

# Washington State First in Nation Requiring Two Arts Credits for High School Graduation

Washington State is excited to announce that the State Board of Education (SBE) has passed the new Washington State Graduation Requirements—**Career and College Ready**—on November 10, 2010.

This new requirement includes two credits for Arts for High School Graduation, beginning with the graduating class of 2016, provided the entire resolution is fully funded by the state legislature. One of the two credits is not substitutable. One credit may be substituted, depending upon the student's high school and beyond plan. A process for substitutions of any credits is being developed to ensure that students are provided the best possible educational experiences to prepare them for life and work in the 21st century. More arts courses and credits provide opportunity for all learners, not just some, to experience one or more arts and arts study at depth, in alignment with our state learning standards and performance assessments. The 4-year journey and process that was created for taking input into these revised requirements is one that may provide vision to other states as they increase their graduation requirements. We believe that student achievement will be increased, and that adding arts credits will assist in narrowing the achievement gap, celebrating cultures and diversity, and providing rigor, relevance, relationship, and a Renaissance in the schools.

*In its adoption of the new graduation requirements, the State Board of Education has demonstrated its strong vision for a complete education and for all learners in our state. Washington is now the first state in the nation to require two credits in the arts as part of high school graduation requirements. The inclusion of these credits provides increased opportunity for exposure to arts programs in our public schools, which are*

*critical in fostering student creativity and innovation. As we applaud the Board, we also extend our appreciation to arts partners throughout the state who advocated for the arts and helped make these requirements a reality. We offer a special thank you to ArtsEd Washington, the Washington State Arts Commission, and the Washington State Arts Alliance for their collaboration throughout the process. We are all ready and looking forward to the opportunity to offer more arts and a rich school experience to all students.*

—AnnRené Joseph  
Program Supervisor, The Arts, OSPI

Dr. Kathe Taylor, Policy Director for the Washington State Board of Education, is excited to share that Washington now has eight school districts already requiring two credits in the arts (up from zero, just 2 years ago), in alignment with the new high school graduation requirements. Dr. Taylor also notes, "Rules will be adopted after the legislature authorizes and provides funding for any of the overall changes that have fiscal impact (including arts, which OSPI has told us has related capital costs for more classrooms). We hope to have rules in place for the [graduating] class of 2016." Dr. Taylor invites inquiries at: [kathe.taylor@k12.wa.us](mailto:kathe.taylor@k12.wa.us) or (360) 725-6028.

Visit "Get the Latest" at [www.sbe.wa.gov](http://www.sbe.wa.gov) for the most recent documents, links, and graphics (including the source document, official PowerPoint and slides of the process, and next steps). ■

## Moving Ahead: The Need for a Career and College-Ready Diploma

Proposed for the Class of 2016



The Washington State Board of Education High School Graduation Requirements			
Course	Class of 2013 Requirements		Class of 2016 Requirements*
	Class of 2013 Requirements	Class of 2016 Requirements*	
English	3	4	Our graduates deserve a diploma that prepares them for the next step in life, whether that path leads straight into a career, further training through apprenticeships or trades, or education at two or four-year colleges. The new requirements meet this benchmark, ensuring all students graduate ready for life, ready for careers, and ready for education.
Math	3	3	
Science	2 (1 Lab)	3 (2 Labs)	
Social Studies	2.5	3	
Arts	1	2**	
Health and Fitness	2	2***	
World Language	0	2**	
Occupational Education	1	1	
Career Concentration	0	2	
Electives	5.5	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	

\* All changes with fiscal impact must be approved and authorized by the Legislature. \*\* Based on the high school and beyond plan, the following substitutions may be made: Arts=1 credit; World Languages=2 credits. Note: Up to 2 credits could be waived by local administrators for students who have attempted 24 credits. Students must earn the designated credits in the mandatory subjects (English -4, math -3, science -3, social studies -3, art -1, health -5, fitness -1.5, occupational education -1). \*\*\* Students must take 1.5 credits of fitness unless excused per statute 28A.230.050.

