

High School Graduation Requirements in Kansas



Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.



2019 KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MISSION

To prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous, quality academic instruction, career training and character development according to each student's gifts and talents.

VISION

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

MOTTO

Kansans Can

SUCCESS DEFINED

A successful Kansas high school graduate has the

- Academic preparation,
- Cognitive preparation,
- Technical skills,
- Employability skills and
- Civic engagement

to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

OUTCOMES

- Social-emotional growth measured locally
- Kindergarten readiness
- Individual Plan of Study focused on career interest
- High school graduation
- Postsecondary success

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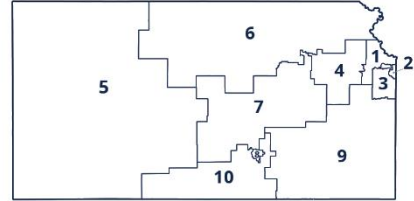


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Graduation Requirements in Kansas

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KAR 91-31-35 Kansas State Minimum Graduation Requirements

(a) Each local board of education shall adopt a written policy specifying that pupils are eligible for graduation only upon completion of at least the following requirements:

(1) **Four units of English language arts**, which shall include reading, writing, literature, communication, and grammar. The building administrator may waive up to one unit of this requirement if the administrator determines that a pupil can profit more by taking another subject

(2) **three units of history and government**, which shall include world history; United States history; United States government, including the Constitution of the United States; concepts of economics and geography; and, except as otherwise provided in S.B.R. 91-31-32, a course of instruction in Kansas history and government

(3) **three units of science**, which shall include physical, biological, and earth and space science concepts and which shall include at least one unit as a laboratory course

(4) **three units of mathematics**, including algebraic and geometric concepts

(5) **one unit of physical education**, which shall include health and which may include safety, first aid, or physiology. This requirement shall be waived if the school district is provided with either of the following:

(A) A statement by a licensed physician that a pupil is mentally or physically incapable of participating in a regular or modified physical education program;
or

(B) a statement, signed by a lawful custodian of the pupil, indicating that the requirement is contrary to the religious teachings of the pupil

(6) **one unit of fine arts**, which may include art, music, dance, theatre, forensics, and other similar studies selected by a local board of education

(7) **six units of elective courses**

(b) A minimum of 21 units of credit shall be required for graduation.

Local Board Graduation Requirements (KAR 91-31-35)

(c) Any local board of education may increase the number of units of credit required for graduation. Any additional requirements of the local board of education that increase the number of units of credit required for graduation shall apply to those students who will enter the ninth grade in the school year following the effective date of the additional requirement.

(d) Unless more stringent requirements are specified by existing local policy, the graduation requirements established by this regulation shall apply to those students who enter the ninth grade in the school year following the effective date of this regulation and to each subsequent class of students.

Kansas Qualified Admissions Requirements

One unit is equivalent to one year, or two semesters. Dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and online courses may be used to fulfill the Qualified Admissions curriculum requirements. All courses must appear on your high school transcript, and courses completed in middle school or junior high do not fulfill the Qualified Admissions Math requirements.

- English
 - 4 approved units, ½ unit may be Speech
- Math Must complete either:
 - Option A - 3 approved units and meet the ACT college readiness math benchmark of 22
 - Option B - 4 approved units, one of which must be taken in the graduating year
- Social Science
 - 3 approved units
- Natural Science
 - 3 approved units, one of which must be a full unit of Chemistry or Physics
- English
 - 4 approved units, ½ unit may be Speech
- Electives
 - 3 approved units

Currently, all above courses must be satisfactorily completed to satisfy Qualified Admissions requirements. However, these pre-college curriculum requirements will no longer be applicable starting with the graduating class of 2021. These courses will be “recommendations” for the class of 2021.

Starting with the graduating class of 2021, state universities will have the following ACT/GPA requirements for admissions:

Emporia State, Pitt State, Fort Hays State, and Wichita State Universities:
Cumulative GPA of 2.25 or higher OR ACT of 21 or higher

Kansas State University
Cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher OR ACT of 21 or higher

University of Kansas
Cumulative of GPA of 3.25 or higher AND ACT of 21 or higher
OR
Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher AND ACT of 24 or higher

Kansas Scholars Requirements

Completion of the Kansas Scholars Curriculum is one of the requirements Kansas residents must meet in order to receive State Scholar designation. This occurs during the senior year of high school.

English - 4 years

One unit to be taken each year. Must include substantial recurrent practice in writing extensive and structured papers, extensive reading of significant literature, and significant experience in speaking and listening.

Mathematics - 4 years

Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and one unit of advanced mathematics-- suggested courses include: Analytic Geometry, Trigonometry, Advanced Algebra, Probability and Statistics, Functions or Calculus. Completion of Algebra I in 8th grade is acceptable for the Kansas Scholars Curriculum, but not for Qualified Admissions.

