



Pasadena Unified School District's

## High School Graduation Requirements



**High School** education in PUSD has expanded to prepare our graduates for an ever-changing world and a global economy. We are providing students more of the advanced skills they need to be successful, productive citizens who are future-ready. We are committed to providing every student with a foundation of knowledge and character necessary to excel in higher education, work, and life.

PUSD's new graduation requirements reflect our Graduate Profile and are aligned with the district's vision and mission. The new guidelines address:

- 21st Century Skills (communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity/innovation),
- College and Career Readiness,
- Global Citizenship, Cultural Competency, and other attributes for graduates to lead a Healthy life

### **PUSD students must complete all three requirements to graduate with a high school diploma\*\*:**

1. 220 Credits of Required Coursework
2. 40 hours of Community Service or Work-Based Learning (WBL)
3. Graduate Portfolio and Defense



## Pasadena Unified School District's High School Graduation Requirements

**1. Complete 220 Credits of Required Courses:** Students earn 5 credits per semester for every course they pass. Students are required to complete a semester of Career Technical Education (CTE) or qualifying equivalent.

Subject Area	# of required credits
English	40 credits (4 years)
Math	30 credits (3 years)
Social Science	30 credits (3 years)
Science	30 credits (3 years)
World Language	10 credits (1 year)
Fine Art/Performing Art	10 credits (1 year)
PE	20 credits (2 years)
CTE (Career Technical Education)	5 credits (1 semester)
Electives	45 credits

For a complete list of the course offerings at your high school campus, please see your student's counselor.

## Honors and Recognitions

Students that go above and beyond the graduation requirements can earn special honors and recognitions.

### California Scholarship Federation Requirements:

Membership based on scholarship and is gained after qualifying grades are earned each semester (csf-cjsf.org)

### National Honor Society (grades 10-12):

Cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale); demonstrating volunteer/service hours; excellent record of behavior; participating in leadership

### Seal of Biliteracy:

Seal earned when students complete all AB815 requirements (sealofbiliteracy.org)

### International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma (offered at Blair High School):

The IB diploma Programme is recognized and respected by the world's leading universities. Students complete a rigorous internationally benchmarked college bound course of studies and have to pass 3 HL and 3 SL courses.

### AP Capstone Diploma:

Pass 3 AP exams , with scores of 3 or higher (lp.collegeboard.org/ap-capstone)

### Seal of Civic Engagement

Seal earned when students complete all AB 24 requirements (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/hs/hssstateseal.asp>)

### Special Diploma Seals & Recognitions

*(students can qualify for multiple diploma seals)*

**College & Career Pathways Diploma** – must complete 30 CTE credits and 200 hours of Work Based Learning including internship and community service



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**2. Complete 40 hours of Community Service or Work Based Learning:** Students enrolled in a traditional diploma path (220 credits) are required to complete forty hours of approved Community Service and/or Work-Based learning, whereas those participating in the alternative learning option (170 credits) are required to complete 60 Community Service and/or Work-Based learning hours.

- A supervisor from the organization of service must be able to verify the hours completed with a signature and business card. Parents and students may not sign as a supervisor on the verification form.
- The verification form needs to be completed by the student and turned in to their counselor within one calendar month from the last day of service.

### Definition of Community Service:

- Community service is the giving of one's time, efforts and skills outside of school class time for the purpose of benefitting the community (local or global), without monetary compensation.

### Community Service Opportunities & Guidelines:

- Students select a "hands-on" Community Service project of interest and then contact the non-profit organization to sign up.
- The non-profit organization must be able to use student volunteers outside of the school day on weekdays or on weekends.
- Students who are completing the International Baccalaureate Program and College & Career Academies may use hours from those specific programs to fulfill this requirement.

### Definition of Work-Based Learning (WBL):

- Work-based learning (WBL) is an instructional strategy that connects what students are learning in class with the world of work. Students experience success in a career setting, and apply learning experiences. The continuum of WBL includes career awareness, exploration and preparation activities, but the only WBL activities that can be used to meet this graduation requirement are:
  - Job Shadow
  - Unpaid Internship (work permit required)
  - Paid Internship (work permit required)
  - Employment (work permit required)



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### 3. Submit a Graduate Portfolio and Present the Graduate Defense:

The Graduate Portfolio and Defense is an opportunity for students to showcase their academic achievement and proficiency in the 4 C's (Critical Thinking, Creativity, Communication & Collaboration), and to reflect on and refine their learning and growth. The defense/project allows the student to communicate information and present effectively in multiple formats. Throughout their 4 years of high school, students will select their best work samples, complete a reflection for each piece, and upload /store in their portfolio.

#### **Critical Components (scored using common rubrics):**

##### **Part I: Portfolio Content** – Assignments must be previously scored

1. **RESEARCH, as evidenced via Research paper (6-8 pages)** - evidence of student's critical thinking skills, use of evidence to support claims, and critical reading ability
2. **CREATIVITY, as evidenced via various student work** - student work that showcases creative/innovative solutions, processes and/or actual product
3. **WRITTEN COMMUNICATION, via Reflection paper (3-5 pages)** - evidence of written communication skills, ability to reflect and assess growth and progress on items 1 and 2 above. This paper will also serve as the script for the oral presentation.

##### **Portfolio and Defense Options:**

A. Students may select a new topic during their senior year that incorporates all critical components of the portfolio content

OR

B. Select their best work from different class assignments throughout their high school years that meet the critical components of the portfolio content

##### **Part II: Defense of Learning: ORAL COMMUNICATION/PRESENTATION:**

A. Sharing of portfolio – share 3 graded documents with panel of judges

B. Individual presentation in front of panel of judges (8-10 minutes)

C. Use of technology - well-produced audio/visual aids or media

Question and answer session (5 minutes) – as demonstration of growth, reflection and self-evaluation