



3 Year Graduation Option Green Level High School

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WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Desired Outcomes

- **Explain the 3-Year Graduate Legislation**
- **Who can be a 3-Year Graduate Option?**
- **Cover the 3-Year Graduate Scholarship**
- **Process for Applying as a 3-Year Graduate**
- **Key Points**

3-Year Graduate Legislation

North Carolina House Bill 259

- **A high school student in WCPSS who is at least 16 years of age, in your 3rd year of high school, and desires to graduate after 3 years.**
- **This applies to currently enrolled Sophomores and Freshmen.**

3-Year Graduate Legislation

North Carolina House Bill 259

- **Students must earn the North Carolina required 22-credits to receive the 3-year diploma.**
- **3-Year graduates may apply to receive a North Carolina scholarship during what would be their 4th year of high school.**

Who can be a 3-year graduate?

- **Students enrolled in a traditional high school.**
- **Students must be 16 years of age by their 3rd year in high school to be eligible.**
- **Students that are in the 9th or 10th grade during the 2023-2024 school year.**

Who can be a 3-year graduate?

- **Students that are on track to meet the minimum North Carolina graduation requirements of 22 credits.**
- **Students approved through the 3-year graduate process.**

3-Year Graduate Scholarship

Three year graduates may apply to receive a North Carolina scholarship during what would be their fourth year of high school.

This scholarship can only be issued if the student meets the following criteria...

3-Year Graduate Scholarship

1. Enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution: A school that is:

- A constituent institution of The University of North Carolina as defined in G.S. 116-2(4).
- A community college as defined in G.S. 115D-2(2).
- A nonprofit postsecondary institution as defined in G.S. 116-280(3)

2. Matriculated status: Being recognized as a student in a defined program of study leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate at an eligible postsecondary institution.

Application Process

- A form can be picked up from Student Services.
- Parents/Guardians fill out the application and submit it to their students counselor.
- The counselor will review if the student meets the minimum requirements to be a 3-year graduate.

Application Process

- If the student meets the minimum requirements, the administration and counselor will meet with the student and parents/guardians to finalize the application process.
- Students will have to maintain progress towards the NC required 22-credits to remain eligible for the 3-year graduate option.

Application Process

- The school will notify parents/guardians if a student is not meeting the minimum requirements and the student will no longer be eligible for the 3-year graduate option.

Key Points

- **We recommend that students complete all four years of high school to prepare themselves educationally for post-secondary plans.**
- **If a student is approved to be a 3-year graduate, they may have a rigorous schedule that is demanding on time.**

Key Points

- **Colleges and universities review rigor and course load when considering student applications.**
- **3-Year Graduates will not participate in “Senior Activities” due to their non-senior classification. However, they will participate in graduation.**

Key Points

- **Students are not able to participate in any school activities, as a student, after they graduate from their high school. Additionally, students cannot return for a 4th year after they have progressed through the 3-year graduate option.**

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS





1. GENERAL & APPLICATION
2. ELIGIBILITY
3. COURSES AND SCHEDULING
4. POST SECONDARY PLANNING
5. NEXT STEPS

GENERAL & APPLICATION



Q: Can a student change their mind after they sign the 3-year graduation commitment form?

A: The form includes a statement that indicates once the student has met the requirements they will receive a diploma and will not be eligible to return to a WCPSS high school. They can change their mind initially, but not once they meet requirements.

Q:

Can 3 year Graduates back out at any time during their HS career including right before their last semester?

A:

Students may have the ability to back out prior to ALL the requirements of the 3-year graduate option.

Q: Tell us more about this scholarship they can get ...

A: We are still working with our finance team on this, but essentially the student will receive a one year scholarship that equals the amount the district would have received as ADM for that student from the state.

Q: Is there a list of the UNC approved opportunities that the 3 year early grad money can go to?

A: Not at this time. NCDPI should be providing this to districts.

Q: Are all students only required to take 22 credits to graduate?
Or is it 26 credits?

