

South Dakota High School Graduation Requirements

Approved by the South Dakota Board of Education Standards in July 2018

ADVANCED ENDORSEMENTS

In addition to the base requirements for the High School Diploma, students may earn advanced endorsements that are in alignment with the student's personal learning plan. Advanced endorsements outline specific coursework within the base diploma requirements to denote specific emphases. Students may earn one or more of three advanced endorsements: Advanced Endorsement, Advanced Career Endorsement and Advanced Honors Endorsement.

The requirements beyond the base high school diploma requirements are in red text in each advanced endorsement section below.

ADVANCED ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS <i>Indicates a student has pursued coursework consistent with entrance requirements for postsecondary education at a university.</i>		ADVANCED CAREER ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS <i>Indicates a student has career experience in a concentrated area, based on academic and/or workplace experience and a related credential.</i>	
4 UNITS OF LANGUAGE ARTS must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing: 1 unit• Speech or Debate: .5 unit• Literature: 1 unit (must include .5 unit American Literature)• Language Arts electives: 1.5 units	1 UNIT OF FINE ARTS	4 UNITS OF LANGUAGE ARTS must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing: 1 unit• Speech or Debate: .5 unit• Literature: 1 unit (must include .5 unit American Literature)• Language Arts electives: 1.5 units	1 UNIT OF FINE ARTS
3 UNITS OF MATHEMATICS must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algebra I: 1 unit• Geometry: 1 unit• Algebra II: 1 unit	½ UNIT OF PERSONAL FINANCE or ECONOMICS	3 UNITS OF MATHEMATICS must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algebra I: 1 unit• Mathematics electives: 2 units	½ UNIT OF PERSONAL FINANCE or ECONOMICS
3 UNITS OF SCIENCE must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology: 1 unit• Other Lab Sciences: 2 units	½ UNIT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION	3 UNITS OF SCIENCE must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology: 1 unit• Science electives: 2 units (a state-approved computer science course may be used as 1 unit elective)	½ UNIT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
3 UNITS OF SOCIAL STUDIES must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. History: 1 unit• U.S. Government: .5 unit• Social Studies electives: 1.5 units	½ UNIT OF HEALTH or HEALTH INTEGRATION	3 UNITS OF SOCIAL STUDIES must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. History: 1 unit• U.S. Government: .5 unit• Social Studies electives: 1.5 units	½ UNIT OF HEALTH or HEALTH INTEGRATION
1 UNIT OF ANY COMBINATION of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved Career & Technical Education• Capstone Experience• World Language	5 ½ UNITS OF ELECTIVES	2+ UNITS OF ANY COMBINATION of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved Career & Technical Education units from the same career cluster OR• Capstone Experience AND Attainment of an industry-recognized credential	4 ½ UNITS OF ELECTIVES

ADVANCED HONORS ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS <i>Indicates a student has pursued advanced rigorous, academic coursework consistent with §13-55-3.1 (High school course requirements for opportunity scholarship eligibility).</i>			
All high school coursework completed with a "C" or higher			
4 UNITS OF LANGUAGE ARTS must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing: 1.5 units• Speech or Debate: .5 unit• Literature: 1.5 unit (must include .5 unit American Literature)• Language Arts electives: .5 unit	1 UNIT OF FINE ARTS	3 UNITS OF SOCIAL STUDIES must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. History: 1 unit• U.S. Government: .5 unit• World History: .5 unit• Geography: .5 unit• Social Studies electives: .5 unit	½ UNIT OF HEALTH or HEALTH INTEGRATION
4 UNITS OF MATHEMATICS must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algebra I: 1 unit• Geometry: 1 unit• Algebra II: 1 unit• Advanced Mathematics: 1 unit (details at sdos.sdbor.edu/require/require.html)	½ UNIT OF PERSONAL FINANCE or ECONOMICS	2 UNITS OF ANY COMBINATION of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved Career & Technical Education OR• Modern or Classical Language (including American Sign Language); must be in the same language	2 ½ UNITS OF ELECTIVES
4 UNITS OF SCIENCE must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology: 1 unit• Any Physical Science: 1 unit• Chemistry or Physics: 1 unit• Science elective: 1 unit	½ UNIT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION		



A **state-approved advanced computer science course** may be substituted for 1 unit of a science elective in the High School Diploma and Advanced Career Endorsement. It may not replace Biology. It may not count for the Advanced and Advanced Honors Endorsements. A list of approved courses is available at doe.sd.gov/gradrequirements.

Academic core content may be earned for an **approved career and technical education course**. Approval to offer credit must be obtained through a CTE for Core Content application with the Department of Education. Visit doe.sd.gov/cte/corecontentcredit.aspx for application details.

A district may offer credit for extracurricular **Fine Arts** activities. Students may be granted up to one credit in Fine Arts for participation in extracurricular activities. A maximum .25 credit may be granted for each activity in each school year.

Students are required to take .5 unit of **Health** at any time during grades 6-12 (see FAQ #6 on page 20 for specific guidance on offering prior to Grade 9). A district may choose to integrate Health across the curriculum at the middle or high school level in lieu of a stand-alone course.

“Double dipping” is not allowed. Courses may not be counted more than once to fulfill high school graduation requirements. For example, Economics cannot meet both the Social Studies elective credit requirement and the Personal Finance or Economics credit requirement. It can only meet one of the requirements. A course may count to meet both the base high school diploma and advanced endorsement(s) requirements. For example, Algebra I can meet both the high school diploma requirement and any or all of the advanced endorsement requirements.