



## **New Graduation Requirements Frequently Asked Questions.**

Check back frequently as new questions are added and additional information is provided. Below are the best responses as of November 17, 2023, from the KSDE graduation work group

### **Could Forensics/Debate potentially count towards 1 full ELA credit for graduation?**

This would be a local control decision, as long as the class is mapped to the appropriate ELA standards, including reading, writing, literature, grammar, and at least one-half unit of communication.

### **Can Culinary Arts count as a fine arts credit?**

Based on the considerations around this being primarily a CTE pathway course, it cannot be counted as Fine Arts.

### **If we award mastery credit, do we need to have a licensed staff member and a course code mapped for this course?**

This would be a local control decision, but should a district move to use competency and mastery, a licensed teacher would need to be part of the process.

### **Is the FAFSA required?**

When you review the New Graduation Requirements presentation (found at [Graduation \(ksde.org\)](https://ksde.org/graduation)), you will find opt out information for students, families, and districts in regard to the FAFSA completion.

### **Does a Business Communication class meet the requirement for speech?**

This would be a local control decision, but as long as the standards for a speech class are met in this class, it could count.

### **State assessments - Do students have to have a 3+ in all areas or just one?**

#### **Does each area count as one asset or all three as one asset?**

Students who achieve a score of 3+ in one area will have that count as one post-secondary asset. Additional scores of 3+ in different state assessments will count as additional post-secondary assets.

### **Community Service Hours - Will there be parameters set by the state on all of this? How many hours? How often? Etc.**

There is a minimum of 40 hours per the commissioner's presentation, but a local district could add more hours.

### **For the ACT - Will the super score be counted?**

The ACT super score will be counted as a post-secondary asset.

### **Senior Exit Project - Will there be parameters set by the state on this asset?**

This is a local control decision and will remain as such.

## Special Education - Will these students follow the same guidelines?

Special education students will have their guidelines determined by the IEP team in accordance with state and federal regulations.

## What advanced CTE classes count as the 1 unit of STEM?

The advanced CTE class should be the application-level class, with local districts deciding which classes could be counted for the STEM elective.

## Does the 0.5 Communications class need to be taught separately?

Districts that wish to have a semester of Communications within ELA can do so but will need a course code affiliated with the Communications class. Districts who already require a communications class along with the ELA requirements should be fine to continue that.

## Under science, do the three areas (physical, biological and earth/space) need to all be transcribed classes?

The current guidance is to consult the KSDE science standards and ensure that standards are mapped to courses that every student is required to take for graduation, however local districts transcribe those classes.

## Will Health and PE need to be tracked as separate classes?

These classes will need to be transcribed separately and taught as such. Generally, a PE endorsement will be approved to teach both health and PE.

## When does this take effect?

These new requirements are tentatively set to begin with the class of 2028.

## Post Secondary Asset List

The items on the list below are official at this time. The agency is developing a process to review the assets and ask for feedback from across the state on what might need to be added or edited. The agency will communicate our formal review process soon, which will require state board approval each year, but again, the list is currently official for the 24-25 school year, with the first group being impacted the current 8<sup>th</sup> graders

- Youth Apprenticeships
- 40 or more Community Service hours
- Client-centered Projects
- Workplace learning experience directly related to a student IPS
- Industry-Recognized Certifications
- Seal of Biliteracy
- ACT Composite (Score of 21 or higher)
- WorkKeys Level (Silver or higher)
- 9+ College hours
- State Assessment scores of 3 or 4 for Math, ELA, Science (demonstrating College Readiness)
- ASVAB per requirements of military branch selected
- SAT score (1200 or higher)
- Completing Board of Regents Curriculum
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)
- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
- CTE Scholar
- Eagle Scout or Gold Scout
- 4-H Kansas Key Award
- Two or more high school athletics/activities
- JROTC
- 90% attendance in high school
- Senior Exit Interview/Senior Projects

## What/how will competency and mastery be measured?

Guidance related to competency and mastery are being developed and will be shared once they are finalized. What that could look like is under review with more information coming soon.