Science - 3 years

One year each in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, each of which include an average of one laboratory period a week. Applied/technical courses may not substitute for a unit of natural science credit.

Social Studies - 3 years

One unit of U.S. History; minimum of one-half unit of U.S. Government and minimum of one-half unit selected from: World History, World Geography or International Relations; and one unit selected from: Psychology, Economics, U.S. Government, U.S. History, Current Social Issues, Sociology, Anthropology, and Race and Ethnic Group Relations. Half unit courses may be combined to make this a whole unit.

Foreign Language - 2 years

Two years of one language. Latin and Sign Language are accepted.

In addition to the courses listed above, students must also meet the following requirements:

- Students must have taken the ACT between April of the sophomore year and December of the senior year.
- Students must be a Kansas resident.
- Students must have their curriculum and 7th semester GPA certified on the official roster by the high school counselor, registrar, or similar official.

NCAA Division I Requirements

To be eligible to compete in NCAA sports during your first year at a Division I school, you must graduate high school and meet ALL the following requirements:

- Complete 16 core courses:
 - Four years of English
 - Three years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
 - Two years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it)
 - One additional year of English, math or natural/physical science
 - Two years of social science
 - Four additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- Complete 10 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, you may not repeat or replace any of those 10 courses to improve your core-course GPA.
- Earn at least a 2.3 GPA in your core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale, which balances your test score and core-course GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher core-course GPA to be eligible. If you have a low core-course GPA, you need a higher test score to be eligible.

NCAA Division II Requirements

To be eligible to compete in NCAA sports during your first year at a Division II school, you must meet academic requirements for your core courses, grade-point average (GPA) and test scores.

- Complete 16 core courses:
 - Three years of English.
 - Two years of math (Algebra 1 or higher).
 - Two years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it).
 - Three additional years of English, math or natural or physical science
 - Two years of social science
 - Four additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy

- Earn at least a 2.2 GPA in your core courses.

- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division II sliding scale, which balances your test score and core-course GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher core-course GPA to be eligible. If you have a low core-course GPA, you need a higher test score to be eligible.

NCAA Division III Requirements

Division III schools provide an integrated environment focusing on academic success while offering a competitive athletics environment. Division III rules minimize potential conflicts between athletics and academics and focus on regional in-season and conference play.

While Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, 75 percent of Division III student-athletes receive some form of merit or need-based financial aid.

If you are planning to attend a Division III school, you do not need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Division III schools set their own admissions standards.

NCAA Core Courses

Not all high school classes count as NCAA core courses. Only classes in English, math (Algebra 1 or higher), natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy may be approved as NCAA core courses. Remedial classes and classes completed through credit-by-exam are not considered NCAA core courses.

Classes that are NCAA core courses include:

- English: English 1-4, American Literature, creative writing
- Math: Algebra 1-3, Geometry, statistics
- Natural or physical science: biology, chemistry, physics
- Social science: American History, civics, government
- Additional: comparative religion, Spanish 1-4

Classes that are not NCAA core courses include:

- Classes in non-core areas, fine arts or vocations such as driver education, typing, art, music, physical education or welding.
- Personal skill classes such as personal finance or consumer education.
- Classes taught below grade level, at a slower pace or with less rigor or depth. These classes are often titled basic, essential, fundamental or foundational.
- Classes that are not academic in nature such as film appreciation, video editing or greenhouse management.
- If you take a high school class such as Algebra 1 or Spanish 1 before you start ninth grade, the class may count for your 16 core courses if it is on your high school's list of approved core courses and is shown on your high school transcript with a grade and a credit.

Credit

You can earn credit for a core course only once. If you take a course that repeats the content of another core course, you earn credit for only one of these courses and the higher grade counts toward your core-course GPA.

Generally, you receive the same number of credits from the NCAA for a core course that you receive from your high school for the class. One academic semester of a class counts for .5 of a core course credit. One academic trimester of a class counts for .34 of a core-course credit. One academic quarter of a class counts for .25 of a core-course credit. A one-year class taken over a longer period of time is considered one core course and is not awarded more than one credit.

*Division I Additional Core Course

Division I schools allow you to complete one additional core-course unit after you graduate high school, as long as you graduate in eight semesters after you begin ninth grade. The additional core-course unit must be completed within one year after your high school graduation and must be completed before you enroll in college.

The additional core course unit may be taken at a different school than the high school from which you graduated as long as the class is on the new school's list of approved NCAA core courses. If you take the additional core course at a school other than the school from which you graduated, you must provide the NCAA Eligibility Center with an official transcript from the new school showing the additional core-course grade and credit.

If you take the additional core course through a program that does not award credit, the course must be awarded credit by a credit-awarding high school.

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