A: Only students who apply and are accepted as 3 year accelerated students will have 22 credits to graduate. All students who stay for 4 years in high school will continue to need 26 credits.

Q:

Are they labeled a junior in the 3rd year and will still take ACT during that year?

A:

Yes - students who graduate in three years will not be designated as 12th grade - they will graduate as an 11th grade student

Q: If a student chooses to graduate in three years, they will technically graduate Junior year. Will they be expected to be invited to senior events? I assume senior events would need to be changed to something like "graduate events"?

A: At this time, "senior" events will be for students labeled as seniors. Schools may have "graduate" events to be more inclusive.

Q: Can the parent, student, principal, and Dean of Students meet virtually and sign paperwork digitally?

A: The meeting can be virtual, but the signatures cannot be done virtually.

Q: Will the counselor, parent, admin meetings have to take place over the summer or will they happen prior to the end of the school year?

A: They must happen prior to June 14 so the forms can be submitted by June 14.

ELIGIBILITY



Q:

Students with Specialized Instruction who need CA, ICR, and other services. Are they eligible for the 22-credit three-year graduation?

A:

Yes, but IEP teams will need to come together to discuss goals, courses, and support.

Q: Could OCS students choose this option if they choose to graduate with the certificate instead of a diploma?

A: Not at this time.

Q:

Is this just for academically gifted students?

A:

No - any student who could earn 22 credits by the end of their junior year may be eligible. Application is required for review of eligibility.

Q: For the requirement that students must be 16 years old, is there a certain date that they must be 16 by (the beginning of the year, by the time they graduate, etc.)?

A: Must be 16 by their graduation date.

COURSES AND SCHEDULING



Q:

**What would my child's
schedule look like?**

**This may be per the individual; But
typically, students have a “normal” 9th and
10th grade semester - but the 11th grade
schedule includes both 11th and 12th grade
courses - only 8 course each year.**

A:

**Ex: English 3 in S1, English 4 in S2, US
History S1, EPF S2, etc.**

Q: If a student becomes a 3 year graduate, is their ability to take dual enrollment at Wake Tech impacted?

A: If a student is eligible for dual enrollment with Wake Tech through CCP, they can continue this while in high school - but only for the 3 years they are in high school.

Q: Will more teachers be needed/hired to accommodate new courses?

The master schedule could be impacted. But with only more core courses to accommodate the

A: “double up” on cores in the 3rd year.

Q: We currently require students to take two levels of the same language. Is this still permitted or can we now only recommend?

A: It is no longer a requirement.
We can recommend it.

Q:

**Will 2 credits in a foreign language
will still be required for NC Academic
Scholars endorsement?**

A:

**Yes, at this time they are still
required for the NC Academic
Scholars endorsement.**

POST- SECONDARY PLANNING



Q: How will this impact the college application process?

A: Students will apply at the beginning of the year of their 3rd year.

Q:

**How does the 3 year graduation
affect college enrollment,
acceptances, etc.?**

**Depends! Colleges expect students to
take rigorous courses and take
advantage of opportunities in school**

A:

**and outside; Consider admissions
requirements too!**

Q: Will students have to explain to colleges (in NC and Out) why they chose to graduate early?

A: Many students will use their essay to explain it - or other questions in their application. No minimum credits required for admission but consider what is “competitive”

Q:

**Has this program been
implemented across any other
states?**

A:

**Not to our knowledge - Hopefully
more information will come from
the district to answer this
question.**

Q: I'm concerned about the students applying for scholarships during their final year when many scholarship applications require students to be classified as high school seniors. Even Wake Tech requires a special letter for students who graduate early.

A: We have been told that institutions will be advising us on new guidelines for applications and/or scholarships.

NEXT STEPS



NEXT STEPS:

- **Friday, April 19:** Complete the 3-Year Application to Student Services by 7:30 am
- **April 22 to April 26:** Initial Counselor Screening
- **April 30:** Student/Family notified
- **End of May/Beginning of June:** Student/Family, Dean of Students, and Principal meetings

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