

GOAL ACADEMY POLICY Graduation Requirements

Section: J - Students

Policy Number: J-7

Policy Name: Graduation Requirements

Approval Authority: Board of Directors

Responsible Executive: Chief Learning and Engagement Officer

Responsible Office: Learning and Engagement

Originally Issued: 9/2010 **Revisions:** 7/19/2017

1. Policy Statement

GOAL Academy's Board of Directors (Board) shall set forth requirements for graduation

2. Reason for Policy

The purpose of the policy is to establish uniform minimum requirements for graduation in alignment with Colorado Department of Education guidelines.

3. Who Should Read This Policy

All members of the GOAL Academy community

4. Related Documents

Student Handbook

5. Contacts

Chief Learning and Engagement Officer, Senior Director of Curriculum and Support

6. Policy: Graduation Requirements

The high school diploma awarded by GOAL Academy represents a high standard of quality in curriculum content, instruction, and student learning, and should be maintained as a document that reflects substantial effort by the student and the school in preparation for the world of work and/or higher education.

Each student who enters GOAL Academy will develop a personal graduation plan based on one of two plans of study, Traditional and Senior Recovery. Their graduation plan will set their intended course of study as they begin their journey toward graduation. Each student, their POD staff, and their counselor will review and amend the graduation plan each term. In order to be eligible to graduate from GOAL Academy a student must complete at least one GOAL Academy class.

A Regional Principal may waive a given requirement if, in the Principal's judgment, it is determined to be in the best educational interest of the student or if required in order to provide a student with disabilities a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

A high school diploma from GOAL Academy certifies that a student has fulfilled all graduation requirements of their chosen plan of study, Traditional or Senior Recovery. Additionally, for a student to graduate and receive a high school diploma, they must have a complete ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan).

The State of Colorado has established the Colorado Graduation Guidelines beginning with the graduating class of 2021. These guidelines allow students to demonstrate competency in the areas of English and Math in other ways beyond course completion.

Traditional Plan of Study (22 credits)

English/Language Arts (4):

A minimum of 4 credits shall be earned. Students will be placed in language arts classes at their appropriate skill level. A maximum of 2 remedial language arts credits will count toward the English/Language Arts total in addition to (1 credit) English 9, and (1 credit) English 10.

Competency in Language Arts may also be demonstrated with one of the following scores:

- Accuplacer - Reading Comprehension - 62
- ACT - English - 18
- WorkKeys - Silver Certificate
- SAT - English - 430
- ASVAB - English - 31
- Reading Plus - Level L
- Star 360 Reading - 1076

Mathematics (3):

A minimum of 3 credits must be earned. Students will be placed in math classes at their appropriate skill level. A maximum of 1 remedial math credit will count toward the math total in addition to 2 credits of high school level math courses. High school level math courses may include Pre-Algebra, Algebra, or higher level courses.

Competency in Math may also be demonstrated with one of the following scores:

- Accuplacer - Elementary Algebra - 61
- ACT - Math - 19
- WorkKeys - Silver Certificate
- SAT - Math - 460
- ASVAB - Math - 31
- Star 360 Math - 884

Physical Education/Health (1):

A .5 credit of Health and a .5 credit of Physical Education, or equivalent to exempt, must be earned. An equivalent(s) includes: Participation in a full athletic season with a student's home district school, or well documented participation in a community based program (dance, martial arts, etc).

Criteria governing physical education exemptions:

1. The student must maintain academic eligibility for the entire season.
2. One full sport season is required to exempt a student from the .5 credit of P.E. requirement.
3. The waiver must be requested in the same semester that the sport is played.
4. A grade of Pass/Fail will be awarded for Athletic participation and will not count toward GPA.

Science (2):

A minimum of 2 credits must be earned in approved Science courses.

Social Studies (3):

A minimum of 3 credits must be earned in approved Social Studies courses, including 0.5 credit earned in Civics or Government.

World Language (0):

No language credits are required for graduation. However, 4 semesters of coursework in one continuous language is recommended for students planning to enroll in a 4 year college.

Electives (9):

A minimum of 9 credits must be earned in approved electives courses.

Senior Recovery Plan of Study (9.5 credits)

The Senior Recovery plan of study includes competency-based and standards-based learning intended to prepare students to be successful in the workforce and/or in postsecondary education. Senior Recovery is designed for 12th grade students who would not otherwise finish with enough credits to graduate by the end of the school year.

Students in the Senior Recovery plan of study will be eligible for concurrent enrollment courses once all English, Math, Science, and Social Studies requirements are completed. Concurrent enrollment courses will NOT replace the Career Exploration requirement, but their experience can be used as the work experience requirement of the Career Exploration course.

GOAL students should expect to take Basic Literacy if their current reading level is below their current grade level and Basic Numeracy if their current math level is below their current grade level.

Senior Recovery Pre-Requisites:

- Highly motivated
- Behind in earning high school credit
- 12th grade/Senior (based on GOAL's grade level placement policy)
- Students must read at the 8th-grade level (based on their Star360 Reading score)

Senior Recovery Graduation Requirements

English (1.5 credits)

- WorkKeys English Test Prep (0.5 credit)
- WorkKeys Workplace Docs Test – Silver+ (0.5 credit)
- 10th Grade Reading Proficiency based on Star360 (0.5 credit)

Math (1.5 credits)

- WorkKeys Math Test Prep (0.5 credit)
- WorkKeys Graphic Literacy Test – Silver+ (0.5 credit)
- WorkKeys Applied Math Test – Silver+ (0.5 credit)

Science (1.5 credits)

- Senior Recovery Biology (0.5 credit) or other approved Science course
- Senior Recovery Earth Science (0.5 credit) or other approved Science course
- Senior Recovery Physical Science (0.5 credit) or other approved Science course

Social Studies (2.5 credits)

- Government (0.5 credit)
- Senior Recovery Economics (0.5 credit) or other approved Social Studies course
- Senior Recovery Geography (0.5 credit) or other approved Social Studies course
- Senior Recovery US History (0.5 credit) or other approved Social Studies course
- Senior Recovery World History (0.5 credit) or other approved Social Studies course

Electives (2.5 credits)

- Career Exploration (0.5 credit)
- Senior Recovery Capstone (0.5 credit)
- Gladiator Connection (1.0 credit)
- National Career Readiness Certificate (0.5 credit)