

ACADEMICS

Graduation Requirements

Awarding a high school diploma based on the accumulation of credit earned for passing courses has been a long-standing practice in high schools; but this system has not ensured that students meet high academic standards and demonstrate competency. Consequently, some students graduate high school unprepared for success in postsecondary education and modern careers.

To optimize academic achievement for all students and to ensure that all students graduate prepared for post-secondary education, college, and career, we have adopted a personalized, competency-based system for teaching, learning, and graduation. Beginning with the class of 2021 and the class of 2019 at Colorado Connections Academy @ Durango, all students will need to demonstrate achievement of the Colorado Academic Standards in the credits specified for graduation, demonstrate competency in English, math, science, and social studies as outlined below, complete an Individual Career and Academic Plan, and engage in real-world experience.



Demonstrating Competency

Students will be able demonstrate proficiency in required subject areas by completing required credit hours and showing competency through one of the following options:

English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science	
SAT Score	470	SAT Score	500	ACT Score	19
ACT Score	18	ACT Score	19	Advanced Placement Exam	3 or higher
Advanced Placement Exam	3 or higher	Advanced Placement Exam	3 or higher	Colorado Measures of Academic Success	4 or higher
Colorado Measures of Academic Success	3 or higher	Colorado Measures of Academic Success	3 or higher	Capstone Project	Compilation of evidence demonstrating proficiency on 9-R Performance Indicators
Concurrent Enrollment	Grade of C or better	Concurrent Enrollment	Grade of C or better	ASVAB	Score of 50% or higher on GS or EI sections
College Readiness Test	Corresponding score that represents readiness	College Readiness Test	Corresponding score that represents readiness	Social Studies	
Capstone Project	Compilation of evidence demonstrating proficiency on 9-R Performance Indicators	Capstone Project	Compilation of evidence demonstrating proficiency on 9-R Performance Indicators	Advanced Placement Exam	3 or higher
ASVAB	Score of 50% or higher on WK and PC sections	ASVAB	Score of 50% or higher on AR and MK sections	Concurrent Enrollment	Grade of C or better
				Capstone Project	Compilation of evidence demonstrating proficiency on 9-R Performance Indicators



Credit Hours

Durango 9-R Minimum Graduation Requirements	Subject Area	College-Bound Graduation Recommendations
4 credits	English	4 credits
4 credits	Math	4 credits
3 credits	Science	3-4 credits
3 credits	Social Studies	3-4 credits
1 credit	World Language or Culture	2-4 credits
1 credit	Health/PE	1 credit
7 credits	General Electives	7 credits
23 Total		

Individual Career and Academic Plan

All students will complete an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) with assistance from counselors, teachers, and/or administrators, through which students identify interests, skills, and abilities to begin planning for postsecondary education and modern careers.

Each student's ICAP will assist counselors and academic advisors in guiding students with the development of a Personalized Learning Plan that allows them to meet expected standards while also achieving postsecondary and career readiness in their chosen pathway.

Pathways include:

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communications
- Business Management and Administration
- Education and Training
- Finance
- Government and Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

For the classes of 2018-2020, the following graduation requirements remain in effect: 4 credits in English, 4 credits in mathematics, 3 credits in science, 3 credits in social studies, 2 credits in world language, 1 credit in P.E., half a credit in health, and 9.5 credits in general electives. Students in these graduation classes must also complete a Career Portfolio and 20 hours of community service, and Personal Finance Literacy requirements.

Each student's ICAP will assist counselors and academic advisors in guiding students to the appropriate classes, from electives to classes in the core subject areas of English, math, science, social studies, world language, health, and physical education. Students will also select at least 2 general elective credits that are connected to their identified pathway in their ICAP.

Real World Experience

To ensure that students graduate high school with real life experience in their career pathway, community, or postsecondary focus, students must complete one of the following:

- Internship (60 hour min)
- Community Service Project (60 hour min)
- Postsecondary class (related to ICAP pathway)
- Employment with positive employer evaluation (60 hour min)

Guidance for Students Focused on a Four-Year College

Students who plan to attend a four year college are required to also take the following:

- Minimum 2 years of a lab science in the three required credits in science
- Minimum of 2 years of World Language in a single language (part of the 7 credit of electives)

Student athletes who intend to participate in college athletics will need to work with their academic advisor to ensure course selections meet NCAA academic eligibility requirements. Students interested in specific universities should explore any specific requirements they may have for acceptance.