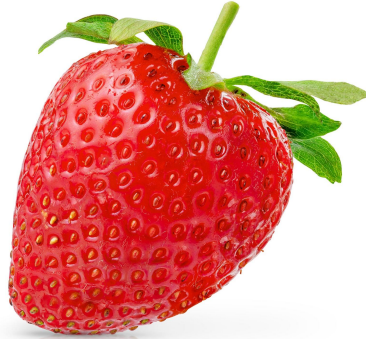


Graduation Requirements

Finding the sweet spot



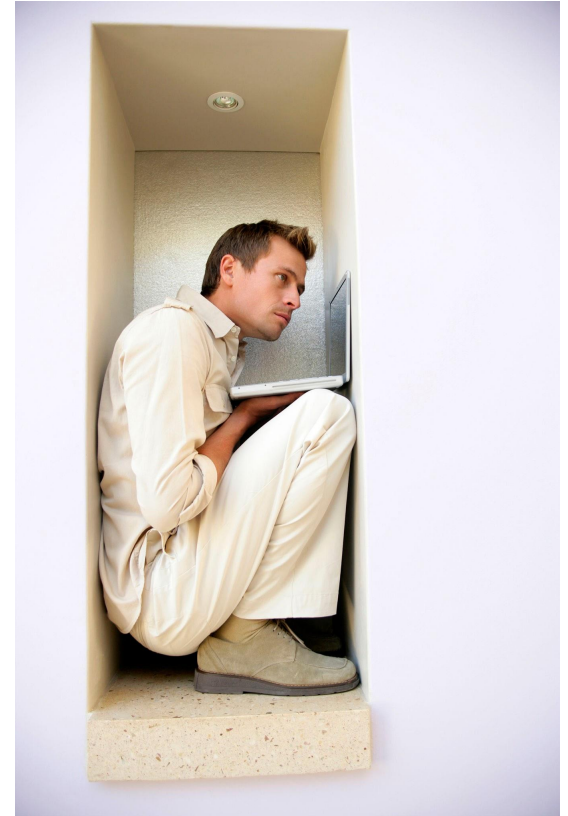
Current Requirements

Current Chatham Requirements	Total 24	State Requirements	Total 21
Language Arts	4	Language Arts	4
Social Studies	2	Social Studies	2.5
US Government	0.5		
Alaska History	0.5	Alaska History	0.5
Science	3	Science	2
Math	3	Math	3
PE	1.5	PE/Health	1
Health	0.5		
Electives	9	Electives	8

Breakdown

24 credit requirements means 6 classes per semester for 4 years.

- No wiggle room if you fail a class
- No options for seniors to take less classes while applying for jobs/colleges, studying for SAT/ACT etc.
- *Getting PE credit through sports has given some students wiggle room
 - However, this is not consistent across the district



What's not working



Angoon: 24 credits = no wiggle room.

Gustavus: The rigor problem persists even with the increased graduation requirements.

Correspondence:

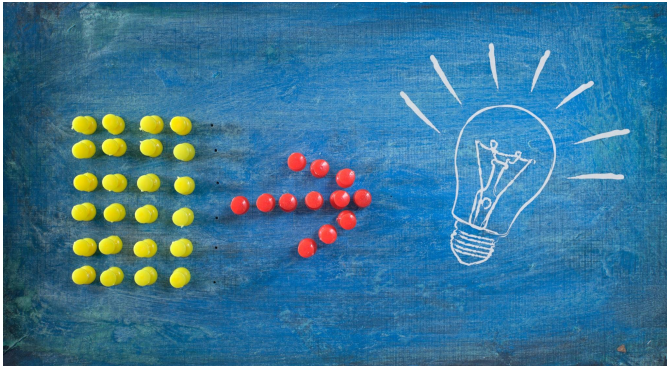
- Non-traditional students are burdened with huge elective loads.
- Harder to compete for students statewide.

Multiple Sites:

- Mandatory seat time and busy work.
- Despite high requirements, students are still unprepared for the workforce.

Other School Districts

- Homeschool Programs: Usually 21 required
- Anchorage School District: 22.5 required
- Juneau School District: 23 required
- Hoonah School District: 23 required



Why?

The factors involve the students on the two extremes of the academic spectrum: students needing credit recovery vs. those needing enrichment

Suggested Graduate Requirements

Current Chatham Requirements	Total 24	Proposed Chatham Requirements	Total 22
Language Arts	4	Language Arts	4
Social Studies	2	Social Studies	2
US Government	0.5	US Government	0.5
Alaska History	0.5	Alaska History	0.5
Science	3	Science	3
Math	3	Math	3
PE	1.5	PE	1
Health	0.5	Health	0.5
Junior/Senior Seminar Workforce Readiness/CTE		Junior/Senior Seminar/Workforce Readiness/CTE	1
Electives	9	Electives	6.5

Other Proposed Change: Limit on PE credits through sports



- 67.5 hours of practice hours = one semester credit. This is already being done at all sites/programs.
- Proposed change: a district policy that PE credit logs can only be used towards a set number of credits (1 credit? 1.5 credits?)

