

Graduation Requirements

Except as noted, to be eligible for graduation, students must successfully complete a minimum of 24.0 credits 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 each in Literary Foundations, American Voices, Language and Composition, and Comparative Literature or AP Literature and Composition
- 3.0 Credits in Mathematics
- 3.0 Credits in Science to include 1.0 credit in Biology
- 3.0 Credits in Social Studies to include 1.0 credit each in World History, United States History, and United States Government/Economics
- 2.0-2.25* Credits in Health/Physical Education (See details below)
- 2.0 Credits in World Languages (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)
- 4.5-4.8 Credits in electives; any course that has not been counted to fulfill other graduation requirements as indicated in the *Program of Studies* Experiential Learning Opportunities listed in the *Program of Studies* shall also satisfy this requirement (See details below)
- 0.2-0.25 Credits in College and Career Transition (See details below)
- 24.0 Total credits (minimum)**

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 (2.0-2.25 credits)

For the graduating class of 2025 - 2.0 credits

For the graduating class of 2026 - 2.1 credits

For the graduating class of 2027 - 2.2 credits

For the graduating class of 2028 and beyond - 2.25 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 one semester of Physical Education (PE). All students must be enrolled in a PE course for the other semesters of attendance. Up to six semesters of PE 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) or its equivalent. Students with documented specialized instructional needs may be exempted from this requirement with prior approval of the principal and, if applicable, per the terms of their Section 504 Service Agreement or Individualized Education Plan (IEP). 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 the same World Language (Level III) or two years of a different World Language.

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 (4.5-4.8credits)

For the graduating class of 2025 - 4.8 credits

For the graduating class of 2026 - 4.65 credits

For the graduating class of 2027 - 4.55 credits

For the graduating class of 2028 and beyond - 4.5 credits

Electives include courses not otherwise applied to meet graduation requirements. Experiential 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.

College and Career Transition (0.2-0.25 credits)

For the graduating class of 2025 - 0.2 credits

For the graduating class of 2026 and beyond - 0.25 credits

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 Pa. Code, Section 4.24. This may include performance at established proficiency levels on State Board of Education standardized tests or State Board of Education pathways to graduation. 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 a minimum of 6 credits per year with a minimum equivalent of 6 full periods per semester. Students in grades 11 and 12 must schedule a minimum of 5.5 credits per year with a minimum equivalent of 5.5 periods per semester. At all times, students in grades 9-11 must maintain a course schedule with sufficient credits to be promoted to the next grade. Students in grade 12 must maintain a course schedule with sufficient credits to qualify for June graduation.

All students may schedule a maximum of 7 credits per year with a maximum equivalent of 7 periods per semester. The following courses do not count toward the 7-period maximum:

- Learning support classes
- English Language Development Courses
- Co-Curricular activities
- Team Sport or Extended Experience PE
- Experiential Learning Opportunities
- College and Career Transition

Student shall be awarded a maximum of 8.5 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 of students 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.

Adopted: March 2007
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