

**Students****Progress****Graduation**

Students shall be required to successfully complete all established credits and other requirements outlined in this policy in order to graduate from Watertown Unified School District unless otherwise modified under At-Risk, state and federal laws pertaining to students with disabilities, Section 504 Legislation, or Board Policy #5241 – Early Graduation. Programs to accommodate students with educational disabilities and students with special academic interests or talents are encouraged within the graduation policy. Through these programs the Watertown Unified School District may design special programs aimed at meeting these individual needs. A student with a disability may meet the academic performance criterion in this policy by meeting the goals established through the Individual Education Plan (IEP), based on model academic standards, identified through the IEP process. Requirements for earning a diploma under a district approved competency based program may also supersede the criteria listed below.

Students shall take a minimum of six credits (seven credits beginning with the Class of 2021) each year and shall be in attendance twelve trimesters.

The transcript of courses taken and grades earned for all students awarded a diploma will reflect pertinent federal and/or state law governing the issuance of the high school diploma for each student.

The credit requirements for graduation shall include the following:

English	4	credits
Social Studies	3	credits
Mathematics	3	credits
Science	3	credits
Physical Education	1-1/2	credits
Financial Literacy	1/2	credit
Humanities	1/2	credit
Health	1/2	credit
Vocational Subjects	1/2	credit
<b>Electives</b>	6 1/2	credits
	8 1/2	credits (Beginning with the Class of 2021)
Post-Secondary Experience/Course* (e.g. Dual Credit/Advanced Placement)	1/2	credit (Beginning with the Class of 2019)
<b>TOTAL</b>	23	credits
	25	credits (Beginning with the Class of 2021)

\* *Post-Secondary Experience/Course can be applied to an elective or required class (ie. AP Biology would count for both Science and the Post-Secondary Credit requirement).*

The Watertown Unified School District Board of Education awards diplomas to recognize students who have met certain academic requirements and achievement levels set by the District. In order to

graduate from Watertown Unified School District and receive a diploma, a student in the District must meet the requirements set out in this policy.

1. The student must earn a minimum of 23 or 25 course credits for graduation as outlined above and including the specific course requirements outlined in district policies and procedures.
2. The student must be enrolled in a Board-approved course or activity, or alternative education program, for each class period of each school day in grades (9 – 12).
3. The student must attend high school in the District for a minimum of three full trimesters, including the trimester immediately preceding graduation. Exceptions to this provision may be made by the high school principal.

**Competency Based Program:** A student enrolled in a competency based program and meets the requirements of that program that depart from the criteria of this policy, but are authorized under state law and approved by the Board of Education, shall be issued a Watertown Unified School District diploma.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities will be granted a diploma when they have successfully completed the required number of credits and prescribed courses or have taken substitution or courses with accommodations as determined by the Individual Education Program Team (IEP Team). Teacher recommendations will be considered as needed. Alternative graduation requirements may be determined with the IEP as agreed upon by the IEP team.

Specific academic requirements shall be available for inspection in the district offices, from the Counseling Department, and shall be distributed in the High School Student Handbook.

Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, in order to be eligible for a Watertown Unified School District high school diploma, a student must have taken and successfully completed the state-required civics test while enrolled in the high school grades in the District or, as determined by the administration, in another qualifying school or program. A student with a disability for whom an individualized education program (IEP) is in place must also take the civics test, however, his/her graduation shall not be contingent on the successful completion of the test.

Beginning with the Class of 2019, in order to be eligible for a Watertown Unified School District high school diploma, a student must have taken and successfully completed a course (0.5 credit minimum) that provides a post high school course experience. This could include, but is not limited to, AP, Dual Credit, Transcribed, and Articulated Courses.

**Legal Ref:** PI 18, DPI Administrative Rules

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