

A.4.3 Graduation Requirements

A.4.3.1 a. To graduate, a student shall earn at least twenty-one (21) units in grades 9 through 12. Twelve units shall include at least the following content and competencies.*

(1) Language Arts. (Four units of credit.)

(a) Reading

The student shall:

- 1) Respond to written material by:
 - Comparing (looking at similarities)
 - Contrasting (looking at differences)
 - Observing (using the senses to collect data)
 - Classifying (sorting into categories and naming categories)
 - Visualizing (forming mental images)
 - Summarizing (condensing to core messages)
 - Perceiving (deriving meaning from both stated and implied messages)
 - Analyzing (looking at parts of a whole)
 - Synthesizing (using known data to generate a new idea)
 - Hypothesizing (proposing possible explanations)
 - Critiquing (evaluating, making judgments)
 - Making inferences (differentiating between assumed truth and observable fact, identifying anticipated outcomes)
 - Imagining (creating freely/exercising the mind).
- 2) Read, with understanding and appreciation, a range of literature rich in quality and representative of different literary forms and various cultures.

*Graduation requirements become effective with the 1986-87 graduating class. Some of the competencies included within the content requirements may be acquired prior to grade 9. See other publications of the department for further definition of these exit competencies and for suggested competencies at grades 3, 5, and 8.

A.4.3.1 a. (1) (a) 3) Understand and use written informational materials such as textbooks, magazines, newspapers, directions, schedules, maps, graphs, etc.

4) Vary reading rate and strategy according to the purpose and type of material.

5) Read independently for personal pleasure and growth.

(b) Writing

The student shall:

1) Write in the appropriate mode for a variety of purposes.

- To express original thoughts
- To discover and clarify ideas
- To communicate complete ideas through written messages and letters
- To write papers, reports, and business letters
- To fill out forms and maintain records and for a variety of audiences:
 - Self
 - Teachers
 - Peers
 - Relatives
 - Business and public organizations
 - Others

2) Use writing as a process of communication involving:

- Formulating ideas
- Using reasoning strategies
- Collecting and organizing information
- Determining the relationships
- Drafting
- Using vivid and precise language
- Arranging paragraphs in an appropriate order and building transitions between them
- Revising

A.4.3.1 a. (1) (b) 3) Write sentences and paragraphs using standard grammatical construction, spelling, and mechanics.

(c) Listening

The student shall:

1) Receive and interpret verbal and nonverbal messages and respond with understanding by using active learning techniques and including:

- Remembering
- Visualizing
- Summarizing
- Classifying
- Critiquing
- Predicting
- Imagining
- Synthesizing

2) Understand and appreciate a range of aural presentations.

(d) Speaking

The student shall:

1) Use oral and body language to communicate with designated audiences by:

- Identifying purpose
- Selecting appropriate language

2) Use speaking as a process of communication by:

- Organizing content
- Clarifying thoughts
- Speaking clearly and fluently
- Selecting effective vocal skills

(e) Studying

The student shall:

1) Select appropriate sources of information for a specific purpose.

2) Organize materials for study by:

- Classifying
- Note taking/outlining
- Summarizing
- Synthesizing

A.4.3.1 a. (1) (e) 3) Use effective study strategies such as

- Formulas (SQ3R)*
- Test-taking
- Memorization
- Building vocabulary

4) Produce materials in a legible form.

(2) Mathematics. (Two units of credit.)

The student shall:

- (a) Compute with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals.
- (b) Use rounding and approximation to estimate computation results.
- (c) Determine whether the answer to a given problem is reasonable.
- (d) Compare two numbers, such as a decimal and a fraction, or a percent and a decimal for equivalence and order.
- (e) Apply such basic properties of numbers as odd/even, prime/composite, factors, multiples and place value.
- (f) Construct and interpret graphs and tables.
- (g) Use appropriate units in the Standard and S.I. (Metric) measurement systems to solve practical measurement problems.
- (h) Find perimeters, areas and volumes.
- (i) Find the value of a specified variable in a simple linear equation and/or in a given formula after substituting values for the other variables.
- (j) Interpret a word problem and compute the answer. (The solution shall require at least three operational steps.)
- (k) Apply the principles of percentage to problem-solving.
- (l) Apply the principles of ratio and proportion to problem-solving.

*Study, question, read, review, recite.

A.4.3.1 a. (2) (m) Use mathematical concepts and skills in everyday problems relating to consumer affairs.

(3) Science. (Two units of credit, one of which shall be a laboratory science.)

(a) Observing

The student shall:

- 1) Describe objects and events on the basis of observable characteristics.
- 2) Use indirect methods if direct sense experience is insufficient to describe objects or events.
- 3) Describe and report data quantitatively.
- 4) Distinguish between observations and inference.

(b) Classifying

The student shall:

- 1) Classify objects and events based on observable similarities and differences of selected properties.
- 2) Use classification keys to place items within a scheme or to retrieve information from a scheme.
- 3) Construct two or more classification schemes for the same set of objects and develop a classification system.

(c) Inferring

The student shall:

- 1) Draw logical conclusions or interpretations of events based on given data or premises.

