



Frequently Asked Questions **Graduation Requirements for English Language Arts**

Introduction

The Oklahoma State Department of Education is dedicated to ensuring that all Oklahoma students engage in meaningful learning experiences during their K-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 will provide teachers, parents, counselors, and administrators clarity on English language arts graduation requirements in Oklahoma. **All students need 4 credits of English language arts in order to graduate high school.** A few questions specific to English language arts are provided here along with short answers.

Additional information about graduation requirements is available at <http://bit.ly/oklahoma-graduation>.

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, with some considerations. The law states that students must have 4 credits of English in high school. For English credit their senior year, students should choose from their school's offerings. What that particular English class looks like depends on the school's offerings. Students might take the other AP English class, an on-level English 4 class, or dual-credit Composition 1 and 2 classes. It is important to note that not all colleges accept AP English scores or do so to the same degree.

Q: Can an 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.

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 wait to 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: 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.

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.

Linked Resources for Additional Graduation Guidance

Oklahoma State Law

- [Oklahoma Graduation Requirements](#)
- [Additional High School Graduation Resources](#)

Course Codes

- [Oklahoma Course Codes, Grades 9-12](#)

