

## West Virginia

### High School Graduation Requirements for Current Seniors

#### Course & Diploma Requirements

Subjects	Personalized Education Plan	Common Course Requirements
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ English 9, English 10, English 11</li> <li>➤ English 12 or Transition English Language Arts for Seniors</li> </ul>
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Math I, Math II, Math III</li> <li>➤ Math IV or Transition Mathematics for Seniors</li> </ul>
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Physical Science</li> <li>➤ Biology</li> <li>➤ An additional lab science course</li> </ul>
Social Studies	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ World Studies</li> <li>➤ American Studies</li> <li>➤ Contemporary Studies</li> <li>➤ Civics for the Next Generation</li> </ul>
Physical Education	1	
Health	1	
Fine Arts	1	
Electives	2	
Concentration	4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 Credits</b>	

#### **Personalized Education Plan**

Each student's **Personalized Education Plan** (PEP) will include a four-credit concentration that, if completed, will lead to (1) placement in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses; (2) attainment of an industry-recognized certificate or license; or, (3) enrollment in a workforce training program.

Students may pursue an academic or career and technical education (CTE) concentration. For the academic concentration, the state encourages students to take at least one Advanced Placement (AP®) and/or Advanced Career (AC) course with corresponding examination, a fourth science credit, and two credits in one World Language.

The CTE concentration results in the acquisition of an industry-recognized, CTE credential. The four credits taken in a CTE concentration must be consistent with those identified for West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) approved CTE programs of study. Each career -technical concentration in a school shall provide students the opportunity to obtain an industry-recognized credential as part of the instructional program, when applicable. Schools offering a concentration outside of the state-approved CTE concentrations must have four related courses approved by their local boards of education.

#### **Assessment Requirements**

In previous school years, the state required districts to administer all subtests of the comprehensive West Virginia Educational Standards Test 2 (WESTEST 2) and WESTEST 2 Online Writing exams. Passing WESTEST 2 and WESTEST 2 Online Writing was not required to graduate from high school.

West Virginia has adopted the college and career readiness assessment developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. WVDE plans to administer the Common Core-aligned assessment for the first time statewide as part of the WV General Summative Assessment in spring 2015.

### **College and Career Readiness**

West Virginia administers the EXPLORE to eighth grade students and PLAN to tenth grade students (both ACT products) annually. These assessments provide students with an accurate measure of whether they are on track to graduate high school ready for college and careers.

The state measures high school students' readiness for college and careers through the COMPASS® Mathematics and Writing Skills tests. All schools annually administer the COMPASS® to high school juniors. Students who do not achieve the college readiness benchmark for mathematics and/or English Language Arts are then able to take the Transition for English Language Arts and/or Mathematics for Senior's course(s). A post-assessment is given upon completion of the appropriate transition course(s). Colleges and universities will use the COMPASS results when enrolling students in appropriate college math and English courses.

### **College and Career Planning**

Schools should provide structured opportunities for students to explore and plan for careers. The school will engage student advisors to use these activities to develop the personalized education plan. Advisors will assist students and their parents in utilizing their various interests, learning styles, career and academic assessments to guide educational planning and career choices.

### **School Counseling and Student Advisement**

A standards-focused, integrated, and comprehensive **school counseling program** will help high school students acquire the skills to prepare for high school and postsecondary success. School counselors will work collaboratively with other school staff to assist students with academic and postsecondary planning that leads to seamless transitions to the identified postsecondary options.

High schools will implement **student advisement systems** that provide students with meaningful, supportive relationships and maximizes each student's personalized learning experience. An adult advocate, advisor, or mentor will take an interest in each student's successful learning, goal setting, career planning and personal growth. Schools should implement an evidence-based advisory system that integrates school success and career readiness skills (e.g., work ethic, communication skills, teamwork, personal responsibility, organization, financial literacy, and study skills).

### **Postsecondary Access and Completion Initiatives**

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and the Council for Community and Technical College Education strive to facilitate and create a statewide culture that values education and actively cultivates the academic achievement of all citizens, regardless of age or income. The Division of Student Affairs coordinates several college access and completion initiatives, including:

**College Foundation of West Virginia (CFWV)** is a college readiness outreach initiative aimed at helping students plan, apply, and pay for college. The one-stop, college planning website is CFWV.com. The division also has launched a pilot project, funded by the Kresge Foundation, to provide students with college counseling and college-planning reminders via text message. Other CFWV outreach activities include training educators and community outreach professionals to provide in-depth college counseling, coordinating West Virginia's statewide "College Application and Exploration Week" event, and engaging the community in promoting a stronger college-going culture across the state. Additionally, the division supports the work of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission's Division of Financial Aid in informing students of the availability of financial aid and assists in the efforts of the Commission to help adult students complete college degrees. The West Virginia Department of Education, the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, and various other educational organizations are partners in these efforts.

**West Virginia GEAR UP** is a federally funded, six-year grant program aimed at increasing college-going rates among students in ten high-need counties. West Virginia GEAR UP provides academic preparation and college readiness services to approximately 5,500 students each year.

The **College Access Challenge Grant** is a federally funded, five-year grant program aimed at increasing the educational attainment rates of all citizens, particularly those from high-need areas. The College Access Challenge Grant program supports the development and maintenance of the state's college-readiness web portal, CFWV.com, and provides resources to support CFWV outreach.

**College Goal Sunday** is a one-day financial aid event designed to offer students and families the opportunity to receive free help in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**College Transition Courses** help high school students in career-technical programs to transition to community and technical college programs. Students enrolled in college transition courses are simultaneously enrolled as early entrance students in community colleges.

