

WHAT STUDENTS AND PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Diploma Designations

Scholar Diploma Designation

In addition to meeting the Standard High School Diploma requirements:

- Pass Geometry EOC (beginning with the graduating class of 2018)
- Earn 1 credit in Algebra 2
- Earn 1 credit in Statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course
- Pass the Biology 1 EOC
- Earn 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics
- Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics (any EQ Science course)
- Pass the U.S. History EOC
- Earn 2 credits in the same World Language
- Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE, or a dual enrollment course.

A student is exempt from taking the Biology 1 or U.S. History EOC if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB, or AICE Biology 1 or U.S. History course and the student earns the minimum score to earn college credit on the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment.

Merit Diploma Designation

In addition to meeting the Standard High School Diploma requirements:

- Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.).

Florida Seal of Biliteracy Diploma Designation

The Florida Seal of Biliteracy Program is established to recognize a high school graduate who has attained a high level of competency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more world languages in addition to English. The Gold or Silver Seal of Biliteracy must be awarded to a high school student who has earned a standard high school diploma and who has:

- Earned 4 world language course credits in the same world language with a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher,
- Achieved a qualifying score on a world language assessment, OR
- Satisfied alternative requirements as determined by the State Board of Education.

Online Course Requirement

A student may satisfy the online course graduation requirement by:

- Completion of an online high school level course taken in grades 6 through grade 12, OR
- Completion of a course in which a student earns a nationally recognized Industry Certification in Information Technology that is identified on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.

The online requirement does not apply to:

- A student who has an individual education plan which indicates that an online course would be inappropriate OR
- An out-of-state transfer student who is enrolled in a Florida high school and has 1 academic year or less remaining in high school.

What are the Graduation Requirements for Students With Disabilities?

Two options are available only to students with disabilities. Both require the 26 credits listed and both allow students to substitute a career and technical (CTE) course with related content for one credit in ELA IV, mathematics, science and social studies (excluding Algebra I, Geometry, Biology I and U.S. History).

Students with significant cognitive disabilities may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.

What are the Public Postsecondary Options?

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 approved college preparatory academic courses
 - 4 English
 - 4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)
 - 3 Science
 - 3 Social Science
 - 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language)
- 2 approved electives

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

THE FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM

The 28 state colleges 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/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/index.shtml>

CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTERS

Florida also offers students 48 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/academics/career-adult-edu/dist-ps-instit.shtml>

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. To learn more, visit:

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

Where is Information on the 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, visit:

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