

Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2012-2013 School Year

What Students and Parents Need to Know

What are the diploma options?

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

What are the state assessment requirements*?

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 reading (or ACT/SAT concordant score)
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) if Algebra I is taken after 2010–2011 or a comparative score on the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.)

Students must participate in the following EOC assessments:

- Algebra I (if enrolled after 2010-2011)
- Biology I (if enrolled after 2010-2011)
- Geometry (if enrolled after 2010-2011)
- U.S. History (if enrolled after 2011-2012) and performance on the EOC constitutes 30 percent of the final course grade

What is the credit acceleration program (CAP)?

This program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- U.S. History
- Biology I
- Algebra II



Photo courtesy of Digital Vision/Thinkstock

What are the requirements for the 24-credit standard diploma?

4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)
4 Credits Mathematics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One of which must be Algebra I and one of which must be Geometry ▪ Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra I and Geometry)
3 Credits Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One of which must be Biology I, two of which must have a laboratory component ▪ An industry certification that leads to college credit substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I) ▪ An identified rigorous Computer Science course with a related industry certification substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I)
3 Credits Social Studies
1 credit in World History 1 credit in U.S. History .5 credit in U.S. Government .5 credit in Economics
1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts
Eligible courses are specified in the Florida Course Code Directory at http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/default.asp .
1 Credit Physical Education
To include the integration of health
8 Elective Credits
1 Online Course
Students must earn a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

What are the requirements for standard diploma designations?

Scholar Diploma Designation

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must

- Earn 1 credit in Algebra II;
- Earn 1 credit in Statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course;
- Pass the Biology I EOC;
- Earn 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics;
- Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics;
- Pass the U.S. History EOC;
- Earn 2 credits in the same World Language; and
- Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.

A student is exempt from the Biology I or U.S. History assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology I or U.S. History course and the student

- Takes the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment; and
- Earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

Merit Diploma Designation

- Meet the standard high school diploma requirements
- Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)

Can a student who selects the 24-credit program graduate early?

Yes, a student who completes all the 24-credit program requirements for a standard diploma may graduate in fewer than eight semesters.

What is the distinction between the 18-credit ACCEL option and the 24-credit option?

- 3 elective credits instead of 8
- Physical Education is not required
- Online course is not required

All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per section 1003.4282(10)(d)1.-5., Florida Statutes [F.S.]).

Where is information on Bright Futures Scholarships located?

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding to attend a postsecondary institution in Florida. For more information, go to

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>.

What are the public postsecondary options?

SUS (State University System)

Admission into Florida's public universities is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous curriculum in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first-time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements:

- High school graduation with a standard diploma
- Admission test scores
- 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses
- 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language)
- 2 approved electives

<http://www.flbog.edu/forstudents/planning>

The Florida College System

Includes 28 state colleges. These institutions offer career-related certificates and two-year associate degrees that prepare students to transfer to a bachelor's degree program or to enter jobs requiring specific skills. Many also offer baccalaureate degrees in high-demand fields. Florida College System institutions have an open door policy. This means that students who have earned a standard high school diploma, have earned a high school equivalency diploma or have demonstrated success in postsecondary coursework will be admitted to an associate degree program.

<http://www.fldoe.org/fcs>

Career and Technical Centers

Florida also offers students 46 accredited career and technical centers throughout the state, which provide the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. Programs are flexible for students and provide industry-specific education and training for a wide variety of occupations.

<http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/pdf/DistrictTechnicalCenterDirectors.pdf>

Where is information on financial aid located?

The Office of Student Financial Assistance State Programs administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships.

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>

* Policy adopted in rule by the district school board may require for any cohort of students that performance of a statewide, standardized EOC assessment constitute 30 percent of a student's final course grade