

Graduation Requirements and Planning

Required Credits for Graduation

For students in the Classes of 2021-2025, the following credits must be fulfilled to graduate and earn a diploma.

REQUIREMENTS	UNITS OF CREDIT
Social Studies REQUIRED: US History, US Government, Personal Economics, and 1.0 additional credit in social studies	3.0
English REQUIRED: English I, II, and English III or AP Lang and Comp, and 1.0 additional credit in English	4.0
Mathematics REQUIRED: Semester 1 and 2 of Algebra I (or higher-level math course)	3.0
Science HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science	3.0
Applied/Fine Arts	1.5
Physical Education REQUIRED: In compliance with Iowa law, students must be enrolled in physical education each year of high school unless an exemption is approved by the building principal. All students must complete CPR training.	1.0
Electives	7.5
TOTAL	23.0

Post-Secondary Readiness Requirements

There are several paths that students can choose from for success after completing high school. The guide below can help students and their families have conversations with school counselors as they make decisions about their goals for after graduation and the choices they need to make in high school to reach those goals.

High School Diploma

English	English I, II, and English III or AP Lang and Comp, and 1.0 additional credit in English
Math	Semester 1 and 2 of Algebra I (or higher-level math course), and 2.0 additional credits in Math.
Science	3.0 credits in Science.
Social Studies	US History, US Government, Personal Economics, and 1.0 additional credit in social studies
Applied/Fine Arts	1.5 credits in the Applied or Fine Arts.
World Languages	World Languages count toward the 7.5 required elective credits.
Physical Education	At least one semester each year of high school unless exemption requirements are met. All students must complete CPR training.
Personal Finance	0.5 credits

Career & Technical, Apprenticeship, and Industry Certification Programs

English	English I, II, and English III or AP Lang and Comp, and 1.0 additional credit in English
Math	Semester 1 and 2 of Algebra I (or higher-level math course), and 2.0 additional credits in Math.
Science	3.0 credits in Science.
Social Studies	US History, US Government, Personal Economics, and 1.0 additional credit in social studies
Applied/Fine Arts	1.5 credits in the Applied or Fine Arts.
World Languages	World Languages count toward the 7.5 required elective credits.
Physical Education	At least one semester each year of high school unless exemption requirements are met. All students must complete CPR training.

Post-Secondary Readiness Requirements (cont.)

Regents Institutions (U of I, UNI, ISU)

English	Four years with an emphasis on the communication skills of writing, reading and listening, and the analysis and interpretation of literature. In addition, courses in journalism and media literacy will be valuable.
Math	Four years, one in each year of high school, including Geometry and Algebra 2. Reference https://www.dmschools.org/ready-for-algebra/dmps-secondary-math-pathway/ for additional guidance.
Science	Three years, one in each year of high school. To be really prepared, take at least one year each of biology, chemistry, and physics.
Social Studies	Three years are essential, but four is better. Take at least one year each of U.S. history and world history. Additional courses in anthropology, economics, political sci., psychology, and sociology provide important understandings.
Applied/Fine Arts	1.5 credits in the Applied or Fine Arts.
World Languages	Varies by program. Standard expectation: Two consecutive years of a single world language for admittance. Many require an additional semester or year study upon university enrollment. Three or four consecutive years in one world language to prevent mandatory enrollment at the university.
Physical Education	At least one semester each year of high school and must complete CPR training.

Highly Selective Colleges & Universities

English	Four years with an emphasis on the communication skills of writing, reading and listening, and the analysis and interpretation of literature, including AP credit. In addition, courses in journalism and media literacy will be valuable. Extracurricular activities in debate, speech, newspaper, and yearbook will further develop essential competencies.
Math	Four years, one in each year of high school, including advanced placement math courses like calculus and statistics. Reference https://www.dmschools.org/ready-for-algebra/dmps-secondary-math-pathway/ for additional guidance.
Science	Four years, one in each year of high school. To be really prepared, take at least one year each of biology, chemistry, and physics, and an AP Science course.
Social Studies	Four years, one in each year of high school. Take at least one year each of U.S. history and world history, and an AP Social Studies course. Additional courses in anthropology, economics, political sci., psychology, and sociology provide important understandings.
Applied/Fine Arts	1.5 credits in the Applied or Fine Arts.
World Languages	Varies by program. Standard expectation: Three or four consecutive years of a single world language or demonstration of proficiency for admittance.
Physical Education	At least one semester each year of high school and must complete CPR training.