

West Allegheny High School

Graduation Credit Requirements

A minimum of 26.25 total credits, as outlined on the following pages, are required to be earned in grades 9-12. It is the student's and parent's responsibility to know the requirements for promotion and graduation and to make plans accordingly. The credits listed below are minimum requirements, however, students are encouraged to take additional credits and/or higher-level courses. *All students are required to schedule and maintain a minimum of 7.00 credits each academic year.*

Minimum Credit Requirements for Promotion for All Students	
In order to be promoted each year, students must pass a minimum number of credits. Listed below is the <u>minimum total number of credits</u> a student must have earned by the end of each grade to be promoted to the next grade level. Opportunities for credit recovery will be available during the summer at a cost to the student.	
9	5.00
10	10.00
11	17.25
Graduation	26.25

These requirements are established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the West Allegheny School District. Students and parents are reminded that ALL credits AND requirements must be satisfied upon the completion of a student's senior year to participate in commencement ceremonies. Throughout the following pages, courses may be denoted using one or more of the symbols below.

*	Course weighted on a 4.5 GPA scale
**	Course weighted on a 5.0 GPA scale
⌘	Course eligible for college credit through the Community College of Allegheny County as part of the Early College in High School Academy
⌘⌘	Awaiting final approval from CCAC
✓	Course eligible for industry-based credential
+	Course requirement for WASD-PTC Health Science Academy and counts toward graduation requirements
BOLD TYPE	Course may count toward core course credit required for graduation – see the graduation requirements page for more information
(S)	Semester Course

Full-Time West Allegheny Students Course Requirements

Requirement Category	Min Credit	Minimum Course Requirements	4 th year Course Options	
English	4	English 9 or Honors English 9* English 10 or Honors English 10* English 11, College Readiness English 11, or AP English Lang & Comp**☞+ College Readiness English 12, Career Readiness English, AP English Lit & Comp**☞ Oral Communications **☞ (+ only) Medical Terminology ** (+ only)		
Mathematics	4	Algebra I Geometry or Advanced Geometry Algebra II with Lab or Algebra II or Honors Early College Algebra II**☞+	Trigonometry & Precalculus Honors Trig & Precalculus* Discrete Math AP Statistics** Calculus AP Calculus AB** AP Calculus BC**	AP Computer Science Princ**☞ AP Computer Science A**☞ CHS Financial Accounting** 3D Game Development**☞ Intro Data Analy w/Python**☞ Data Analy w/ R & Python **☞ Programming in C & C+**☞
Science	4	Biology w/Lab or Honors Biology w/Lab* Conceptual Chemistry or Honors Chemistry* Conc Physics or Physics or AP Physics 1**☞	AP Biology** AP Chemistry** AP Physics 2** Forensics Science Anatomy & Physiology* Digital Electronics**☞ Environmental Sustainability** Civil Engineer & Architecture** Engineer Design & Develop** Exercise Science Ethical Hacking**☞	Anat & Phys 1/Lab**(+ only) Anat & Phys 2/Lab** (+ only) Microbiology/Lab** (+ only) Clinical Assisting 1** (+ only) Clinical Assisting 2** (+ only) A & P/Diseases/Proc 1** (+ only) A & P/Diseases/Proc 2** (+ only) Clinical Assisting 3** (+ only) Kinesiology ** (+ only) Clinic 1 ** (+ only) Clinic 2 ** (+ only)
Social Studies	4	U.S. History or Honors U.S. History* American Government or AP U.S. Government & Politics**☞ World Cultures or AP World History**	Criminal Justice & Invest**☞ AP Psychology**☞+ AP Economics** Psychology & Sociology Sociology of Sports (S) Current Affairs (S) AP U.S. History (WAVA)** African Amer Studies (S)(WAVA) Native Ameri Studies (S)(WAVA) Women’s Studies (S)(WAVA) USMC Junior ROTC IV Spanish III	Holocaust & Genocide Studies (S) Hon Early Coll Spanish IV**☞ AP Spanish Lang & Cul** French III (WAVA) French IV (WAVA)* AP French Lang & Cul (WAVA) ** German III Hon Early Coll German IV**☞☞ AP German Lang & Culture** Game Prod & Marketing**☞ Found of Nursing ** (+ only) Prof Ethics & Int Com ** (+ only)
Elective	8.25			
Phy Ed/Health	2.0 (.5 Health required)			
State Assessment	Proficient or Advanced on the Keystone Exams in Literature, Algebra I, and Biology OR Demonstration of proficiency through an alternate pathway			
Career Readiness	Completion of Civics Exam taken during American Government or AP US Government and Politics Successful completion of the Career and Education Work Standards Portfolio including Career Seminar requirements Successful completion of Industry Based Learning Experience			
Total Required	26.25			

Parkway West CTC Students Course Requirements

Any student who enrolls in a program offered at Parkway West CTC for a minimum of three years, including the senior year, will be required to earn a minimum of three credits of mathematics, science, and social studies, as long as the student meets the minimum required courses for each core academic area. A student who chooses not to re-enroll in a Parkway West program he/she attended previously would default to requirements of a non-CTC student. This decision may result in the need to take more than one course in the core areas in a year, limiting elective options. *All students are required to schedule and maintain a minimum of 7.00 credits each academic year.*

Requirement Category	Minimum Credits	Minimum Course Requirements for All Students
English	4	English 9 or Honors English 9* English 10 or Honors English 10* English 11, College Readiness English 11, or AP English Language & Composition**⌘+ College Readiness English 12, Career Readiness English, or AP English Literature & Composition**⌘
Mathematics	3	Algebra I Geometry or Advanced Geometry Algebra II with Lab or Algebra II or Honors Early College Algebra II**⌘+
Science	3	Biology with Lab or Honors Biology with Lab* Conceptual Chemistry or Honors Chemistry* Conceptual Physics or Physics or AP Physics 1**⌘
Social Studies	3	U.S. History or Honors U.S. History* American Government or AP U.S. Government & Politics**⌘ World Cultures or AP World History**
Elective (at Parkway CTC)		11.25
Physical Education/Health		2.0 (.5 Health required)
State Assessment		Proficient or Advanced on the Keystone Exams in Literature, Algebra I, and Biology OR Demonstration of proficiency through an alternate pathway
Career Readiness		Completion of Civics Exam taken during American Government or AP US Government and Politics Successful completion of the Career and Education Work Standards Portfolio including Career Seminar requirements Successful completion of Industry Based Learning Experience
TOTAL		26.25

Standardized Assessment Timeline

Part of College and Career Readiness is having the ability to demonstrate mastery of skills and standards. The standardized assessments available to students at West Allegheny High School further develop learning and validate the knowledge gained throughout a student's high school career.

Summary of Assessments

Algebra Keystone Exam	End of course – Algebra 1 or Conceptual Algebra	Required
Biology Keystone Exam	End of course – Biology or Honors Biology	Required
Literature Keystone Exam	End of course – English 10 or Honors English 10	Required
Civics Exam	Embedded in American Government & AP US Government & Politics courses	Required
PSAT 8/9	Mid-October of Freshmen Year	Required
PSAT	Mid-October of Sophomore Year	Required
PSAT/NMSQT	Mid-October of Junior Year	Recommended
SAT	Junior and/or Senior Year	Recommended
ACT	Junior and/or Senior Year	Recommended
ASVAB	Mid-October of Junior and/or Senior Year	Recommended
Advanced Placement (AP) Exams	End of Course – Early May	Required
CCAC Mathematics Placement Test	Summer before taking corresponding course	Required*
CCAC Reading Placement Test	Summer before taking corresponding course	Required*
Certification Exams	Embedded in corresponding courses	Required*
PLTW Course Exams	End of Course – May	Required

*Required – Only students electing to take the corresponding course for CCAC credit are required to complete the assessment(s).

