

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

I. Introduction

To graduate from Nonnewaug High School, a student must earn a minimum number of credits, fulfill credit distribution requirements, meet learner expectations, and demonstrate mastery in literacy, numeracy and science.

II. Credits Earned and Credit Distribution Requirement

A full-year course is equal to one credit; a half-year course is equal to one-half credit. In order to graduate from Nonnewaug High School a student must complete the minimum number of credits as specified below:

	Class of 2015	Beginning w/ Class of 2016
English	4	4
Math	3	4
Science	2	3
Social Studies	3	3
Physical Education	1	1
Health	.5	.5
Technology	.5	.5
Fine Arts /Vocational	1	1
Open Electives	6 Credits (any courses beyond required credits listed above)	6 Credits (any courses beyond required credits listed above)
Total	21 Credits	23 Credits

III. Demonstration of Mastery

Region 14 recognizes that a high school diploma should be an indication of a level of skill and achievement for its students. Students need to satisfy the following criteria in order to ensure that students are college and career ready:

Learner Expectations

Nonnewaug High School has developed seven 21st Century Learning Expectations to ensure that our students graduate college and career ready. Specific departments have assumed responsibility for measuring the achievement of each Learning Expectation.

Students must demonstrate mastery of each of the NHS Learner Expectations through assessments embedded into our educational program.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

NHS Academic Learner Expectations - Graduates of Nonnewaug High School will demonstrate that they are:

1. Critical thinkers readers, listeners and viewers;
2. logical and creative problem-solvers;
3. independent, technologically-adept learners; and,
4. effective communicators.

NHS Social/Civic Learner Expectations - Graduates of Nonnewaug High School will demonstrate that they are:

5. Self-directed, productive, accountable individuals;
6. collaborative, adaptable team members who respect diversity and successfully work with others to reach a common goal; and,
7. conscientious, responsible adults who contribute to the welfare and improvement of the local or global community.

Demonstration of Academic Competency

Students may demonstrate mastery of literacy, numeracy and science content through performance on one or more mastery examinations for each designated content area beginning in Grade 10.

Numeracy: (students must achieve one or more of the following)

- Level 3 or above on the Smarter Balanced Math Achievement Level
- Score of 440 or above on Math SAT
- Score of 38 or above on Math PSAT
- Score of 236 or above on Measures of Academic Progress Assessment (NWEA)
- A score of 70% or higher on a cumulative departmental assessment that addresses key concepts in all four mathematical strands (Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Real and Complex Number Systems, Geometry, and Probability and Statistics).
- Successful completion of the Connecticut Alternate Assessment for students for whom this assessment is designated by a Planning and Placement Team (PPT).

Literacy: (students must achieve one or more of the following)

- Level 3 or above on the Smarter Balanced Language Arts Achievement Level
- Score of 445 or above on Critical Reading SAT
- Score of 45 or above on Reading PSAT
- Score of 223 or above on Measures of Academic Progress Assessment (NWEA) for Reading
- A 3 or “meets standard” rating on a four point rubric developed for a departmental assessment or performance task that addresses key concepts in Reading, writing and Language aligned with the CT Core Standards Anchor Standards
- Successful completion of the Connecticut Alternate Assessment for students for whom this assessment is designated by a Planning and Placement Team (PPT).

Science: (students must achieve one or more of the following)

- Level 3 (Proficient) or above on the CAPT Science Assessment

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

- Score a 70% or higher on a department designed exam on principals of both life and physical sciences
- Successful completion of the Connecticut Alternate Assessment for students for whom this assessment is designated by a Planning and Placement Team (PPT).

Any students who do not meet all graduation requirements will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. A diploma will be held until all requirements are completed.

OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT MEET GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Seniors who are not eligible for graduation with their class due to a failure to meet the district graduation requirements, as per policy, in one or more subjects as described above, may select one of the following options:

- Attend summer school to raise a grade to meet coursework requirements.
- Return in a fifth year to a pre-arranged program to be determined by the appropriate department and the School Counseling Department.

EXEMPTIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND ACCOMMODATIONS

1. If a physician certifies in writing that the physical education requirement is medically contraindicated because of the physical condition of the student, this requirement may be fulfilled by an elective.
2. Exemptions, modifications and accommodations of graduation requirements will be made for any student with a disability as determined by the planning and placement team or 504 team.
3. Only credits for courses taken in grades nine through twelve shall satisfy graduation requirements with the exception of credit(s) being granted for Algebra I and/or World Language courses taken and successfully completed at the middle school level. Grades will be entered as Pass (P) on the student's transcript. The Superintendent of Schools or designee may grant credit for certain courses identified in subsection (e) of Section 10-221a of the Connecticut General Statutes.
4. The Board may permit a student to graduate during a period of expulsion pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-233d if the Board determines that the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits for graduation.
5. In accordance with state law, the Board of Education may award a high school diploma to veterans of World War II, the Korean hostilities or the Vietnam Era who left high school to serve in the armed forces and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service or any other person who withdrew from high school prior to graduation to work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II.
6. **TRANSFERS**
If a student transfers into Nonnewaug High School after completing at least three years in a high school in another district, he/she may be exempted from Nonnewaug's performance standards requirement.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

7. OPTIONS

Seniors who are not eligible for graduation with their class due to a failure to meet the district graduation requirements, as per policy, in one or more subjects as described above, may select one of the following options:

- Make arrangements for retesting to meet the performance standard.
- Attend summer school to raise a grade to a 65% to meet coursework requirements.
- Return in a fifth year to a pre-arranged program to be determined by the appropriate department and the School Counseling Department.

Legal reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-14n State-wide mastery examination

10-18 Courses in United States history, government and duties and responsibilities of citizenship

10-19 Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and acquired immune deficiency syndrome

10-221a High school graduation requirements

10-223a Promotion and graduation policies. Basic skills necessary for graduation, assessment process