

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Graduation requirements below are effective beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2017-2018 school year. Students entering grades 10-12 must meet the graduation requirements established for their respective class. Copies of archived Program of Studies documents are on file in the school counselors' office and online at [www.smcps.org/dci](http://www.smcps.org/dci).

Maryland Core Requirements (21 Credits)	
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits* Algebra 1 Geometry Additional math credit  *must take math each year in high school
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits US History Government World History
Physical Education/Health	1 credit Physical Education (.5) Health (.5)
Fine Arts	1 credit
Technology Education	1 credit Foundations of Technology  OR Computer Science
<b>Core Credit Total</b>	<b>16 credits</b> (as cited above)
World Language OR Advanced Technology OR CTE Completer sequence	2 World Language  OR 2 Advanced Technology  OR 4 CTE Sequence Courses
Electives	2 credits for Core, University Completers 1 credit for CTE Completer
Assessments	Pass High School Assessments for Government  Pass PARCC Assessment for Algebra I English 10
Student Service Learning	75 Hours
Career Portfolio	Complete

**CREDITS FOR GRADUATION**

Students are encouraged to present more than the minimum units of credit for graduation. Most students will graduate with more than 26 units of credit. Units of credit are earned at the end of the year. A unit of credit is based on all four marking periods for a year-long course.

**PROGRAM COMPLETION**

To receive a High School Diploma in St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS), students must select and enroll in a course of study for a program pathway. All students must complete the Maryland core requirements. Students must also select a University Sequence or a Career and Technology Education Completer Sequence. All students are highly encouraged to take advantage of all that SMCPS offers and to be a Dual Completer, meeting the requirements of both sequences.

University Completer

- Complete 16 core credits
- Complete 4 credits in Mathematics to include Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry (non-trivial Algebra minimum in senior year)
- Complete 2 credits in a World Language

Career & Technology Education (CTE) Completer

- Complete the 16 core credits
- Complete 4 credits in an approved Career and Technology Program Sequence

Dual Completer

- Complete the 16 core credits
- Complete 4 credits in an approved Career and Technology Program Sequence
- Meet all the requirements of the University Sequence

**Students must also meet attendance, service-learning, portfolio, and any other local school system requirements.**

## CALVERT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To be awarded a diploma, a student shall be enrolled in a Maryland public school system and have earned a minimum of 23 ½ credits that include the following (taken from the Program of Studies, which can be found online at Calvert County Public Schools Website under Planning Guides on the Parent Tab [http://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/for\\_parents](http://www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/for_parents)):

Subject Area	Specific Credit Requirements	Maryland high school Assessments		
English	<b>4 credits</b>	Students must meet the Maryland State Department of Education's end of course requirements.		
Mathematics *see statement below	<b>4 credits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 in algebra/data analysis</li> <li>• 1 in geometry</li> <li>• 2 other</li> </ul>			
Science	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <b>Entered HS 2012-2016</b>  <b>3 credits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 in biology</li> <li>• 2 that must include laboratory experience in any or all of the following areas: earth science, life science, physical science</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <b>Entering HS 2017 and beyond</b>   <b>3 Credits of NGSS* Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life Science</li> <li>• Physical Science</li> <li>• Earth Science</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>Entered HS 2012-2016</b> <b>3 credits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 in biology</li> <li>• 2 that must include laboratory experience in any or all of the following areas: earth science, life science, physical science</li> </ul>	<b>Entering HS 2017 and beyond</b>  <b>3 Credits of NGSS* Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life Science</li> <li>• Physical Science</li> <li>• Earth Science</li> </ul>	
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Social Studies	<b>3 credits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 in U.S. history</li> <li>• 1 in world history</li> <li>• 1 in local, state, national government</li> </ul>			
<b>Other Requirements</b>				
Fine Arts	<b>1 credit</b>			
Physical Education	<b>½ credit</b>			
Health	<b>½ credit</b>			
Technology Education	<b>1 credit</b>			
Financial Literacy	½ credit – this requirement may be fulfilled by taking either the ½ credit course called Financial Literacy or the one credit course called Principles of Finance.			
Pathway Requirements	<b>College Prep: 2 credits in a World Language, ASL, or advanced technology education and 3 credits in electives</b> <b>OR</b> <b>CTE: 4 credits by successfully completing a State-approved career &amp; technology education program and 1 credit in an elective</b>			
Local Academic Requirement to Promote College & Career Readiness* *Students who complete both a CTE program and the college prep program meet this local requirement.	1 additional credit beyond pathway requirements in one of these categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Placement</li> <li>• Career Technical Education (Career and Technology Academy) – level II</li> <li>• Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• ESOL</li> <li>• World Language</li> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Naval science – level III or higher</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Social studies</li> <li>• Project Lead The Way</li> <li>• Teacher Academy of Maryland</li> <li>• Fine Arts (Adv. Dance, Studio Art, Chamber Choir, Wind Ensemble, Adv. Orchestra, Adv. Acting 3, Adv. Photography)</li> </ul>			
<b>Students must also meet attendance and service learning requirements.</b>				
<b>*Students entering grade 9 in 2014 or after are required to take a math course each year they are enrolled in high school.</b>				
* The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) states that a student should select a balance between life, physical, and earth science courses.				