

Watertown School District 14-4

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/EARLY GRADUATION

The District desires that its standards for graduation meet the minimum standards of South Dakota Department of Education as well as those of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The following courses will be required for graduation at Watertown High School.
(The grid continues to be expanded on the updates.)

The Watertown School District recognizes that, under Administrative Rules of South Dakota, all students in grades 9 through 12 must have a Personal Learning Plan. The Watertown School District requires 24 credits to graduate from Watertown High School.

	2003	2004	2005-09	2010	2014	2015-20	2021 Class of 2024- Class of 2028	Class of 2029 and future classes
English/Language Arts	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Mathematics	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Science	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Speech	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Social Studies	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.5
Computer Science	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5		
Fine Arts	.5	.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Economics or Personal Finance				.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Physical Education w/Health		.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Health/Health Integration							.5 unless earned in	.5 unless earned in

							grades 7-8	grades 7-8
~~SD Other requirements~~					1.0	1.0	1.0	
Career & Technical Education, World Language, or Capstone							1.0	1.0
~~—World Lang. or~~								
Capstone/Senior Experience								
Electives	9.0	8.5	8.0	7.5	6.5	7.0	7.5	7.0
~~Health (grades 6-8)~~								
Total	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0

Students who ~~are unable to~~ **do not** meet the graduation requirements will not be permitted to participate in graduation exercises.

Early Graduation

Students at Watertown High School are encouraged to remain in school for the full four academic years. The Watertown School Board acknowledges a multitude of online, dual credit, and AP courses available to students for their academic endeavors to **fulfill** ~~complete~~ four full years of high school. However, students ~~who choose to~~ **considering** early graduation ~~would~~ need to meet the following criteria.

- A. **Student must** complete an audit of course requirements with ~~Student Services~~ **their school counselor** to determine if **all required course** ~~enough~~ credits ~~exist~~ **have been completed**, or can be completed to graduate early.
- B. **Student must present a written request to the building principal, justifying the reasons for early graduation, as well as a completed teacher feedback form from a current WHS teacher. Both must be submitted by May 1st, prior to the intended graduation date.**
- C. **The building principal will arrange a conference with the principal, parents/guardian and student, and the early graduation request will be decided upon by the building's principal before the start of the requested graduation year. prior to the end of the first grading period of the year of the early graduation request.**
- ~~D. Complete all course requirements for Watertown High School.~~

Early graduates may not attend or participate in school events as Watertown High School students after they have early graduated and their grades have been transcribed. However, if the student chooses to walk in the graduation ceremony,

they may do so provided they allow the principal's office to hold their diploma and attend the practice session prior to the graduation ceremony.

Legal Refs: ARSD 24:03:06:06:01

Policy

Adopted: 4/13/98

Revised: 2/8/99; 3/13/00; 1/8/01; 8/12/02; 1/10/05; 1/9/06; 1/8/07; 1/10/11; 3/10/14;
12/12/16; 1/25