Frequently Asked Questions

What are the diploma options?
Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) curriculum
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

What are the state assessment requirements?
Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) or a concordant score
- Algebra 1 end-of-course (EOC) or a comparative score

Refer to Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments for concordant and comparative scores.

Students enrolled in the following courses must participate in the EOC assessments, which constitute 30 percent of the final course grade:

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Biology 1
- U.S. History

*Special note: Thirty percent not applicable if not enrolled in the course but passed the EOC (credit acceleration program [CAP]).

What is the CAP?
The CAP program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes an Advanced Placement (AP) examination, a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Biology 1
- U.S. History

What is the distinction between the 18-credit ACCEL option and the 24-credit option?

- 3 elective credits instead of 8
- Physical Education is not required
- Online course is not required

All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per section 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), Florida Statutes [F.S.]).

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### 24-Credit Standard Diploma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ELA 1, 2, 3, 4. ELA honors, AP, AICE, IB and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Physical Education*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Online</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Eligible courses are specified in the Florida Course Code Directory.
Scholar Diploma Designation

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must meet all of the following requirements:

- Earn 1 credit in Algebra 2
- Pass the Geometry EOC
- 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
- Pass the U.S. History EOC*
- Earn 2 credits in the same world language
- Earn at least 1 credit in an AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course

*A student is exempt from the Biology 1 or U.S. History EOC assessment 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

- Meet the standard high school diploma requirements.
- Attain one or more industry certification from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.).

State University System (SUS)

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 (credit earned by industry certification does not count for SUS admission):

- High school graduation with a standard diploma, a minimum of a 2.5 GPA, and admission test scores meeting minimum college-ready test scores per Board of Governors Regulation (BOG) 6.008
- 16 credits of approved college preparatory academic courses per BOG Regulation 6.002
  - 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
  - 4 Mathematics (Algebra 1 level and above)
  - 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
  - 3 Social Science
  - 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language or other equivalents)
- 2 approved electives

What are the graduation requirements for students with disabilities?

Two options are available only to students with disabilities. Both require the 24 credits listed in the table, and both allow students to substitute a career and technical education (CTE) course with related content for one credit in ELA 4, mathematics, science and social studies (excluding Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1 and U.S. History). The two options are as follows:

- Students with significant cognitive disabilities may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.
- Students who choose the academic and employment option must earn at least 0.5 credit via paid employment.

Where is information on financial aid located?

The Florida Department of Education’s Office of Student Financial Assistance administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships. To learn more, visit the Office of Student Financial Assistance website.

Where is information on 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 the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program website.