

Credits for Class Membership

FRESHMAN: to be classified as a freshman, you must have graduated from 8th grade.

SOPHOMORE: to be classified as a sophomore, you must have attended at least two semesters of high school and earned a minimum of 9 academic credits.

JUNIOR: to be classified as a junior, you must have attended at least 4 semesters of high school and earned a minimum of 18 academic credits.

SENIOR: to be classified as a senior, you must have attended at least six semesters of high school and earned 28 academic credits.

To graduate, you must have earned a minimum of 40 credits and met all requirements set by the Taylorville Board of Education and the State of Illinois (see GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS section).

Graduation Requirements

Class of 2011

3 years of English (consisting of 1 full year of 9 th , 10 th and 11 th grade English)	2 year of science
3 years of mathematics (equivalent of Algebra I with Geometry content)	1 semester of health
1 semester of keyboarding and formatting	1 year American History
1 year of fine arts or vocational education	1 year American Problems
1 quarter of driver education - classroom phase	1 semester consumer education
1 semester of Civics AND passed the U.S. and Illinois Constitution test and flag test	4 years physical education
Total number of credits to graduate – 40	
Total number of credits earned from required courses = 27	
Total number of credits earned from elective courses = 13	

Class of 2012

4 years of English (consisting of 1 full year of 9 th , 10 th , 11 th and 12 th grade English)	2 years of science
3 years of mathematics (equivalent of Algebra I with Geometry content)	1 semester of health
1 year of fine arts or vocational education	1 year American History
1 semester of keyboarding and formatting	1 year American Problems
1 quarter of driver education - classroom phase	1 semester consumer education
1 semester of Civics AND passed the U.S. and Illinois Constitution test and flag test	4 years physical education
Total number of credits to graduate - 40	
Total number of credits earned from required courses = 29	
Total number of credits earned from elective courses = 11	

Class of 2013 & Class of 2014

4 years of English (consisting of 1 full year of 9 th , 10 th , 11 th , and 12 th grade English)	2 years of science
3 years of mathematics (equivalent of Algebra I with Geometry content)	1 semester of health
1 quarter Freshmen Transition (.500 credit and not included in GPA and class rank)	1 year American History
1 year of fine arts or vocational education	1 year American Problems
1 quarter of driver education - classroom phase	1 semester consumer education
1 semester of Civics and passed the U.S. and Illinois Constitution test and flag test	4 years physical education
Total number of credits to graduate - 40	
Total number of credits earned from required courses = 28.500	
Total number of credits earned from elective courses = 11.500	

A student MUST carry a minimum of 5 academic credits plus physical education each semester. In addition, students may not have more than 2 study halls per day in their schedule.

Explanation of Credits and Course Requirements

The topic of "credits" is often confusing to students entering high school. Basically, you earn one (1) credit for each academic course you pass (A, B, C, or D) each semester. Any course that is failed (F) results in zero "0" credit. In four years, a minimum of 40 credits have to be earned and passed all required subjects to be eligible for graduation.

When you enter THS as a freshman, you have "0" credits, but by the end of the second semester of your freshman year, you must have accumulated at least nine (9) credits to be classified as a sophomore; you must have at least eighteen (18) credits by the end of your sophomore year to be classified as a junior; and twenty-eight (28) by

the end of your junior year to be classified as a senior. You must earn forty (40) by the end of your senior year to graduate. (This information is noted below under the heading "Credits for Class Membership.") Although these are the minimum credits needed to change in class standing, students should always keep in mind that they must earn a minimum of ten credits per year ($10 \times 4 = 40$) to stay on track for graduation with their respective class.

In each year of high school, certain courses are required. This means you must not only take these courses, but you pass them in order to receive credit. If you fail (receive a grade of "F" for the final semester grade) in a required course, you must retake that course and receive a passing grade before graduation. To compound the problem; some required courses are prerequisites for other courses, (e.g.) passing English 9 before taking English 10.

Also keep in mind that some **courses are the exception** to the 1-credit-per-semester rule. driver education, physical education, strength training, AutoSkills, and Freshmen Transition are the exceptions. Physical Education and strength training credit is awarded at a rate of one-eighth ($1/8$) credit/semester. Students must enroll in physical education or strength training all four years to graduate. (See physical education course description for exceptions/exemptions list.) Physical education, strength training, Freshmen Transition, and AutoSkills credits count toward graduation, but do not count toward the calculation of your G.P.A. Driver Education is a course you must pass to meet the graduation requirements, but no credit is awarded for the classroom phase or behind the wheel.