State Mandated Assessments

Algebra Keystone Exam	End of course (Algebra 1 or Conceptual Algebra)	Required
<p>The Algebra Keystone Exam is an end-of-course state assessment designed to evaluate proficiency in Algebra. As part of the graduation requirements, each student must demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra Keystone Exam, or fulfill one of the other pathways provided, to earn a diploma from West Allegheny (see the <i>State Assessment Graduation Requirement Pathways</i> on the following pages for more details). Each student is provided the opportunity to take the Keystone Exams in May of the year they are taking a Keystone affiliated course. A student who previously completed a Keystone-related course but did not take the Keystone Exam may also participate in testing for graduation purposes. Additionally, any student who has taken a Keystone Exam and did not score Proficient may re-take the exam.</p>		
Biology Keystone Exam	End of course (Biology or Honors Biology)	Required
<p>The Biology Keystone Exam is an end-of-course state assessment designed to evaluate proficiency in Biology. As part of the graduation requirements, each student must demonstrate proficiency on the Biology Keystone Exam, or fulfill one of the other pathways provided, to earn a diploma from West Allegheny (see the <i>State Assessment Graduation Requirement Pathways</i> on the following pages for more details). Each student is provided the opportunity to take the Keystone Exams in May of the year they are taking a Keystone affiliated course. A student who previously completed a Keystone-related course but did not take the Keystone Exam may also participate in testing for graduation purposes. Additionally, any student who has taken a Keystone Exam and did not score Proficient may re-take the exam.</p>		
Literature Keystone Exam	End of course (English 10 or Honors English 10)	Required
<p>The Literature Keystone Exam is an end-of-course state assessment designed to evaluate proficiency in Literature. As part of the graduation requirements, each student must demonstrate proficiency on the Literature Keystone Exam, or fulfill one of the other pathways provided, to earn a diploma from West Allegheny (see the <i>State Assessment Graduation Requirement Pathways</i> on the following pages for more details). Each student is provided the opportunity to take the Keystone Exams in May of the year they are taking a Keystone affiliated course. A student who previously completed a Keystone-related course but did not take the Keystone Exam may also participate in testing for graduation purposes. Additionally, any student who has taken a Keystone Exam and did not score Proficient may re-take the exam.</p>		

Civics Exam	Embedded in American Government & AP US Government & Politics courses	Required
<p>The Civics Exam is an end-of-course assessment, required by the state, designed to evaluate a student’s civic knowledge. As part of West Allegheny graduation requirements, every student must complete the Civics exam, which is embedded within the American Government and AP US Government & Politics curriculum. Most students will complete this exam during their sophomore year of high school. Any student that does not take American Government or AP US Government & Politics while attending West Allegheny High School will be required to complete the Civics Exam prior to being eligible to graduate.</p>		

National Assessments

PSAT 8/9	Mid-October of Freshmen Year	Required
<p>The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) 8/9 measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills through three sections: Reading, Writing and Language, and Math. In mid-October, all students in ninth grade take the PSAT 8/9 as part of our Annual Career and College Assessment Day. By assessing the student’s current knowledge, the PSAT 8/9 serves as a gauge for college readiness. Early experience with this assessment allows each student to connect to the free resource, Khan Academy, with access to individualized practice.</p>		
PSAT	Mid-October of Sophomore Year	Required
<p>The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills through three sections: Reading, Writing and Language, and Math. In mid-October, all students in tenth grade take the PSAT as part of our Annual Career and College Assessment Day. By assessing the student’s current knowledge, the PSAT serves as a gauge for college readiness. Early experience with this assessment allows each student to connect to the free resource, Khan Academy, with access to individualized practice.</p>		
PSAT/NMSQT	Mid-October of Junior Year	Recommended
<p>The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is the same exam as the PSAT, but also serves as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test for juniors in a nationwide competition for recognition, awards, and scholarships. The PSAT/NSMQT is available to West Allegheny students in eleventh grade as part of our Annual Career and College Assessment Day. Any student who chooses to take the PSAT/NMSQT must register and assume the related costs. Registration links can be found on the College Admissions page of the WAHS website under Guidance.</p>		
SAT	Junior and/or Senior Year	Recommended
<p>The SAT is an entrance exam used by many colleges and universities and includes three parts: Reading, Writing and Language, and Math. The exam is scored on a scale from 400-1600. West Allegheny High School offers the SAT School Day in October and March with registration handled through the office of the Assessment Coordinator. National test dates are offered at West Allegheny in November and May. Registration for national test dates is available at www.collegeboard.com. Any student who chooses to take the SAT is responsible for the related costs and must register through the College Board (www.collegeboard.com).</p>		
ACT	Junior and/or Senior Year	Recommended
<p>The ACT is an entrance exam used by many colleges and universities. This test measures a student’s ability in English, Mathematics, Reading, Science Reasoning, and Writing (optional) and is scored on a standard scale from 1 to 36. West Allegheny High School offers the ACT School Day in October and March with registration handled through the office of the Assessment Coordinator. Additional national test dates are also offered by ACT and can be found on their website (www.act.org). It is recommended that any student interested in taking the ACT for admission purposes do so as a junior or early in their senior year. Juniors are also encouraged to take the test. Any student who chooses to take the ACT is responsible for the related costs and must register through ACT (www.act.org).</p>		
ASVAB	Mid-October of Junior and/or Senior Year	Recommended
<p>The “Student” ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) Test is an aptitude test that provides each student with insight into potential career areas that align to the student’s strengths. This test provides each student with feedback in four critical areas: Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, and Mathematics Knowledge. The ASVAB is available to any junior or senior student who wishes to take it during our Annual Career and College Assessment Day in mid-October. After scores are returned to each student, a representative from the Military Entrance Processing Service (MEPS) will return to offer a guided analysis of the results. While this exam is administered by the military, there is no service obligation, scores, or information will be shared with the military unless requested by the student.</p>		