### **Accelerated Learning Options**

#### **Dual Credit Courses**

High school juniors and seniors may take college-level courses on college campuses and at high schools. Students must meet the institution's admission requirements and course prerequisites and receive approval from a high school administrator. The college offering dual credit courses must address all of the equivalent high school course requirements in addition to the college requirements for a student to be awarded dual credit. High school students bear the cost of taking college-level courses, but institutions can create special tuition and fee structures for joint enrollees.

#### **Advanced Placement**

West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) and West Virginia Community and Technical College System (WVCTCS) Rules §135-15-1 require a common process for awarding college credit for Advanced Placement (AP) tests. Students receive general education or elective credit for each exam score of 3 or higher. System institutions may choose to require higher proficiency if the exams relate to a course requirement within a student's academic major.

#### **Early College Admission**

The West Virginia EDGE (**Earn a Degree, Graduate Early**) program is an early enrollment option specifically designed to enable high school students and adult learners to earn college credit in career/technical courses toward the completion of a technical associate's degree.

#### **Career and Technical Education**

West Virginia has adopted the National Career Clusters Model. The state provides CTE courses in 16 career clusters. Students may take an Advanced Career (AC) course in place of a course as listed in the applicable program of study.

### Postsecondary Admissions and Placement

#### University Admissions

Admissions criteria vary based on the institution's Carnegie classification.

	<b>Baccalaureate Institutions: Option 1</b>	<b>Baccalaureate Institutions: Option 2</b>	<b>Research Universities: Option 1</b>	<b>Research Universities: Option 2</b>
<b>GPA Requirements</b>	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
<b>ACT Composite</b>	18	N/A	19	N/A

Institutions may make exceptions to the GPA and ACT/SAT standards for up to 10 percent of the incoming freshman class. Further, institutions may set higher standards than these minimums. Institutions may admit students who do not meet minimum requirements on a conditional basis. If conditional enrollees do not meet freshman placement standards, they must complete developmental education courses prior to enrolling in college-level courses, or if available, enroll in co-requisite gateway courses.

In addition to GPA and ACT/SAT score requirements, students must successfully complete the following minimum core courses.

<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Professional Pathway</b>	<b>Course Requirements</b>
English	4	
Mathematics	4	Algebra I and at least two higher-level courses
Science	3	Lab-based units only
Social Studies	3	U.S. history
Arts	1	
Foreign Language	2	Two consecutive units in same language
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	

#### Community and Technical College System

Students must have high school diplomas or high school equivalency credentials. Those without diplomas must pass a test designed to determine whether they are able to benefit from instruction.

#### Statewide Placement Requirements

Students must meet subject-area thresholds on at least one of the following assessments in order to enroll in college-level courses within each subject area. Students whose scores are not satisfactory must complete remedial courses before enrolling in college-level courses, or if available, enroll in co-requisite gateway courses.

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>
ACT	19	17	18
SAT	460	420	450
ASSET	40 (Numerical)/38 (Elem. Algebra)	36	38
COMPASS	59 (Pre-Algebra)/36 (Algebra)	75	71
ACCUPLACER	85 (Arithmetic)/84 (Elem. Algebra)	79	88
Nelson-Denney	—	30th percentile	—

## *SREB High School to College and Careers*

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### **Feedback Reports**

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Council of Community and Technical Colleges produce an annual report on college-going rates of recent high school graduates, by county and school. These reports do not contain data on the placement status and college success of high school graduates; however, the state's High School Readiness Report discusses college developmental education, placement, GPA, and retention.

### **State Financial Aid**

West Virginia awards financial aid based on **academic merit, financial need, and intended career.**

The primary financial aid program is the merit-based **Providing Real Opportunities for Maximizing In-State Student Excellence** (PROMISE) Scholarship. The program offers awards for tuition and fees of up to \$4,750 toward attending an in-state public or private college.

To be eligible, West Virginia high school graduates must meet two requirements: (1) a 3.0 GPA in PROMISE core and overall high school course work; and (2) an ACT composite score of at least 22, with minimum scores of 20 in each subject (or equivalent SAT scores). The PROMISE core is aligned with university admission requirements.

To renew the award, full-time enrollees must earn a 2.75 GPA in the first year and a cumulative 3.0 GPA thereafter. Further, students must earn a minimum of 30 credit-hours per year.

The **West Virginia Higher Education Grant** (HEGP) is a need-based financial aid program. Awards vary based on the extent of financial need. Maximum annual awards are \$2,600. This grant can be used in conjunction, or "stacked," with the PROMISE Scholarship.

The **West Virginia Higher Education Adult Part-Time Student** (HEAPS) Grant program is a need-based financial aid program for students enrolled part-time or enrolled in a short-term workforce training program. Award amounts vary.

The **West Virginia Engineering, Science, and Technology Scholarship** provides a maximum annual award of \$3,000 for students admitted to eligible programs. Graduates must repay the scholarship with interest if they do not meet the work requirement (i.e., one year of in-state work for each year the scholarship was received).

Other scholarship and loan programs increase affordability for students entering early childhood, teaching, and health science fields.

### **Special Thanks**

We would like to thank the staff at the following agencies for their assistance in carefully reviewing and confirming the accuracy of the policies and programs described in this document:

West Virginia Department of Education  
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
Community and Technical College System of West Virginia

### **Sources**

College Foundation of West Virginia	<a href="http://www.cfwv.com">www.cfwv.com</a>
Community and Technical College System of WV	<a href="http://www.wvctcs.org">www.wvctcs.org</a>
West Virginia GEAR UP	<a href="http://www.wvgearup.org">www.wvgearup.org</a>
West Virginia Department of Education	<a href="http://www.wvde.state.wv.us">www.wvde.state.wv.us</a>
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission	<a href="http://www.wvhepc.com">www.wvhepc.com</a>