

PRAISE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Praise Christian School is defined by Alabama State law as a “*Church School*”.

CONTENTS

General Graduation Preparation – p. 1

Documentation Required for Graduation – p. 2-5

- a. Traditional Academic Diploma – p. 2
- b. Advanced Academic Diploma: College-Bound - p. 3
- c. Advanced Academic Honor Diploma: College-Bound - p. 4
- d. Specific Occupation Diploma: not requiring a college degree – p. 5
- e. Special Needs Diploma – p. 5

Additional Praise Christian *High* School Information - p. 6

Standardized Tests For High School Students – p. 7 - 12

Alabama State Board of Education Graduation Requirements – p. 13ff

GRADUATION PREPARATION

Please refer to specific credit guidelines for receiving a diploma from Praise Christian School. In preparation for your child's graduation, several items must be submitted prior to the awarding of the high school diploma. A student may graduate at any time during the school year provided the diploma requirements are met.

A. The BASIC requirements:

1. Results of a **standardized test** of your choosing, such as,

ACT test (Composite score of **18 or higher**) or
College SAT II Combined Writing, Math, and Verbal score of 1500 or
Military Entrance Exam (40 or higher) or
IOWA Achievement Test (11th grade test, 11.0 grade equivalency) or
California Achievement Test (10.0 grade equivalency or higher.)

If the CAT is used, two adults must be involved with the testing process to ensure that the test is properly administered. The SAT and CAT must be an exam taken at the highest academic level completed by the student in the previous school year. For most students this will be the 11th grade. You must notify the administrator if the test is less than an 11th grade exam.

For students graduating in May, test results are requested by **December 1**. Consult with Praise Christian School administrator on your test results if your scores are lower than those indicated above.

2. A **Secondary School Transcript completed** for the period of enrollment with Praise Christian School and all graduation credits earned from other schools. If any credits from another school are to be applied towards graduation, a formal transcript from that school must be provided. Alabama State Colleges require 4 credits each of Math, Science, English, and Social Studies. For students graduating in May, tentative grades must be submitted by **March 1** with final grades prior to the awarding of the diploma.

3. Students who do not meet the minimum test score requirement are requested to submit a *written paper*. This item is optional for students who meet the standardized test requirements.

Submit a typed 600-800-word paper (approximately 2-3 pages.)

1. List and discuss the three most important Biblical lessons of life you have learned.
2. Describe how your life has better affected the lives of others.
3. Describe the activity or project that has given you the most fulfillment; explain why.
4. Discuss your plans for the future, and describe what skills you will need that will help you most with your future work.

Documentation Required for Graduation

**IF RETURNING TO THE TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM,
CHECK WITH THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR THEIR REQUIREMENTS.**

Graduation is based primarily on academic achievement and signifies that the graduate has completed the units of study as outlined below. These credit guidelines are based on typical college admissions expectations for a high school graduate. Final documented credits may vary.

A. TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC DIPLOMA

24 course credits minimum in addition to basic requirements listed on page 1:

Bible 2 credits

English 4 credits

4 of the following: *Should include Grammar and Composition, Vocabulary and Spelling, Writing Skills, Literature Studies – American, British.*

Other options: World Literature, Etymology, Creative Writing, Latin Roots, etc.

Math 4 credits

Minimum: *Consumer Math and Pre-Algebra*

College bound students: *more advanced math courses*

Science 4 credits

4 of the following: *Basic Biology, Life Science, Marine Biology, Ecology, Anatomy And Physiology, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science, Chemistry, Creation Science may be included. More options are available.*

College bound students *should consider advanced studies, including Physics, etc..*

Social Studies 4 credits

Must include American and World history, ½ credit Economics, ½ credit American Government, Options include ½ credit Alabama history and ½ credit Geography, etc.

Fine Arts 0.5 credit

Health 0.5 credit

Physical Education 1.0 credit

Computer Science 1.0 credit

Electives 1.0+ credits

Might include Drama, Foreign Language, Music, Art, Vocational Education (part-time work), and many more options are available.

