

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following grading system is used by Upper St. Clair High School:

A – 100-90%

B – 89-80%

C – 79-70%

D – 69-60%

F – Below 60%

I – Incomplete

P/F – Pass Fail (60% achievement warrants a passing grade).

Semester grades are cumulative. The grades issued for Semester 1 and Semester 2 are those which will appear on the student's transcript and will be calculated into GPA. The highest possible cumulative unweighted GPA for all students is 4.0. The highest possible year-end cumulative weighted GPA is as follows: freshmen 4.25; sophomores 4.50; juniors 4.75; and seniors 5.0. Students must complete 44.5 credits and the Graduation Project in order to earn an Upper St. Clair diploma and walk at Graduation.

COURSEWORK

Graduation from Upper St. Clair High School requires satisfactory completion of a cumulative minimum of 44.5 credits in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. The requirements by subject areas are listed below:

English	8 Credits
Social Studies	6 Credits
Mathematics	6 Credits
Science	6 Credits
Arts and/or Humanities	4 Credits
Wellness Education	3.5 Credits
Electives	11 Credits
Total	44.5 Credits

Any class which meets 3 days per week will earn two credits per year or one credit per semester. Any class which meets fewer than 3 days per week will earn one credit per year or one-half credit per semester.

GRADUATION PROJECT (CULMINATING PROJECT)

All students are required to complete a career-focused graduation project (culminating project) by May of their senior year as part of the graduation requirement. The project will be 3½ years of research stemming from school counselor meetings, class assignments, and the career development program. The USC High School Graduation Project provides students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned through career research and exploration and is completed utilizing Naviance.

STATE TESTING PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with Pennsylvania Department of Education, every student will participate in the administration of the Keystone exams upon completion of three courses: Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. Act 158 of 2018 and Act 6 of 2017 provide alternatives to Pennsylvania's statewide requirement of attaining proficiency on these Keystone exams. Effective with the graduating class of 2023, students have the option to demonstrate postsecondary preparedness through one of four additional pathways, beyond proficiency on all three Keystone exams.

Students will work with their school counselor to determine their pathway to graduation if they do not score Proficient or Advanced on all three Keystone exams. Additionally, students who do not score Proficient or Advanced on the Algebra, Literature, and/or Biology Keystone exams will participate in remediation, which will include targeted support and focused test-taking skill development.

WEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE CALCULATION

Calculation of a weighted grade point average (5.0) and an unweighted grade point average (4.0) for each student is indicated on the transcript. Upper St. Clair High School does not rank students. Through much research, deliberation, and consultation with colleges and universities and competitive high schools comparable to Upper St. Clair, we have concluded that it best serves our students to eliminate class rank.

Our weighted grade point average system is reflective of the difficulty and workload of Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College in High School courses, and is calculated as follows:

Weighted GPA = Unweighted GPA + [.25/4S x (4A + 3B + 2C)], where

- 4 = reflects the expectation that four weighted classes be taken during each of the semesters that can be completed under the weighted system;
- S = represents the number of potential semesters that can be completed under the weighted system (8 semesters);
- A = the number of A's earned in Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate courses;
- B = the number of B's earned in Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate courses;
- C = the number of C's earned in Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate courses.

The numbers 4, 3, and 2 inside the parentheses are the (unweighted) quality points awarded for that particular letter grade. Grades of "D" and "F" will not be weighted.

The additional value of .25 was chosen to represent the increased difficulty level of Honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.

In summary, each student's transcript will consist of an unweighted GPA (maximum possible 4.0) and a weighted GPA (maximum possible 5.0). Maximum possible weighted GPA's at the end of each year are: 9th grade (4.25); 10th grade (4.5); 11th grade (4.75); mid-year 12th grade (4.875); and 12th grade (5.0). **It is important to note that students cannot attain a weighted GPA of 5.0 until the end of their senior year when the final weighted GPA is calculated.** For those students who take more than thirty-two Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate courses, only the thirty-two highest grades in those courses will be included in the calculation of the final weighted GPA. Grades earned in all courses will be included in the calculation of the unweighted GPA.

WITHDRAWN SENIOR/INDEPENDENT STUDY – (SENIOR REQUIREMENT)

Occasionally a student may find that their individual needs may indicate that becoming a withdrawn senior would be desirable. Any student desiring such a privilege must have their parent make such a request in writing for approval by the school counselor and the principal. Students seeking to graduate one year early should submit a request one year prior to the date of anticipated graduation. Diplomas will be awarded at the time of regular commencement exercises only.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

Students with disabilities may meet the graduation requirements specified above or may graduate upon satisfactorily completing a special education program developed by an Individualized Education Program team under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Students who enter Upper St. Clair High School in their junior or senior year who have not had the opportunity to participate in the Keystone Exams prior to entering USCHS will meet with USCHS administrators and school counselors to determine how proficiency in the areas of Algebra 1, Biology, and English Literature will be met subject to guidance from the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The Superintendent may waive the requirements for meeting the proficiency requirements on a case-by-case basis for good cause based on the provisions of Chapter 4.51d of the Pa. School Code.