

Choice Ready Graduation Requirements

There are several requirements for students to graduate from North Dakota schools. The below information outlines the requirements all students must meet to be a North Dakota graduate.

North Dakota Civics Must pass the ND Civics Test (NDCC 15.1-21-27).

Students must receive Financial Literacy (NDCC 15.1-21) through either Problems of Democracy (PoD) or Economics. This decision is left to the local school as which class they offer to the student.

There are two ways that students can make North Dakota graduation requirements to be considered Choice Ready. The below information on pages 1 and 2 outlines the requirements for a high school diploma in North Dakota.

Traditional Diploma. To receive a North Dakota traditional diploma students must earn at least a minimum of 22 units (some high schools ND may require more than the minimum 22 units to graduate) of high school course work ([NDCC 15.1-21-02.1](#)). In addition, students must earn credit from these required units ([NDCC 15.1-21-02.2](#)):

1. Four units of English language arts from a sequence that includes literature, composition, and speech;
2. Three units of mathematics, which may include one unit of computer science approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
3. Three units of science, consisting of:
 - a. (1) One unit of biology;
 - (2) One unit of chemistry; and
 - (3) One unit of physics; or
 - b. (1) One unit of biology;
 - (2) One unit of physical science; and
 - (3) One unit or two one-half units of any other science;
4. Three units of social studies, including:
 - a. One unit of United States history;
 - b. (1) One-half unit of United States government and one-half unit of economics; or
 - (2) One unit of problems of democracy; and
 - c. One unit or two one-half units of any other social studies, which may include civics, civilization, geography and history, multicultural studies, North Dakota studies, psychology, sociology, and world history;
5. a. One unit of physical education; or b. One-half unit of physical education and one-half unit of health;

6. Three units of: a. Foreign languages; b. Native American languages; c. Fine arts; or d. Career and technical education courses; and
7. Any five additional units.

Optional High School Diploma. There is also another way for students in North Dakota to obtain a high school diploma which is called the Optional High School Diploma ([NDCC 15.1-21-02.3](#)).

If after completing at least two years of high school a student has failed to pass at least one-half unit of coursework, or has a grade point average at or below the twenty-fifth percentile of other students in the district who are enrolled in the same grade, the student may request that the student's career advisor, guidance counselor, or principal meet with the student and the student's parent to determine if the student should be permitted to pursue an optional high school curriculum. If a student's parent consents in writing to the student pursuing the optional high school curriculum, the student is eligible to receive a high school diploma upon completing the following requirements:

1. Four units of English language arts from a sequence that includes literature, composition, and speech;
2. Two units of mathematics;
3. Two units of science;
4. Three units of social studies, which may include up to one-half unit of North Dakota studies and one-half unit of multicultural studies;
5.
 - a. One unit of physical education; or
 - b. One-half unit of physical education and one-half unit of health;
6. Two units of:
 - a. Foreign languages;
 - b. Native American languages;
 - c. Fine arts; or
 - d. Career and technical education courses; and
7. Any seven additional units.

If you have any questions regarding High School graduation requirements, contact [Joe Kolosky](#), Deputy Director at (701) 328-2295.