requirements.

Annually, the Board shall approve the graduating class before diplomas are awarded. Following approval of candidates for graduation by official action of the Board, those students so qualifying will have the privilege of receiving appropriate recognition at exercises as conducted by the school district on a date established each year.

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