

Requirements for Promotion and Graduation

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 unless otherwise approved by a principal.*

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 our Early College in High School Academy (ECIHSA)
⌘⌘	Awaiting final approval from our higher education partner
✓	Course eligible for industry-based credential
c	Course may count toward core course credit required for graduation – see the graduation requirements page for more information
(S)	Semester Course

Requirements for Promotion and Graduation

Full-Time West Allegheny Students

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 or AP English Lang & Comp**☞ Course from 4 th Year Course Options	Professional & Technical Com English 12 AP English Lit & Comp**☞ Creative Writing **☞ AP Research **	Oral Communications **☞ Classic & Modern Lit **☞ Film Studies **☞ Journalism **☞ <i>Other approved Dual Enroll. ECIHSA courses</i>
Mathematics	4	Algebra 1 Algebra 2 or HEC Algebra 2**☞ Geometry or Honors Geometry Course from 4 th Year Course Options	Trigonometry & Precalculus AP Precalculus**☞ Discrete Math Probability & Statistics Personal Finance**☞ AP Statistics**☞ AP Calculus AB**☞ AP Calculus BC**☞	Intro Data Analy w/Python**☞ AP Comp Sci Principles** AP Computer Science A**☞ Financial Accounting**☞ Managerial Accounting**☞ AP Economics**☞ 2D/3D Game Development**☞ Programming in C# & C++**☞ <i>Other approved Dual Enroll. ECIHSA courses</i>
Science	4	Biology w/Lab or Honors Biology w/Lab* Concept Chem or Honors Chemistry* Concept Physics, Physics, AP Physics 1**☞ Course from 4 th Year Course Options	AP Biology**☞ AP Chemistry**☞ AP Physics 2**☞ Forensics Science Honors Anatomy & Physiology* Functional Nutrition & Health **☞ Environmental Science Virtual Reality**☞ Exercise Science**☞ Environmental Sustainability	Digital Electronics **☞ Green Energy (WAVA) Health Sciences (WAVA) Forestry & Natrl Res (S1-WAVA) Intro to Astronomy (S-WAVA) Intro to Marine Bio (S-WAVA) Intro to Vet Science (S2-WAVA) <i>Other approved Dual Enroll. ECIHSA courses</i>
Social Studies	4	U.S. History or Honors U.S. History* Amer Gov, Hon Amer Gov*, AP US Gov**☞ World Cultures or AP World History**☞ Course from 4 th Year Course Options	Criminal Justice & Invest**☞ AP Psychology**☞ AP U.S. History **☞ Corrections & Social Issues**☞ Honors Psychology & Sociology* Sociology of Sports (S) Current Affairs (S) Hon Holocaust & Genocide Stud* Hon African Amer & Multicult St* AP Seminar** Business, Law, & Society **☞ Game Prod & Marketing**☞ Spanish III **☞	Honors Spanish IV **☞ AP Spanish Lang & Culture **☞German III **☞ Honors German IV**☞ AP German Lang & Culture **☞ USMC Junior ROTC IV French III (WAVA) Ethnic Studies (S-WAVA) Women's Studies (S-WAVA) Intro to World Religion (S-WAVA) Intro to Military Car (S-WAVA) Intro to Archaeology (S-WAVA) <i>Other approved Dual Enroll. ECIHSA courses</i>
Physical Education	0.5	Physical Education, Competitive Games, Lifelong Fitness, Physical Conditioning, Dance, Dance Company, Lifeguarding Certification*, Exercise Science **☞, Partners in PE**☞		
Health	0.5	Health		
Elective	9.25			
State Assessment	Proficient or Advanced on the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams OR Demonstration of proficiency through an Act 158 pathway			
Career Readiness	Completion of Civics Exam taken during American Government, Honors American Government, or AP US Government & 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			

