



## Graduation Requirements for English Language Arts

The Oklahoma State Department of Education is dedicated to ensuring that all Oklahoma students engage in meaningful learning experiences during their PK-12 years. With educators' help, high school students can successfully navigate graduation requirements and progress beyond the high school setting to a successful future.

This document explains English language arts graduation requirements in Oklahoma.

**All students need 4 credits of English language arts to graduate high school,** according to State statute [70 O.S. § 11-103.6](#).

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### Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If a student scores a 3 or higher on the AP English Language or AP English Literature exam as a junior, are they required to take an English class senior year?

**Yes.** The law states that students must have 4 credits of high school English. For English credit senior year, students should choose from their school's offerings or partnerships. Students might take the other AP English class, an on-level English 4 class, or dual-credit Composition 1 and 2 classes.

Q: If a student receives college credit on an AP English exam as a junior, can that credit count as the fourth high school English credit?

**No.** The law dictates that students earn 4 credits of English in high school. The college credit earned from an AP English test as a junior in high school cannot also be applied to senior year. Moreover, students should be aware that not all colleges accept AP English scores or do so to the same degree.

Q: How much high school credit does a student receive for a college composition class?

**Each school district decides.** It is recommended that students are engaged in critical, rigorous reading and writing all eight semesters of high school. Therefore, it is wise to award half a credit (0.5) for one (1) semester of composition, which means students would need to take both Composition and 1 and 2 to earn their fourth and final credit of English.

Q: Can any college-level English class be taken for high school credit?

**It is suggested that Composition 1 and 2 be taken for high school credit.** It is recommended that students take Composition 1 and 2 as seniors –Composition 1 in the fall semester and Composition 2 in the spring. Students receive dual credit for these courses, meaning they receive high school and college credit if they pass.

Q: Can a high school English elective course count as 1 of the 4 English language arts credits for graduation?

**No.** While classes such as creative writing, journalism, newspaper, and mythology make use of English language arts, these courses only count as elective courses, not as English credits. For a full list of English language arts courses eligible for all diploma pathways, see the [Subject Codes PDF](#) in the Documents section of the OSDE [Accreditation page](#).

Q: Can a student begin earning high school English credits before 9th grade?

**Yes.** If a student is advanced and has achieved proficiency-based promotion, they can earn English credits before 9th grade. The teacher must be certified to teach high school English.

Q: What certification does a teacher need to teach high school English?

High school English teachers need the **English (107) certification**, which applies to grades 5-12. The Middle-Level English (024) certification applies only to middle school, grades 5-8.