

Why graduation requirements?

Public Act No. 01-166 (State of Connecticut)

...each local and regional board of education must specify the basic skills necessary for graduation for classes graduating in 2006, and thereafter, and include a process to assess a student's level of competency in such skills. The assessment criteria are to include, but not exclusively be based on, the results of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT.)

The State of Connecticut has required all schools to:

- Identify their expectations of graduates.
- Identify ways to assess that graduates meet these expectations.
- Include performance on the CAPT test as part of the criteria for assessing the expectations.

Standards for Accreditations – New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

The school shall have established expectations for student learning that specifically state what all students should know and be able to do by the time they graduate from the school taking into account the skills, competencies, concepts and understandings identified by district, state, and national standards and by professional organizations.

There shall be a separate document developed by the faculty that defines the school's academic expectations for student learning in specific, measurable ways, describes specific levels of performance, and indicates which level is the indicator of successful accomplishment.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges which awards accreditation has required all schools to:

- Identify expectations in specific, measurable ways for all students.
- Identify ways to assess expectations that describe different levels of performance.
- Indicate which level is appropriate for successful accomplishment.

To graduate from the Bolton Public Schools, a student must have earned a minimum of 22 credits and must have met the credit distribution requirement. Students must also meet academic performance expectations in writing, mathematics, science, oral communication, and technology as well as meeting expectations of community interaction, the development of a career plan/portfolio, and a large-scale Senior year project.

What are the graduation requirements?

Credit Distribution Expectations

English	4	credits
Social Studies	3	credits
	<i>(1 credit in U.S. History required Junior year)</i>	
	<i>(½ credit in Civics required Senior year)</i>	
Mathematics	3	credits
Science	2	credits
Vocational or Fine Arts	1	credit
Phys. Ed./Health	1 ¾	credits
Electives	7 ¼	credits
<u>TOTAL</u>	22	<i>credits minimum</i>

Academic Performance Expectations

Response to Literature

The student reads to construct interpretations of a text based on elements within the text; prior knowledge and experience; and the context in which the text is read.

This requirement is monitored by the **English Department**. Each student will have 2 assessments per year in every course. Grades 9 and 10 are considered "introductory experiences" that are scored but do not count toward the completion of the requirement.

In order to meet this requirement the student must accomplish one of the following:

- The student meets the goal (Band 4) on the *Response to Literature* portion of the CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test)
- The student attains a 4 (Meets Requirement,) 5 (Exceeds Requirement,) or 6 (With Distinction) on the BHS generated rubric as a result of one of the designated assessments in English courses during Grades 11 or 12.

Persuasive Writing

The student demonstrates the ability to think creatively, solve problems, make decisions, and communicate ideas to others.

This requirement is monitored by the **Social Studies, World Languages (Latin), and Art Departments**. Each student will have 2 assessments per year in every Social Studies course and at least 1 assessment per year in Latin and in selected Art courses. Grades 9 and 10 are considered "introductory experiences" that are scored but do not count toward the completion of the requirement.

In order to meet this requirement the student must accomplish one of the following:

- The student meets the goal (Band 4) on the *Persuasive Writing* portion of the CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test)
- The student attains a 4 (Meets Requirement,) 5 (Exceeds Requirement,) or 6 (With Distinction) on the BHS generated rubric as a result of one of the designated assessments in Social Studies or Latin courses during Grades 11 or 12. In order to meet the requirement through the Art Department students must be in Grades 11 or 12 and have previously taken Art I or Introduction to Photography.

Numeric Problem Solving

The student demonstrates the ability to apply basic knowledge and skills to the solution of realistic problems drawn from everyday experiences and the needs of the workplace.

This requirement is monitored by the **Math Department**. Each student will have 1 or 2 assessments per year with the exception of those students in Math I. Grades 9 and 10 are considered "introductory experiences" that are scored but do not count toward the completion of the requirement.

In order to meet this requirement the student must accomplish one of the following:

- The student meets the goal (Band 4) on the *Math* portion of the CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test)
- The student attains a 3 (Meets Requirement) or 4 (With Distinction) on the BHS generated rubric as a result of one of the designated assessments in Grades 11 or 12 in Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, PreCalculus, or Calculus.
- The student during the Senior Year passes Consumer Math, Senior Math, or Accounting I or II.

Scientific Problem Solving

The student demonstrates conceptual understanding, application, and experimentation.

This requirement is monitored by the **Science Department**. Each student will have 2 assessments per year in every course. Grades 9 and the first semester of Grade 10 are considered "introductory experiences" that are scored but do not count toward the completion of the requirement.

In order to meet this requirement the student must accomplish one of the following:

- The student meets the goal (Band 4) on the *Science* portion of the CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test)
- The student attains a 3 (Meets Requirement) or 4 (With Distinction) on the BHS generated rubric as a result of one of the designated assessments in Science courses during the second semester of Grade 10 or Grades 11 or 12.

