

VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN

Qualifying for valedictorian or salutatorian is very competitive. Students who meet the requirements will receive a stole and a medal signifying the honor, to wear with their gown at graduation. Valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s) are expected to prepare and present a speech for the graduation ceremony. To qualify, students need

- All 7 AP courses offered [1. AP World, 2. AP U.S. History, 3. AP Lang./Comp. (11th grade), 4. AP Literature (12th grade), 5. AP Biology, 6. AP Chemistry, 7. AP Calculus]
- The highest GPA in the class – Valedictorian(s)
- The second highest GPA in the class – Salutatorian(s)

HONOR GRADUATES

Graduating with honor denotes academic achievement beyond completion of the basic requirements for a high school diploma. Being an honor graduate is a great achievement that can impress prospective employers and college admissions committees. Students who meet the requirements will receive a stole signifying the level of honor to wear with their gown at graduation. Students who wish to graduate with honor at PHS must meet these requirements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HIGHEST HONOR (<i>Gold stole</i>)<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Take at least 2 years of the same foreign languageo Take at least 4 AP classeso Have an overall GPA of 3.75 or higher | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HIGH HONOR (<i>Silver stole</i>)<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Take at least 2 years of the same foreign languageo Take at least 3 AP classeso Have an overall GPA of 3.50 or higher | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HONOR (<i>White stole</i>)<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Take at least 2 years of the same foreign languageo Take at least 2 AP classeso Have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher |
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COMPLETERS/CTE PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Career and Technical Education (CTE) helps students acquire skills needed to begin the path to their occupational goals. Upon completion of the CTE program area courses, students will possess marketable job skills as well as college and career readiness skills needed to be successful in their chosen career path. Students who complete one of the following CTE program paths will receive a certificate and a cord to wear at graduation.

- **AGRI COMPLETERS** (blue cord)
 - **Agribusiness Systems** (Survey of Ag Systems + Agribusiness Management + Animal Science or Agricultural Mechanics or Plant Science)
 - **Agricultural Power, Structural & Technical Systems** (Survey of Ag Systems + Agricultural Mechanics + Agricultural Metals or Agricultural Structures)
 - **Animal Systems** (Survey of Ag Systems + Animal Science + Advanced Animal Science)
- **FACS COMPLETER** (red/white cord)
 - **Clothing and Housing Design** (Family & Consumer Science + Fashion & Interior Design + Adv Fashion & Interior Design)
 - **Human and Social Services** (Family & Consumer Science + Life Span Development + Dynamics of Human Relationships)
- **BUSINESS COMPLETERS** (yellow cord)
 - **Accounting** (Survey of Business + Accounting I + Accounting II)
 - **Office Administration** (Survey of Business + Business Procedures + Accounting I OR Business Law I AND Business Law II)
 - **Hospitality and Tourism** (Survey of Business + Tourism Industry Management + Arkansas Tourism Industry)

EARLY GRADUATION

Early graduation may be a possible option for some students, but it takes very early planning, specific requirements, and administrative approval to qualify. Students interested in early graduation should begin planning no later than their 10th grade year.

- **REQUIREMENTS FOR EARLY GRADUATION**
 - o Students must meet all graduation requirements set by the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education before the beginning of a new semester.
 - o Students must be approved for potential early graduation by meeting with the high school counselor and principal prior to the potential final year of high school. (usually in 10th grade)
- **POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL CREDITS FOR EARLY GRADUATION**
 - o To receive credit for high school English 11, students MUST take both Freshman English I AND Freshman English II through BRTC.
 - o To receive credit for high school English 12, students MUST take both Intro. to World Literature I AND Intro. to World Literature II through BRTC.
 - o To receive credit for a 4th high school math credit, a student MUST take College Algebra, PreCalculus, or Calculus through BRTC.
- **STILL CLASSIFIED AS 11TH GRADE**
 - o Students should be aware that early graduation **does not** mean they are a senior during their final year. It simply means they took additional credits to meet graduation requirements before the typical 4-year high school time-frame. They must complete the entire 11th grade school year with other 11th grade students. For this reason, they may not be permitted to walk at the graduation ceremony for seniors, and they will not be released the same time as seniors at the end of the school year.
- **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR AN APPROVED EARLY GRADUATE**
 - o Senior pictures are taken during the summer prior to the final year.
 - o Graduation cap and gown orders are placed in September/October.
 - o If approved, they should attend 11th and 12th grade class meetings the final year.
 - o They will need to complete the FAFSA in October of their final year.
 - o They should apply to colleges, apply for scholarships, and complete all other after-high school tasks that seniors will complete.

- o Early graduation could result in fewer scholarship opportunities.

BRTC COURSES

Pocahontas High School students have the opportunity to take courses through Black River Technical College to earn high school and college credits. Prior to each semester, students must complete a BRTC application and FERPA form and submit to the high school counselor by the deadline to receive concurrent credit. *(The counselor will take care of sending your transcript, shot records, and test scores to BRTC.)*

● **DROPPING BRTC COURSES**

- o If you decide to drop a BRTC course, you are responsible for any fees incurred through BRTC.
- o You must complete a drop form through the high school counselor.
- o You will receive an 'F' on your high school transcript for dropped BRTC courses.

