

1 **2410R INSTRUCTION**

2 Publication of Graduation Requirements

3 Prior to registering in high school, each student will be provided with a copy of the current graduation
4 requirements. Graduation requirements shall also be included in the student handbook.

5 High School Graduation Requirements

6 Minimum requirements for graduation from Great Falls Public Schools shall be twenty-three (23) credits:

- 7 • Four (4) credits of English - In addition to the previously Board adopted communication arts
8 curriculum, students must demonstrate proficiency in Public Speaking/Communication Skills and
9 Writing each year to earn credit.
- 10 • Three (3) credits of Social Studies. Two and one half credits (2.5) shall be from the required District
11 curriculum and one half credit (.5) may be an elective Social Studies course.
- 12 • Three (3) credits of Mathematics, which shall include Algebra 1.
- 13 • Three (3) credits of Science, which shall include the following:
 - 14 ○ One (1) credit in Foundation of Science or of an additional science elective upon
15 Demonstration of Equivalent Proficiency in Foundation of Science.
 - 16 ○ One (1) credit in Biology
 - 17 ○ One (1) credit in Science Elective
- 18 • Two (2) credits of Health Enhancement (Health and Physical Education) – (can be taken grades 9-
19 10-11-12) One and one half credits (1.5) shall be from the required District curriculum and one
20 half credit (.5) may be an elective Health Enhancement course.
- 21 • One (1) credit of Career and Vocational/Technical Education (CTE), which shall include
22 (Agriculture, Business, Family and Consumer Science, Industrial Technology, and Medical/Health
23 Occupations.) Courses in Media Production, Graphic Arts/Publications, Stagecraft, and Video
24 Productions may qualify for CTE credit dependent on the state teacher licensure requirements.
 - 25 ○ *Students who elect the Concentration Diploma or Honors Diploma option may substitute
26 one half credit of Financial Tech Skills for this requirement.
- 27 • One (1) credit of Fine Arts (Art, Drama, Music)
- 28 • One-half (0.5) credit in Financial Tech Skills.
- 29 • A minimum of five and a one half (5.5) credits of General Electives.

30 Differentiated Diplomas

31 Students may choose to pursue one (1) of three (3) diploma options. All of which meet the Montana Board
32 of Public Education minimum requirements for graduation from an accredited High School program
33 (10.55.905, ARM) and all of the minimum requirements for graduation from Great Falls Public Schools.
34 Students shall work with their high school guidance counselors, teachers and parents to determine which
35 option best meets their individual needs.

1 Comprehensive Diploma

2 Subject Area	Comprehensive Diploma
3	
4 Credits Needed	23
5 English	4
6 Math	3
7 Science	3
8 Social Studies	3
9 Fine Arts	1
10 CTE	1
11 Health/PE	2
12 Financial Tech Skills	.5
13 General Electives	5.5

14 Concentration Diploma

15 Subject Area	Concentration Diploma
16	
17 Credits Needed	23
18 English	4
19 Math	3
20 Science	3
21 Social Studies	3
22 Fine Arts	1
23 CTE	.5-1
24 Health/PE	2
25 Financial Tech Skills	.5
26 General Electives	5.5-6.0

27 Students choosing this diploma option must take three (3) or more elective credits in a specific area of concentration from the following concentrations:

- 28 • Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) - includes health sciences
- 29 • Career Pathway Concentration (Industrial Technology, Business, Family Consumer Science)
- 30 • Fine Arts/Humanities

1 Honors Diploma

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Subject Area	Honors Diploma
Credits Needed	26
English	4
Math	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Fine Arts	1
CTE	.5-1
Health/PE	2
Financial Tech Skills	.5
General Electives	8.0-8.5

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18 Honors diploma candidates must have minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3, six (6) or more credits in any

19 combination of honors, AP, or early college level courses.

20 Alternative Programs

21 Credit toward graduation requirements may be granted for planned learning experiences from accredited

22 programs, such as summer school, university courses, and distance learning courses. Credit for work

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

24 Dual Credit

25 Dual credit allows high school students to simultaneously earn credit toward both a high school diploma

26 and college coursework that can lead to a postsecondary degree or certificate, or toward transfer to

27 another college. The primary purpose of offering dual credit courses is to deliver high quality,

28 introductory, college level courses to high-performing high school students. Students interested in dual

29 credit opportunities must meet with a guidance counselor to determine available options.

30 Students should be aware of Montana High School Association on-campus attendance eligibility

31 requirements for activity participation.

32 Audit Courses

33 Courses may be audited for no credit, by junior or senior students if the course is not specifically requested

34 for graduation. Advanced Placement courses may not be taken for audit. Preference in the course will

35 be given to students taking the course for the first time for credit.

36 Grade Averaging (Re-taking a Course)

37 All courses attempted will be recorded on the transcript, with documentation of the student's

38 performance. The overall grade-point average will be calculated using all grades recorded for all courses

39 attempted, and that grade-point average will be used for purposes of student ranking without regard to

40 whether any courses were repeated. Preference for enrollment in all courses will be given in the following

41 order, based on space available: students taking the course for the first time; students repeating the

42 course after previously failing to receive credit for the course; and students repeating the course after

1 previously receiving credit for the course, with students who have lower grades having preference.
2 Exceptions may be made to the preference order upon recommendation of a student's counselor and
3 approval by the High School administration. The transcript may note a course that has been repeated in
4 some manner, i.e., an asterisk, and include a statement explaining the grade-point-average calculation
5 method.

6 Class Rank (Grade Point Average)

7 Class Rank is compiled from semester grades. Courses not eligible for GPA are designated with an asterisk
8 on the report card.

9 Honor Roll

10 A student must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.00 to be placed on the regular honor roll.
11 Specific information regarding honors at graduation are included in the student handbook.

12 Early Graduation

13 In accordance with provisions of § 20-9-313, MCA, the ANB of a school may be increased when a high
14 school district provides early graduation for a student who completes graduation requirements in less
15 than eight semesters or the equivalent amount of secondary school enrollment. The increase must be
16 established by the trustees as though the student had attended to the end of the school fiscal year and
17 must be approved, disapproved, or adjusted by the superintendent of public instruction.

18 Any student seeking to graduate early must submit an application to the Principal at least two (2)
19 semesters prior to the proposed graduation date. Applications must be in writing and co-signed by
20 parents or legal guardians if the student is a minor.

21 Waiver of Requirement

22 The Superintendent will establish procedures to review all petitions for waiver or academic variances to
23 the graduation requirements.

24 Cross Reference:

25 Policy 2333 – Participation in Commencement Exercises

26 Legal Reference:

27 § 20-9-313, MCA Circumstances under which regular average number belonging may be increased
28 10.55.905, ARM Graduation requirements

29 Procedure History:

30 Policy History: July 1, 2000

31 Revised on: September 9, 2002

32 Revised on: February 24, 2003

33 Revised on: April 24, 2006

34 Revised on: January 12, 2015

35 Revised on: November 27, 2017