

Cascade School District No. 422

INSTRUCTION

**2700P
(Class of 2009)**

High School Graduation Requirements (Class of 2009)

Publication of Graduation Requirements

Prior to registering in high school, each student will be provided with a copy of the current graduation requirements.

Credits

Students shall be expected to earn a total of 45 semester credits in order to complete graduation requirements. Special education students who have successfully completed their IEP leading to completion of high school will be awarded a diploma.

The core of instruction is twenty-seven (27) semester credits (IDAPA 08.02.03.107):

Secondary Language Arts and Communication		9 credits
English (language study, composition, literature)	8 credits	
Speech or Debate	1 credit	
Mathematics and Science		10 credits
Secondary Mathematics	6 credits	
Secondary Science	4 credits*	
(*2 credits shall be laboratory sciences)		
Social Studies		5 credits
Government	2 credits	
US History	2 credits	
Economics	1 credit	
Humanities		2 credits
Interdisciplinary humanities, visual and performing arts, or Foreign language		
Health/Wellness		1 credit

The following are basic, standard and college preparatory diploma options that the Cascade School District offers. Please note that each incorporates the core of instruction set out above:

<u>Basic</u>		<u>Standard</u>		<u>College Preparatory (C.P)</u>	
English	8	English	8	English	10
Math	6	Math	6	Math/Science	14 (algebra & above)
Science	4	Science	4	Con Econ	1
Con Econ	1	Con Econ	1	Speech	1
Speech	1	Speech	1	Health	1
Health	1	Health	1	PE	2
PE	2	PE	2	US History	3
US History	3	US History	3	Government	2
Government	2	Government	2	Computer App	2
Computer App	1	Computer App	2	Humanities	4
Humanities	2	Humanities	4	Electives	18
Electives	14	Electives	16		
Totals	45		50		58

Any student with a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 and above after seven semesters, qualifies for “Graduation with Honors” on either the Standard or College Preparatory Diploma.

College Prep Courses

- C.P. English
- Pre-Calculus/Algebra III, C.P Algebra II, C.P. Geometry
- C.P. Biology
- C.P. Chemistry
- Physics
- Advanced Biology/ Research Lab
- Spanish or other Foreign Language

Goal Statement

The emphasis in these classes will be to help prepare students for advanced education by structuring the course content to demand the very best of our students in terms of high order thought processes, high level evaluation techniques and an increased volume of work.

Students wishing to graduate with College Preparatory Diploma must earn at least fourteen credits of the C.P. sections of these classes when offered.

Characteristics

Teaching techniques that will lead to independent responsibility for one’s own education by the last quarter of the year.

Required note taking for class lectures and demonstrations.

Required supplemental reading.

Evaluations that will demand some creative processes rather than simple fact recall.
Suggest independent project.

To be eligible for a C.P. diploma, a student must meet the minimum requirements of the Standard Diploma.

Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT)

In addition to obtaining the necessary credits as outlined above, effective with the graduating class of 2006 a student will show proficiency on the Idaho Student Achievement Test (ISAT) as defined by State Board rules. Students who do not attain at least a proficient score on the Idaho Student Achievement Test will have the option of appealing to the Board of Trustees for relief from the ISAT proficiency requirement. Students who choose to appeal must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Must be enrolled in a special education program and have a current Individual Education Plan (IEP); or
2. Must be enrolled in a Limited English Proficiency Program; or
3. Must be enrolled in the fall semester of the senior year.

The district requires that all students who appeal from relief of the ISAT proficiency requirements must successfully complete an alternative program equivalent to the ISAT requirement approved by the Board of Trustees in order to graduate.

The district program that students must use to demonstrate that they possess the skills and knowledge necessary to graduate from Cascade High School is as follows:

- A. Successfully complete performance measures that are equivalent to the sub skills areas measured in the ISAT, and/or
- B. Successfully complete multiple factors that evaluate academic proficiency and performance of an individual child. These factors should include:
 - Grade point average;
 - Assessment scores including ISAT reading, ISAT math, ISAT language arts, Directing Writing Assessment and/or literacy assessment;
 - Performance assessment measures, as appropriate, or other performance entries included in a student's portfolio;
 - Other professional/institutional evaluations, including end-of-course assessments, senior projects, community service, work experience, attendance and work ethics documented at school site.

The district alternative programs are aligned to state content standards and are based on academic proficiency and performance.

Waiver of Requirement

Graduation requirements generally will not be waived under any circumstances. However, in rare and unique hardship circumstances, the Principal may recommend and the Superintendent may approve minor deviation from the graduation requirements.

Alternative Programs

Credit toward graduation requirements may be granted for planned learning experiences from accredited programs, such as summer school, university courses, correspondence courses, and online/virtual courses.

Credit for work experience may be offered when the work program is a part of and supervised by the school.

All classes attempted at Cascade High School and all acceptable transfer credits shall be recorded on the transcript. All grades earned, including failures and retakes, shall be recorded as such and utilized in the calculation of Grade Point Average and class rank. Credit shall be awarded only once regardless of repetition of the course.

Class Rank (Grade Point Average)

Class Rank is compiled from semester grades.

Early Graduation

Any high school student who completes the number of credits required for graduation prior to finishing eight semesters of high school attendance, may petition the local Superintendent and the Board of Trustees to graduate from high school upon completion of all requirements for a specific diploma.

1. Students interested in early graduation must petition the Superintendent. This would include a letter from the applicant stating reasons for desiring to graduate early, a plan for future work or education, reasons and future plans and goals. Early graduation for any student is a far-reaching and important decision and permission will not be granted simply because it has been requested. Because of the importance, the following criteria will play a vital part in the evaluation process:

- A. Mental and physical maturity of each student;
- B. Student's own attitude toward early graduation and post high school plans;
- C. Parental attitudes;
- D. How well employment or post high school program is planned;
- E. How well the high school program has prepared the student for the work or post high school education (academic and extra-curricular);
- F. Student's ability to handle a planned career or post high school education.

2. Necessary forms are available in the administration offices or in the counseling offices.

3. Students who graduate early may take part in the graduation exercises at the end of that school year.

4. To be considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian honors, a student must have completed seven semesters of high school attendance, with the last three semesters completed at Cascade High School, and completion of the requirements for either the Standard or College Preparatory Diplomas.

Cross Reference: Policy 2710 Alternative Measure to the ISAT
 Policy 2715 Alternate Route to Graduation

Legal Reference: IDAPA 08.02.01.350 Early Graduation
 IDAPA 08.02.03.105 Graduation from High School
 IDAPA 08.02.03.107 High School Graduation Standards

Procedure History:

Promulgated on: 7/15/09

Revised on: