Cape Cod Tech Regional Vocational Technical High School
Competency Determination and Graduation Requirements
June 2026

Massachusetts law states that a student who has not yet earned a CD must demonstrate "mastery of a common core of skills, competencies, and knowledge…by satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student's district as showing mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests described in section I administered in 2023."

Competency Determination Requirements
General
Satisfactorily Completing Coursework - A student will receive full credit for a course in which the earned final grade is 60 or above. **Showing Mastery** - A student must complete a final examination or comprehensive project in DESE required courses, earning a score of 60 or above. In circumstances where a student cannot be present for the final examination or comprehensive project, they will take a different version of the assessment at a later, mutually agreed-upon date. In the event that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education revises or adds to the Competency Determination requirements, those conditions will supersede the language herein.
English

● For English Language Arts, the student must satisfactorily complete English 9 CP1, English 9 CP2, or English 9 Honors with a 60 or above and satisfactorily complete English 10 CP1, English 10 CP2, or English 10 Honors with a 60 or above.
● As identified in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks, students must master the following skills, competencies, and knowledge:
  ● English/Language Arts I (9th grade) English 9 builds upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing and includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. English 9 introduces and defines various genres of literature, with writing exercises often linked to reading selections.
  ● English/Language Arts II (10th grade) English 10 offers a balanced focus on composition and literature. Students learn about the alternate aims and audiences of written compositions by writing persuasive, critical, and creative multi-paragraph essays and compositions. Through the study of various genres of literature, students can improve their reading rate and comprehension and develop the skills to determine the author's intent and theme and to recognize

the techniques used by the author to deliver his or her message.
    - Honors sections are focused on more independent work and may be more fast-paced. In addition, emphasis is placed on in-depth analysis, including the impact of the author's craft on major topics and themes.
- To demonstrate mastery in English Language Arts, the student must earn a score of 60 on the English 9 or English 9 Honors and the English 10 or English 10 Honors final exam or comprehensive project.

Mathematics

- For mathematics, the student must satisfactorily complete Algebra I CP1, Algebra I CP2, or Algebra I Honors with a 60 or above ***and*** satisfactorily complete one year of Geometry CP1, Geometry CP2 or Geometry Honors with a 60 or above.

- As identified in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks, students must master the following skills, competencies, and knowledge:

    - Algebra I (9th grade) Algebra I includes the study of properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first degree equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; and solving simple quadratic equations.

    - Honors Algebra gives students a strong foundation of algebraic skills. Topics include fundamental properties of real numbers, linear equations, absolute value, inequalities, factoring, quadratic equations, and data analysis. Modeling and problem-solving skills are stressed. It is recommended for students who are capable of doing work on an advanced level and at an accelerated pace.

    - Geometry (10th grade) Geometry emphasizes an abstract, formal approach to the study of geometry, typically includes topics such as properties of plane and solid figures; deductive methods of reasoning and use of logic; geometry as an axiomatic system including the study of postulates, theorems, and formal proofs; concepts of congruence, similarity, parallelism, perpendicularity, and proportion; and rules of angle measurement in triangles.

    - Honors Geometry includes an in-depth analysis of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry as they relate to both abstract mathematical concepts and real-world problem situations. Students develop analytical thinking skills and spatial sense as they relate to logical reasoning and argument. Major topics include parallelism and perpendicularity, polygons, congruence and similarity, circles, right triangle trigonometry, transformations, area, volume, and surface area. Honors sections are fast-paced and require additional coursework, a more in-depth analysis of major topics and themes, and independent study.

- To demonstrate mastery mathematics, the student must earn a score of 60 on the Algebra I or Algebra I Honors ***and*** the Geometry or Geometry Honors final exams or comprehensive projects.

Science

- For science, the student must satisfactorily complete one year of Biology Lab 9 CP1, Biology Lab 9 CP2, Conceptual Biology 10 CP1, or Biology Lab 9 Honors with a 60 or above:

- Biology courses are designed to provide information regarding the fundamental concepts of life and life processes. These courses include (but are not restricted to) such topics as cell structure and function, general plant and animal physiology, genetics, and taxonomy.

- Honors sections have an accelerated pace. Students are expected to take notes independently, master scientific vocabulary, and provide robust explanations via independent research projects and presentations.

- To demonstrate mastery in science, a student must earn a score of 60 on the Biology final exam or comprehensive project.

U.S. History - *begins in 2027*

- For U.S. History, the student must satisfactorily complete U.S. History I or U.S. History I Honors **or** U.S. History II or U.S History II Honors with a 60 or above.

- U.S. History I (9th grade) examines the history of the United States from the colonial period to the Reconstruction era . Students review the origins and main events of colonization, the American Revolution, Constitutional principles, and events of the early Republic and examine the causes and consequences of the Civil War, industrialization, progressivism, and the role of the United States in World War I. As students explore major events from the Revolutionary War through World War I, they build capacity for historical, economic, and political reasoning. Coursework strengthens student ability to develop research questions and conduct inquiries by interpreting primary sources and establishes foundational knowledge about significant recurring questions in US history.

