

# Graduating from a Union County High School in 2012 and After (Students Entering Ninth Grade in 2008)

High School is an exciting stepping stone in a student's life. In order to graduate, students in Georgia must:

- Satisfy attendance requirements
- Successfully complete the required high school coursework (29 units)
- Pass the Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT)
- Pass the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT)

## COURSEWORK

Students entering high school in the fall of 2008 and after must complete 29 units of coursework in order to graduate.

Union County Schools Unit Requirements for Students Entering 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade in Fall of 2008	
Areas of Study	Units
English/Language Arts	4
Math	4
* Science	4
Social Studies	4
**CTAE and/or Modern Language/Latin and/or Fine Arts	3
Health & Physical Education	1
State Required Electives	4
Locally Required Electives	5
<b>TOTAL UNITS</b>	<b>29</b>
* 4 <sup>th</sup> Science may be used to meet both the science and elective requirements; credit will be awarded as a unit of Science. (A course may only count once for satisfying a unit of credit.)	
** 2 Units of the same Foreign Language are required for admissions to Georgia Board of Regents colleges/universities.	

## Georgia High School Graduation Tests

All students are required to pass the Georgia High School Graduation Tests in order to earn a high school diploma. The tests cover only a sample of the knowledge and skills that constitute a high school education. Students must pass all of the following tests:

- English/Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

Students begin taking the tests in their junior years and have multiple opportunities to take each of the tests before the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Georgia High School Writing Test

Students are required to take and pass the Georgia High School Writing Test. Initially taken in the fall of the junior year, this 2-hour test evaluates persuasive writing ability. Students have opportunities to retake the test before the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## High School Completion

Students completing high school will receive one of the following:

- **High School Diploma** – document awarded to students certifying that they have satisfied attendance requirements, unit requirements, and the state assessment requirements.
- **High School Certificate** – document awarded to students who do not complete all of the criteria for a diploma or who have not passed the state assessment requirements but have earned 29 units and met all local board requirements.
- **Special Education Diploma** – document awarded to students with disabilities assigned to a special education program and have not met the state assessment requirements or who have not completed all of the requirements for a high school diploma but have completed their Individualized Education Programs (IEP).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why should I graduate from high school?

Graduating from high school is the first step to your future. It demonstrates that you have mastered many of the skills necessary to run your own life and make your own decisions. In addition, graduating from high school increases your earning power.

*The more you learn, the more you earn!*

Education	National Median Weekly Earnings
Less than high school diploma	\$409
High school diploma, no college	\$583
Some college, no degree	\$653
Associate degree	\$699
Bachelor's degree	\$937
Master's degree	\$1,129
Professional degree	\$1,370
Doctoral degree	\$1,421
(Occupational Outlook Quarterly, Fall 2006, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)	

### Who is going to help me graduate successfully?

School counselors, graduation coaches, teachers and administrators, family members and friends are all part of your graduation team. Talk to them, ask questions, and collect information. Do your part by attending classes and studying.

*Get involved in school activities.*

### What happens if I don't pass the Georgia High School Graduation Tests or the Georgia High School Writing Test?

Students who do not pass all the tests but have met all other graduation requirements may be eligible for a high school certificate or a special education diploma. These students can return to retake the test(s) as often as they wish in order to qualify for a high school diploma.

### **What is an End of Course Test (EOCT)?**

An EOCT is a mandated end-of-course assessment for selected high school core subjects. The EOCT score contributes 15% to the final course grade with the remaining 85% comprised of classroom performance.

### **Which subjects require an EOCT?**

Currently, an EOCT is required for:

- Ninth Grade Literature
- American Literature
- Physical Science
- Biology
- U.S. History
- Economics/Business/Free Enterprise
- Mathematics I / Algebra I
- Mathematics II / Geometry

### **Which students are required to take an EOCT?**

Any student enrolled in a course for which there is an EOCT is required to take the assessment. This includes:

- Middle school students enrolled in an EOCT course, whether or not they receive high school credit for the course;
- Students who are repeating a course or are in credit recovery – even if they passed the EOCT but failed the course previously;
- Students enrolling from a non-accredited, private, or home-school program must take and pass the corresponding EOCT to earn credit for a course requiring an EOCT.

For additional information regarding graduation requirements, please contact the appropriate counselor, graduation coach and/or faculty advisor.

### **Why should I take a foreign language?**

Students choosing a career that requires a college education should take 2 units of the same foreign language. Although foreign languages are not required for high school graduation, most colleges and/or universities do require foreign languages for admissions.

### **Can American Sign Language be used to meet foreign language requirements?**

Yes, 2 units of American Sign Language will satisfy the requirement.

### **Do I have to take the SAT or ACT?**

Taking the SAT or ACT is not a requirement for graduation from a Georgia public high school. However many colleges and universities do require scores from the SAT or ACT for admissions. Be sure to check the admissions requirements for the school that interests you.

### **What are the high school requirements for transfer students?**

Students who transfer to a Georgia high school will follow the graduation requirements that were in effect in the year the transfer student was a first-time ninth grader.

### **After high school, what next?**

You have many options open to you after you graduate from high school.

- Go to college/vocational school
- Attend an apprenticeship training program
- Volunteer
- Join the military
- Get a job

Content provided by the Georgia Career Resources Network. Partners include the Georgia Career Information Center, Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Department of Labor, Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education, and University System of Georgia.

# Graduating from Union County High Schools



## Graduation Requirements for Students Entering Ninth Grade in 2008 and After

**Blairsville and Suches  
Georgia**