

Current Courses Meeting the Criteria for Graduation Requirements 2026-2027

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) requires a minimum of 24 units of credit earned, through course completion (R277-700) or through competency assessment (R277-705), to graduate with a diploma from a Utah public high school.

The USBE sets the *minimum* requirements, however, each Local Educational Agency (LEA) is able to set higher graduation requirements as long as the state minimum requirements are met.

This document outlines the criteria for the various content area credits and additional requirements needed to earn a high school diploma in the State of Utah.

The Alternate Diploma for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities must also meet the 24-credit minimum. Please contact the Special Education Department at the USBE for additional details.

In content areas that have applied, advanced, or alternate courses, teachers meeting state license and endorsement requirements for those courses are qualified to teach for approved subject area credit.

The subject areas outlined in this document are:

- 4 credits of Language Arts
- 3 credits of Mathematics
- 3 credits of Science
- 3.0 credits of Social Studies: **3.5 credits beginning with the grade 10 cohort in SY 2026-27**
- 1.5 credits of The Arts
- 0.5 credits of Health Education
- 1.5 credits of Physical Education
- 1.0 credit of Career and Technical Education
- 0.5 credit of Digital Studies
- 0.5 credit of General Financial Literacy
- 5.5 credits of Electives: **5.0 credits beginning with the grade 10 cohort in SY 2026-27**

Additional guidance for each subject area can be found in board rule R277-700-6.

Language Arts - 4.0 Credits

Three courses from the foundational courses plus one course from the Level 12 course options or the Applied and Advanced List

Foundational Courses

Language Arts Level 9 (1.0 Credit)

- ELA 9

Language Arts Level 10 (1.0 Credit)

- ELA 10
- AP Seminar

Language Arts Level 11 (1.0 Credit)

- English 11
- English 11 Honors
- International Baccalaureate
- AP Literature & Composition
- AP Language & Composition

Students who took ENGL 1010* to fulfill their level 11 ELA requirement before the 2026-2027 school year or who are participating in an approved ENGL 1010 pilot, may apply that credit to the level 11 ELA requirement.

Language Arts Level 12 (1.0 Credit)

- English 12
- English Concurrent Enrollment*
- International Baccalaureate
- AP Literature & Composition
- AP Language & Composition

Applied and Advanced Courses+

- ❖ AP World Languages
- ❖ Business Communication
- ❖ Creative Writing 1 & 2
- ❖ Debate 2 & 3
- ❖ Humanities
- ❖ Journalism 1 & 2
- ❖ Literary Magazine
- ❖ Literature
- ❖ Mythology
- ❖ Professional & Technical Communication
- ❖ Speech 2
- ❖ *World Languages 3 & 4 will no longer be eligible to fulfill the 4th Language Arts Credit beginning in SY 2027-2028. Students who have taken the course prior to that school year may apply that credit to their 4th ELA requirement.*

+ For Applied and Advanced courses, use the [Supplemental Standards](#) in addition to the [core ELA 11/12th grade Utah Standards](#). Literature courses are the sole exception, relying on the core literature strand in the ELA standards.

Note: A school sponsored verbal communication credit up to 0.5 for use towards the Language Arts graduation requirements is available. For more information, reference the Verbal Communication Guidance Document on the USBE Graduation webpage.

*Concurrent enrollment courses offered from a USHE college/university language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies departments.

NOTE: In content areas that have applied, advanced, or alternate courses, teachers meeting state license and endorsement requirements for those courses are qualified to teach for approved subject area credit.

For more information about course CACTUS numbers, please contact Cathy Gray at cathy.gray@schools.utah.gov.

Mathematics – 3.0 Credits

Foundational Courses

Secondary I or Secondary IE

Secondary II or Secondary IIE

Secondary III or Secondary IIIE

Secondary III can be replaced by an Applied Course with a written parent request acknowledging that opting their student out of Secondary Math III leaves them unprepared for college mathematics.

Advanced Courses (Secondary III Pre-requisite)

AP Calculus AB or BC

AP Statistics

AP Pre-Calculus

College Prep Math

Concurrent Enrollment* 1010, 1030, 1040, 1050, or 1060

International Baccalaureate

Introductory Calculus

Applied Courses (Secondary II Prerequisite)

Alternative Selections for Secondary III must total 1.0 credit

Accounting I (0.5)

Accounting II (0.5)

Computer Programming 1 (0.5) *If not used for Digital Studies or CTE credit*

Computer Programming 2 (0.5)

Introductory Statistics **or** Intro to Data Science (1.0)

Mathematical Decision Making for Life (non-CE course) (1.0)

Mathematics of Personal Finance (Does not count for General Financial Literacy) (1.0)

Medical Math (0.5)

Modern Mathematics (1.0)

Small Business Math (0.5)

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Science – 3.0 Credits

A total of two courses from two of the five areas of science on the Foundational Courses list plus one credit from the Foundation Courses list or Applied and Advanced Courses list.

