Graduation vs. Higher Education Admissions Requirements (HEAR)

Graduation and HEAR requirements are provided for your perusal and planning for your part-time (homeschooled) or full-time student. This information will enable your student to be prepared to enter a college/career environment post high school.

Being prepared for the 21st century requires the appropriate use and application of technology. Because of that, courses typically incorporate the use of technology and on-line learning as a part of the instruction into the content. Those skills, in addition to the use of technology, include:

- Information processing and analysis
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Interpersonal skills and self-direction
- Global awareness
- Financial, economic, and business literacy
- Entrepreneurial skills
- Civic literacy
- Skills for continuous learning

The Department of Higher Education has mandated that all students must complete the **pre-collegiate course of study** to be considered eligible for admittance to four-year public colleges and universities in Colorado. The following courses are required for all students to be considered for admission to four-year institutions in Colorado beginning with the graduating class of 2010.

- Four years of English
- Four years of math (must include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or equivalents)
- Three years of science (must include two years of laboratory-based science)
- Three years of social science (must include one year of U.S. or world history)
- One year of world language
- Two years of academic electives (acceptable electives include English, mathematics, sciences, social sciences, world language, art, music, journalism, drama, computer science, honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and appropriate Career/Technical Education (CTE) courses)

Recommended High School Courses for College-Bound Students	*Although academic requirements differ among colleges, the admissions requirements listed below are typical for four-year colleges. The specific classes listed here are examples of the types of courses students can take.*	
English--Four years ▪ American Literature ▪ Composition ▪ English Literature ▪ World Literature **Mathematics--Three to four years** ▪ Algebra I ▪ Algebra II ▪ Geometry ▪ Pre-Calculus ▪ Trigonometry ▪ Calculus	**History & Geography--Three years** ▪ Civics or Economics ▪ Geography ▪ U.S. History ▪ U.S. Government ▪ World History ▪ World Cultures **Laboratory Science—Three to four years** ▪ Biology ▪ Chemistry ▪ Earth/Astronomy Science ▪ Physics ▪ Anatomy & Physiology ▪ Unified Science	**Foreign Language**--Two to four years **Visual & Performing Arts**—One or more years ▪ Art ▪ Dance ▪ Drama ▪ Music **Challenging Electives**--One to three years ▪ Communications ▪ Computer Sciences ▪ STEM/Innovation (STEAM) ▪ Humanities – ex: Psychology ▪ Statistics

Graduation Requirements – NEW Information/Requirements for 2021

Graduation Requirements Summary		
The Colorado Department of Higher Education has revised the **Admission Standards Policy for 4-year, in-state, public universities.** Please see the column below and consult COHE's website at https://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Admissions/#freshmen for further information.		
Comparison:	Higher Education Admission Requirements Jefferson County Graduation Requirements	
Content	HEAR	**Jefferson County
English	4 credits	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits	3 credits *
Science	3 credits	3 credits **
Social Sciences	3 credits	3.5 credits ***
World Languages	1 credit	0 credit
Electives	2 credits	9.5 credits ****
	17 credits	23 credits

* A minimum of Algebra 1, Geometry, and one additional course at or above Geometry.
** Three credits of laboratory classes in Science that meet both process and content standards are required.
*** Must include History (U.S. & World), Geography, Civics, and Economics.
**** Must include .5 credits in Physical Education/Health and .5 credits in Fine/Practical Arts as a part of their elective credits.

NEW FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING 2021 (Or 2020-2021 School year): Per Jeffco Board Policy IKF, the above criteria shall entitle a student, through the year 2020, to a high school diploma from HOPE Academy (Jefferson County Public Schools). Starting in the graduating year of 2021, demonstration of career and college readiness in English and Math through one or more of the approved options is also required to comply for graduation. The chart of menu options (Menu of College and Career-Ready Demonstrations) for compliance is listed on the HOPE Academy website, hopemustangs.us, under the Secondary tab.

A student who has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) may be granted a diploma based on completion of the goals listed in the IEP and on the basis of modified content standards and modified course requirements.

As a part of preparation towards graduation, all full-time students will be required to develop an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) beginning in grade seven. Leadership for the plan will be facilitated by counselors and administrators and monitored by school personnel. The plan will be reviewed/access given annually in grades seven through twelve and should include participation by students, parents or legal guardian, school counselors, school administrators and other school personnel. The ICAP and ICAP related data shall be available upon request to the students, parent or legal guardian and/or approved service providers in both an electronic and printable form. The ICAP will set out a course of study for each student, based on completions of all requirements for graduation form HOPE Academy/Jeffco Public schools (for full-time students). All part-time students of HOPE Academy are encouraged to participate in this ICAP process, and aim to complete the same graduation requirements, providing the same and best opportunities for college and career readiness.

These entrance requirements may be different for private or out-of- state universities, and additional courses may be required. Please consult with a counselor/administrator should you have any questions regarding planning for and/or entrance into college institutions.