Oral Communication

The student speaks clearly and concisely so as to communicate effectively in meaningful conversation, to defend a position, or to exchange information.

This requirement is monitored by the **English, Family & Consumer Sciences, and World Languages (French, Spanish) Departments**. Each student will have 1 assessment per year in English (with the exception of MCC Speech 12 in which there will be 2 assessments.) Students will have 1 assessment per year in certain courses offered by the Family & Consumer Sciences Department. All students will have 2 assessments in World Language (French, Spanish) courses. Grades 9 and Grade 10 are considered "introductory experiences" that are scored but do not count toward the completion of the requirement.

In order to meet this requirement the student must accomplish the following:

- The student attains a 3 (Meets Requirement) or 4 (With Distinction) on the BHS generated rubric as a result of one of the designated assessments in English or World Language courses in Grades 11 or 12. There are certain courses offered by the Family & Consumer Sciences Department that offer assessments that meet the requirement in Grades 11 or 12.

Technology

The student applies appropriate computer technology as a tool for accomplishing an established goal.

This requirement is monitored by the **Business and Technology Departments**. Each student will have 2 assessments per year in each Business and Technology course. Assessments in all grades are scored and do count toward the completion of the requirement

In order to meet this requirement the student must accomplish one of the following:

- The student passes one of the following courses: Computer Applications, Introduction to Computer Aided Design, Multi-Media and DVD, or Desk Top Publishing.
- The student attains a 3 (Meets Requirement) or 4 (With Distinction) on the BHS generated rubric as a result of one of the designated assessments at any grade level, 9 through 12, in Business or Technology courses not listed above.
- The student who does not take a *Business* or *Technology* course may meet the requirement by using technology in a classroom project, in which the teacher is aware (ahead of time) that the student will be petitioning to have the project assessed using the Technology rubric to meet the requirement.
- The student includes, in the Senior Demonstration, a technology component that will be assessed using the Technology rubric to meet the requirement.

Product-Based Performance Expectations

An Education / Career Portfolio

This requirement is monitored by **Guidance Department**. Each student will complete several items and events as part of this four-year portfolio.

In order to meet this requirement the student must accomplish all of the following:

- The student completes with their Counselor a Four Year Academic Plan.
- The student completes with their Counselor a Post Secondary Career Plan.
- The student completes with their Counselor an Interest Inventory.
- The student completes in English class a Career Interest Reflection Paper including College/School research.
- The student completes with their Counselor an Application for Employment.
- The student completes with their Counselor a Cover Letter and Personalized Resume.
- The student completes a Job Shadow Experience or Internship Experience set up by their Counselor.

Community Service

This requirement is monitored by the **Main Office**. Each student is required to accumulate 30 hours of community service. These hours may be attained through service to a variety of non-profit groups, community organizations, and school activities. There is a community service form, available in the Main Office, which must be completed in advance of the activity and then signed by an appropriate official of the sponsoring group or activity. The completed forms should be turned in to the Main Office upon completion of the community service. Community service hours may be accrued anytime after the first day of school in Grade 9. The student may include, in the Senior Demonstration, a community service component that will meet the requirements.

Senior Demonstration

Students are required to complete a large-scale project as a culminating Senior experience. In order to meet this requirement the student must accomplish the following:

- The student identifies, designs, and executes a major project after receiving written approval of the project by the faculty/adult mentor and the faculty supervisor.
- The student includes a **written component** such as a research paper or a reflective journal.
- The student completes an agreed upon **project product** such as an original work, experiment, portfolio, musical work, etc.
- If students are receiving credit for an independent study, the student culminates the work with a **demonstration** to some form of audience.
- The student attains a 3 (Meets Requirement) or 4 (With Distinction) on the BHS generated rubric as a result of the **written component, project product, and demonstration** as scored by the faculty/adult mentor and the faculty advisor.

The Bolton High School *Senior Demonstration Manual* will be published in the Fall of 2003.

Exemption Situations

- Students transferring into the Bolton Public Schools and are granted Senior status may be exempted from certain performance expectations for graduation. If a sending school documents that a student has achieved the performance expectation at the school from which he/she has withdrawn, the student may be exempted from that performance expectation in Bolton.
- Students with special needs may be exempt from district performance expectations for graduation if so indicated in their Individual Education Plan.
- Students who are English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and are exempt from the CAPT administration because of their status may be exempt from district performance expectations for graduation if so indicated by the ESOL review team.

Notification

- At the beginning of the school year, each Junior and Senior shall be notified by his/her Guidance Counselor of his/her status relative to meeting the performance expectations for graduation.
- Students in jeopardy of not graduating due to failure to meet the graduation requirements and/or performance expectations, and their parents/guardians will be formally notified in writing of their status by the administration. The notification will occur at the end of the students' Junior year and after the students' first semester of the Senior year.