

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following grading system is used by Upper St. Clair High School:

A – Outstanding 100-90%

B – Good 89-80%

C – Average 79-70%

D – Below Average 69-60%

F – Failing Below 60%

I – Incomplete

P/F – Pass Fail (60% achievement warrants a passing grade).

Semester grades are cumulative. The grades issued for Semester 1 and Semester 2 are those which will appear on the student's transcript and will be calculated into GPA (mid-semester grades are not included on the transcript and are not calculated into GPA). The highest possible cumulative unweighted GPA for all students is 4.0. The highest possible year-end cumulative weighted GPA is as follows: freshmen 4.25; sophomores 4.50; juniors 4.75; and seniors 5.0. Students must complete 44.5 credits and the Graduation Project in order to earn an Upper St. Clair diploma and walk at Graduation.

COURSE WORK

Graduation from Upper St. Clair High School requires satisfactory completion of a cumulative minimum of 44.5 credits in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. The requirements by subject areas are listed below:

English	8 Credits
Social Studies	6 Credits
Mathematics	6 Credits
Science	6 Credits
Arts and/or Humanities.....	4 Credits
Wellness Education	3.5 Credits
Electives	11 Credits
Total	44.5 Credits

Any class which meets 10 or more modules per week will earn two credits per year or one credit per semester. Any class which meets fewer than 10 modules per week will earn one credit per year or one-half credit per semester.

GRADUATION PROJECT (CULMINATING PROJECT)

All students are required to complete a career-focused graduation project (culminating project) by May of their senior year as part of the graduation requirement. The project will be 3½ years of research stemming from school counselor meetings, class assignments, and the career development program. The USC High School Graduation Project provides students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned through career research and exploration and is completed utilizing Naviance.

STATE TESTING PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

Students graduating in the 2021 school year and beyond must participate in the Keystone Exams in the areas of Algebra 1, Biology, and English Literature and demonstrate proficiency in these areas by achieving a score of Proficient or Advanced.

Students who earn a score of Basic or Below Basic on a particular exam will be required to participate in supplemental instruction in that content area prior to retaking the exam multiple times prior to the end of 11th grade if they have not scored above Basic. If they have not scored above Basic after two attempts on an exam or module, they qualify to participate in one or more project-based assessments as a means to demonstrate proficiency in that content area. Project-based assessments are developed by the PA Department of Education, administered by the school, and scored according to scoring protocols and rubrics developed by the PA Department of Education.

WEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE CALCULATION

Calculation of a weighted grade point average (5.0) and an unweighted grade point average (4.0) for each student is indicated on the transcript. Upper St. Clair High School does not rank students. Through much research, deliberation, and consultation with colleges and universities and competitive high schools comparable to Upper St. Clair, we have concluded that it best serves our students to eliminate class rank.

Our weighted grade point average system is reflective of the difficulty and workload of Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate courses, and is calculated as follows:

Weighted GPA = Unweighted GPA + [.25/4S x (4A + 3B + 2C)], where

- 4 = reflects the expectation that four weighted classes be taken during each of the semesters that can be completed under the weighted system;
- S = represents the number of potential semesters that can be completed under the weighted system (8 semesters);
- A = the number of A's earned in Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate courses;
- B = the number of B's earned in Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate courses;
- C = the number of C's earned in Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate courses.

The numbers 4, 3, and 2 inside the parentheses are the (unweighted) quality points awarded for that particular letter grade. Grades of "D" and "F" will not be weighted.

The additional value of .25 was chosen to represent the increased difficulty level of Honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.

In summary, each student's transcript will consist of an unweighted GPA (maximum possible 4.0) and a weighted GPA (maximum possible 5.0). Maximum possible weighted GPA's at the end of each year are: 9th grade (4.25); 10th grade (4.5); 11th grade (4.75); mid-year 12th grade (4.875); and 12th grade (5.0). **It is important to note that students cannot attain a weighted GPA of 5.0 until the end of their senior year when the final weighted GPA is calculated.** For those students who take more than thirty-two Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate courses, only the thirty-two highest grades in those courses will be included in the calculation of the final weighted GPA. Grades earned in all courses will be included in the calculation of the unweighted GPA.

WITHDRAWN SENIOR/INDEPENDENT STUDY – (SENIOR REQUIREMENT)

Occasionally a student may find that his or her individual needs may indicate that becoming a withdrawn senior would be desirable. Any student desiring such a privilege must have his or her parent make such a request in writing for approval by the counselor and the principal. Students seeking to graduate one year early should submit a request one year prior to the date of anticipated graduation. Diplomas will be awarded at the time of regular commencement exercises only.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

Students with disabilities may meet the graduation requirements specified above or may graduate upon satisfactorily completing a special education program developed by an Individualized Education Program team under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Students who enter Upper St. Clair High School in their junior or senior year who have not had the opportunity to participate in the Keystone Exams prior to entering USCHS will meet with USCHS administrators and counselors to determine how proficiency in the areas of Algebra 1, Biology, and English Literature will be met subject to guidance from the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The Superintendent may waive the requirements for meeting the proficiency requirements on a case-by-case basis for good cause based on the provisions of Chapter 4.51d of the Pa. School Code.