



Houston Hints: Changes to High School Graduation Requirements

Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, Georgia High School Graduation Requirements will change. The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) aligned the requirements with the new Georgia Performance Standards curriculum in English, mathematics, science, social studies and electives. The new curriculum will help students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and in the workplace.

Changes to the Graduation Requirements

These changes will affect students enrolling in the ninth grade in the 2008-2009 school year and subsequent years. Students enrolled in ninth grade before 2008 will remain under the current graduation requirements.

- The GaDOE has eliminated the tiered diploma options of College Preparatory or Technology / Career. All students will now complete a common set of requirements to earn a high school diploma.
- Students will have the opportunity to choose academic and career tech courses, including Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, joint enrollment, industry-recognized credentialing and career pathways. They will be able to take classes according to their personal areas of interest.
- The new rule allows for flexibility in developing a schedule to meet the needs of the district and school.

New Requirements

- ✓ 4 units of English
- ✓ 4 units of Mathematics as required by the Georgia Performance Standards
- ✓ *4 units of Science
- ✓ 3 units of Social Studies
- ✓ At least 3 units of Career/Technical/Agricultural,
- ✓ **Foreign Language and/or Fine Arts courses
- ✓ 1 unit of Health/Physical Education
- ✓ At least 4 elective units

** The 4th science unit may be selected from academic science courses or from approved CTAE courses. This course will earn one Carnegie unit of science credit; however, this same 4th science course could also be used to meet a requirement of a career pathway course.*

***Most colleges require completion of two years of the same foreign language.*

23 units or more are required.

If you have any questions, please contact your high school counselor.