Foundational Courses

Biology

- Biology
- Biology: Agricultural Science⁺
- AP or IB Biology
- Biology with Lab CE SEEd^{*}

Chemistry

- Chemistry
- AP or IB Chemistry
- Chemistry with Lab CE SEEd^{*}

Computer Science

- AP Computer Science⁺
- Computer Science Principles^{***}
- Computer Science Advanced^{***}

Earth Science

- Earth and Space Science
- AP Environmental Science
- IB Environmental Systems

Physics

- Physics
- AP or IB Physics
- Physics with Lab CE SEEd

Applied or Advanced Courses

Agricultural Biotechnology⁺

Agricultural Science⁺ I, II, III, IV Aquaculture⁺

Animal Science⁺ I or II

Astronomy^{**}

Biotechnology⁺

Biology Elective CE No SEEd^{*}

Botany

Chemistry Elective CE No SEEd^{*}

Electronics⁺ 1,2,3

Engineering Principles⁺ 1, 2

Engineering Capstone⁺

Environmental Science^{**}

Equine Science⁺

Genetics^{**}

Geology^{**}

Human Anatomy^{**}

Marine Science

Materials Science⁺

Medical Anatomy and Physiology^{***}

Medical Forensics⁺

Meteorology^{**}

Natural Resource Science⁺ I, II

Physics Elective CE No SEEd^{*}

Plant and Soil Science⁺ I^{**}, II

Robotics⁺ 1, 2

Veterinary Assistant⁺ 1, 2

Wildlife Biology

Zoology

⁺ CTE Courses ^{**} Includes CE and/or AP Courses

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Social Studies – 3.0 Credits applies to 11th & 12th graders of 2026-2027

(3.5 credits required for 9th & 10th grade cohorts of 2026-2027 and all cohorts afterward)

2.5 from the foundational required course list (or their equivalent) and .5 elective from any course from the Applied/Advanced social studies area, which could include an additional half credit added to any of the required half-credit courses.

Foundational Courses

World History (.5 min required)

- World Civilization
- World History
- AP European history
- AP World History
- HIST 1100 & 1110 CE* (if both taken)

World Geography (.5 min required)

- Geography for Life
- World Geography
- AP Human Geography
- World/Cultural Geography CE*

U.S. History 2 (1.0 min required)

- U.S. History 2
- AP US History
- HIST 1700 CE* (if offered in a full year)
- HIST 2700 & 2710 CE* (if both taken)

U.S. Government and Citizenship (.5 min required)**

****Applies only to 11th & 12th grade cohorts of 2026-27. 9th & 10th graders see box below.**

- U. S. Government and Citizenship
- AP US Government & Politics
- Political Science 1100 CE*

American Constitutional Government & Citizenship* (1.0 min required)**

Applies to 9th & 10th grade cohorts of 2026-27 and all subsequent student cohorts afterward

*****The American Constitutional Government and Citizenship course will be available in the 2027-28 school year. 9th & 10th grade cohorts of 2026-27 may not use U.S. Gov. & Citizenship to fulfill this requirement.**

Applied or Advanced Courses (not a comprehensive list)

Advanced Geography

Advanced Psychology

American Government and Law

Anthropology

AP Economics-Macro

AP Economics-Micro

AP Psychology

Civics

Criminal Justice

Current Issues

Economics

Economics Elective CE*

Geography II

Introduction to Philosophy

Introduction to Philosophy CE*

Native American Studies

Navajo Culture, Language, and Government

Political Science

Political Science Elective CE*

Psychology

Psychology CE*

Sociology

Sociology CE*

Student Government

World Civilizations II

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The Arts 1.5 credits

Information regarding HB 312 (2026) will be made available as soon as possible. This area will be updated at that time. Please contact the USBE with any question you have in the meantime.

Health Education 0.5 credits

Health II

Physical Education 1.5 credits

The 1.5 credit must be from each of the following areas:

.5-Participation, Skills, and Techniques

.5-Fitness for Life

.5-Individual Lifetime Activities+

+Supplemental Standards exist for Individual Lifetime Activities and may be met through athletic participation. Contact the school counselor for details.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) 1.0 credit

Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides all students with access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused programs that result in attainment of credentials with labor market value. A total of 1.0 credit required.

Digital Studies 0.5 credit

The Digital Studies credit requirement is intended to advance students from being computer users to being computationally literate creators. To achieve this, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may choose for their students to take one of the six approved courses.

The Digital Studies credit includes competencies associated with the field/discipline of computing, aligned to current trends in technology, providing problem solving, reasoning, communication, and computational thinking.

The six approved courses that count towards the Digital Studies 0.5 required graduation credit are:

Business Office Specialist

Computer Programming 1

Computer Science Principles

Digital Business Apps

Exploring Computer Science

Web Development 1

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General Financial Literacy 0.5 credit

The 0.5 credit for General Financial Literacy can be met through the following courses:
General Financial Literacy or Finance CE.+

+No other courses may be used to fulfill this graduation requirement.

Electives 5.5 credits* applies to 11th & 12th grade cohorts of 2026-27

***(5.0 required for 9th & 10th grade cohorts of 2026-27 and all subsequent cohorts)**

- A course used to fulfill elective credit does not necessarily have to only contain elective credit. Any course that provides state level credit can be counted toward the 5.0* required elective credits once the requirements for the content area of the course has been fulfilled.
- A student may take a recurring course more than once per [R277-717-2\(8\)](#) in order to further the student's understanding and skills in the course subject, such as journalism or band; or satisfy a different credit requirement that the course may fulfill, such as an art class that fulfills an elective requirement and an art requirement.

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