

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Code **IKF-R** Issued **9/15**

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A student must earn 24 units of credit in state-approved courses for graduation.

The unit requirements are distributed as follows.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Credit units</b>
English language arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
U.S. History and Constitution	1
Economics	½
U.S. Government	½
Other social studies	1
PE or Junior ROTC	1
Computer science (including keyboarding)	1
Foreign language or Career and technology education	1
Electives	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

The student must pass a classroom examination on the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist papers, and American institutions and ideals. This instruction must be given for a period of at least one year or its equivalent, either within the required course U.S. History and Constitution or within another course.

The student must take the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration test as part of the U.S. government class, provided there is no cost to the school or district for administering the test. Students are not required to meet a minimum score.

The student must pass a high school credit course in science in which an end-of-course examination is administered.

The student must be enrolled for a minimum of one semester immediately preceding his/her graduation except in case of a bona fide change of residence. Units earned in a summer school program do not satisfy this requirement.

The student must earn the required number of prescribed units.

## **Awarding of High School Credit**

A school may also award and accept credit towards a high school diploma for the following:

- in units of one-fourth, one-half and a whole; for example, an academic-standards based course that requires a minimum of 120 hours of instruction (one unit), 60 hours of instruction (one-half unit) and 30 hours of instruction (one-fourth unit)

## PAGE 2 - IKF-R - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- a course that has been approved by the South Carolina Department of Education in a proficiency-based system
- those gateway courses that are a part of the end-of-course examination program only if the student takes the course approved by the school in which he/she is enrolled and meets all the stipulated requirements of the program
- courses in summer programs that meet all the regulatory requirements for courses offered for students in grades nine through 12
- a course that is approved by the district, whether the school offers the particular course or not, if the student receives prior approval
- a course that the student takes in an approved adult education program if the course is approved by the superintendent or his/her designee
- locally designed subject-area courses, elective courses, and CATE courses under conditions as outlined in state board regulation
- the PE credit if the PE course meets all statutory requirements including the personal fitness and wellness component and the lifetime fitness component
- the one-half unit of credit carried by the keyboarding course for half the required computer science unit
- the American Sign Language course as the required unit in a foreign language
- a college course that a student in grades nine through 12 takes under the district's dual credit arrangement

### Adult Education

For adult education students receiving a diploma, the unit requirements are distributed as follows:

Subject	Credit units
English language arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
U.S. History and Constitution	1
Economics	½
U.S. Government	½
Other social studies	1
Computer science (including keyboarding*)	1
Electives	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

*\*Keyboarding may count up to one-half of the computer science requirement.*

A student may transfer credit earned in the adult education program to a secondary school to count towards the units of credit required for a state high school diploma if, for each unit being transferred, the student has spent a minimum of 120 hours in class time in that subject at that level and the teacher was properly certified to teach the course.

# **PAGE 3 - IKF-R - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

## **High School Credit for College Work**

Students in grades nine through 12 and/or adult education programs can earn credits for college course work that can be applied to the required number of units for a state high school diploma.

The following conditions apply:

- Courses may be offered through distance learning and cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education. One quality point will be added to the CP weighting for dual credit courses that are applicable.
- Only courses applicable to baccalaureate degrees or to associate degrees offered by institutions accredited by the board of education of that state or the appropriate regional accrediting agency [the New England Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (AdvancED/SACS CASI), North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or Northwest Association of Colleges and Schools] qualify.
- Tuition costs and any other fees will be the responsibility of the student or his/her parent/legal guardian.

Issued 10/18/88; Revised 11/15/88, 8/13/91, 9/12/95, 10/14/97, 10/10/00, 4/12/05, 10/10/06, 11/13/07, 9/8/09, 9/10/13, 9/9/14, 9/8/15