

To graduate from Highland High School a student must successfully complete the course work required by the Highland Board of Trustees at the time the student began the ninth (9th) grade. This course work is found in the student handbook approved by the Trustees annually, and becomes a part of this policy upon approval by the Trustees.

A student who successfully completes any required high school course with a grade of C or higher prior to entering the 9th grade shall have that grade, and the number of credit hours assigned to the course, transferred to the student's high school transcript. The course must be from an accredited school recognized by the State Board of Education, must be taught by a certified teacher who meets the federal definition of highly qualified and must meet the same standards as those required in high school.

If a student fails a required course, an educational plan will be developed with the student, parents, teachers, counselors, and administration. This plan will specify how the student will make up the failing grade. Teachers are required to notify students, parents, counselor, and principal when a student is failing in the fourth quarter of his/her senior year.

Students who have not completed all of the requirements for graduation will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremonies with their peers. They will be given a diploma when the requirements are completed. Students will wear black and/or gold robes for graduation ceremonies. Foreign exchange students may participate in the graduation ceremonies although they may not be receiving a diploma.

Course completed through any other accredited institution will be honored by Highland High School as credits toward graduation. It is the student's responsibility to provide a transcript of the course(s) taken, and the name and address of the institution from which the course was taken. The Highland High School administration will verify whether the institution is accredited and by whom.

Effective for the Class of 2016:

Honors at Graduation – Selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian of a graduating class is based on grade point average of the first seven semesters in all graded classes which must have been earned in accredited schools. Selection for Valedictorian is based on the top accumulative grade point average over seven semesters. Salutatorian(s) will be selected from all the second ranked students with the same tenth grade point average. Students taking correspondence courses that replace any course(s) offered by Highland High School will not be eligible to be valedictorian or salutatorian. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis. The valedictorian and salutatorian, though, must complete their last two semesters at Highland High School. Exceptions to the above will be made on a case-by-case basis. Examples for an exception might be a student being a page at the legislature or a student studying in a foreign country for a period of time.

Grades earned in the following courses will not be used to compute a student's grade point average in determining the valedictorian and salutatorian: Band, orchestra, choir, library, teacher or office aide, or physical education.

Effective for the Class of 2017 and later:

Honors at Graduation – The selection of Valedictorians and Salutatorians of a graduating class will be based on the grade point average in all graded classes completed in the first seven semesters of an accredited high school. A student must also be enrolled at Highland High School for the sixth and seventh semesters before graduation. Any exceptions will be addressed by the Board of Trustees. Examples for an exception might be a student being a page at the legislature, and exchange student studying in a foreign country, or a student with serious health problems. Exception may also be considered by the Board of Trustees for transfer or in-house students who may end up with fewer than seven semesters because of placement testing.

These honors will be based on a four point grading system (with 4 being an A and pluses and minuses not counting). There may be multiple Valedictorians and/or Salutatorians on any given year. (*1) In cases where a weighted grade scale has been used each qualifying student's GPA will be adjusted to a standard 4-point grading system. For the implementation of this Honors policy, transfer students with weighted grades from their prior school must also be able to have those grades adjusted to qualify. All weighted grades will remain on each student's transcript. Valedictorians will be selected from the top accumulated grade point average. Salutatorians will be selected from the next lower cumulative grade point average. Both must meet the following criteria.

To be eligible to be Valedictorians or Salutatorians, a student must earn at least six credits with a grade average of C or better in the following upper division courses, during their high school years: Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Accounting II, any other advanced secondary Mathematics, Biology II, Plant Science II, Zoology, Spanish II, Business Tech II, Welding II, Honors English. Two years of High School Band/Choir will be equal to one credit for this policy.

Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses are encouraged, but will be treated the same as every other upper division course listed.

The graduation speaker will be selected by the graduating class and approved by the board.

Two members of the Board of Trustees will represent the Board at graduation. The Board at the March Board Meeting will select them.

(*1) This should be encouraged!

(*2) Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses are encouraged, but will be treated the same as every other upper division course listed. Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses usually have a financial cost associated with them. Without a 100% cost reimbursement before the beginning of the course, it leave students from lower income families at a disadvantage. There is also no guarantee that the State will pick up part of these costs in the future. If the AP and DC courses are online, this may put some students at a disadvantage. It takes financial resources to provide high speed internet capabilities to meet the requirements of these classes at home. We are not able to staff an in-house DC teacher in the subject area of each student's curriculum choice throughout his or her time in high school.



LEGAL REFERENCE: Board Action

ADOPTED: 9/19/77

AMENDED: 4/12/93, 3/8/99, 5/10/99, 6/13/05, 2/14/11, 3/14/16