

GRADUATION POLICY



MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – 22 Credits

****May not meet pre-college curriculum**

English	I, II, III, IV	4 Credits	One English course must be taken each year while at Cooper High School unless enrolled in a district or dual credit program where sequencing is different.
Mathematics	Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II are required	4 Credits	At least one Math course must be taken each year while at Cooper High School. Senior Year Math requirement could include completion of a two year approved ATC program. Students are required to pass a math course each year while in high school.
Science	Life Science, Physical Science and Earth/Space Science	3 Credits	
Social Studies	Intro to Social Studies World Civilization & US History Required	3 Credits	
Arts & Humanities		1 Credit	
Health		½ Credit	
Physical Education		½ Credit	
CTE	FACS, Business, Agriculture, Technology	1 credit	One course taken in the areas outlined during their high school career. To ensure career readiness, students are strongly encouraged to complete a CTE pathway.
Electives **		5 Credits	**2 Credits in same Foreign Language is required for those students planning to go to a 4-year post-secondary institution.
TOTAL CREDITS		22 Credits	

Students must meet all specific course graduation requirements and a minimum number of credits to graduate. There is an opportunity to earn a significant number of high school credits throughout traditional high school as well as through ancillary programs. If a student attempts more than the 24 (6 periods x 4 years) credits offered during a typical Cooper High School day, students are required to earn 90% of credits they attempt. To determine the 90% of courses earned, the number of courses earned will be divided by the number of courses attempted. This will be rounded up to the closest whole number to the 100th place with .45 being the cut off to round up. For students taking the typical 24 credits, 22 credits will be required as minimum number of credits for graduation.

A student must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Complete 8 semesters of high school.
2. Earn 22 credits or the transfer equivalent as shown in the table below:

Transfer Students – number of credits needed to graduate

Coming from Block/Hybrid	Moving to 6 period
One year on this schedule	24 credits
Two years on this schedule	26 credits
Three years on this schedule	28 credits

Coming from 7 period Day	Moving to 6 period
One year on this schedule	23 credits
Two years on this schedule	24 credits
Three years on this schedule	25 credits

3. Fulfill Cooper High School graduation requirements.
4. Complete 20 hours of community service.
5. Successfully complete the Graduation Presentation.
6. Individual Learning Plan must be completed each year

A deceased student may be awarded a posthumous honorary diploma if the student completed credits and attended 6 semesters of high school.

Diploma Types

Kentucky Scholars DIPLOMA

English		4 Credits	One English course must be taken each year while at Cooper High School unless enrolled in a district or dual credit program where sequencing is different.
Mathematics	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and appropriate additional math credit are required.	4 Credits	At least one Math course must be taken each year while at Cooper High School.
Science	Biology, Chemistry and Physics are required	3 Credits	
Social Studies	Intro. To Social Studies or AP Human Geography; World Civ. or AP European History; US History or AP US History required	3 Credits	
Foreign Language	Same Language	2 Credits	
Arts & Humanities		1 Credit	
Health		½ Credit	
Physical Education		½ Credit	
CTE	FACS, Business, Agriculture, Technology	1 credit	One course taken in the areas outlined during their high school career. To ensure career readiness, students are strongly encouraged to complete a CTE pathway.
Electives		3 Credits	
TOTAL CREDITS		22 CREDITS	

Graduation with Honors – Beginning with the class of 2018

Any student with a weighted graded of 3.8 or higher will be considered as graduating with honors and will be recognized at the graduation ceremony. A “graduating senior” according to this policy shall be a student who has previously completed seven (7) high school semesters from an accredited high school and is currently completing the eighth (8th) high school semester at Cooper High School. Cooper High School will recognize seniors who have completed all the state, Board, and school requirements for graduation, have achieved a high level GPA and taken Advanced Placement or Dual Credit courses as outlined below by identifying individual students as graduating Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Summa Cum Laude. Requirements for each of Cooper High School’s recognition levels:

Recognition	Weighted GPA Requirement	Required Courses
Cum Laude	3.8	2 (combination AP & Dual Enrollment)
Magna Cum Laude	4.15	5 (combination AP & Dual Enrollment)
Summa Cum Laude	4.5	8 (combination AP & Dual Enrollment)

Graduation recognition is for diplomas earned and not by program acceptance/completion.