B. ADVANCED ACADEMIC DIPLOMA – College-Bound track
28 course credits minimum in addition to basic requirements listed on page 1:

Bible 2 credits

English 4 credits

Must include: *Grammar and Composition, Vocabulary and Spelling, Writing Skills, Literature Studies – American, British, etc.*

Other options: *World Literature, Etymology, Creative Writing, Latin Roots, etc.*

Math 4 credits

Must include: *Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II/Trigonometry,*

Other options: *Statistics, Pre-calculus, Calculus, etc.*

Science 4 credits

Must include: *Advanced Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry*

Other options: *Life Science, Physics, Marine Biology, Ecology, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Earth and Space Science, Creation Science, etc.*

Social Studies 4 credits

Must include: *American and World history, ½ credit Economics, ½ credit American Government,*

Options include: *½ credit Alabama history and ½ credit Geography, etc.*

Fine Arts 0.5 credit

Health 0.5 credit

Physical Education 1 credit

Computer Science 1 credit

Foreign language 2 credits of the same course: *French, Latin, Spanish, Sign Language, etc.*

Electives 5.0 or more credits: *Drama, Music, Art, etc.*

C. ADVANCED ACADEMIC HONOR DIPLOMA: College-Bound track

Advanced Academic Diploma with Special Honors

28 course credits minimum in addition to basic requirements listed on page 1:

Special honors may be conferred upon your child at the graduation ceremony. These honors are typically associated with *academic accomplishment* and/or *distinguished service* or *other specific accomplishment*.

25 or higher on the ACT college admissions test or comparable score on another standardized test. Other tests will be considered on a case by case.

This honor is distinguished at the graduation ceremony with a gold honors cord worn by the graduate. Parents may confer **other honors** upon their child for distinguished service or accomplishment for which a sash may be worn at the ceremony. A sash can be mail ordered or purchased from Jostens of Mobile (660-0328) or Milligans (1-800-544-4696).

Required for Documentation

Advanced courses are indicated by the textbook publisher.

Course credits include:

Bible 2 credits

English 4 credits

Must include: *Grammar and Composition, Vocabulary and Spelling, Writing Skills, Literature Studies – American, British, etc.*

Other options: *World Literature, Etymology, Creative Writing, Latin Roots, etc.*

Math 4 credits

Must include: *Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II/Trigonometry,*

Other options: *Statistics, Pre-calculus, Calculus, etc.*

Science 4 credits

Must include: *Advanced Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry*

Other options: *Life Science, Physics, Marine Biology, Ecology, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Earth and Space Science, Creation Science, etc.*

Social Studies 4 credits

Must include: *American and World history, ½ credit Economics, ½ credit American Government,*

Options include: *½ credit Alabama history and ½ credit Geography, etc.*

Fine Arts 0.5 credit

Health 0.5 credit

Physical Education 1 credit

Computer Science 1 credit

Foreign language 2 credits of the same course: *French, Latin, Spanish, Sign Language, etc.*

Electives 5.0 or more credits

Drama, Music, Art, and many more options are available.

D. SPECIFIC OCCUPATION DIPLOMA: NOT REQUIRING A COLLEGE DEGREE:

Please contact the administrator for specific instructions for adapting the testing and transcript requirements for your case.

The qualifications for receiving the Life Skills Diploma differs from the traditional diploma in that it is oriented towards development of a specific *vocation* or life skills.

Specific Occupation or Life Skill – 24 credits

This skill might include a *trade* skill or other *occupational* interest. This diploma allows the student to tailor his/her high school education to the development of that skill while still maintaining a basic *level of competency in the traditional subject areas*. To qualify for this diploma this student must meet the following requirements:

Bible	2 credits
English	3 credits (Grammar and Composition, vocabulary/Spelling, Literature Studies – American and British, Etymology, etc.)
Math	2 credits (Consumer Math, Algebra 1/2, or more advanced)
Social Studies	3 credits (U.S. History, World History, Economics, US Government)
Science	2 credits (General Science, Basic Biology, or more advanced)
Health	1 credit may include a study in Nutrition and Parenting
Physical Education	1 credit
Electives	10 credits should be oriented to the student’s specific occupational objectives (music, art, cooking, sewing, carpentry, electronics, computer skills, physical education, etc.)

