

## English Graduation Requirements

Updated: January 2013

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1. What is the State Board of Education's (SBE) role in graduation requirements?

[RCW 28A.230.090](#) authorizes SBE to establish state graduation requirements. SBE has established credit requirements, including credit requirements in English. In addition, SBE has established the non-credit requirements of a Culminating Project and a High School and Beyond Plan ([WAC 180-51-061](#), [WAC 180-51-066](#), and [WAC 180-51-067](#)).

2. What is the English credit requirement through the graduating class of 2015?

The English credit requirement through the graduating class of 2015 is 3 credits of English ([WAC 180-51-061](#), [WAC 180-51-066](#)).

3. What is the English credit requirement for the graduating class of 2016 and beyond?

The English credit requirement for the graduating class of 2016 and beyond is 4 credits of English ([WAC 180-51-067](#)).

4. Why did the State Board of Education add a credit of English for the graduating class of 2016 and beyond?

In November 2010, the State Board of Education approved the [Washington State Career- and College-Ready Graduation Requirements](#). The Career- and College-Ready Graduation Requirements comprise a program of study that keeps all postsecondary choices open, with flexible options for students who have particular career or education goals. In November 2011, the State Board of Education adopted into rule the graduation requirement changes that were determined to have no fiscal impact based on a [November 2010 fiscal analysis](#) performed by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. These changes included increasing English from 3 to 4 credits.

5. What constitutes high school English credit?

WAC [180-51-050](#) defines high school credit as:

- Successful completion of courses taught to the state's essential academic learning requirements (learning standards), as defined by written district policy; or,
- Satisfactory demonstration of student proficiency/competency of the state's essential academic learning requirements, as defined by written district policy.

The state's essential academic learning standards for English are the [Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts](#), adopted in July, 2011. Students will be assessed on the 2005 State Learning Standards in [Reading](#), [Writing](#), and [Communication](#), through the 2013-2014 school year; starting in 2014-2015, students will be assessed on the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts.

High school credit can be awarded for work that is at an academic level of ninth grade or higher.