

Graduation Requirements

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



1. What is required in the updated graduation legislation?

Oklahoma [House Bill 3278](#), amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6, states:

Beginning with students entering the eighth grade in the 2025-2026 school year, in order to graduate from a public high school accredited by the State Board of Education with a standard diploma, students shall complete a minimum of the following twenty-three (23) curriculum units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

- Four units or sets of competencies of English to include Grammar, Composition, Literature, or any English course;
- Four units or sets of competencies of mathematics, two of which shall be Algebra I and either Algebra II or Geometry. The other two units may include Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Math Analysis, Calculus, Statistics, Math of Finance, Computer Science, college courses approved for dual credit, an approved full-time postsecondary career and technology program, or locally approved math based application course, or any mathematics course with content and/or rigor above Algebra I;
- Three units or sets of competencies of laboratory science approved for college admission requirements including one unit or set of competencies of life science meeting the standards for Biology I; one unit or set of competencies of physical science meeting the standards for Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics; and one unit or set of competencies from the domains of physical science, life science, or earth and space science, or approved full-time postsecondary career and technology program or locally approved science based application course, or any science course with content and/or rigor above Biology I or Physical Science;
- Three units or sets of competencies of history and citizenship skills including one unit of American History, 1/2 unit of Oklahoma History, 1/2 unit of United States Government, and one unit from the subjects of History, Government, Geography, Economics, Civics, or non-Western culture;
- Six pathway units or sets of competencies approved at the discretion of the school district board of education which align with each student's



Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) and may include, but are not limited to, any additional units or sets of competencies as provided in paragraphs 1 through 4 of this subsection, world or non-English language, computer technology, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), internship or apprenticeship programs, career and technology education courses, concurrently enrolled courses, advanced placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses approved for college admission requirements, music, art, drama, speech, dance, media arts, or other approved courses; and

- Three units or sets of competencies of elective courses approved by the school district board of education.

2. When should students begin following the new requirements?

Oklahoma [House Bill 3278](#) states that the changes begin with the graduating class of 2030, students entering the eighth grade in the 2025-2026 school year.

Oklahoma [House Bill 2672](#) adds an emergency clause allowing, but not requiring, schools to use the updated graduation requirements beginning with the 2024-2025 school year with parent or legal guardian approval of modification of the existing graduation track.

3. When can students earn the required Mathematics credits?

The new graduation requirements begin with students entering the eighth grade in the 2025-2026 school year. Mathematics courses taken in eighth grade, taught by a teacher certified in the corresponding high school course, will count toward this requirement.

Students entering a career or education path with a focus on math are still encouraged to take a mathematics course each year of high school.

4. Do students still choose between College/Work Ready and CORE curriculum?

No; the new legislation creates a single high school diploma with shared minimum requirements. Please be advised that new minimum graduation requirements may not meet college and university [admission requirements](#). Pathways will need to be developed to ensure students are on track to graduate high school prepared for their next steps.

Recommended [Courses to Take](#) for Oklahoma colleges and universities are available through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.





5. What are Pathway Units?

"Pathway unit" means a course taken by a high school student that is aligned with the student's current Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP).

6. How does this align with the Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)?

ICAP requirements have not changed; however, schools may choose to embed many of the ICAP components into their academic advising process. Students will still complete a Career Interest Assessment annually and will use those results to help them identify a Career Goal. Schools are encouraged to establish Career Pathways that show students what courses are available to them that align with their Career Goals. These Pathways allow students to customize an Intentional Sequence of Courses that align with their Career Goals, and lead to meaningful Work-Based Learning and/or Service-Learning opportunities.

7. What if a student changes their Career Pathway?

As students annually update their ICAP and review their Career Goal, a student may find that a different Career Pathway better prepares them for the future. The ICAP is designed to grow and change with the student. As long as the student's Pathway Units align with their chosen Career Goal at the time the courses were taken, the 6 required Pathway Units can reflect an evolving ICAP, rather than aligning perfectly with the Pathway a student is pursuing at the time of graduation.

8. How are courses submitted for review?

Oklahoma [House Bill 3278](#), amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6, states:

"A school district shall determine the specific description of the locally approved math and science-based application courses allowed pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of subsection D of this section."

- Districts notifying OSDE of a new course are encouraged to first seek approval from ODCTE and OSRHE to ensure they meet both minimum college admission requirements as well as minimum ODCTE admission requirements to be included in the standard diploma.
- Formal notification with the specific course description shall be provided to the State Department of Education prior to July 1 of each school year. The notification shall include what courses will be coded as locally approved math- and science-based application courses for the ensuing school year.

As enrollment begins in the early months of the prior Spring semester, the July 1st deadline is not for the July immediately preceding the school year.



For example, enrollment for 2026-27 begins in January or February of 2026. Courses for 2026-27 would need to be submitted by July 1, 2025 in order for SDE to have time to review and districts to have time to update their course catalogs, enrollment paperwork, Student Information Systems, etc.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Oklahoma State Department of Career Technology, and Oklahoma State Department of Education is establishing a submission and review process in order to ensure that the locally approved courses align with admission requirements for the student's identified post-secondary plans. You can begin submitting your courses for review here, [Submission Form](#).

9. How do I get started?

- Do you have an Advisory Board with members from workforce and your local education partners (tech centers, community colleges, universities)?
- What courses do you currently offer? With those, what Career Pathways are you currently able to make available to your students?
- What Career Pathways would you like to adopt? What course additions or changes will you need to make to your course offerings?
- Student ICAP data and local workforce needs should lead these decisions.
- Are there any courses in your plan that need to be reviewed for minimum college admission requirements and/or minimum CTE admission requirements?

10. For additional questions, here are some important contacts by OSDE Department or partner Agency:

OSDE: [Office of Student Development](#)

Email: studentdevelopment@sde.ok.gov

[Office of Standards and Learning](#)

Email: curriculum.instruction@sde.ok.gov

[Office of Assessments](#)

Email: assessments@sde.ok.gov

OSRHE: [Oklahoma Student Preparation](#)

Email: studentprep@osrhe.edu

[Oklahoma's Promise](#)

Email: okpromise@osrhe.edu

ODCTE: [Counseling and Career Development](#)

Email: ccd@careertech.ok.gov

