

High School Graduation Requirements

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) students earn a high school diploma based upon successful fulfillment of four requirements: Enrollment, Course Credit, High School Assessments, and Student Service Learning.

1. Enrollment – Student must satisfactorily complete four years of school beyond Grade 8. With the approval of the principal, early college admission.

2. Course Credit – A student must earn 26 credits to graduate. Each semester course is worth one half (.5) credit. Please note: students who have six or more unexcused absences in a course could lose credit.

Subject	Credits	Subject	Credits
English	4	Science	3
		<i>1 credit Biology, 2 credits including a laboratory experience in any or all of the following (Earth Space Science, Life Science, Physics)</i>	
Fine Arts	1	Social Studies	3
<i>Art, Dance, Music, or Drama.Theater</i>		<i>United States Government, World History, US History</i>	
Health Education	.5	Basic Technology	1
Mathematics	4	Elective Courses*	8.5
<i>Algebra, Geometry, and 2 mathematic elective credits.</i>			
Physical Education	1		
<i>.5 credit in Fitness for Life, .5 credit in a Physical Education Elective</i>			

*The “Elective Courses” requirement may be filled by one of the three options:
 2 credits in foreign language and 6.5 credits in general electives 2 credits in advanced technology and 6.5 credits in general electives. 4 credits in a state approved career and technology program and 4.5 in general elective.

3. High School Assessments (HSAs) – Students must pass the Maryland High School Assessments for English 10, Algebra 1, and Biology. Students in US Government in 2012-2013 school year will take the HSA in May but it will not count this year toward graduation. For more information on the new HSA requirements, please review the information on www.mdk12.org.

4. Student Service Learning (SSL) – Student must complete approved Student Service Learning activities. Visit www.aacps.org for more information, or see your school’s Student Service Learning coordinator for more information.

For more information on graduation requirements or alternative certificates, please talk to you school counselor. Additional information is available at www.aacps.org.

Maryland High School Assessments

Frequently Asked Questions

A Requirement for High School Graduation

What are the four Maryland High School Assessments?

The High School Assessments (HSAs) are four state tests that student in the graduating class of 2009 (entered Grade 9 2005) must pass in order to graduate. The four subject areas are

- ◆ Algebra 1
- ◆ Biology
- ◆ English 10
- ◆ *US Government-Will be taken 2012-2013, class of 2014 will need to pass it to graduate

When do Students take the HSA?

Students take each test as they complete the course. For example, the HSA for English 10 will be taken in 10th grade. Some students take Algebra 1 in middle school. In that case, they will take the HSA in middle school when they complete the course.

Can students take the test again if they do not pass the first time?

Yes. Students should speak to their school counselor about receiving extra help. Once students have received this help, they can retake test, the tests are given three times a year – October, January, and May. Since it takes approximately three months for students to get the results, students should make sure they have passed all tests before Grade 12.

What scores are needed to pass the HSA?

The passing scores are

	Passing Score
Algebra 1	412
Biology	400
English 10	396
US Government	394*
*Class of 2014	