

Orange Unified School District High School Graduation Requirements

A high school diploma shall be awarded to all students who satisfactorily meet the prescribed requirement for graduation. Individual educational plans may provide alternative ways to demonstrate proficiencies for special education students. The requirements are:

I. GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

- A. Satisfactory completion of 230 semester periods of credit in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 (Generally 5 semester periods of credit are earned for each semester course passed.)

Classification: Class standing is determined by noting the number of semester credits completed, grades 9-12.

- A student becomes a Sophomore when he/she has attained 60 semester credits;
- A student becomes a Junior when he/she has attained 120 semester credits;
- A student becomes a Senior when he/she has completed 170 semester credits.

- B. Successfully pass California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

II. SPECIFIC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

A. LANGUAGE ARTS (Grades 9-12) 40

All students will pass the California High School Exit Exam before graduation. Individual Education plans may provide alternative ways to demonstrate proficiencies for Special Education students.

Grade 9 English 9	10
Grade 10 English 10	10
Grade 11 English 11	10
Grade 12 English 12	10

B. SOCIAL SCIENCE (Grades 9-12) 30

Grade 10 World History	10
Grade 11 United States History	10
Grade 12 American Government	5
Economics	5

C. MATHEMATICS (Grades 9-12) 20

- Algebra I – Every student must pass Algebra I in order to earn a high school diploma.
- CAHSEE – Every student must pass the mathematics portion of the California High School Exit Exam.

D. SCIENCE (Grades 9-12)	20
Two years of science to include one year of Life Science and one year of a Physical Science are required.	
A maximum of ten units of credit may be from the following courses to meet the Life Science requirement for graduation: ROP Animal Care I, ROP Hospital Occupations Core, ROP Nurse Assistant Acute Care, ROP Certified Nurse Assistant/Home Health Aide.	
E. HEALTH (Grade 9)	5
F. PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Grades 9-12)	20
G. FINE ARTS/FOREIGN LANGUAGE	10
H. FRESHMAN SEMINAR (Grades 9-11)	5
I. ELECTIVES (Balance to Complete)	80

III. SPECIFIC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

A. OUTSIDE SEMESTER CREDITS (Grades 9-12)	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community College, Adult Education, or Private Study Credits allowable toward meeting graduation requirements. • Petition for outside credits must be approved in advance by the school of residence. • A maximum of 10 units allowed in grades 9-12 for private study. 	
B. DISTRICT SUMMER SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)	40
C. WORK EXPERIENCE (Grades 11-12)	20
D. OFFICE SERVICE/TEACHER ASSISTANT	10
Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 credits allowable toward meeting graduation requirements.	
E. SPECIAL STUDIES (Grades 9-12)	10
A maximum of 10 credits allowable toward meeting graduation requirements.	
F. TRANSFER CREDIT FROM CONTINUATION SCHOOL PER SEMESTER	55

IV. HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM

As required by California State law and the Orange Unified Board of Education policy, students must demonstrate proficiency by passing the California High School Exit Exam before being granted a high school diploma. The high school exit exam will be offered several times during the high school experience for those students who failed the exam. Seniors who have not passed the CAHSEE by the end of their senior year, will have the opportunity to take the exam during the following summer and twice each year for two years after their original graduation date.