

Descriptor Title: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	Descriptor Code: IHF	Adopted Date: July, 2008
	Reviewed Date:	Revised Date: June, 2010

**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011
(Entering ninth graders in 2005-2006)**

Any student who completes the minimum graduation requirements as specified below and has achieved a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations is eligible to receive a high school diploma. Students who choose to opt out beginning school year 2009-2010 must complete the minimum graduation requirements below and receive a passing score on the required high school exit examinations.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4¹	
MATHEMATICS	4²	Algebra I
SCIENCE	3³	Biology I
SOCIAL STUDIES	3	1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies ⁴
HEALTH	½	Comprehensive Health <i>or</i> Family and Individual Health
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY	1⁵	1 Computer Discovery <i>or</i> ½ Keyboarding <i>and</i> ½ Computer Applications
THE ARTS	1	Any approved 500.000 course <i>or</i> completion of the 2-course sequence for Computer Graphics Technology I and II
ELECTIVES	5½⁶	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	22	

¹ English I, English II, English III, and English IV are required for graduation. Compensatory Reading and/or Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 5½ general electives required for graduation.

² Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 5½ general electives required for graduation. Beginning school

year 2004-2005 for all entering eighth graders, at least one of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics, and AP Statistics. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I & II. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

- ³ Two units may be in Allied Health I and II if the student completes the two-course sequence.
- ⁴ The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.
- ⁵ Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational).
- ⁶ Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012
(Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009)**

Beginning school year 2008-2009 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) will be required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified below and pass the required subject area tests, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out. Any student who is taken out of these requirements will be required to complete the graduation requirements as specified for seniors graduating in 2007-2008.

Beginning in the eighth grade, DeSoto County Schools will make parents aware of the opportunity to opt out of the graduation requirements as listed below. However, parents will not have the opportunity to officially opt their student out of the requirements until the student has attended high school for two years or it is an IEP committee decision. If a parent chooses to opt his or her student out of the graduation requirements listed below, the parent and student must attend a conference and sign the necessary forms in the presence of a school official (counselor, principal, etc.) and agree to comply with all parts of the program included in the opt out application form. Students who opt out will receive a diploma with the school name being "Mississippi Department of Education," not their respective high school.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4¹	
MATHEMATICS	4²	Algebra I
SCIENCE	4³	Biology I
SOCIAL STUDIES	4	1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ Geography ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies ⁴
HEALTH	½	Comprehensive Health <i>or</i> Family and Individual Health
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY	1⁵	1 Computer Discovery <i>or</i> ½ Keyboarding <i>and</i> ½ Computer Applications
THE ARTS	1	Any approved 500.000 course <i>or</i> completion of the 2-course sequence for Computer Graphics Technology I and II
ELECTIVES	5½⁶	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	24	

¹ English I, English II, English III, and English IV are required for graduation.
Compensatory Reading and/or Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four

English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 5½ general electives required for graduation.

- ² Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 5½ general electives required for graduation. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I & II. Beginning school year 2007-2008 for all entering eighth graders, at least two of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics, and AP Statistics. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.
- ³ Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Allied Health I and II. Beginning school year 2008-2009 for all entering eighth graders, one unit must be a lab-based physical science. The allowable lab-based physical science courses are Physical Science, Chemistry I, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, Physics I, Physics II, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, and AP Physics C – Mechanics.
- ⁴ The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.
- ⁵ Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational).
- ⁶ Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

**SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2012-2013
(Entering ninth graders in 2009-2010)**

Beginning school year 2009-2010 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders (seniors of school year 2012-2013 and later) will be required to have a minimum of 26 Carnegie units as specified below and pass the required subject area tests, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out. Any student who is taken out of these requirements will be required to complete the graduation requirements as specified for seniors graduating in 2007-2008.

Beginning in the eighth grade, DeSoto County Schools will make parents aware of the opportunity to opt out of the graduation requirements as listed below. However, parents will not have the opportunity to officially opt their student out of the requirements until the student has attended high school for two years or it is an IEP committee decision. If a parent chooses to opt his or her student out of the graduation requirements listed below, the parent and student must attend a conference and sign the necessary forms in the presence of a school official (counselor, principal, etc.) and agree to comply with all parts of the program included in the opt out application form. Students who opt out will receive a diploma with the school name being "Mississippi Department of Education," not their respective high school.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4¹	
MATHEMATICS	4²	Algebra I
SCIENCE	4³	Biology I
SOCIAL STUDIES	4	1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ Geography ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies ⁴
HEALTH	½	Comprehensive Health <i>or</i> Family and Individual Health
BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY	1⁵	1 Computer Discovery <i>or</i> ½ Keyboarding <i>and</i> ½ Computer Applications
THE ARTS	1	Any approved 500.000 course <i>or</i> completion of the 2-course sequence for Computer Graphics Technology I and II
ELECTIVES	7½⁶	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	26	

¹ English I, English II, English III, and English IV are required for graduation.
Compensatory Reading and/or Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four

English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 7½ general electives required for graduation.

- ² Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 7½ general electives required for graduation. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I & II. Beginning school year 2007-2008 for all entering eighth graders, at least two of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics, and AP Statistics. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.
- ³ Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Allied Health I and II. Beginning school year 2008-2009 for all entering eighth graders, one unit must be a lab-based physical science. The allowable lab-based physical science courses are Physical Science, Chemistry I, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, Physics I, Physics II, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, and AP Physics C – Mechanics.
- ⁴ The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.
- ⁵ Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational).
- ⁶ Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.