Course Specific Assessments

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams	End of Course – Early May	Required
<p>West Allegheny High School currently offers 21 Advanced Placement courses aligned to the College Board curriculum (see full list in the Weighted Courses section). These courses are designed to provide students with a rigorous college level course experience while still in high school. Students participating in AP courses are required to take the corresponding AP exam in May (paid for by the district). All AP exams are scored on a scale of 1 – 5. Research shows that students who have completed an AP course and receive at least a 2 on the exam have greater success in their first year of studies after high school. Many colleges and universities accept AP exam scores of 3 or higher for college credit and/or advanced placement into upper-level college courses.</p>		
CCAC Mathematics Placement Test	Summer before taking corresponding course	Required*
<p>To be eligible to take Honors Early College Algebra II, AP Computer Science Principles, or AP Physics 1 for CCAC credit through West Allegheny’s Early College in High School Academy (ECIHS), a student must first earn a qualifying score on the CCAC Mathematics Placement Test. It is highly recommended that each student completes this test prior to the start of the school year. Qualifying scores and testing procedures are determined by CCAC.</p>		
CCAC Reading Placement Test	Summer before taking corresponding course	Required*
<p>To be eligible to take AP English Language & Composition, Honors Early College Spanish IV, or Honors Early College German IV for CCAC credit through West Allegheny’s Early College in High School Academy (ECIHS), a student must first earn a qualifying score on the CCAC Reading Placement Test. It is highly recommended that each student completes this test prior to the start of the school year. Qualifying scores and testing procedures are determined by CCAC.</p>		
Certification Exams	Embedded in corresponding courses	Required*
<p>Any student that elects to take Manufacturing 1, Introduction to Cybersecurity, Principles of Security with Computer Forensics, Networking with Intrusion Detection & Prevention, or Ethical Hacking for CCAC credit through West Allegheny’s Early College in High School Academy (ECIHS) is required to complete the corresponding certification exams throughout the course of the school year. These exams, paid for by the district, provide the student with the opportunity to gain Industry Credentials while earning college credit for the course. The testing dates for each certification exam will be set by the instructor of each course.</p>		
PLTW End of Course Exams	End of Course – May	Required
<p>West Allegheny High School offers five courses within the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Engineering program. These courses provide each student with engaging interdisciplinary coursework designed to build knowledge and skills in engineering while empowering the students to develop problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance skills. Each student enrolled in Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Digital Electronics, Environmental Sustainability, Civil Engineering & Architecture, and Engineering Design & Development is required to take the End of Course Exam developed by PLTW. The scores earned on the exam may be sent by the student to an accepting institution for college credit. For more information on this please make an appointment with a school counselor.</p>		

State Assessment Graduation Requirement Pathways

In accordance with PA Act 158, West Allegheny School District has aligned its graduation requirements to ensure the future success of all of our students. All students will attempt the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams upon completion of the aligned course for each exam. In the event that a student is not successful (after receiving the offered supplemental instruction) on a second attempt on an exam, students may meet the requirements through an alternate pathway. Pathways to fulfill the state assessment graduation requirement are listed below.

I. Demonstrate proficiency on the Keystone Exam in Algebra I, Biology, and Literature

- *Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the PA Department of Education enacted Act 136 on November 25, 2020 which authorizes students who successfully completed (with a passing grade of 60 or higher) Algebra 1 (or Conceptual Algebra), Biology (or Honors Biology), and/or English 10 (or Honors English 10) during the 2019-2020 school year to be deemed 'Non-numerical Proficient' on the corresponding Keystone Exam.*
- A student earns a minimum score of proficient (1500) on each of the three (3) Keystone Exams – Algebra I, Biology, and Literature.
- A student earns a minimum composite score of 4452 as set by Pennsylvania Department of Education. The composite score must be earned across the three (3) Keystone Exams, with at least one score of proficient or advanced on any Keystone Exam and no less than basic earned on the other two *Keystone Exams*.
 - *Students deemed 'Non-numerical Proficient' on the corresponding Keystone Exam as a result Act 136 must elect to take each Keystone exam at least once to be eligible to meet proficiency using a composite score.*

