

M. The Adult High School Credit Program

Grades 9-12 (or equivalent) students in adult high school credit programs must meet essentially the same standards for graduation as those in the four-year, 24-credit standard program. The two accelerated graduation options are not available to students in the adult high school credit program.

The one credit in physical education is not required and may be substituted with elective credit, keeping the total credits required for graduation the same. Any course listed within the *Florida Course Code Directory* in the areas of art, drama, dance, music, or speech may be taken by adult secondary education students to satisfy the one-half required credit in performing arts. The science lab component may be waived when facilities are not available. The community service graduation requirement is encouraged, but it is not a requirement to earn a standard diploma in the adult education program. However, students must attain an unweighted cumulative GPA of 2.0. A minimum of 24 credits is required to earn a standard high school diploma in addition to mastering the SSS. Instructional credits and additional provisions as applied toward a diploma in this program are defined as follows:

- Credits are earned by successful completion of course requirements and attainment of a satisfactory grade on an end-of-course exam.
- One annual credit is the equivalent of two semester credits.
- Students may be assigned to a high school basic skills class as determined by counseling. This class may not be offered as a part of an adult basic education program. A student shall earn only elective credit toward graduation for high school remedial language arts and high school remedial mathematics classes. A maximum of two such credits may be earned.
- Elective credits for documented military experiences may be earned by adult students. A maximum of two elective credits may be earned for military training.
- The courses or subjects specified below are the minimum required for graduation through the adult education program.
- Eligible adult high school program students who had previously earned passing HSCT scores may apply these scores toward the graduation requirement.

Students who enrolled in an adult high school credit program and completed six credits prior to fall 1999, and, who remain continuously enrolled until the required number of credits for high school graduation have been earned may continue to take the HSCT as long as it is offered to meet the graduation test requirement. Students who do not meet both of these requirements will have to pass both the reading, and the mathematics.

Graduation Requirements Prior to the 2007-2008 School Year

SUBJECT	NUMBER OF CREDITS
English or English Through ESOL as appropriate	4.0
Mathematics	3.0
Science	3.0
World History	1.0
American History	1.0
Economics	0.5
American Government	0.5
Fine Arts	0.5
Practical Arts	0.5
Physical Education or Elective	1.0

Life Management Skills	0.5
Electives	8.5
TOTAL NUMBER OF REQUIRED CREDITS	24.0

Note: Students who entered ninth grade in 2007-2008 will follow the new graduation requirements. (Refer to page 82-87)

N. General Educational Development (GED) Program

Upon successful completion of the official GED Test, a candidate shall be awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma and shall be considered a high school graduate.

Age Rule (GED). Any candidate shall be at least 18 years of age on the date of the examination. Exceptions may be granted by the Superintendent of Schools or designee in extraordinary circumstances such as health problems, family financial problems, or other such instances of hardship. These exceptions apply only if the candidate resides in Miami-Dade County or attends school in Miami-Dade County and if said candidate has reached the age.

Procedures for Exceptions to Age Rule (GED). To be allowed to take the GED Test, students under the age of 18 who are enrolled in the K-12 program and who are considering withdrawal from the program must have written parental approval citing extraordinary circumstances which represent extreme hardship. These students may choose one of the following options:

- Remain in school and take the Official GED Practice Test (OPT) at an adult education center to determine readiness to complete the official GED Test successfully. If scores are indicative of success on the OPT, students will then withdraw from the K-12 program and register for the GED Test. If GED Test readiness is not indicated, students may choose to remain in the K-12 program.
- Withdraw from the K-12 program and take the OPT at an adult education center. If scores are indicative of success on the GED Test, students will follow procedures as outlined below for out-of-school youth. If GED Test readiness is not indicated, students may enroll in a GED preparation class at an adult education center.

Both options require students and their parents to complete a "Request for GED Age Waiver" form that includes appropriate administrative approvals.

In the event that out-of-school youths between the ages of 16 and 18 request GED age waivers from high school principals, they are to be directed to adult

education centers for testing and recommendation by adult principals and approval by the Regional Administrative Director, or designee. They may also apply directly, in writing, with parental approval, to the Regional Administrative Director, who will direct them to an adult education center. The center will administer the Official GED Practice Test to determine the student's readiness to complete the GED test successfully. Upon recommendation by the adult principal, the request will be forwarded to the Regional Administrative Director for approval.

Procedures for Retaking the GED Test. A candidate who fails to attain the required minimum scores on the initial GED testing may retake the tests at any subsequent testing session.