(d) Predicting

The student shall:

- 1) Suggest the outcome of an event based upon previously observed conditions.

A.4.3.1 a. (3) (d) 2) Suggest cause and effect relationships within a scientific problem solving situation.

(e) Measuring

The student shall:

- 1) Measure properties of objects or events by direct comparison with standardized units of measurement.
- 2) State the parameters of a designated measurement.

(f) Communicating

The student shall:

- 1) Keep accurate records of observations.
- 2) Construct a simple data table containing two variables, and label columns, rows, and accurately enter data.
- 3) Make graphic representations of accumulated records of observation and communicate this information clearly and meaningfully.
- 4) Construct a simple bar graph properly labeled and scaled.
- 5) Demonstrate technical writing skills.

(g) Interpreting Data

The student shall:

- 1) Use processes such as classifying, predicting, inferring, and communicating to interpret data.
- 2) Revise interpretations of data based on new information or revised data.
- 3) Formulate conclusions when given appropriate data, tables, and graphs.
- 4) Abstract important ideas from reading, listening or watching a presentation.

A.4.3.1 a. (3) (h) Making Operational Definitions

The student shall:

- 1) Describe a variable or event in observable and measurable terms to differentiate information from other phenomena.

(i) Formulating Questions and Hypotheses

The student shall:

- 1) State questions on the basis of observations.
- 2) Devise a statement which can be tested by experiment.
- 3) Construct hypotheses from information given in a data table, graph, or picture.
- 4) Revise hypotheses based on new information.

(j) Experimenting

The student shall:

- 1) Design data-gathering procedures as well as test a hypothesis.
- 2) Conduct simple experiments to make observations or to confirm a prediction.
- 3) Be able to identify variables and the control aspects of an experiment.
- 4) Consider limitations of methods and apparatus of experimentation.
- 5) Demonstrate laboratory safety procedures.
- 6) Demonstrate error analysis and information analysis.

(k) Modeling

The student shall:

- 1) Devise models on the basis of an acceptable hypothesis or hypotheses that have yet to be tested.
- 2) Use models to describe and explain inter-relationships of ideas.

A.4.3.1 a. (3) (k) 3) Use a model to visualize the solution to a problem.

(1) Using Quantitative Applications

The student shall:

- 1) Represent scientific principles using mathematical format.
- 2) Record measurement using appropriate scientific notation.
- 3) Identify and demonstrate a relationship between two variables that can be used to make a prediction.
- 4) Read and interpret numerical values from charts, tables or graphs, and apply results to answering questions.

(m) Recognizing Impact

The student shall:

- 1) Identify, describe, and discuss contemporary issues in science, such as family planning, patterns of socially transmitted disease, genetic engineering, pesticides, nuclear energy, and pollution as they relate to humans.
- 2) Recognize the role of the political process in the advancement of science.
- 3) Describe the effects of science in: consumerism, safety, careers, computers, solar energy, synthetic fuels, and fossil fuels.
- 4) Recognize the limitations of science.
- 5) Recognize the impact of the accumulation of new evidence on scientific thought.
- 6) Recognize how the contributions of science lead to the development of new ideas.
- 7) Recognize the truth seeking nature of science.

A.4.3.1 a. (4) Social Studies. (Two units of credit, one of which shall be U.S. History and 1/2 of which shall be in Civics and/or Government.)

The student shall:

- (a) Demonstrate knowledge of United States History and the ability to analyze that history relative to economic, political, social, and cultural developments.
 - (b) Demonstrate knowledge of World History and the ability to analyze that history relative to economic, political, social, and cultural development.
 - (c) Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the United States Political System and the individual rights and responsibilities within that system.
 - (d) Demonstrate knowledge of the United States Economic System, the individual's role in that system, and the interaction of the American system with other economic systems.
 - (e) Demonstrate knowledge of and recognize the influence of Geography (physical, economic, political and cultural) in the development of societies.
 - (f) Demonstrate knowledge of New Mexico History and the ability to analyze that history relative to cultural, economic, political and social developments.
 - (g) Develop and apply critical thinking, decision-making, research, and communication skills.
- (5) Physical Education. (One unit of credit.)

The student shall:

- (a) Refine specific skills in order to effectively participate in a variety of lifetime sports and activities.
- (b) Demonstrate an acceptable age group level of physical and motor fitness.

- A.4.3.1 a. (5) (c) Assess knowledge of skill performance, rules, strategy, and terminology for at least three lifetime sports and activities.
- (d) Understand and apply biomechanical principles of physical skills necessary to produce skilled movement.
 - (e) Evaluate the concepts of physical fitness and develop an acceptable individual program to maintain physical fitness throughout life.
 - (f) Know and use rules and safety measures for all physical activities performed.
 - (g) Compare and contrast the proper roles of participants and spectators.
 - (h) Exhibit socially desirable and acceptable behaviors in the areas of respect for others, assuming responsibility, leadership, and contributing to the group.
 - (i) Set a level of appropriate aspiration for physical performance and be motivated to seek that level.
 - (j) Integrate the value of fitness and physical activity through an observed commitment to a healthy lifestyle.
- (6) Fine Arts or Practical Arts. (One unit of credit to be earned in one or a combination of the following.)