- a. **IOWA Achievement Test** or other standardized achievement test, at the highest-grade level competency at which your child is academically capable. If your child is incapable of testing, please consult with the administrator.
- b. Typed **600-800-word paper** (approximately 2-3 pages.)
 - 1. List and discuss the three most important Biblical lessons of life you have learned.
 - 2. Describe how your life has better affected the lives of others.
 - 3. Describe the activity or project that has given you the most fulfillment; explain why.
 - 4. Discuss your plans for the future, and describe what skills you will need that will help you most with your future work.

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SPECIAL NEEDS DIPLOMA

For a “Special Needs” Child, we recommend Varied Abilities and Training Network (VAST)

ADDITIONAL PRAISE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

College Enrollment:

Contact the admissions office of any colleges of interest and ask them for their policies concerning home schooled students.

Diploma:

The diploma is awarded by Praise Christian School. Parents and administrator sign the form certifying that the student has met the requirements of the awarded status.

Each family must purchase their own diploma case for the diploma certificate. The diploma case size fits 8 ½ x 11 certificate. These items may be purchased from Jostens, Herff Jones, or Milligans. Milligans also sells the gold academic honors cord and other sashes. These items should be purchased *at least four months* prior to the ceremony.

Dual Enrollment:

Students who wish to receive a traditional diploma and receive college credit at the same time may choose to enroll in a public or private college for their junior or senior years. The students may be required to take a placement exam and may be limited to a specific course(s). Please check with Bishop State Community College and the University of South Alabama for more details.

GED:

The diploma earned from Praise Christian School is equivalent to those awarded in the traditional public or private school. It is not a "GED".

The General Educational Development (GED) exam gives an officially recognized diploma for college admissions to those students who do not meet the PCS graduation requirements.

Graduation Participation:

It is the parent's responsibility to inform the administrator that the student has qualified to graduate in the current school year. This is especially important for the student to attend the formal graduation ceremony. As a reminder, letters of graduation information will be sent out in January of each year. Instructions regarding graduation and the ceremony will then be communicated, by mail, to each family.

Graduation Ceremony Attire:

Each graduating class will decide whether the entire graduating class will wear the traditional black gown or the alternative attire of girls in a modest white dress and boys in a suit with tie.

Transcripts:

Our enrollment fee includes sending *four (4) transcripts* to prospective colleges or military recruiters as long as your family is enrolled with Praise Christian School. All other transcript requests will require a *processing fee*. Request the transcripts prior to graduation.

STANDARDIZED TESTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

TESTING RESULTS must be available *prior to February of student's graduating year.* Please schedule your testing in a timely manner to insure that you meet this deadline.

PSAT/NMSQT

PCS encourages our sophomores (or younger students) to take this test.

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a program co-sponsored by the College Board and [National Merit Scholarship Corporation](http://www.nationalmerit.com) (www.nationalmerit.com). For many students, the PSAT/NMSQT is the first official step on the road to college. It assesses skills developed through years of study in a wide range of courses as well as through experiences outside the classroom.

The PSAT/NMSQT has three parts: *Critical Reading, Math, and Writing Skills*. [Learn more about each part of the test by going to the official www.collegeboard.com.](#)

Students take the PSAT/NMSQT to:

- Help assess skills necessary for college-level work
- Prepare for the SAT
- Enter Competitions for National Scholarships. For more information, go to [Scholarship and Recognition Programs](#). www.collegeboard.com.
- Receive information from colleges. For more information, go to [Student Search Service](#) www.collegeboard.com.

In 2004, 51% of PSAT/NMSQT test takers were sophomores or younger students. Younger test-takers have more time to develop the skills reported on [Score Report Plus](#) that they need to improve to succeed in high school and college. Students who take the test as sophomores need to take it again as juniors to qualify for [National Merit scholarship programs](#).

ACT

The ACT Assessment is a national college admission examination that consists of tests in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Reading
- Science

The ACT takes approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes to complete with breaks. The ACT is administered on five national test dates, in October, December, February, April, and June. In selected states, the ACT is also offered in late September.

The *optional Writing Test* is a 30-minute essay test that measures students' writing skills.

These tests are designed to assess students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The tests emphasize reasoning, analysis, problem solving, and the integration of learning from various sources, as well as the application of these proficiencies to the kinds of tasks college students are expected to perform.