Procedures for a Student Participating in the GED Exit Option Model. Through an agreement between the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) and the American Council on Education, currently enrolled high school students at risk of dropping out or of not graduating with their cohort group are eligible to take the GED Test. If students pass the GED Test *and* the FCAT, they are eligible to graduate receiving a district high school diploma in addition to a State of Florida High School Diploma. Students may only access this alternate graduation route through the GED Exit Option Model if they meet the following eligibility requirements:

- are 16 years old and currently enrolled in a Pre-K-12 program;
- are enrolled in courses that meet the high school graduation requirements;
- are over-age for grade, behind in credits, below the 2.0 GPA, and are in jeopardy of not graduating with their cohort group;
- have demonstrated a probability for success on the GED Test as documented by the OPT;
- have passed the FCAT or earned an applicable concordant score;
- have maintained enrollment through their prescribed graduation date;
- have not graduated before the commencement date of the class with whom they entered kindergarten; and
- have achieved a minimum grade - 9 reading level as measured by a reading test.

O. State University Entrance Requirements

State University entrance requirements include:

- **English.** Three of the four credits must have included substantial writing requirements.

- **Mathematics.** The three credits must be at the Algebra I and above levels, excluding Informal Geometry.
- **Science.** Two of the three credits must include a substantial laboratory component. Integrated Science courses will meet the science requirement for graduation and for admission to the Florida State University System by taking Integrated Science I, II, and III or by taking Integrated Science I and two additional science courses.
- **Social Science.** The three credits must include study related to history, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, and geography.
- **Foreign Language.** The two credits must be sequential courses in the same language, including American Sign language, or foreign language proficiency at a level equal to two years of a high school foreign language course.
- **Electives.** The three courses used for electives will vary with the student's date of entry in grade 9. Appendix N lists specific courses that meet the requirement.

P. Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Act established a program consisting of three types of awards: the Florida Academic Scholars Award, the Florida Medallion Scholars Award, and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award. Students seeking a scholarship award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program will receive a 0.5 bonus point for grades earned in Advanced Placement, pre-International Baccalaureate, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, International General Certificate of Secondary Education, and academic dual enrollment annual courses. Grades received in level 3 annual courses in English, mathematics, science, and social science also receive a 0.5 bonus point. A 0.25 bonus point will be awarded for any of the above courses which are semester courses.

Students who select any one of the three graduation options are eligible to apply for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program awards. Each of the three scholarship awards within the Bright Futures Scholarship Program has specific criteria described in Appendix L, that must be met. However, to be eligible for an initial award from any of the three types of scholarships, a student must:

- complete the online Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) for the Florida State Student Financial Assistance Database (SSFAD) prior to his/her graduation;
- be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- earn a Florida standard high school diploma or its equivalent;
- be accepted by and enrolled in an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary education institution;
- be enrolled for at least six semester credit hours or the equivalent;
- not have been found guilty of, nor pled no contest to, a felony charge; and
- begin using the award within three years of high school graduation.

The Florida Academic/Medallion Scholars Awards require:

- **English.** Three of the four credits must have included substantial writing requirements.
- **Mathematics.** The three credits must be at the Algebra I and above levels, excluding Informal Geometry.
- **Science.** Two of the three credits must have included a substantial laboratory component. Integrated Science courses will meet the science requirement for graduation and for admission to Florida State universities by taking Integrated Science I, II, and III or by taking Integrated Science I and two additional science courses.
- **Social Science.** The three credits must include any combination of the Academic Core Courses in Social Science as listed in the *Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook*.
- **Foreign Language.** Two sequential credits in the same language, including American Sign language, or foreign language proficiency at a level equal to two years of a high school foreign language course.
- **Electives.** Up to three additional credits from courses in the academic courses listed above and/ or Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Advanced International Certificate of Education fine arts courses to raise the GPA.

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award. Within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award recognizes and rewards academic achievement and CTE preparation by high school students, and an award is used to inform potential employers of the quality of a student's academic and CTE preparation. Student eligibility criteria for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational

Scholars Award are identified in the Guidelines and Procedures for Implementing the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award. (See Appendix L)

M-DCPS will provide on a case-by-case basis, waivers, accommodations, and reasonable substitutions in meeting postsecondary career technical center admission and graduation requirements for students with disabilities. (See Appendix M for procedures.)

The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award requires:

- **English.** Of the four credits, English I, II, III, and IV Through ESOL may be used to meet this requirement. Additional ESOL credits may be applied toward elective credits.
- **Mathematics.** Of the three credits, Algebra I, which is to be successfully completed by the end of grade 9, is the lowest level mathematics course acceptable to meet this requirement.
- **Science.** Two of the three credits must include a laboratory component.
- **Social Science.** The three credits must include one credit in world history, one credit in American history, one-half credit in American government, and one-half credit in economics.
- **Performing Arts.** Any 0.5 credit in art, dance, debate, drama, music, or speech course classified as performing fine arts meets the requirement.
- **Practical Arts.** Any .05 credit in career and technical education course, any district-approved annual computer education course, or Journalism I, II, III, or IV meet the requirement.
- **Life Management.** The 0.5 credit life management course should be taken in grade 9 or 10.
- **Physical Education.** 1.0 credit must be earned.
- **Career and Technical Education.** A minimum of three credits in a sequential program of study in CTE is required.