

# Students Entering Grade Nine In 2010-2011 School Year

## What Students and Parents Need to Know

What are the options to earn a 24-credit standard diploma?

<b>4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)</b>
With major concentration in composition, reading for information and literature
<b>4 Credits Mathematics</b>
One of which must be Algebra 1 or its equivalent and one of which must be geometry or its equivalent
<b>3 Credits Science</b>
Two of which must have a laboratory component
<b>3 Credits Social Studies</b>
1 credit in world history, 1 credit in U.S. history, .5 credit in U.S. government and .5 credit in economics
<b>1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts</b>
Eligible courses are specified in the Florida Course Code Directory <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/default.asp">http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/default.asp</a>
<b>1 Credit Physical Education</b>
To include the integration of health
<b>8 Elective Credits</b>
Note: 2 credits in the same world language are required for admission into state universities

### 18-Credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL)

- Physical education is not required
- 3 elective credits
- 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.]).

What is the credit acceleration program (CAP)?

This program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include:

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

A student must successfully complete a

- 24-credit standard diploma,
- 18-credit ACCEL option,
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum, or
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum.

Students must earn a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and pass the required statewide assessments.

Can a student who selects the 24-credit program graduate early?

Yes, a student who completes all the 24-credit program requirements for a standard diploma may graduate in less than eight semesters.



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## Diploma Designations

### Scholar Diploma Designation

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements a student must:

- Earn 1 credit in Algebra 2
- 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 Advanced Placement (AP), IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.

### Merit Diploma Designation

In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements:

- Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)

Acceleration courses and advanced coursework options include dual enrollment, early admission, AICE Program, AP Program, IB Diploma Program and industry certification. For more information, visit [www.fldoe.org/schools/SupportForNGHS.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/schools/SupportForNGHS.asp).

For more information on local public school district graduation programs, please contact the school counselor. The Florida Department of Education provides additional resources on the Graduation Requirements webpage at [www.fldoe.org/bii/studentpro/grad-require.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/bii/studentpro/grad-require.asp).



## Postsecondary Options

### State University System

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:

- High school graduation with a standard diploma
- Admission test scores
- 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses
- 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)
- 2 approved electives

[www.flbog.edu/forstudents/planning](http://www.flbog.edu/forstudents/planning)

### The Florida College System

Includes 28 state colleges. These institutions offer career-related certificates and two-year associate degrees that prepare students to transfer to a bachelor's degree program or to enter jobs requiring specific skills. Many also offer baccalaureate degrees in high-demand fields. Florida College System institutions have an open door policy. This means that students who have earned a standard high school diploma, have earned a high school equivalency diploma or have demonstrated success in postsecondary coursework will be admitted to an associate degree program.

[www.fldoe.org/fcs](http://www.fldoe.org/fcs)

### Financial Aid

The Office of Student Financial Assistance administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships.

[www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/)

### Bright Futures

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.

[www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/)