

# **The Ohio Core**

## **Purpose of the Ohio Core**

The stated purposes of the Ohio Core are:

- To establish the Ohio Core as the standard expectation for all students graduating from high school;
- To prepare Ohioans to apply increased knowledge and skills to meet the demand of the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- To prepare high school graduates to succeed in their post-secondary endeavors including entry-level jobs, apprenticeships, military service and college;
- To create stronger coordination between high schools and institutions of higher education in order to prepare students to take a more challenging curriculum; and
- To reduce remediation at the college level.

**The requirements of the Core extend to students attending Ohio public and community schools. This outline and many other Core resources can be found online:**

- <http://www.education.ohio.gov>, Keyword search: Ohio Core

## **Ohio Core Graduation Requirements**

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2010, the requirements for graduation from every public and chartered nonpublic high school shall include twenty units that are designed to prepare students for college and the workforce. The units shall be distributed as follows:

- English language arts, four units;
- Health, one-half unit;
- Mathematics, four units, which shall include one unit of algebra II or its equivalent;
- Physical education, one-half unit;
- Science, three units with inquiry-based laboratory experience that engages students in asking valid scientific questions and gathering and analyzing information, which shall include the following, or their equivalent:
  - Physical sciences, one unit.
  - Biology, one unit.
  - Advanced study in one or more of the following sciences, one unit:
    - Chemistry, physics, or other physical science;
    - Advanced biology or other life science;
    - Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science.
- Social studies, three units, which shall include both of the following:
  - American history, one-half unit;
  - American government, one-half unit.
  - Each school shall integrate the content of economics and financial literacy, as expressed in the social studies academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE), in a social studies or other course so that all students receive this instruction.
- One sequence or any combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education, an approved Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies courses not otherwise required, for a total of five units<sup>1</sup>.
  - Other electives may then apply, as determined by the district's policies.

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<sup>1</sup> Prior law required only three units of mathematics and three units of science, permitting six electives. There were no foreign language requirements.



**More resources on the graduation requirements are available online:**

- <http://www.education.ohio.gov>, Keyword search: Graduation Requirements

### **Honors Diploma**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is prohibited from granting an Honors Diploma to any student not meeting the Core requirements. The SBOE has created rules for obtaining an Honors Diploma based upon exceeding the Core criteria. *All but one* of the following requirements must be fulfilled for an Honors Diploma:

- English language arts, four units;
- Health, one-half unit;
- Mathematics, four units, including one unit of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or its equivalent, and another higher level course or four-year sequence of courses that contain equivalent content;
- Physical education, one-half unit; (may be excused by local policy)
- Science, four units which shall include the following, or their equivalent:
  - Physical sciences, one unit.
  - Chemistry, one unit.
  - Advanced study in two or more of the following sciences, two units:
    - Chemistry, physics, or other physical science;
    - Advanced biology or other life science;
    - Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science.
- Social studies, four units, which shall include both of the following:
  - American history, one-half unit;
  - American government, one-half unit;
- Foreign language, three units, two of which are in the same language;
- Fine arts, one unit;
- GPA of 3.5, or above, on a 4.0 scale
- Score of 27 on the ACT or a score of 1210 on the SAT

For more information on the Honors Diploma, visit ODE's website:

- <http://www.education.ohio.gov>, Keyword search: Honors Diploma

### **Alternative Graduation Requirements**

The Core establishes alternative methods to earn a diploma without completing the Core curriculum through 2014. The requirements are as follows:

- The student must complete two years of high school and the student's parent must sign a statement consenting to the child's graduation without completing the CORE and acknowledging that the child may not be able to proceed directly to a four-year university.
- The student successfully completes, at a minimum, curriculum prescribed in current law.
- The student and parent, guardian, or custodian must fulfill any procedural requirements the school stipulates to ensure the student and parent, guardian, or custodian are informed of the informal consent process.
- The student, the parent and the high school must develop a career plan for the child.
- The student's high school must provide counseling and support for the student related to the plan.

**If you have any questions regarding the Ohio Core, please contact the high school guidance department at 947-8922.**