● **BRTC COURSE FEES**

- o Up to 2, 3-credit hour courses (per semester) will be covered by the AR Concurrent Challenge Scholarship for juniors and seniors. If you take more than 2 courses per semester, the other courses follow the rates shown below.
- o If you receive free or reduced lunches and plan to take more than 2 courses per semester, let Mrs. Hampton know. You may possibly qualify to save even more \$!
- o During the Fall and Spring semesters, high school students receive BRTC courses at a reduced rate
 - 3-credit hour courses - \$125.00 each
 - 4-credit hour courses - \$166.68 each
- o During the Summer semesters, there are no reduced rates for high school students.
 - Traditional 3-credit courses - \$405.00 each
 - Online 3-credit course - \$465.00
- o PHS does not handle any payments or money for BRTC courses.
 - Students can pay online through their myBRTC portal with a debit card, credit card, or an electronic check. <https://mybrtc.blackrivertech.org/>
 - Username = firstname.middleinitial.lastname
 - Initial Password = Date of Birth (MMDDYY)

● **REQUIREMENTS FOR BRTC COURSES**

- o Students must complete and submit a BRTC application to Mrs. Hampton each semester
- o Students must complete and submit a BRTC FERPA form to Mrs. Hampton each year

o **TEST SCORES**

- Before a PHS student can enroll in any BRTC course (or PHS course for concurrent credit,) the student must have taken and earned the following minimum required test scores. The minimum subject scores may be obtained from any of the tests listed below.
 - To take ANY BRTC course – student must have minimum Reading score
 - To take BRTC English course – student must have minimum Reading & English scores
 - To take BRTC Math courses – student must have minimum Reading & Math scores
 - *Test scores are required for the BRTC Career & Technical Center Pathways Program, but there are no minimum scores required.*

TEST	READING	ENGLISH	MATH
<i>ACT</i>	19	19	19
<i><u>10th GRADE ACT ASPIRE</u></i>	428	428	432
<i>ACCUPLACER</i>	251	251	251

- If you have never taken the ACT or the 10th Grade ACT Aspire, the Accuplacer can be taken at PHS by making arrangements with Mrs. Stewart (Lindsay.stewart@pocahontaspsd.com) or at BRTC, by appointment, by calling (870) 248-4156. You will need to take a photo ID and know the last 4 digits of your social security card when you go to BRTC to take the Accuplacer.

● **2022-2023 PHS CONCURRENT CREDIT COURSE OFFERINGS**

- AP Lang. & Comp. (11th grade) = Freshman English I (Fall) / Freshman English II (Spring)
- AP Literature (12th grade) = Intro. to World Literature I (Fall) / Intro to World Literature II (Spring)
- AP U.S. History = U.S. History to 1876 (Fall) / U.S. History Since 1876 (Spring)
- Algebra III = College Algebra (Spring)
- PreCalculus = PreCalculus (Spring)
- AP Calculus = Calculus (Spring)

● **ONLINE BRTC COURSES**

- MUST be taken in the PHS computer lab/study hall. (Will be listed as BRTC course title on your high school schedule.)
- You will receive an 'F' on your high school transcript for dropped BRTC courses.

- **BRTC CAMPUS COURSES**

- MUST be pre-approved by Mrs. Hampton due to possible scheduling issues.
- Make sure to include, on the application, the meeting times and days for each of these courses.
- Only count as one class period in your high school schedule.
- Only one study hall period per day allowed on your PHS schedule
 - If the course meeting time plus and an additional 10 minutes for travel time equals more than two high school class periods, it will not be approved.
 - You must have at least 10 minutes prior to a high school class period to allow for travel time.

BRTC CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER PATHWAYS

The BRTC Career & Technical Center is a **FREE** program which enables high school juniors and seniors to get a head start on a career after high school. Students can graduate with their high school diploma as well as with a BRTC certificate, ready to go right into the workforce. Juniors and seniors at Pocahontas High School who meet the requirements are eligible to apply for the program.

- **REQUIREMENTS**

- Must be a junior or senior
- Must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Must be in good standing with attendance
- Must have own transportation

- **PATHWAYS**

- **Allied Health CNA/Phlebotomy Pathway** (1 year only program)
 - *Priority is given to seniors*
 - *Students will be expected to have own transportation to complete clinicals at other sites on some Saturdays.*
 - *Students must be able to pass a drug screening.*
 - *Students must pass each class with a 'C' or better to stay in program.*
 - *Space is limited to 10 PHS students only*
- **Machine Tool Technology Pathway**
 - *Space is limited to 5 PHS students only*
- **Welding Pathway**
 - *Space is limited to 10 PHS students only*
- **Auto Body Collision Pathway**
 - *Space is limited to 10 PHS students only*