Requirements for Promotion and Graduation

Parkway West CTC Students

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 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 they attended previously would default to the 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 or AP English Language & Composition**⌘ Additional Course from 4 th Year Course Options (see page 8)
Mathematics	4	Algebra 1 Algebra 2 or HEC Algebra 2**⌘ Geometry or Honors Geometry Additional Course from 4 th Year Course Options (see page 8)
Science	3	Biology with Lab or Honors Biology with Lab* Conceptual Chemistry, Honors Chemistry*, or Chemical Properties (PWCTC) Conceptual Physics, Physics, AP Physics 1**⌘, or Principles of Tech (PWCTC)
Social Studies	3	U.S. History, Honors U.S. History*, or US History II (PWCTC) American Gov, Honors American Gov*, AP US Gov & Politics**⌘, or Civics (PWCTC) World Cultures, AP World History**⌘, or World Cultures (PWCTC)
Physical Education	0.5	Physical Education, Competitive Games, Lifelong Fitness, Physical Conditioning, Dance, Dance Company, Lifeguarding Certification*, Exercise Science **⌘, Partners in PE**⌘
Health	0.5	Health
Elective (at Parkway CTC)	12.25	
State Assessment		Proficient or Advanced on the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams OR Demonstration of proficiency through an Act 158 pathway
Career Readiness		Completion of Civics Exam taken during American Gov, Honors American Gov, AP US Gov & Politics, or Civics (PWCTC) Successful completion of the Career and Education Work Standards Portfolio including Career Seminar requirements Successful completion of Industry Based Learning Experience
TOTAL	26.25	

Requirements for Promotion and Graduation

Standardized Assessment Timeline

Part of Career and College 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, Honors American Government, and 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	Junior and/or Senior Year	Recommended ₁
Advanced Placement (AP) Exams	End of Course – Early May	Required
Industry Certification Exams	Embedded in corresponding courses	Required

1 - Required for students who have not met a Keystone proficiency pathway.

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 who 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 Freshman 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 (fees covered by the District) 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 (fees covered by the District) 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/NMSQT is available to West Allegheny students in eleventh grade as part of our Annual Career and College Assessment Day in mid-October. 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. College Board provides fee waivers for juniors taking the PSAT/NMSQT based on federal aid status.</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 mid-October and March. National test dates are offered at West Allegheny in November and May. Additional national test dates (offered at West Allegheny in November and May) are also offered by SAT and can be found on the College Board website (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). College Board provides fee waivers for SAT national test dates or fee reductions for SAT school day testing based on federal aid status.</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. 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). ACT provides fee waivers for national test dates (not school day) based on federal aid status.</p>		
ASVAB	Junior and/or Senior Year	Recommended ₁
<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 that will be shared with the military unless requested by the student.</p>		

