

Minnesota's K-12 Standards and Graduation Requirements

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Improvement**

Educational Expectations

The legislature is committed to establishing rigorous academic standards for Minnesota's public school students. To that end, the commissioner shall adopt in rule statewide academic standards.

Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.02, Subdivision 1(a)

Graduation Requirements

To graduate from high school, students must demonstrate to their enrolling school district or school their **satisfactory completion of the credit requirements under section 120B.024 and their understanding of academic standards on a nationally normed college entrance exam.**

Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.02, Subdivision 2

Required academic standards

- (1) language arts**
- (2) mathematics**
- (3) science**
- (4) social studies, including history, geography, economics, and government and citizenship**
- (5) physical education**
- (6) health, for which locally developed academic standards apply**
- (7) the arts, for which statewide or locally developed academic standards apply**

Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.021, Subdivision 1(a)

Elective Standards

Elective standards are locally adopted expectations for student learning in career and technical education and world languages.

Credit

...the determination by the local school district that a student has successfully completed an academic year of study or mastered the applicable subject matter.

Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.081, Subdivision 4

120B.024 Credits

Subd. 1. Graduation requirements. Students beginning 9th grade in the 2011-2012 school year and later must successfully complete the following high school level credits for graduation:

- **4 credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in English language arts**
- **3 credits of mathematics, including an Algebra II credit or its equivalents, sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics *****

120B.024 continued

- **3 credits of science, including at least one credit of biology, one credit of chemistry or physics, and one elective credit of science sufficient to satisfy all chemistry or physics standards, and all other science standards ****
- **3.5 credits of social studies, encompassing at least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies ***
- **1 credit of the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts *****
- **7 seven elective credits minimum**

Subd. 2. Credit equivalencies

- * .5 credit of economics taught in a school's agriculture education or business department may fulfill a one-half credit in social studies if the credit is sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in economics,**
- ** An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit requirement if the course meets academic standards in science as approved by the district.**
- *** A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement.**

Subd. 2. Credit equivalencies continued

An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the credit in chemistry or physics or the elective science credit if the credit

- meets the chemistry, physics, or biology academic standards or a combination of these academic standards as approved by the district AND**
- the student satisfies either all of the chemistry academic standards, all of the physics academic standards, or all of the applicable elective science standards prior to graduation.**

Subd. 2. Credit equivalencies continued

***** A career and technical education credit may fulfill a mathematics or arts credit requirement**

(d) An agriculture education teacher is not required to meet the requirement of Minnesota Rules, part 3505.1150, subpart 1, item B, to meet the credit equivalency requirement of paragraph (b) above.

Students first enrolled in grade 8 in 2012 or later must also meet the following graduation assessment requirements:

**take Grade 8 Career and College Assessment
and**

**take Grade 10 Career and College Assessment
and**

take Grade 11 College Entrance Assessment

**possibly take College Placement Diagnostic
Assessment**

OR

take MTAS

Additional and specific statutes related to graduation requirements and standards may be found at:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=120B>

Information on specific subject area standards may be found at:

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/EdExc/StanCurri/K-12AcademicStandards/index.htm>