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## General Studies Graduation Requirements Policy

Cabrillo Point Academy is committed to assuring each student completes their education through high school in accordance with the State student academic achievement standards. This policy ensures that seniors who still owe credits past their date of intended graduation have the opportunity to complete their graduation requirements and earn a diploma.

The purpose of the Cabrillo Point Academy Governing Board approving this General Studies Graduation Requirements Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Describe State Minimum Course Requirements for Graduation
  2. Identify the Procedures for Earning a General Studies Diploma
  3. Explain Credit Requirements for Earning a General Studies Diploma
1. **Overview:** The local governing board of the LEA with the active involvement of parents, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study, which may include:
- Practical demonstration of skills and competencies
  - Supervised work experience or other outside school experience
  - Career technical education classes offered in high schools
  - Courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs
  - Interdisciplinary study
  - Independent study
  - Credit earned at a postsecondary institution

Requirements for graduation and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

2. **State Minimum Course Requirements:** EC 51225.3 states that all pupils receiving a diploma of graduation from a California high school must have completed all of the following courses, while in grades nine to twelve, inclusive:

Unless otherwise specified, each course shall have a duration of one school year:

- **Three** courses in English
- **Two** courses in mathematics, including one year of Algebra I (EC Section 51224.5)
- **Two** courses in science, including biological and physical sciences
- **Three** courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics, and a one-semester course in economics

*The General Studies Graduation Requirements are based on California Education Code 51225.3 and the High School Graduation Frequently Asked Questions page of the California Department of Education (“CDE”) website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/hsgfaq.asp>.*

- **One** course in visual or performing arts, world language, or commencing with the 2012-13 school year, career technical education. For the purpose of satisfying the minimum course requirement, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in foreign language
- **Two** courses in physical education; unless the pupil has been exempted pursuant to the provisions of EC Section 51241, **(The school charter does not state P.E. is required for graduation.)**

**3. General Studies School Procedure:** A high school diploma is the basic qualification for employment and advancing a career. The General Studies diploma program makes earning a high school diploma an attainable goal for students who want to enter a community or technical college, the job market, or the military after graduation, but who have struggled in meeting their four-year graduation plan. **The program is only open to seniors who still owe credits past their date of intended graduation.**

In this program, the student’s curriculum consists of fundamental courses that are taught at a basic high school level. Students may earn an accredited high school diploma without being required to take any advanced math, science, foreign language or elective courses beyond California’s minimum course requirements for a high school diploma.

**4. Graduation requirements:** Students who enroll in the General Studies Diploma Program must earn a total of 110 credits in the specified content areas listed in the California State minimum requirements with a “D” grade or better in each course in order to graduate. Students will be granted credit for courses previously completed in grades nine through twelve.

<b>English</b>	<b>3 courses - 6 Semester courses – 30 credits</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>2 courses - 4 Semester courses – 20 credits</b> <i>must include Algebra 1</i>
<b>Science</b>	<b>2 courses - 4 Semester courses – 20 credits</b> <i>must include biological and physical sciences</i>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>3 courses - 6 Semester courses – 30 credits</b> <i>must include World History, US History, Government and Economics</i>
<b>Visual and Performing Arts, World Language, or CTE</b>	<b>1 course - 2 Semester courses – 10 credits</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>110 credits</b>

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