- US History II (10th grade) Students continue their study of events from the 20th and 21st centuries. They delve into the economic history of the Great Depression, New Deal, World War II, and the Cold War. Students also examine domestic and global policies and politics in the 21st century and continue to build capacity for historical, economic, and political reasoning. Coursework strengthens student ability to develop research questions and conduct inquiries by interpreting primary sources and establishes foundational knowledge about significant recurring questions in US history.

- Honors sections are fast paced and require additional coursework, a more in-depth analysis of major topics and themes, and independent study research projects.

- To demonstrate mastery in U.S. History, a student must earn a score of 60% in the U.S. History I or U.S. History I Honors or the U.S. History II or U.S. History II Honors final exam or comprehensive project.

Students who do not meet the competency determination in a subject by the conclusion of grades 9 and 10 will be required to attend summer school and earn a minimum average of 60%. They must pass the comprehensive post-assessment with a score of 60%.

Additional Requirements
None

Additional Considerations
Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities are included in general education classes and provided with the least restrictive environment for completing their course work. They will receive the testing accommodations and modifications specified in their individualized education plans or 504 plans to demonstrate mastery on the course final exam or comprehensive project in each CD-aligned course. Students in temporary alternative placements have the same opportunities to meet the CD requirements as all other students. As needed, students in alternative placements receive tutoring and are expected to complete the most essential assignments in each subject. If necessary, students may access tutoring. Students in alternative placement during the administration of the course final exam or comprehensive project may demonstrate mastery by achieving a course average of 60%.
English Learners
English learners (ELs) and former English Learners (FELs) will fulfill the same Competency Determination Requirements with the appropriate Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) modifications and supports.

Late-Enrolling Students

Late-enrolling students are subject to a transcript review. The courses listed on the transcript must be the same duration and description as those prescribed in DESE's Competency Determination (CD) Requirements, and students must have completed each of the CD-aligned courses with a 60% average. In limited cases, MCAS scores that Meet Expectations or Exceed Expectations may be substituted in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology. U.S. History I or U.S. History II courses may be completed if they meet the CD length requirement and Massachusetts Frameworks standards.

Appeals Process

Individuals wishing to appeal the Competency Determination must do so in writing to the Principal. Appeals must be received by August 1st each year. The appeals process will include a transcript review, teacher input, and extenuating circumstances. Decisions will be communicated in writing to the student and parent/guardian within 30 business days.

Diploma Request Process for Previously Enrolled Students

Students from the classes of 2003 through 2024 whose MCAS scores deemed them ineligible for a diploma may request a review of their eligibility based on Cape Cod Tech's current CD requirements.

Students whose transcripts show that they meet *current* CD requirements - completion of coursework and demonstration of mastery - may be awarded a diploma.

The Superintendent or designee will issue diplomas and communicate such decisions in writing to the student/guardian.

Academic Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate from Cape Cod Tech Regional Vocational Technical High School, each student must satisfactorily complete four (4) years of high school as outlined below and comply with all state accountability measures. All academic courses are aligned with the Massachusetts State Frameworks.

Required Courses:

English Language Arts (6 credits)

Freshman Year	2 credits
Sophomore Year	2 credits
Junior Year	1 credit
Senior Year	1 credit

Mathematics (6 credits)

Freshman Year	2 credits
Sophomore Year	2 credits
Junior Year	1 credits
Senior Year	1 credits

Physical Education

Freshman Year	.1 credit
Sophomore Year	.1 credit

Electives 4 credits

Science (4 credits)

Freshman Year	2 credits
Sophomore Year	1 credit **OR**
Junior Year	1 credit **OR**
Senior Year	1 credit **OR**

Social Studies (3 credits)

Freshman Year	1 credit **OR**
Sophomore Year	1 credit **OR**
Junior Year	1 credits **OR**
Senior Year	1 credits

Health & Wellness

Freshman Year	0.33 credit

Senior Project

Senior Project	1 credit

Full year one hundred and eighty day courses (180 days) are 2 credits. Full year ninety day classes (90 days) are 1 credit.

Students must accumulate 24.53 credits in academics to graduate.

Students found to be deficient in fulfilling the requirements for promotion and/or graduation must attend a summer school program during July and August. Prior approval must be obtained from the Cape Cod Tech Guidance Department before enrolling in any summer courses and evidence of the satisfactory completion of all summer courses with a 60% average (D) or better must be submitted. Any student who does not attend, does not meet the attendance requirements, or does not pass all of their required academic summer courses with a 60% average (D) or better will not be promoted.

CTE Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate from Cape Cod Tech Regional Technical High School, students must complete Career and Technical Education courses (shop) and Related courses. There are no provisions for making up shop credits. All students will be required to complete a senior project as a graduation requirement.

Freshman Year	**3 shop**	**.66 Freshmen Seminar credits**
Sophomore Year	**4 shop**	**1 Theory credit**
Junior Year	**5 shop**	**1 Theory credit**
Senior Year	**5 shop**	**1 Theory credit**
Junior Year Phys. Ed	**1 credit**	
Senior Year Phys. Ed	**1 credit**	

Students must accumulate 22.66 credits in Career and Technical Education to graduate.