Quantity vs. Quality

- Less courses helps struggling students graduate on time
- More structure in electives helps guide students towards work-readiness.



How would this affect high performing students?



Alaska Performance Scholarship: Guides students (and classes offered) towards these requirements. That's why we keep the 3 science courses. CTE requirement increases this.



College Requirements: Does a CTE requirement create a problem for Ivy-league track students who need 4 years of English, Math and 3-4 years of Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language? Could the CTE course be waived or substituted for certain track students?

Alaska Performance Scholarship


- Our current requirements necessitate course planning, though they do start us on the path to options B & C
- Proposed requirements will also support options B & C, as well as provide CTE for 4th social studies credit

Class of 2024 & Beyond

ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST



To receive the APS and other forms of financial aid, students must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by **June 30th** of each year. **Visit studentaid.gov**

 **REQUIRED CURRICULUM** *Contact your counselor for information about APS courses. Approved courses may also be available through resources such as the University of Alaska or others. Eligibility is determined based upon courses with a letter grade reflected on your official high school transcript.*

Choose from option A, B, or C (curriculum options apply for all APS award levels)

Curriculum <i>Option A</i>	Curriculum <i>Option B</i>	Curriculum <i>Option C</i>
Science 4 credits 1 2 3 substitution 4 substitution	Science 3 credits 1 2 3 substitution	Science 3 credits 1 2 3 substitution
Math 4 credits 1 2 3 4 substitution	Math 3 credits 1 2 3 substitution	Math 3 credits 1 2 3 substitution
Language Arts 4 credits 1 2 3 4 substitution	Language Arts 4 credits 1 2 3 4 substitution	Language Arts 4 credits 1 2 3 4 substitution
Social Studies 4 credits 1 2 3 substitution 4 substitution OR World Language, Alaska Native Language, Fine Arts, Cultural Heritage or CTE	Social Studies 4 credits 1 2 3 4 substitution OR CTE	Social Studies 4 credits 1 2 3 4 substitution OR CTE
Other 2 credits FROM THE SAME SUBJECT: World Language, Alaska Native Language, Fine Arts, Cultural Heritage, or CTE (1 year of which includes 2 semesters of sequentially more rigorous content within a career cluster)	Other 2 credits FROM ANY SUBJECTS: World Language, Alaska Native Language, Fine Arts, or Cultural Heritage	Other 2 credits FROM ANY SUBJECTS: World Language, Alaska Native Language, Fine Arts, or Cultural Heritage

NOTE: *Highlighted sections above reflect additional course substitutions within each Curriculum Option. For example, in Curriculum Option A, two (2) Science credits may be substituted with 2 credits/years of rigorous additional non-standard Science course(s).*

How does this affect struggling academic students?



- CTE/workforce readiness guides students towards job skills
- Angoon has already implemented this course: taught by Fernan Lopez, English Teacher. Students can substitute working in the cafe.
- 22 classes means more space for credit recovery if a course is failed the first time
- Space for hands-on and community enrichment events/activities of their interest

Junior/Senior Seminar in Angoon

This year, Angoon used Sealaska Heritage Institute-developed curriculum course: ***Our Strength Work Readiness Course***.

- Designed to prepare students for both college and career pathways.
 - “We focused heavily on personal growth, encouraging students to reflect on their experiences, express gratitude, and give back to the community. Additionally, we fostered a growth mindset to help them overcome barriers.”
- Foundational lessons guided students in exploring their identity, cultural values, personal strengths, and passions.
 - ePortfolio development, students showcased their readiness for life after high school by integrating self-awareness, community connection, and employability skills into a comprehensive and culturally responsive learning experience.
- We also emphasized practical life and professional skills,
 - essay writing,
 - resume building,
 - crafting cover letters,
 - securing letters of recommendation,
 - communication development through mock interviews.
 -
- Financial Literacy,
 - saving,
 - budgeting,
 - responsible financial decision-making,
 - reading a paycheck,
 - understanding taxes, and
 - making informed employment and business decisions.
- Summer job application is their culminating project, in which they showcase their employability skills.

Concerns and other options

1. Does a CTE/Workforce readiness course stronghold students into a specific path? Make it harder to choose language or other paths of interest?
2. What about correspondence students? Homeschool students really really value choice. Will students choose a different homeschool program with just the 21 credit state requirements?

Proposed Changes Recap



- From 24 to 22 GR Requirements
- 2.5 electives dropped
- 1 CTE course added
- 0.5 PE course dropped
- PE credit cap on sports logs