

PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has determined that there are three (3) pathways to graduation, these are:

Pathways to Graduation



Students in the specific pathways will complete courses appropriate to those pathways. Courses are offered in five (5) categories:

- ⇒ Academic Courses
- ⇒ Applied Courses
- ⇒ College Preparation Courses
- ⇒ Workplace Preparation Course
- ⇒ Open Courses (Grade 12 only)

The Certificate of Accomplishment

- ▶ Students who leave school without fulfilling the requirements for the National High School Diploma, may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment.

This certificate will only be awarded if students have demonstrated competence in the specific areas of study.

NHSD COURSE SPECIFICATION

College Preparation Courses - Developed in close collaboration with colleges, these courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to satisfy entry level requirement for college programs and some apprenticeship programs. These courses emphasize theoretical and abstract applications and the development of critical thinking and problem solving.

Academic Courses - Focus on the essential concepts of the discipline through integrated instruction and exploration of related concepts. These courses develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing theoretical and abstract applications of the essential concepts, while also incorporating practical application.

Applied Courses - Focus on the essential concepts of the discipline and develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing practical, concrete applications of the concepts while incorporating theoretical applications.

Workplace Preparation Courses - Designed in close collaboration with a diverse group of industry partners, these courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed for direct entry into the workplace or for admission into apprenticeship programs or other training programs offered in the community. These courses are intended to prepare students for a variety of jobs, training programs and careers. They emphasize the development of generic employment skills, as well as independent research and learning skills, while promoting the importance of learning.

Please note that ALL courses require a level of critical thinking & problem solving.



**Ministry of Education
Science & Technology**

**Bahamas High School Diploma
Graduation Requirements**



***FOR HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS
SEPTEMBER 2014***

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Education Science and Technology recognizes education as essential to enhancing the quality of life of the people of The Bahamas. The specific focus of the Department of Education therefore is to prepare young people to become active, globally competitive, caring and compassionate citizens with the capacity to continuously improve the quality of life for themselves and others.

In an effort to ensure that all students have an opportunity to do this, as well as to graduate, it is the Ministry's desire to see more students qualify as graduates from high school. The Ministry has therefore introduced a new initiative to assist students with qualifying to graduate. This program is called the Bahamas High School Diploma (BHSD), which was implemented in September 2014.

The 2014 9th grade students will be the first to graduate with a Bahamas High School Diploma (BHSD), which will indicate that you have met a standard level of accomplishment during your high school life.

How do you qualify for a BHSD? Well, just answer these questions. Can you

- ◆ Pass at least 4 BJC's including Math & English?
- ◆ Complete grades 10-12 and earn the required credits?
- ◆ Maintain at least a 2.0 GPA?
- ◆ Complete community service and job training?
- ◆ Attend school 90% of the time required?

If you answered yes to these questions, you are well on your way to graduating high school.



CRITERIA to EARN a BHSD

The following highlights the minimum criteria for a student to graduate with a Diploma from a Public High School.

- ◆ Attain four subjects in the Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) Examinations including Mathematics, English Language, a Science, Social Studies or Career and Technical Education subject administered at the end of the ninth grade.
- ◆ Complete a minimum of twenty seven (27) credit hours in grades 10–12. Fifteen (15) of the credit hours are gained from core subjects and twelve (12) are earned through the pathway courses.
- ◆ Maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0 over the three years, grade 10 - 12, on a four point scale.
- ◆ Complete thirty (30) hours of unpaid Community Service on the students' time during the tenth and eleventh grade years.

A student may choose a Community Service Activity within the guidelines provided by the school. The student will be required to maintain a record of community service activities on a form provided by the school. This form must be signed and verified by the receiving agency. Completion of this requirement may be deferred until May of grade twelve, provided approval is granted by the school.

- ◆ Complete twenty (20) hours of Job Readiness Training.
- ◆ Maintain 90% or higher attendance and punctuality over the 3 year period, grades 10-12.
- ◆ Maintain 90% punctuality level over 3 year period, grades 10-12.
- ◆ Parents are required to participate in a minimum of three (3) parent/teacher conferences between grades 10-12.

Please note that the student's conduct and parental involvement will also play a role in the eligibility for graduation.

WHAT ARE CREDITS / CREDIT HOURS?

A student will earn one (1) credit hour for each subject/course successfully completed. Each subject or course requires a student to complete 38 hours, after which they will earn the (1) credit. Students earn credits for core and pathway subjects.

WHAT ARE CORE SUBJECTS?

These are subjects/courses that are common to all students regardless to their expected destination after completing high school. These combine to make up 15 credits and includes:

- ◆ English Language - 3 credits, 1 in each grade (10 - 12)
- ◆ Mathematics - 3 credits, 1 in each grade (10 - 12)
- ◆ Science - 3 credits, 1 each grade (10 - 12)
- ◆ Social Science - 3 credits, 1 in each grade (10 - 12)
- ◆ Civics & Bahamian History- 1 credit, 1/2 in each grade (10 and 11 only)
- ◆ FLHE/Fitness/Physical Ed. -2 credits, (1 in grade 10, 1/2 in each grade 11 & 12)

WHAT ARE PATHWAY COURSES?

These are courses that are specifically designed to lead students to their intended destination after high school. These combine to make up 12 credits.

Pathways include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Agriculture
- ◆ Applied Sciences
- ◆ Auto Body
- ◆ Auto Mechanics
- ◆ The Arts
- ◆ Building Trades
- ◆ Business Studies
- ◆ Cosmetology
- ◆ Electronics
- ◆ Family & Consumer Science
- ◆ Information Technology
- ◆ Marine Science
- ◆ Mechanical Trades
- ◆ Nautical Science
- ◆ Pre-Engineering
- ◆ Performing Arts
- ◆ Small Engine Repairs (Marine)
- ◆ Hospitality & Tourism
- ◆ Welding

OR

- ◆ Any four (4) individual academic subjects.

