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HIGH SCHOOL/POSTSECONDARY CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

School counselors are asked to monitor the high school graduation requirements to ensure that each student is on track to complete the necessary coursework to graduate. In addition to these requirements established by the Department of Education, students must also be mindful of the curriculum and course units that are necessary for meeting admissions, Regents' Scholar diploma, and Opportunity Scholarship requirements in the event they are interested in pursuing postsecondary opportunities. Students must have no final grade below a "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) for a course/unit to count toward meeting the curriculum requirement. The matrix below provides a useful tool for comparing the unique differences that exist across each of these areas.

SD Public Institution Admissions – The six Regental institutions have a common set of course admission requirements for those students seeking to be admitted as an associates or bachelors' degree seeking student. These 5 course requirements must be met in addition to meeting at least one of the following criteria which include: 1) rank in the top 60 percent of their high school graduating class; 2) obtain an ACT composite score of 18 (redesigned SAT score of 950, or concorded equivalent for older SAT scores) or above (21 or higher at SDSMT and USD); or 3) obtain a high school GPA of at least 2.6 on a 4.0 scale.

Regents' Scholar Diploma - South Dakota high school graduates with the required coursework in six designated areas (and an average grade of "B" or 3.0 on a 4.0 scale) shall be designated as Regents Scholars and may be eligible to receive a Regents' Scholar Diploma upon request by a high school administrator to the Board of Regents. Curriculum Requirements were updated in Fall 2018 to include CTE as an option for qualification. Students have the option of completing two units of modern/classical language, career and technical education, or a combination of the two*. High school graduates designated as Regents' Scholars automatically are admitted to all six public universities.

Opportunity Scholarship – Student entering high school for the first time prior to July 2010 must have the necessary coursework in 8 of the content areas. Those entering high school after July 2010 may have the option of completing two units of modern/classical language, career and technical education, or a combination of the two*. Health/Health Integration will also be required for those attending for the first time after July 2013. Beginning with the Fall 2013 term, students can also establish initial eligibility in the program by obtaining a composite ACT score of 28 (redesigned SAT score of 1320, or concorded equivalent for older SAT scores) and meeting the most current college readiness benchmarks in the areas of English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science. This applies to students completing alternative instruction and high school graduates who have not met one of the above curriculum requirements.

Curriculum Requirements Comparison Matrix

	SD Public Institution Admissions	Regents' Scholars Diploma	SD Opportunity Scholarship ^b
English	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years
Advanced Mathematics	3 Years	4 Years	4 Years
Science	3 Years <i>(all must be lab sciences)</i>	4 Years <i>(3 must be lab sciences)</i>	4 Years <i>(3 must be lab sciences)</i>
Social Studies	3 Years	3 Years	3 Years
Computer Science	----	----	----
Fine Arts	1 Year ^a	1 Year	1 Year
Modern or Classical Language	----	2 Years*	2 Years*
Career & Technical Ed.	----	2 Years*	2 Years*
Personal Finance/Economics	----	½ Year	½ Year
Physical Education	----	½ Year	½ Year
Health or Health Integration	----	½ Year (after 2013)	½ Year (after 2013)

^a – One year of fine arts effective Fall 2005 for student graduating from South Dakota high schools in 2005. One-half year of fine arts remains effective through Fall 2004.

^b – Includes Homeschool Students beginning with 2019-2020 academic year.