

Regulation 505.05-R(1): Graduation Requirements

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/01/2020 | **Last Revised Date:** 10/28/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 10/28/2024

Students must successfully complete the courses required by the Board and Iowa Department of Education in order to graduate. Please refer to board policy for specific area requirements.

Core, Regular and Honors Diploma

Other Guidelines

- Students would only be eligible to be considered for the district issued diploma after completing the 9th grade.
- An alternative and/or reduced schedule may be allowed for any high school student.

Special Education

Graduation requirements for special education students will be in accordance with state-required and local district standards. Current state-required standards include: four years of English, three years of math, three years of social studies, and three years of science (4-3-3-3). Local standards include: four years of English, three years of math, three and a half years of social studies, and three years of science (4-3-3.5-3).

Graduation requirements will also be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The total credits required for graduation may not be modified by the IEP.

Progress toward completion of 4-3-3.5-3 should be communicated at least annually in the course of study section of the individual's IEP.

Course work and credit issues

Schedule changes will be very limited, as the schedule is developed and resources are allocated based on student request. Withdrawals from a class can only occur in the first 4 days of each term.

Any change of a recommended class after the first four days of each semester will require parent approval, as any withdrawal after the ten days will result in an F. The student will be ineligible for activities according to student handbook and will be assigned to study hall with no privileges.

Retaking classes in which credit has been earned:

- Students may repeat any course that has been passed for a higher grade under the following conditions:
- The course must be retaken within a year of the completion of the initial course.
- If a higher-level course has been taken, the option of repeating a lower course is no longer available. (i.e., cannot repeat English I after English II has been passed.)
- The course may be repeated once.
- Enrollment will be on a space available basis.
- The original course and grade will show on the transcript, but the higher of the two grades will be used to determine GPA.
- While the grade may be updated, the credit will only be issued one time
- High school courses that are taken prior to the fall of full-time enrollment as a freshman will be recorded on the transcript. High school credit will be given and the grade will be calculated into the GPA.

Students that desire to take high school credits prior to the fall of their freshman year or accelerate in grade level and/or content will follow the acceleration process as outlined in Policy 602.7.

Summer school offered by an institution that has been accredited by the Iowa Department of Education is an option for students that have failed one or more courses and must be pre-approved by the guidance counselor or principal. Summer school grades that are earned by an institution that has been accredited by the Iowa Department of Education will be given credit and will be recorded on the high school transcript. The grades will be brought in as pass/fail and will not impact GPA. The original grade of a failed class will remain on the transcript. The cost of summer school is the responsibility of the student.

Apex Online Learning Courses

Annually, a limited number of digital student licenses are purchased. "Enrollments" will be filled first with students that are not on track for graduation. Students that want to enroll in an Apex course must be self-motivated. A

history of incomplete and/or late work, discipline issues, or attendance problems may make course completion much more difficult.

- If a student is taking a required course, the student must have failed the course with a DCG teacher prior to taking an Apex course, with the exception of irresolvable scheduling conflicts. The grade earned will be recorded and be calculated in the student's GPA.
- If a student is approved to use Apex for other course completion reasons, courses that are offered by DCG are not eligible for enrollment, unless there are irresolvable scheduling conflicts.

College classes can be taken, at student's cost, during the summer with pre-approval from the building principal.

College classes cannot replace a required course for high school credit, unless there are extenuating circumstances and preapproved by the principal. College class grades will be recorded as given by the college and will be calculated into DCG's GPA.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) and concurrent enrollment classes will be given college and high school credit. The grade will be recorded on the transcript and will be used to calculate GPA. PSEO course grades will be reported on a student's transcript like any other course. If a student fails or does not complete a PSEO course, the cost of the actual cost of the course or up to \$250 will be reimbursed to the district by the student/family. Neither concurrent enrollment courses that are not offered on the DCG campus nor PSEO courses can be of similar content to a course offered at DCG. All Senior Year Plus guidelines must be followed. A student that plans to enroll in a post-secondary school under this policy must inform the District in writing by March 15, of the preceding school year. The superintendent, on an individual basis, may approve registrations after this timeline.

Home school credits: DCG graduation requirement credits will be awarded for home school credits only in instances that the credit has been issued by an institution that has been accredited by the Iowa Department of Education.