## Financial Literacy Information

**Course Title:** Financial Literacy

**Course Code:** 22990

**Course Description:** Financial literacy course provides students with an understanding of the concepts, principles and skills involved in making and applying sound financial decisions. This course emphasizes earning income, spending, saving, investing, managing credit and managing risk.

**Qualified Teachers:** Family and Consumer Sciences, Gen Business, Business Ed Comp, Business Economics, Business Finance, Economics, History and Government, Social Studies Comp (With verifiable Financial Literacy Training)

The **Consumer and Personal Finance Course 22210** for .5 credit will not continue to be a funded course in Pathways (Pathway Applications for 2024-2025) since every student in Kansas will be required to take the new course as a graduation requirement.

## What/how will competency and mastery be measured?

Guidance related to competency and mastery are being developed and will be shared once they are finalized. What that could look like is under review with more information coming soon.

## Can students double count classes towards graduation?

Guidance related to this question is that NO a student may not count a class twice for graduation credits. For example a student may not take Forensics in one year and have it count both as a fine arts and a speech requirement, however the student may take two years of forensics and one year could count as fine arts and one year as a speech requirement.

## What counts as advanced technology, math or science classes?

Guidance related to this question currently centers on prerequisites. Any math or science class that isn't currently counted for graduation and has a prerequisite could be considered advanced.

## Can the local board of education adopt different graduation requirements for certain students?

Districts are required to award diplomas to requesting students who have met the state minimum graduation requirements and were in the custody of the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) or Kansas Department for Children and Families (KDCF) is on or after their 14th birthday.

For more information about these requirements, please see the Diploma for Students in Custody of KDOC and KDCF (SB 23) [Fact Sheet on the Graduation Webpage](#).

Local boards of education may adopt a different number of graduation requirements (not lower than the

state minimum) for adult learners whose four- and five-year cohorts have graduated or for students attending an alternative school or program. Most typically, diplomas are awarded to these students for successful completion of the state minimum graduation requirements.

Local boards of education can also adopt a policy giving the superintendent and/or principal the discretion to waive local graduation requirements that are in excess of the state minimum for students on a case-by-case basis. Situations that would be appropriate to receive this discretion include, but are not limited to, students who experienced high mobility, teen pregnancy, and long-term illness. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) does not support policies that automatically waive local graduation requirements for students with disabilities that are more than the state minimum.

### Is a district allowed to waive the Physical Education (PE)/Health requirement?

The PE/Health requirement shall be waived if the school district is provided with either of the following: 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 a statement, signed by a lawful custodian of the pupil, indicating that the requirement is contrary to the religious teachings of the pupil.

### Can a student earn high school credit for a course taken in eighth grade?

It is up to each local district whether an eighth-grade course will count as a high school credit. If high school credit is given, the eighth-grade course must be equivalent to, or the same as, a high school course.

### Where can I find more information about Regents' Qualified Admissions requirements?

The Kansas Board of Regents has information available on their website:

[http://www.kansasregents.org/qualified\\_admissions](http://www.kansasregents.org/qualified_admissions)

### How will post-secondary assets be tracked, and will they be transcribed?

By 2028 the Longitudinal Data System will have been rolled out and will allow for post-secondary assets to be tracked and placed on transcripts.

### What qualifies as an industry level certification?

Please consult the following list for a starting point, with more guidance to be coming soon.

[Postsecondary Success \(Board Outcome\) \(ksde.org\)](#)

### What are some examples of computer science course that would be accepted?

In accordance with HB 2466 each secondary school must offer at least one computer science class.

For addition information, please check out the standards by following this link:

<https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Career-Standards-and-Assessment-Services/Content-Area-A-E/Computer-Science>

### What are some examples of advanced CTE courses that would be accepted?

Advanced CTE courses would fall under the application level for any pathway.

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