

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a seal and a dual seal?

A seal is an attachment placed on a high school diploma. The seal indicates that a program of study was completed successfully. Most students only receive one seal. However, some students may also be eligible to graduate with a dual seal (*two seals*). Students who complete the requirements for either the CP or CP+ program as well as complete the requirements for either the TC or TC+ program will receive a dual seal on their high school diploma.

What is the advantage of receiving a dual seal?

Students who complete the requirements of both a college preparatory program and a technology/career-preparatory program may find that they have more opportunities after graduating from high school. They have received an education to adequately prepare them for college. They also have developed skills, knowledge, and experience that prepared them to find work.

What is the difference between a core course, a required course, and an elective course?

- **Core course:** a course chosen from English, math, science, social studies, and foreign language to satisfy graduation requirements
- **Required course:** a course that is mandatory
- **Elective course:** a course, beyond the core requirements, that fulfills units for graduation

What are the requirements to earn a diploma seal with distinction?

Students must meet additional requirements to earn this diploma. CP+ and TC+ programs of study require students to take an extra 2 units, totaling 24 units overall. In addition, the grade point average in core courses must be at least a 3.0 on a four-point scale.

Can American Sign Language be used to meet foreign language requirements?

Students in the CP and CP+ programs of study are required to take 2 units of foreign language. For students who do not have a hearing impairment, American Sign Language (ASL) will not satisfy the foreign language requirements. ASL may only be taken as one elective credit or as a third unit of foreign language credit beyond the 2 units required.

What happens if I don't pass the High School Graduation Tests?

Students who do not pass all the tests but have met all other graduation requirements may be eligible for a high school certificate or a special education diploma. Such students can return to retake the test(s) as often as they wish in order to qualify for a high school diploma.

Some local schools may have additional requirements for graduation. For specific local requirements, please contact your school counselor or graduation coach. The material contained in this pamphlet is current as of March 2009. For the most current information visit our web site:

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Graduating
From
High School
in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011

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Graduation
Requirements for
Students Entering
Ninth Grade in 2004,
2005, 2006 and 2007

Graduation Requirements for Students entering Ninth Grade in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007

Students are eager to graduate from high school and move on to the next part of their lives. In order to graduate, students in Georgia must:

- Select a program of study
- Successfully complete the required high school coursework
- Pass the Georgia High School Graduation Tests
- Satisfy attendance requirements

Programs of Study

Students may choose from the following four programs of study. Upon completion, the student receives a high school diploma with a seal that matches the program of study.

Type of Program of Study/Seal	Units
College Preparatory (CP)	22
College Preparatory with Distinction (CP+)	24
Technology/Career Preparatory (TCP)	22
Technology/Career Preparatory with Distinction (TCP+)	24
Dual	22

High School Graduation Tests

All students are required to pass the Georgia High School Graduation Tests in order to earn a high school diploma. The tests cover only a sample of the knowledge and skills that constitute a high school education. Students must pass all five of the following tests:

- English/Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Writing

Students begin taking the tests in their junior year. The Writing test is given in the fall and the other four content area tests are given in the spring. Students must pass all of the tests by the end of their senior year. Students have five opportunities to take each of the tests before the end of the twelfth grade.

COURSEWORK

The following chart lists how many units of credit are needed in each area in order to complete a program of study.

	Dual	CP	CP+	TCP	TCP+
English/Language Arts*	4	4	4	4	4
Mathematics*	4	4	4	3**	3**
Science*	3	3	3	3	3
Social Studies*	3	3	3	3	3
Health and Physical Education	1	1	1	1	1
Computer Technology and/or Fine Arts and/or Technology/Career-preparatory and/or Foreign Language	1	1	1	1	1
Foreign Language*	2	2	2	0	0**
Technology/Career-preparatory units*** (from core Technology/Career-preparatory courses)	4	0	0	4	4
Locally required or elective units	0	4	4	3**	4**
State Electives from Core Courses (courses with a single asterisk) and/or Fine Arts	0	0	2	0	1
TOTAL UNITS (MINIMUM)	22	22	24	22	24

* Core Courses

** Technology/Career-preparatory students may want to utilize an elective unit as Foreign Language or as a fourth unit of mathematics depending upon the student's program of study and the student's intentions to enter a University System of Georgia institution. The appropriate number of mathematics units for each Technology/Career-preparatory program of study shall be determined by the local board of education.

*** Technology/Career-preparatory includes Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)