You may use a calculator on the ACT Assessment Mathematics Test (but not on any of the other tests in the ACT Assessment). (See details when registering for the ACT.)

How Colleges Use ACT Results

- **Admission decisions**
virtually all colleges and universities in the U.S., including all of the Ivy League now accept The ACT Assessment [school](#). ACT test results, high school grades, academic preparation, out-of-class accomplishments, special interests, and future plans—these and other kinds of information help admission officials identify applicants who can benefit most from their programs.
- **Course placement**
Colleges usually try to take into account individual strengths and weaknesses as they place students in freshman-year courses. For example, a college may offer three sections of a subject—developmental, regular, and advanced. A student's ACT results, academic background, and high school grades might be used to determine which section would be most appropriate.
- **Academic advising**
College academic advisers may consider ACT results, high school academic program, high school grades, college grade estimates, planned extracurricular activities, areas in which there is a need for help, and part-time employment plans to help a student tailor an appropriate program of study.
- **Scholarships and loans**
Some scholarship and loan agencies may use ACT test results and grade predictions, with other information such as high school grades, to identify qualified candidates. However, the agencies may not look only at academic potential. The ACT score report provides information about a student's educational needs, extracurricular achievements, and educational plans. This information, along with high school grades and test scores, helps the agencies evaluate applications for scholarships, loans, and other financial assistance.

Check directly with the institutions that you are considering for their requirements.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Through AP Exams, you have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities. There are 34 courses and exams across 19 subject areas.

Here are just a few reasons to sign up:

1. Gain the Edge in College Preparation

- Get a head start on college-level work.
- Improve your writing skills and sharpen your problem-solving techniques.
- Develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous course work.

2. Stand Out in the College Admissions Process

- Demonstrate your maturity and readiness for college.
- Show your willingness to push yourself to the limit.
- Emphasize your commitment to academic excellence.

3. Broaden Your Intellectual Horizons

- Explore the world from a variety of perspectives, most importantly your own.
- Study subjects in greater depth and detail.
- Assume the responsibility of reasoning, analyzing, and understanding for yourself.

Can I take the AP Examination if I haven't taken an AP course?

Being a homeschooled student, you can still participate. Each year hundreds of students participate through independent study. Some states even sponsor online AP courses. Because the College Board is committed to providing access to the AP Exams to homeschooled students, it does not require students to take an AP course prior to taking an AP Exam. Some students, however, have taken strong courses and/or have studied in depth on their own. Such students may be able to perform quite well on the AP Exam.

The College Board urges students to study the kinds of skills and subjects outlined in the Course Description for each subject, because they represent the basis for the AP Examination.

- [Art History](#)
- [Biology](#)
- [Calculus AB](#)
- [Calculus BC](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Computer Science A](#)
- [Computer Science AB](#)
- [Macroeconomics](#)
- [Microeconomics](#)
- [English Language](#)
- [English Literature](#)
- [Environmental Science](#)
- [European History](#)
- [French Language](#)
- [French Literature](#)
- [German Language](#)
- [Comp Government & Politics](#)
- [U.S. Government & Politics](#)
- [Human Geography](#)
- [Latin Literature](#)
- [Latin: Vergil](#)
- [Music Theory](#)
- [Physics B](#)
- [Physics C](#)
- [Psychology](#)
- [Spanish Language](#)
- [Spanish Literature](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Studio Art](#)
- [U.S. History](#)
- [World History](#)

If I don't get a good grade on an AP Exam, will it hurt my chances for college admission?

If you take an examination as a senior, colleges will not receive your grade before July—probably well after you have been admitted. If you choose to report AP grades obtained before your senior year, you will primarily be telling the colleges that you undertook a difficult course and that you are serious about your studies. Overall, approximately two-thirds of all AP test takers receive AP grades of at least 3. This grade is regarded as an indicator of an ability to do successful work at most colleges.

How many times can I repeat an AP Exam?

You can take an AP Exam each time it is offered (AP Exams are offered once a year in May). Your grade report will include your grades for all the AP Exams you have taken, including yearly "repeats" of the same subject exam.

COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM® (CLEP)

Earn College Credit with CLEP and Shorten your Path to a College Degree

The College-Level Examination Program® or CLEP gives students of a wide range of ages the opportunity to demonstrate college-level knowledge through a program of exams in undergraduate college courses. There are 2,900 colleges and universities that grant credit and/or advanced standing for CLEP exams.

Why take CLEP exams?

By taking one or more CLEP exams students can...

- **Save time.** Students get college credit for what they already know and move ahead in their degrees. They can be rewarded for what they've learned through independent study, advanced high school courses, extracurricular activities or even for a foreign language learned at home or school.

- **Save money.** Compare the cost of a CLEP exam, just \$55, to hundreds—even thousands—of dollars in tuition.
- **Make college more interesting.** Move right into advanced courses.
- **Graduate on time.** CLEP can help students move closer to graduation in less time.
- **Satisfy a proficiency requirement.** Students can demonstrate they've already mastered the content of, for example, a basic math or language course.

Getting Credit: Before taking a CLEP exam, learn about the college's CLEP policy.

There are 2,900 institutions that grant credit for CLEP. To find a college that grants credit for CLEP visit the [CLEP College Search](#). It is important to note that each college sets its own CLEP policy; in other words, each institution determines for which exams credit is awarded, the scores required and how much credit will be granted.

Therefore, before a student takes a CLEP exam, he or she needs to check directly with the college or university he or she plans to attend to make sure that grants credit for CLEP and learn about its policy.

Where to find a college's CLEP policy

Typically, a college lists all its academic policies, including CLEP policies, in its general catalog. You will probably find the CLEP policy statement under a heading such as *Credit-by-Examination, Advanced Standing, Advanced Placement, or External Degree Program*. If you can't find this information, ask the admission or registrar's office for a copy of the college's credit-by-examination policy.

How much credit can a student earn?

Not all colleges award the same amount of CLEP credit for individual tests. Furthermore, some colleges place a limit on the total amount of credit that can be earned through CLEP or other exams. Other colleges may grant exemption but no credit toward the degree. Knowing several colleges' policies concerning these issues may help a student decide which college to attend. If a student feels he or she can pass a number of CLEP exams, the student may want to attend a college that will allow him or her to earn credit for all or most of them.

Minimum qualifying score

Most colleges publish the required scores for earning CLEP credit in their general catalog or in a brochure. The required score for earning CLEP credit may vary from exam to exam and from institution to institution so it is important to find out this information from the college or university.

Students can learn more about earning credit through CLEP exams by visiting the [Getting Credit](#) section for students.

AP or CLEP?

If a student has taken an *AP course* while in attendance at a high school, he or she should make the most of that experience by taking the corresponding AP Exam, because AP Exams are constructed to parallel the learning goals described in each subject's AP Course Description. Many colleges and universities expect that students who take AP courses will validate their achievement by taking the AP Exam.

CLEP is particularly appropriate for subjects in which your high school does not yet offer an AP course, or for which no AP Exam is available.

AP and CLEP can be valuable tools for all students, helping them complete their college degree programs earlier or jump ahead to more advanced courses. Even if a college does not award credit for a particular exam, successful performance can enhance students' admission profiles.

REMEMBER: Colleges and universities are looking for highly motivated and inquisitive students who have challenged themselves with college-level work, just as students who take AP and CLEP do. Carefully relate student exam-taking strategies to the requirements of the colleges and universities they plan to attend.

What the CLEP score means

The score report shows the total scaled score for each exam the candidate took. Total scaled scores fall between 20 and 80.

Comparing scores

CLEP exams are developed and evaluated independently and are not linked to each other except by the Program's common purpose, format, and method of reporting results. For this reason, direct comparisons should not be made from one CLEP exam to another. Nor are CLEP scores comparable to SAT® scores or scores of other tests that use similar scales.

This center's testing is restricted to students admitted to or enrolled at the institution.

1733 Coordinator, Adult Student Services
Spring Hill College
4000 Dauphin Street
Mobile, AL 36608
251-380-3470 www.shc.edu

This center will test anyone who properly registers, including military personnel. These centers generally administer CLEP exams on a regular basis.