- By the Numbers**
- 84 Percent of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents ages 18+ support career and college-ready requirements
  - 67 Percent of future Washington jobs will require some education beyond high school
  - 45 States do a better job preparing students for college than Washington
  - 45 States require more English classes than Washington
  - 39 States require more social studies classes than Washington
  - 36 States require more science classes than Washington
  - 42 States have better college participation from low-income families than Washington
  - 54 Percent of Washington high school graduates requiring remediation who enter community and technical colleges directly from high school
  - 17 Million dollars of Washington State investment spent on college remediation annually
  - 41 Percent of 2008 Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic high school graduates (respectively) enrolled in four-year college-ready coursework while in high school
- All sources available on our website

### What are the elements of success for our high school graduates?

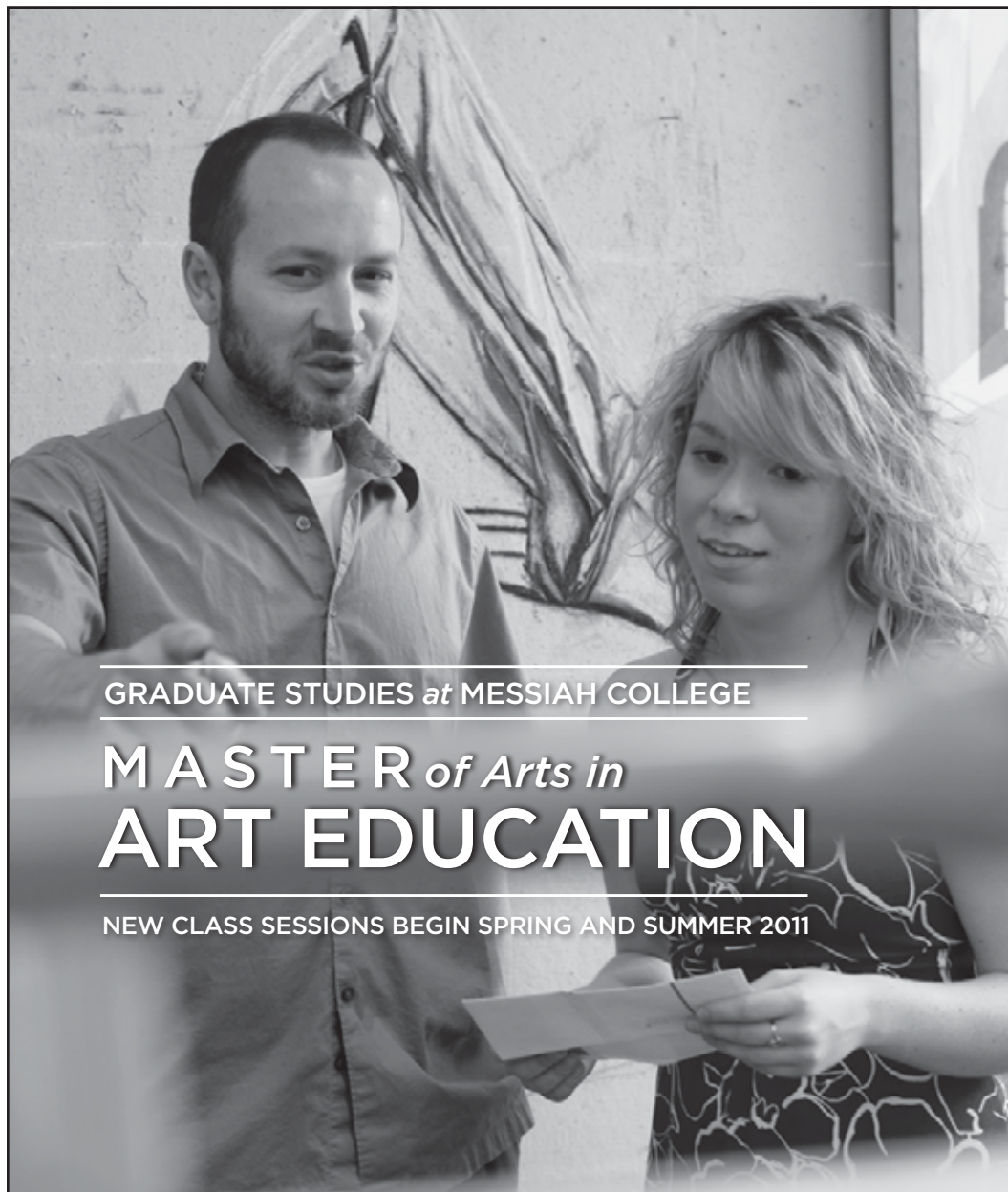
**L<sup>R</sup>** Ready for Life: High school graduates who are responsible and engaged citizens in our society and our democracy, fully capable of making critical decisions and positive contributions to our community

**C<sup>R</sup>** Ready for Careers: High school graduates who have the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue any number of career pathways suitable to their own goals

**E<sup>R</sup>** Ready for Education: High school graduates who are prepared to enter two or four-year degree programs and apprenticeship and trade programs without the need for remediation

**The Building Blocks of Success** L<sup>R</sup> C<sup>R</sup> E<sup>R</sup>

All Washington high school students will be automatically enrolled in coursework that gets them Ready for Life, Ready for Careers, and Ready for Education.



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