II. Career Readiness Pathway (for students attending Parkway CTC)

- Successful completion of courses aligned to each of the three (3) Keystone Exams

Algebra I	Biology	Literature
Algebra I	Honors Biology	Honors English 10
Conceptual Algebra I	Biology	English 10

- One (1) of the following:
 - Earning an approved Industry Based Credential in his/her program
 - High likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment (achievement on the pre-NOCTI exam) or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the aligned CTE area

III. Alternate Assessment Pathway

- Passing the courses aligned to each of the three (3) Keystone Exams **and one of the following:**

Algebra I	Biology	Literature
Algebra I	Honors Biology	Honors English 10
Conceptual Algebra I	Biology	English 10

○ **One of the following:**

- Meeting the published college readiness benchmark on the PSATs or SATs or ACTs or ASVABs;
- Earning a two (2) or higher on the Advanced Placement Exam for a corresponding content area;

Algebra I	Biology	Literature
AP Calculus AB AP Statistics AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A	AP Biology	AP English Language and Composition

- Passing a concurrent/dual enrollment course through the Early College in High School Academy, CCBC Aviation Academy, or PTC Health Science Academy in an academic area for a corresponding content area

Algebra I	Biology	Literature
Honors Early College Algebra II (CCAC credit) Statistics (CCBC credit) Intro to Data Analytics with Python (CCAC credit)	Anatomy & Physiology 1 (PTC credit) Medical Terminology (PTC credit) Microbiology (PTC credit)	AP English Language and Composition (CCAC credit) AP English Literature and Composition (CCAC credit)

- Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program;
- Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework.

On an individual basis, other alternatives may be considered with administrative approval.

Career Readiness Graduation Requirement

I. Successful completion of the Career Education and Work Standards Portfolio

As a measure of Future Ready PA reporting, Pennsylvania schools are accountable for ensuring every student meets Career Education and Work (CEW) Academic Standards as established in PA Code Chapter 4. In alignment with our goal of ensuring career and college readiness for every student, West Allegheny continues to provide our students with experiences in Career Awareness and Preparation (13.1), Career Acquisition (13.2), Career Retention and Advancement (13.3), and Entrepreneurship (13.4). Throughout a student’s years at West Allegheny he/she will participate in multiple learning experiences designed to meet one or more of the CEW Standards. The culmination of these experiences will result in a comprehensive Career and Education Work Standards Portfolio for each student, finalized during the Career Seminar course, typically during a student’s junior year.

By the end of 11th grade, students must:

- Have a minimum of eight (8) pieces of evidence (at least two per grade level)
- Address each career strand (13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4) at least once
- Include at least two pieces of evidence that demonstrate implementation of the student’s individualized career plan

School sponsored activities designed as part of our comprehensive career education and work curriculum include:

Grade Level	Activity Description
9	Post-Secondary Institution Visit
9	Freshmen Transition Activity
9	Career Exploration Activities
10	Post-Secondary Institution Visit
10	Strengths Explorer Lesson
10	Student Services Lesson: Leadership Inventory
11	WA Career & College Fair
11	Choosing Wisely: Academic Planning and Career and College Pathways
11	Completed Curriculum Vitae as Culminating Project in Career Seminar & CEW Standards Portfolio
9-12	Evidence of successful completion of one of the Industry Based Learning Indicators as described below

These examples are provided as a guide and are subject to change and/or modification. Students who do not participate in the aligned activities and/or complete the associated assignments will be required to complete additional or alternate assignments to meet the corresponding standard strands.

II. Successful completion of Industry Based Learning Indicator by completing one (1) of the following

1. Demonstrated a high likelihood of success on the NOCTI assessment administered through Parkway West Career & Technology Center as measured by the pre-NOCTI scores and/or successful completion of assigned program objectives
2. Earned an approved industry recognized credential aligned with his/her career path (e.g. MSSC Processes & Production & Maintenance Awareness Cert – Manufacturing 1)
3. Participated in a school approved career mentoring experience (e.g. ECIHSA-PTC Health Sciences Academy, CCBC Aviation Academy, Future Educators of America, Child Development, JROTC)
4. Participated in a substantial service learning experience offered through the school and in partnership with an approved outside agency (e.g. Stand Together, Peer to Peer Empowerment, SADD, Varsity iLead)
5. Completed a work-based learning experience through three (3) job shadow experiences