(a) Fine Arts - Dance.

The student shall:

- 1) Recognize individual abilities and adjust to limitations through dance movement.
- 2) Discriminate between rhythmical patterns when responding to, participating in, and/or performing dance movement.
- 3) Demonstrate an appropriate use of space during a variety of dance experiences.
- 4) Create and perform dance combining locomotor and non-locomotor movements.

- A.4.3.1 a. (6) (a) 5) Improvise in response to specific instructions both individually and in groups.
- 6) Develop an original dance using elements of choreography.
 - 7) Display desirable interpersonal relationships in dance activities.
 - 8) Exhibit dance related skills in order to experience lifetime dance participation as a means of fitness.
 - 9) Develop self and group evaluation skills related to dance.
 - 10) Appreciate dance as a performer and as a spectator.
 - 11) Identify the role of dance in contemporary culture for leisure time pursuits, health, and social activities.

(b) Fine Arts - Drama

The student shall:

- 1) Develop self-confidence in front of a group.
- 2) Develop performance techniques through voice and body.
- 3) Become aware of and familiar with theater facilities and terminology.
- 4) Develop and sharpen memory and imagination.
- 5) Work cooperatively with others toward a common goal.

(c) Fine Arts- Music

The student shall:

- 1) Make music, alone and with others.
- 2) Use the vocabulary and notation of music.
- 3) Acquire a familiarity with a wide variety of music.

A.4.3.1. a. (6) (c) 4) Improvise and create music.

- 5) Respond to music in various ways and make aesthetic judgments.
- 6) Understand the vocational and avocational possibilities in music.

(d) Fine Arts - Visual Arts

The student shall:

- 1) Create art.
- 2) Exhibit sensory awareness and problem-solving abilities through art.
- 3) Respond to art and make aesthetic judgments.
- 4) Experience historical and cultural art.
- 5) Appreciate and practice visual arts independently.

(e) Practical Arts

The student shall:

- 1) Select an occupational cluster and identify the occupational/career opportunities, the career levels available and the training requisites for the cluster.
- 2) Compare occupational/career requirements, traits, and characteristics to personal aptitudes, abilities, and preferences.
- 3) Demonstrate basic academic and technical knowledge and skills of the occupational/career area.
- 4) Demonstrate both job-seeking and job-keeping skills including the skills of completing a job application, applying for a job, and properly dressing for an interview.

- b. One unit of credit shall be awarded to a student for satisfactory completion of local requirements and attainment of state and district competencies in each course designed for one unit of credit.

- A.4.3.1 c. Credits shall be transferable with no loss of value between schools that are accredited by a state board of education.
- d. 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, the state board of education of the state in which they are located, or by a college or university which is regionally accredited for such purposes.
- e. The State Board of Education shall issue a high school diploma to New Mexico residents who meet state GED certification requirements defined in State Board of Education Regulation 80-12.
- f. Students who successfully complete the requirements of the New Mexico High School Proficiency Examination shall receive an endorsement so stating on their diplomas.
- g. All students graduating from a public high school and receiving a high school diploma are subject to the requirements of the diploma endorsement and therefore must take the High School Proficiency Examination.
- h. A high school diploma shall be awarded to a student in a special education program upon the completion of a planned course of study resulting in the receipt of the required course credits and competencies for a New Mexico High School diploma.
- i. A diploma may be awarded to a student in a special education program upon completion of a planned course of study based on individualized educational program objectives in lieu of required criteria for New Mexico High School diplomas or approval by the State Supervisor. The school district may request the State Superintendent's approval in writing and justify that it is in the student's best interest.
- j. If a diploma is not awarded, a certificate of completion must be awarded to a student in special education upon completion of a planned course of study based on individual educational program objectives.

- A.4.3.1 k. The design of a planned course of study leading to a certificate of completion shall include but not be limited to the following areas of instruction depending on the student's identified needs:
- (1) Language, including receptive and expressive communication.
 - (2) Socialization.
 - (3) Motor development.
 - (4) Habilitation or rehabilitation of visual or auditory sensory losses.
 - (5) Functional academic skills.
 - (6) Daily living skills.
 - (7) Home management skills.
 - (8) Recreation/leisure time skills (inclusive of the arts).
 - (9) Physical education or adaptive physical education.
 - (10) Job competencies.
- l. Credits earned in special education programs accredited by the State Board of Education shall be identified by course content and competencies, and be accepted toward receipt of a diploma or certificate of completion.
- m. Special education students shall be considered by the Educational Appraisal and Review Committee for participation in the New Mexico High School Proficiency Examination. The Committee shall make recommendations regarding:
- (1) Participation or exemption from participation in the examination.
 - (2) Modification in administration of the examination. If modifications are recommended, prior approval of the State Superintendent is required.
- n. Special education students exempt from taking the New Mexico High School Proficiency Examination shall receive a diploma or certificate of completion without mention of endorsement or lack of endorsement on their diploma.