1880 Counseling & Testing Services
University of South Alabama
Alpha Hall East, Room 326
Mobile, AL 36688
251-460-6271

COLLEGE SAT

Writing

- Multiple-choice questions (grammar and usage)
- Student-written essay

Critical Reading

- Analogies have been eliminated with new tests
- Short reading passages added to existing long reading passages

Mathematics

- Math content expanded to include topics from third-year college preparatory math
- Quantitative comparisons eliminated

A. Writing Section:

In the spring of 2005, a perfect SAT score will rise from 1600 to 2400, with the writing test worth up to 800 points. The SAT is being revised to be more closely aligned with today's high school curriculum, and addressing concerns among employers and university professors that the quality of student writing has severely declined.

The new writing test (assigned, but general, topic) takes up 50 minutes of this time - 25 minutes for the essay, and 25 minutes for related multiple choice questions (a multiple-choice grammar section in which students specify the part of a given sentence that contains an error and a multiple-choice syntax section in which students select the most well-constructed sentence or the best-organized paragraph from several options).

Writing (3 sections)

- use standard written English
- identify sentence errors
- write an essay and develop a point of view

The essay is scored on a scale of 1 to 6. To receive a perfect score students are expected to demonstrate "outstanding critical thinking, using clearly appropriate examples, reasons, and other supporting evidence." Two readers will score each essay. A third reader will be used if the scores given by the other two differ by more than two points.

B. Verbal section *renamed* "Critical Reading"

Verbal test includes a series of paragraph-long passages; each followed by a single multiple-choice question. These will replace the existing analogy questions, which test a student's ability to identify relationships between words. Analogies are being eliminated on the basis that they are not a part of most high school curriculums.

- understand and analyze what you read
- recognize relationships between parts of a sentence
- understand word meaning in context

C. Math section

The math test contains questions requiring a knowledge of material at the Algebra II level, including matrices, absolute values, rational equations and inequalities, radical equations and geometric notations.

Solve problems involving:

- algebra and functions
- geometry and measurement
- number and operations
- data analysis, statistics, and probability

SCORING

Each SAT section is scored on a scale of 200-800. The average score on the SAT is about 500 on the critical reading portion, 500 on the math portion, and 500 on the writing portion.

Understanding Your Scores

Colleges use more than your SAT scores when making admission decisions. Your high school record is most important, and colleges may consider essays, recommendations, interviews, and your involvement in extracurricular activities. Because no single score can tell everything about how you performed on the test, the score reports also include percentiles and score ranges. The Admissions staff uses these tools to evaluate the scores.

SAT Subject Tests

Subject Test scores are reported on a scale from 200 to 800. Subject Test subscores are reported on a scale from 20 to 800. Your scores tell college admission staff how you did compared with other students who took the test.

SAT Reasoning Test

SAT scores are reported on a scale from 200 to 800, with additional subscores reported for the essay (ranging from 2-12) and for multiple-choice writing questions (on a 20-to-80 scale). Your scores tell college admission staff how you did compared with other students who took the test. For example, if you scored close to the mean or average—about 500 on SAT critical reading and 500 on SAT math—admission staff would know that you scored as well as about half of the students who took the test.

<p>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING Alabama State Board of Education Graduation Requirements</p>

Amended: *May 20, 2008*

1. General Information. Graduation requirements are established by the State Board of Education, although local boards of education may establish additional standards exceeding state minimum requirements.

2. Alabama High School Diploma Requirements.

A. Students are provided the opportunity to earn one of **five** type diplomas: the Alabama High School Diploma, the Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement, The Alabama High School Diploma with Credit Based Endorsement, and the Alabama Occupational Diploma, and the Alabama Alternate High School Diploma. Students completing the graduation requirements by attending summer school may attend the graduation ceremony the following spring. Graduation certificates may be awarded under the guidelines of section F of this policy.

B. Alabama High School Diploma. The Alabama High School Diploma will be issued to those students who complete the minimum state course requirements, earn the minimum credits, and pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam. Students who maintain a 90 overall average or above for all courses attempted during grades 9 through 12 will graduate with "Honors" and will have such designation noted on their diploma and official transcript. All students receiving the Alabama High School Diploma or the Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement must pass all sections of the Alabama Graduation Exam.

C. Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement. The Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Endorsement was created by the State of Alabama to challenge students to complete a more demanding course of study and to better prepare students for further study at the post-secondary level. The Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement will be issued to all students who complete the minimum state course requirements, and pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam. Students who maintain a 90 overall average or above, for all courses attempted during grades 9 through 12, will graduate with "Honors", and will have such designation noted on their official transcript.

