

SENECA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS

ADOPTED: APRIL 10, 2000

REVISED: NOVEMBER 8, 2004

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Authority SC 1611, 1613 Sec. 4.13, 4.24 Pol. 100, 102</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">217. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>It shall be the policy of the School Board to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program appropriate to the student's interests and needs by the award of a diploma or certificate at fitting graduation ceremonies.</p> <p>Graduation from Seneca Valley High School will be based upon the following requirements as mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Seneca Valley School Board.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Minimum Credit Requirement for Seneca Valley Graduation – 9-12</u></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>English</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speech</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Studies</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mathematics</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Science</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Physical Education</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Multimedia Presentation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arts/Humanities *</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electives **</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4.5</td> </tr> </table> <p>* Arts and humanities include courses in the following departments: foreign languages, art, music, family and consumer sciences, industrial technology, English and/or social studies.</p> <p>** Electives are available from all departments but may not duplicate those credits used to fulfill the two credits in arts or humanities.</p>	English	4.0	Speech	0.5	Social Studies	4.0	Mathematics	3.0	Science	3.0	Physical Education	2.0	Health	0.5	Technical Multimedia Presentation	0.5	Arts/Humanities *	2.0	Electives **	4.5
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<p>3. Guidelines</p>	<p><u>Senior Project Requirement</u></p> <p>Students must also successfully complete all four (4) components of the senior project in addition to the four (4) credits of English. The four (4) components of this student-chosen area of study include a research paper, a related project, a portfolio and an oral presentation.</p> <p><u>Level of Proficiency on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)</u></p> <p>Students must attain a score of Advanced or Proficient in the areas of Reading, Mathematics, and Writing on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) during their eleventh grade year. Students who attain a score of Basic or Below Basic in the areas of Reading, Mathematics, or Writing on the PSSA in grade eleven (11) will take the PSSA retest in the fall of their senior year. Students who do not score Proficient or above on the PSSA must prove their proficiency on an alternative assessment administered by the Seneca Valley School District.</p> <p><u>Children with Disabilities</u></p> <p>The Administration shall develop graduation requirements for each child with disabilities, who cannot otherwise reasonably meet the graduation requirements as set forth under this Policy and state law. These modified requirements for a child with disabilities shall account for such child's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 service agreement, as developed by the District.</p> <p><u>Guidelines for Completing Graduation Requirements Early</u></p> <p>The Seneca Valley Senior High School Administration counselors and the instructional staff believe that every child enrolled in Seneca Valley High School should remain in school the entire four (4) years to take advantage of all opportunities afforded them regarding course offerings. Every effort should be made to obtain adequate preparation for a field of employment, post-secondary education, armed services, etc. Beyond this, it is our responsibility to reassess our curriculum from time to time and develop a program that will hold the interest of all students.</p> <p>In the event that a student possesses such a strong desire to complete the graduation requirements before the end of four (4) years, there are several situations that will justify the development of a program for a student to permit an early graduation. These situations can be identified as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Age. A student is eighteen (18) years old, and his/her class has graduated.
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2. Enrolled as a full-time student in a four-year college. Must have a B average in his/her classes at Seneca Valley.
3. Maternity cases.
4. Step-outs who have returned and passed the age of 18.
5. Other unusual circumstances.

When a student makes application for early graduation, the student and parent/guardian must meet with the counselors to determine the advisability of an early graduation program. The final decision must be approved by the principal. Each referral will be evaluated after the best interests of the student are determined. All inquiries should be made by September 1 of the school year the diploma is to be earned.

Granting of Diploma: If a student completed his/her program at the end of the first semester, she/he will receive his/her diploma with the class the following June. If a student who has not fully completed graduation requirements chooses to start his/her college program at the end of his/her junior year, she/he will receive diploma when normal requirements for one (1) full year in college have been satisfactorily completed.

Issuance of Diploma

Persons making up deficient work in a certified tutorial or institutional program can be issued a diploma at the satisfactory completion of the make-up work and upon certification by the teacher or administrator responsible, that the student has fulfilled all requirements of course completion.

Diplomas will not be issued unless basic requirements are met.

Graduation Ceremony

Participation in the graduation ceremony is encouraged of all qualifying seniors.

Those students who participate in or attend the graduation ceremony must adhere to school policy at all times during the ceremony and afterwards while on the premises. Students who appear for the ceremony under the influence of or in possession of drugs or alcohol will be denied the privilege of participation and will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

To receive a diploma at the graduation ceremony, students must have completed all twenty-four (24) required graduation credits and satisfactorily completed all components of the senior project. To participate in

commencement/graduation ceremonies, students must have completed twenty-three (23) of twenty-four (24) required credits and satisfactorily completed all four (4) components of the senior project. Diplomas will be issued after basic requirements are met.

Student attire for the occasion is as follows:

1. The cap is to be worn "flat", pulled well down on the forehead and without decoration. Tassels are worn on the LEFT side.
2. Ladies: Cap and gown, blouse and skirt/slacks or dress, flat shoes, not high heels. NO PURSES.
3. Men: Cap and gown, collared shirt, neck tie and full-length slacks, shoes.
4. Students will be required to return home for proper dress in the event they report for the ceremony in unacceptable attire.
5. Students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.60 -- 3.99 at the end of the third nine weeks will be given blue honor stoles to wear with their cap and gown. Students with a grade point average of 4.0 and above at the end of the third nine weeks will be given a white stole to wear with their cap and gown.

Students who choose not to participate in the graduation ceremony may make arrangements to obtain their diploma by contacting the principal's office the week following graduation.

Students whose diplomas are withheld because of improper conduct may make arrangements to obtain their diplomas by meeting with their parents/guardians in the principal's office after June 30.

Senior Prom

Seniors who demonstrate behavior contrary to school policy at the senior prom or after-prom automatically forfeit their privilege to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Underclassmen, who demonstrate behavior contrary to school policy at the senior prom or after-prom, subject themselves to the appropriate penalties provided for in the school policy.

