

General Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for graduation from Monticello High School, students must meet all of the following credit requirements:

English/Language Arts	<i>Eight (8) Credits: (4 Years Required)</i> English I and English II (or Advanced English I/II); English III, English electives (AP English, English IV, KCC Composition, or Western World Literature)
Mathematics	<i>Six (6) Credits: (3 Years Required)</i> Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or Transitional Algebra II/Applied Math required
Science	<i>Six (6) Credits: (3 Years Required)</i> Science 9, Biology, and Chemistry required
Social Studies	<i>Six (6) Credits: (3 Years Required)</i> World History, American History, Economics (Financial Literacy), and American Government required
Health	<i>One (1) Credit:</i> Health 1 and Health 2 in 9 th grade (1 credit)
Physical Education	<i>Four (4) Credits:</i> One credit of Physical Education each school year (4 credits)

PE Waiver:

A student shall be excused from the physical education requirement by the principal if the parent or guardian of the student requests in writing that the student be excused from the physical education requirement for one of these reasons:

1. A student is seeking to be excused in order to enroll in academic courses not otherwise available to the student.
2. A student who is enrolled in a work-based learning program.
3. A student who is in an educational program authorized by the school, which requires the student to leave the school premises for specified periods of time during the school day.
4. An activity that is sponsored by the school, in which the student is enrolled, which requires at least as much physical activity per week as one-eighth unit of physical education.

Electives

Twenty-three (23) Credits

Total Credits

Fifty-four (54) Total Credits

Students must be in full-time attendance for eight (8) semesters. Full-time attendance is defined as enrollment in at least eight (8) courses in grades nine (9) and ten (10) and at least seven (7) courses in grade eleven (11) and twelve (12).

Students attending an approved alternative high school program may transfer more than six (6) credits.

Students not meeting graduation requirements are not allowed to participate in commencement exercises or other graduation ceremonies.

Prior to graduation, the district will advise students on how to successfully complete the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA)

Special Education Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements for special education students include successful completion of four years of English, three years of math, three years of social studies, and three years of science.

Early Graduation Requirements

Students may graduate early if they meet all of the requirements in a plan approved by the Monticello High School Principal. Such a plan must be submitted to the high school principal prior to the beginning of the semester in which the student plans to graduate. Alternative educational programming for graduation may be approved by the high school principal.

Students who graduate early under an approved plan may participate in the regular spring commencement exercises and Prom.

Students who complete a regular session in the Legislative Page Program of the general assembly at the state capitol will be credited a half (.5) credit of social studies.

Students enrolled in a junior officers' training corp will receive 1/8th physical education credit for each semester the student is enrolled in the program.

Beginning with the school year starting July 1, 2026, students must receive a passing score on the civics test in order to graduate, as set forth by the Iowa Department of Education and required by relevant laws.

NOTE: This is a mandatory policy.

Approved: 10/11/71

Reviewed and Amended: 1/28/80; 1/10/83; 12/15/86; 2/13/89; 10/23/89; 11/13/89; 7/12/93; 2/27/95; 3/27/95; 4/14/97; 10/26/99; 9/22/03; 11/22/04; 09/25/06; 11/24/08; 2/24/14; 7/23/18; 9/25/19; 1/24/22; 8/22/22; 10/23/23; 5/20/24; 10/28/24; 8/25/25