D. Credit-Based Endorsement—General education students and students with disabilities will complete the required credits in the core curriculum for an Alabama diploma, earn one additional Career/Technical Education credit(suspended for the 2008 graduating class), take the *Alabama High School Graduation Exam* (AHSGE) each time offered through the twelfth grade, and pass three of the five sections of the AHSGE. Two of the three sections passed must be in reading and math.

E. Alabama Occupational Diploma. Effective for students with disabilities as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 101-476), students must earn the course credits outlined in Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-3-1-.02(8)(g)1. and successfully complete an approved occupational portfolio in order to be awarded the Alabama Occupational Diploma.

F. Alabama Alternate High School Diploma. A senior may receive the Alabama Alternate High School Diploma if that student has received passing grades for the required course work outlined for the Alabama High School Diploma, but failed to pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam, and passed the GED test.

G. Graduation Certificate. Special Education students may be awarded a graduation certificate and afforded the opportunity to participate in graduation activities under the following circumstances: See http://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Policies/Pages/I/HF-GRADUATION_REQUIREMENTS.htm

2. Alabama High School Diploma: Minimum credits - 28 Carnegie units Beginning with class of 2013

www.mcpss.com Click on the "First Choice" icon on the video section of the homepage

Alabama High School Standard Diploma	Credits	Advanced Academic Endorsement Honors Endorsement	Credits
English 9, 10, 11, 12	4	English 9, 10, 11, 12	4
Mathematics To include the equivalent of: Algebra I & Geometry	4	Mathematics Must include: Algebra II / Trigonometry	4
Science To include the equivalent of: Biology Physical Science or Chemistry 2 Additional Sciences	4	Science Biology Physical Science or Chemistry 2 Additional Sciences	4
Social Studies World History Early U.S. History Modern U.S. History Government (½ credit) Economics (½ credit)	4	Social Studies World History Early U.S. History Modern U.S. History Government (½ credit) Economics (½ credit)	4
*Physical Education	1	*Physical Education	1
Health Education	½	Health Education	½
Fine Arts	½	Fine Arts	½
**Computer Applications	½	**Computer Applications	½
Foreign Language	2	Foreign Language	2
Extra Electives	7 ½	Extra Electives	7 ½
Total	28		28

* The Physical Education credit is waived for students taking band, physical education, or advanced academics.

** The Computer Applications credit may be waived if the student is able to demonstrate proficiency.

5. Instructional Requirements

A. English Language Arts Required Courses. Students must earn four credits to include the equivalent of one credit each of English 9, 10, 11, and 12.

B. Mathematics Required Courses. Students must earn four credits including the equivalent of one credit each of Algebra I and Geometry, and for a diploma with the advanced academic endorsement, one credit of Algebra II and Trigonometry.

C. Science Required Courses. Students must earn four credits to include the equivalent of one credit each of Biology and Physical Science or Chemistry, plus two credits of an additional life and/or physical science.

D. Social Studies Required Courses. Students must earn four credits to include the equivalent of one credit of World History in grade 9, two credits of United States History in grades 10 and 11, and one-half credit each of American Government and Economics in grade 12.

E. Other Required Courses. Students must successfully complete the following courses. The content for each of these courses is prescribed by the applicable Alabama Course of Study.

1. Physical Education – one credit (waived for students taking band, JROTC, and advanced academics)

2. Health Education – one-half credit

3. Computer Applications – one-half credit

4. Fine Arts – one-half credit

5. Foreign Language – Students earning the diploma with the advanced academic endorsement must successfully complete two credits in the same foreign language.

F. Embedded Credit - Applied Academic Courses. Applied Academics is the presentation of subject matter in a way that integrates a particular academic discipline such as mathematics, science, or English with work-force applications and hands-on laboratory experiences dealing with practical equipment and devices. These courses must have a structured curriculum, undergo rigorous scrutiny including pilot testing, and have the approval of the State Superintendent.

References: Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-02,06. Approved: January 17, 2002
Amended: April 3, 2008 Amended: *May 20, 2008, April 12, 2009*