

## CORE SUBJECTS?

These are subjects that are common to all students regardless to their expected destination after completing high school. These courses include:

- ◆ English Language
- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Social Science
- ◆ Civics & Bahamian History
- ◆ Fitness/Physical Ed.
- ◆ Family Life & Health Education

## PROGRAMME/ELECTIVE COURSES

In grade ten (10) students select a programme consisting of courses that are specifically designed to lead them to their intended destination after high school. These include but are not limited to the following courses:

- ◆ 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

## BHSD COURSE SPECIFICATION

**College / Academic Courses** - Developed in close collaboration with tertiary institutions, these courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to satisfy entry level requirements for college programs and some apprenticeship programs. These courses emphasize theoretical and abstract applications and the development of critical thinking and problem solving, while focusing on the essential concepts of the discipline through integrated instruction, exploration of related concepts and the incorporation of practical application.

**Workplace / 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. 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 enhanced through experiential skills development exposure.

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



**Ministry of Education  
Technical & Vocational Training**

# Bahamas High School Diploma Graduation Requirements



***FOR HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS  
IMPLEMENTED SEPTEMBER 2014  
REVISED 2023***

## INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Education and Technical and Vocational Training (MOETVT) 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. To this end, The Ministry, in September 2014, introduced The Bahamas High School Diploma (BHSD) to assist students with qualifying to graduate. The BHSD indicates that the recipients have met the minimum standard of accomplishment during their high school years.

The first cohort to graduate with a Bahamas High School Diploma (BHSD) was the Class of 2017.

## PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION

The Ministry of Education has determined that there are three (3) pathways to graduation. These are two (2) General Pathways and one (1) Honours Pathway:

## Pathways to Graduation



**General (Option 1)**

Students in the specific pathways will complete courses appropriate to those pathways which will assist them along the following career tracks :

- ⇒ **College / Academic Preparation Courses**
- ⇒ **Workplace Preparation / Applied Courses**



**General (Option 2)**



**Honours**

## ACADEMIC CRITERIA to EARN a BHSD

### General (Option 1)

The following highlights the minimum criteria for a student to graduate with a General Diploma (Option 1) from a Public High School:

- ◆ Attain four subjects in The Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) Examinations including Mathematics, English Language, and any other two subjects.
- ◆ Maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average minimum of 2.0 over the three years, grades 10 - 12, on a four point scale.

## ACADEMIC CRITERIA to EARN a BHSD

### General (Option 2)

The following highlights the minimum criteria for a student to graduate with a General Diploma (Option 2) from a Public High School:

- ◆ **Numeracy/Literacy Equivalent OR BJs OR City and Guilds,** (*The credentials will be channelled through NAECODB to the Evaluation and Assessment Division of the Ministry of Education and Technical and Vocational Training. If approved, they will be accepted as a criteria for receiving a BHSD.*) A career in Aquaculture, Plumbing, Electrical Installation, Engineering, etc. is just as important as a career Scientist or Mathematician or Lawyer.
- ◆ On a four point scale, maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average minimum of 2.0 over the three years, grade 10 - 12.



## ACADEMIC CRITERIA to EARN a BHSD (Honors)

The following highlights the minimum criteria for a student to graduate with an Honours certificate:

- ◆ Attain four subjects in the Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) Examinations with a "B" pass inclusive of Mathematics, English Language, a Science (General or Health), as well as any one additional subject administered at the end of the ninth grade .
- ◆ Additionally, attain three (3) BGSCE with a "C" pass or better, or a SAT score of 1000 or better or an ACT score of 20 or better, and three (3) extra-curricular activities, as well as demonstrate leadership ability (school based, community or civic organization) .
- ◆ Maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average minimum of 3.0 over the three years, grade 10 - 12, on a four point scale.

## MANDATORY NON-ACADEMIC COMPONENT to EARN a BHSD

The following highlights the minimum mandatory non-academic criteria for a student to graduate from a Public High School.

- ◆ 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.*
- ◆ Complete twenty (20) hours of Job Readiness Training.
- ◆ Maintain 80% or higher attendance and punctuality over the 3 year period, grades 10-12.

Please note that the student's conduct may also play a role for participation in the graduation ceremony .