*Examples of Valid community service hours include services that benefit several people in an organized fashion. This includes but not limited to school sponsored activities, Equitherapy, Golden Oldies, Equine Retirement Resort, United Ministries, Brighton Center, River Sweep, Milestone, Special Olympics, Dinsmore Homestead, Welcome House, Cardinal Hill, YMCA, Florence Park Care Center, Civic Organization outreach, etc.

Community Services hours that are not organized activities and do not serve several people do not count towards graduation requirements, i.e. Mowing your neighbor’s lawn, babysitting, providing a service that is not organized in nature.

Senior Exemption for Non-EOC Final Exams:

- 1) Individual teachers may require a class to take the final exam and not allow the exemption. This decision must apply to all the teacher’s classes in which senior students are enrolled and cannot be used on a per class or individual basis.
- 2) Course Grade Requirement: Students in a year-long course must have attained a 90% average in the course at the time of the exam. In order to be exempted from a semester course in the second semester the student must have a 90% average at the time of the exam.

Exam exemptions will not be granted for semester courses in the first semester.

- 3) In order to be exempt from a Math, English, or Social Studies course the senior student must have met or exceeded the College and/or Career Readiness (CCR)

Benchmark in that area. Social Studies exemption will be based on attainment of CCR in Reading.

- 4) Attendance Requirements: In order to be exempt from any final exams a senior student may not have 6 or more unexcused attendance events *at the time of the exam*.

Additionally, any student exempted from an exam must be in attendance on the day of the exam. If the student is not present on the day of the exam they will receive an "Incomplete" grade and be required to take a make-up exam or receive a 0% exam grade.

Advance Placement (AP) Exemption for Final Exams:

- 1) Individual teachers may require a class to take the final exam and not grant exemptions. The decision to not grant the exam exemption must apply to all AP classes taught by that teacher.
- 2) Course Grade Requirement: Students must have attained an 87% average over the first three (3) quarters and have at least a 94% average for the fourth quarter at the time of exam.
- 3) Attendance Requirements: In order to be exempt from a final exam in an AP class a student may not have any unexcused absences at the time of the exam. Additionally, any student exempted from an exam must be in attendance on the day of the exam. If the student is not present on the day of the exam they will receive an "Incomplete" grade and be required to take a make-up exam or receive a 0% exam grade.

High School Grade Level Requirements (Credits Needed for Promotion)

All students are promoted on the basis of number of credits earned before the first day of school of the subsequent school year and the number of semesters completed. Grade level changes will not be made throughout the school year. To be promoted, a student must have completed the following number of semesters and earned credits:

Grade	Credits	Completed Semesters
10	5	2
11	11	4
12	16	6

POLICY EVALUATION

We will evaluate the effectiveness of this policy through our School Improvement Planning process.

Date Adopted: 7/2008

Date Reviewed or Revised: 07/06/2010 Council Chairperson's Initials _____

Date Reviewed or Revised: 11/9/2010 Council Chairperson's Initials _____

Date Reviewed or Revised: 5/10/11 Council Chairperson's Initials _____

Date Reviewed or Revised: 1/15/14 Council Chairperson's Initials _____

Date Reviewed or Revised: 4/20/2015_ Council Chairperson's Initials _____

Date Reviewed or Revised: 6/15/16 Council Chairperson's Initials _____

Date Reviewed or Revised: 9/12/16 Council Chairperson's Initials _____

Date Reviewed or Revised: 4/26/17 Council Chairperson's Initials DWN