

QUICK GUIDE: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

North Carolina has four different “pathways” for students to graduate from high school. Students must pick a pathway at the end of their 8th grade year in a meeting with a guidance counselor. Although students can change pathways once they begin high school, if they switch to a more challenging pathway, they may be behind on credits. Because this decision has such an impact on the student’s future, it is very important to understand the choices.

The four pathways are:

- Career Prep: intended for students who plan to begin working immediately after graduating from high school.
- College Tech Prep: intended for students who plan to attend a two-year college or technical school after graduating from high school.
- College/University Prep: intended for students who plan to enroll in a four-year college after graduating from high school.
- Occupational: intended for students with disabilities who cannot complete one of the other pathways.

A chart summarizing the requirements for each pathway is attached.

Only one of these pathways, the College/University Prep, requires students to take courses that are required for a student to enroll in North Carolina’s UNC 4-year college system. **If a student does not complete the College/University Prep pathway, it is likely he or she will not be able to gain admission to a four-year college after graduating.**

In order to graduate in the Career Prep, College Tech Prep, or College/University Prep pathway, students who began high school in the 2006-2007 school year must meet the following requirements:

- Complete a Senior Project.
- Score at Level III or Level IV on the end-of-course (EOC) exam in:
 - English I
 - Algebra I
 - U.S. History
 - Biology
 - Civics and Economics

These pathways will only apply to students who begin high school in the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years. After that point, North Carolina will adopt a single graduation requirement for all high school students.

A chart, adapted from the State Department of Public Instruction’s website, www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/graduation, is on the following page. Certain information has been excluded to allow the chart to fit on one page.

Content Area	CAREER PREP Course of Study Requirements	COLLEGE TECH PREP Course of Study Requirements	COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY PREP Course of Study (UNC 4-yr college) Requirements	OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study Requirements(Selected IEP students/ excluded from EOC Proficiency level requirements)
English Proficiency Level III or IV required on Eng. I EOC	4 Credits I, II, III, IV	4 Credits I, II, III, IV	4 Credits I, II, III, IV	4 Credits Occupational English I, II, III, IV
Mathematics Proficiency Level III or IV required on Algebra I EOC	3 Credits Including Algebra I (This requirement can be met with Integrated Math I & II when accompanied with the Algebra I EOC)	3 Credits** Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, OR Algebra I, Technical Math I&II, OR Integrated Math I, II, & III	4 Credits Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and higher level math course with Algebra II as prerequisite OR Integrated Math I, II, III, and a credit beyond Integrated Math III	3 Credits Occupational Mathematics I, II, III
Science Proficiency Level III or IV required on Biology EOC	3 Credits A Physical Science course, Biology, Earth/ Environmental Science	3 Credits A Physical Science course, Biology, Earth/ Environmental Science	3 Credits A Physical Science course, Biology, Earth/ Environmental Science	2 Credits Life Skills Science I, II
Social Studies Proficiency Level III or IV required on US History, Civics & Economics EOC	3 Credits Civics and Economics, US History, World History*****	3 Credits Civics and Economics, US History, World History*****	3 Credits Civics and Economics, US History, World History***** (2 courses to meet UNC minimum admission requirements- US History & 1 elective)	2 Credits Social Studies I (Government/ US History) Social Studies II (Self-Advocacy/ Problem Solving)
Second Language	Not required	Not required**	2 Credits in the same language	Not required
Computer Skills	Students must demonstrate proficiency through state testing	Students must demonstrate proficiency through state testing	Students must demonstrate proficiency through state testing	Computer proficiency as specified in IEP
Health and Physical Education	1 Credit Health/ Physical Education	1 Credit Health/ Physical Education	1 Credit Health/ Physical Education	1 Credit Health/ Physical Education
Career Technical	4 Credits in Career/ Technical or JROTC or Arts Education Select courses appropriate for career pathway to include a second level (advanced) course	4 Credits Select courses appropriate for career pathway to include a second level (advanced) course	Not required	4 Credits Career/Technical Education electives
Electives	2 Elective Credits and other credits designated by LEA	2 Elective Credits and other credits designated by LEA	3 Elective Credits and other credits designated by LEA	Occupational Preparation: 6 Credits: Occupational Preparation I, II, III, IV***