

4.5.14 Course credit:

- a. Credit granted for course work in high school should be an expression of achievement. There should be stated expected outcomes as a result of satisfactory completion of a course of study.
- b. A student shall receive credit for a course when he demonstrates he has achieved at least the minimum requirement for satisfactory completion as determined by the school district.
- c. School districts shall issue Carnegie units.

4.5.15 Graduation Requirements for a New Mexico High School Diploma (Effective May 1977)

- a. The quality of a student's education, rather than the acquisition of specific number of units, shall be the primary concern.
- b. To graduate, a student shall earn at least twenty (20) units in a four-year high school or fifteen (15) units in a three-year high school commencing with the freshman class 1976-77.
 - (1) Language Arts (communication skills) - 3 units.
 - (2) Mathematics - 1 unit.
 - (3) Social Studies - 2 units (1 unit American History and 1 unit in any other Social Studies field).
 - (4) Laboratory Science - 1 unit in chemistry, physics, biology or any other laboratory science.
 - (5) Physical Education - 1 unit (must be earned in high school). Exemption shall require a certificate signed by a licensed medical doctor, osteopath or chiropractor.
 - (6) Practical Arts - 1 unit. Credit in any vocational course may also be used to satisfy this requirement.

These are minimal requirements. However, local districts may establish academic or vocational requirements beyond those prescribed by the New Mexico Board of Education.

The State Board of Education is concerned that some students are not enrolling in the type of course work that is necessary to meet their planned objectives; therefore, the counseling program shall include a planned program for each student. See Section 6.1.9.g.

It is suggested that counselors utilize the following schedules in counseling to devise the career objective plan for each student:

A. Sample Program for Grades 9 to 12:

1. English --Four units--One unit in related areas such as Speech, Drama, or Journalism. Business English and Reading will be accepted toward graduation.
2. Mathematics --Two units--One course may be Business Math, Consumer Math, or any other approved Math course.
3. Social Studies--Two units--One unit must be United States History. The second unit must be from the field of Social Studies.
4. Science --One unit--One unit must be in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or any other Laboratory Science (Grades 9-12).
5. Health and Physical Education --One unit--One unit in Physical Education must include a minimum of nine weeks' instruction in Health Education.

6. Practical Arts--Two units--Credit in any course having a career exploration or prevocational intent and hands-on activities may be used to satisfy this requirement.
7. Fine Arts --One unit--Credit in any Art, Music, or other approved Fine Arts course.
8. Electives --Seven units--Courses selected by the student during the counseling process.

B. Sample Program for Students Planning to Attend College:

1. English --Four units--With above-average competency in Reading, Writing, and Formal Speaking.
2. Social Studies--Two to three units--United States History, World Studies, and/or Southwest History.
3. Science --Two to three units--Including Biology, Chemistry, and/or Physics.
4. Mathematics --Two to three units--Algebra and Geometry are minimum requirements.
5. Languages other than English --As determined in the counseling process.
6. Physical Education --One unit.
7. Electives --With three years in fields of major interest.
8. Practical Arts--One or two units--A competency in Typing is recommended as well as a knowledge of the world of work.

9. Fine Arts --One unit--Credit in any
Art, Music, or other
approved Fine Arts course.

C. Realizing that many students will go on to a vocational-technical school, a planned program for these students must consider such types of English, Mathematics, Science, and Practical Arts that will enhance the student's career objective.

D. Realizing that many students plan to go directly into the work force upon graduation, a planned program shall concentrate on courses that emphasize the salable skills required for job entry as well as concentrating on cooperative programs allowing on-the-job training while in high school.

Courses such as English, Mathematics, Science, and Practical Arts should enhance the student's career objectives.

- c. Credits earned through correspondence or extension study may be accepted if such credits are from schools approved or accredited by the National Home Study Council or the state board of education in which they are domiciled.
- d. A school district may waive or substitute courses required for graduation on approval by the state superintendent. The school district must request the superintendent's approval in writing and verify that it is in the student's best interest.
- e. The State Board of Education shall issue a "New Mexico High School Diploma" to all persons at least 18 years of age who have met the State G.E.D. certification requirements (State Board Regulation 73-19).
- f. A special education student shall receive a certificate upon completion of a planned course of study.