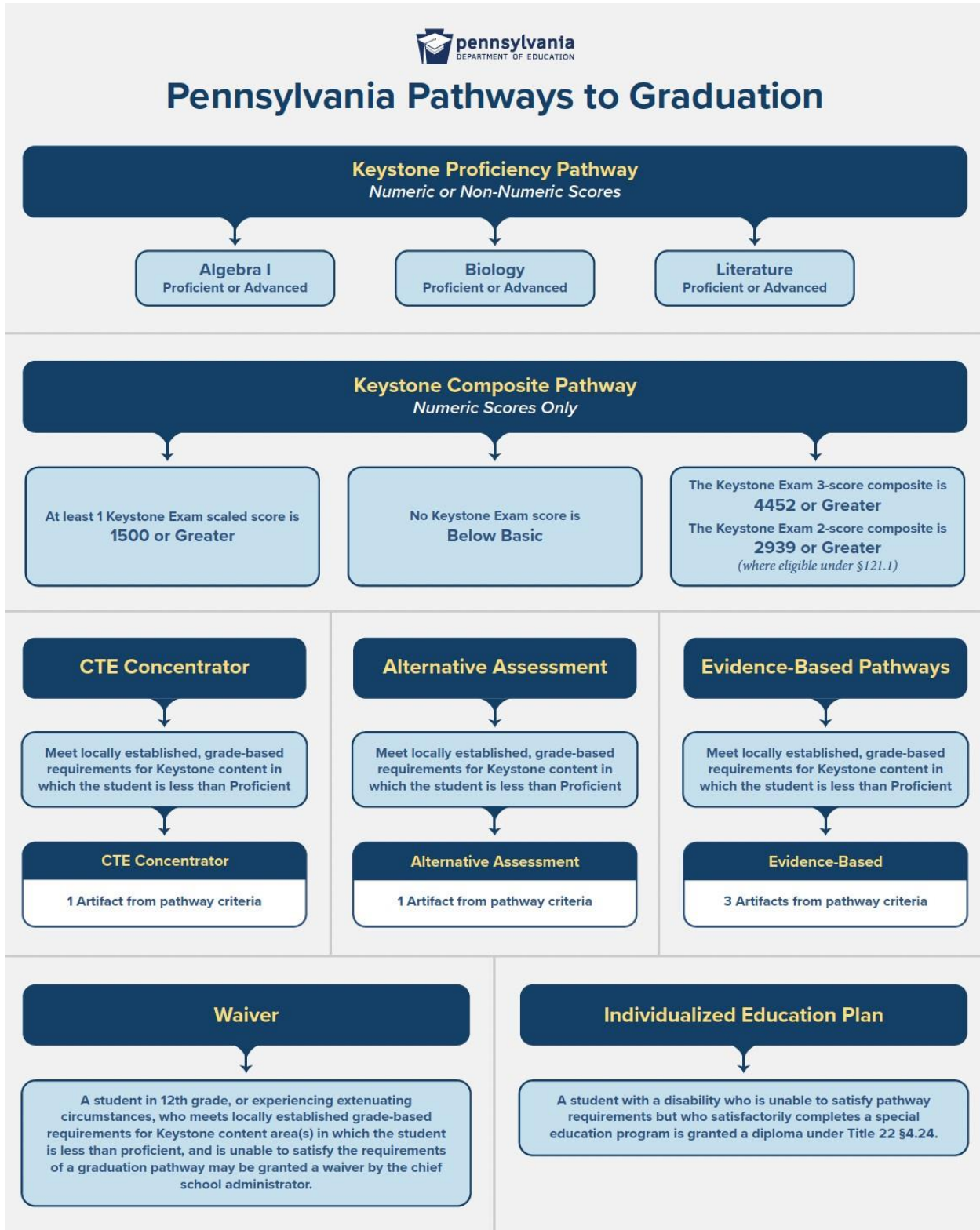
Course Specific Assessments

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams	End of Course – Early May	Required ₂
<p>West Allegheny High School currently offers 23 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>		
Industry Certification Exams	Embedded in corresponding courses	Required
<p>Any student who elects to take a course in which an industry credential is available 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 in high school. The testing dates for each certification exam will be set by the instructor of each course.</p>		

Requirements for Promotion and Graduation

State Assessment Pathways

In accordance with ACT 158, Pennsylvania’s statewide graduation requirements, West Allegheny School District has aligned its graduation requirements to ensure the success of all students. Through one of the five pathways below, students will demonstrate that they are career, college, and community ready as they embark upon their post-secondary plans. All students will engage in the Algebra I, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams upon completion of the aligned courses. If a student does not meet graduation requirements through the Keystone Proficiency Pathway, a student must meet the requirements through another pathway outlined below. Additional information regarding the five pathways can be found in Appendix B: Pathways to Graduation Guide.



Pathway Criteria

CTE Concentrator	Alternative Assessment	Evidence-Based
<p style="text-align: center;">1 Artifact</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 Artifact</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3 Artifacts consistent w/student goals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ONE or more from Section One No more than TWO from Section Two</p>
<p>Industry-based competency certification</p> <hr/> <p>Likelihood of industry-based competency assessment success</p> <hr/> <p>Readiness for continued engagement in CTE Concentrator program of study</p>	<p>Attainment of one alternative assessment score or better: ACT (21), ASVAB AFQT (31), PSAT/NMSQT (970), or SAT (1010)</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of Gold Level or better on ACT WorkKeys</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on AP Exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 4 or better on IB Exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of concurrent enrollment course(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program</p> <hr/> <p>Acceptance into accredited, non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) 4yr program for college-level coursework</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Section 1</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 630 or better on any SAT Subject Test</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of Silver Level or better on ACT WorkKeys</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on any AP Exam</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on any IB Exam</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of any concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course</p> <hr/> <p>Industry-recognized credentialization</p> <hr/> <p>Acceptance into accredited, non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) for college-level coursework in an other-than-4yr program</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Section 2</p> <hr/> <p>Attainment of Proficient or Advanced on any Keystone Exam</p> <hr/> <p>Successful completion of a service-learning project</p> <hr/> <p>Letter guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment</p> <hr/> <p>Completion of an internship, externship, or cooperative education program</p> <hr/> <p>Compliance with NCAA Division II academic requirements</p>