Chapter 36: Graduation Requirements

Rule 36.1 Graduation Requirements (Repealed 7/2012)
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Rule 36.2 Policies for Subject Area Testing. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, students shall not be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the student earns or receives credit in a Mississippi public school as a requirement for graduation. Student performance on the end-of-course Subject Area Test shall be considered, along with the overall course grade based on the Concordance Table as reference in State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4 and provided to school districts by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Archived Information Regarding State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.2 for Students Graduating Prior to School Year 2014-2015:

Enrollment in a non-public school/program (to include, but not limited to, private schools, parochial schools, home schools, virtual schools, summer schools, independent study/correspondence programs, etc.) shall not be used to circumvent participation in the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System or students meeting the graduation requirements outlined in this policy.

1. Students will not be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the student earns or receives credit (i.e., course completed as recorded on an official transcript) in a Mississippi public school prior to the 2001-2002 school year. (MS Code 37-16-7)

2. Any student enrolled in a Mississippi public school who concurrently earns a Carnegie unit for any course which includes a required end-of-course Subject Area Test from a non-public school (to include, but not limited to: private school, parochial school, home school, virtual school, summer school, or independent study/correspondence program, etc.) must take and pass the end-of-course Subject Area Test in order to earn a standard diploma.

3. a. Students entering a Mississippi public school will not be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts credit earned by the student in a public school of another state as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma.

   b. Effective with the 2011-2012 school year, students entering or enrolled in a Mississippi public school implementing an innovative program authorized by the State Board of Education who have earned credits in the Required Subjects for a diploma in the state of Mississippi and will have completed an end-of-course assessment or end-of-domain assessment, will be exempt from State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4 until the State Board of Education has adopted standards and cut-scores for the corresponding assessments.

4. Students entering a Mississippi public school will not be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts credit earned by the student in a private school as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi
high school diploma, provided the private school is accredited regionally or by the state of Mississippi.

5. Students entering a Mississippi public school will be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts credit earned by the student in a private school as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma if the private school is not accredited regionally or by the state of Mississippi.

6. Students entering a Mississippi public school will be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts credit earned by the student through home schooling as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma.

7. Passage of the required Subject Area Test (High School end-of-course assessment or end-of-domain assessments as appropriate) is a separate requirement for graduation for students prior to the 2014-15 school year. In accordance with Section 37-16-5 of the MS Code, innovative programs authorized by the State Board of Education, shall periodically assess student performance and achievement in each school. Such assessment programs shall be based upon local goals and objectives which are compatible with the state’s plan for education and which supplement the minimum performance standards approved by the State Board of Education. Data from district assessment programs shall be provided to the State Department of Education when such data is required in order to evaluate specific instructional programs or processes or when the data is needed for other research or evaluation projects. Each district may provide acceptable, compatible district assessment data to substitute for any assessment data needed at the state level when the State Department of Education certifies that such data is acceptable for the purposes of Section 37-16-3.

Source: Miss Code Ann. §§ 37-17-6 and 37-16-7 (Revised 4/2015)
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Rule 36.3 Policies for Carnegie Unit Credit.

1. Any Mississippi public school student shall not be awarded Carnegie Unit credit unless the core objectives identified in the Mississippi College and Career-Ready Standards or Mississippi Curriculum Framework have been mastered.

2. For students entering a Mississippi public school from a regionally accredited private school or public school in another state for which the school did not award a Carnegie Unit even though the student successfully completed a course, the district may accept the course as meeting the requirement for the Required Subjects for a diploma in the state of Mississippi provided the district determines that the content of the course taken is comparable. However, the total Carnegie Unit requirement for the Curriculum Area remains the same.

3. Students entering a public school in Mississippi from any regionally accredited public or private school that awarded a Carnegie Unit for the successful completion of a course, the district may accept the course as meeting the requirement for the “Required Subject” in Appendix A of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

4. Any student previously enrolled in a Mississippi public school that failed an end-of-course Subject Area Test and later transfers credit for the same end-of-course Subject Area Test from either a private/nonpublic school that is accredited regionally or by the state of Mississippi or an out-of-state public school must meet one of the graduation options in State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4.

5. Once a student earns a Carnegie Unit in any course, the course may not be retaken to earn a new or additional course grade. This policy includes any Carnegie Unit credit that may be awarded at a private or non-public school after the student has earned an initial Carnegie Unit credit in a course.

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Rule 36.4 Assessments Required for Graduation

1. All students enrolled in one of the four (4) end-of-course Subject Area Test courses must pass the course and participate in the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test in order to earn the Carnegie Unit.

2. Beginning with school year 2014-2015, students shall graduate by passing the course and meeting one (1) of the following options:
   - Passing the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test, or
   - Using options outlined in Chapter 36, Rule 36.5, or
   - Using the end-of-course Subject Area Test score with the overall course grade based on the Concordance Table for each of the four (4) end-of-course Subject Area Tests as provided to school districts by the Mississippi Department of Education. (Students must be enrolled in order to utilize this option.)

3. Beginning with school year 2015-2016, in addition to number two (2) above, all students enrolled may achieve a combined minimum score from the end-of-course Subject Area Tests to meet the requirement for graduation in lieu of passing the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test.

4. Any Mississippi public school student who fails to pass a required end-of-course Subject Area Test, prior to school year 2016-2017, will be offered opportunities to retake the test.

Archived Information Regarding Chapter 36, Rule 36.4 for Students Graduating Prior to School Year 2014-2015:

Academic end-of-course Subject Area Tests were phased in during the 2001-2002 school year to replace the Functional Literacy Examination (FLE) as a requirement for graduation.

2. Students who began 9th grade in school year 1999-2000 must pass the Functional Literacy Examination (FLE) plus the Subject Area Test in U.S. History.
3. Students who began 9th grade in school year 2000-2001 must pass the mathematics section of the FLE plus the Subject Area Tests in U.S. History and English II.
4. Students who began 9th grade in 2001-2002 must pass the mathematics section of the FLE plus the Subject Area Tests in U.S. History, English II, and Biology.
5. Students who began 9th grade in 2002-2003 must pass the end-of-course Subject Area Tests in U.S. History, English II, Biology, and Algebra I. Students who began 9th grade in 2003-2004 and each year thereafter must pass all required end-of-course Subject Area Tests in U.S. History, English II, Biology, and Algebra I.

Part 3 Chapter 36, Rule 36.5: Graduation Requirements
Rule 36.5 Additional Assessment Options for Meeting End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment Requirements.

Rule 36.5 Additional Assessment Options for Meeting End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment Requirements. Rule 36.4, Assessments Required for Graduation, outlines the EOC assessment graduation requirements. State Board Policy Rule 36.5 provides approved options for students to meet these high school EOC assessment graduation requirements through approved alternate measures. State Board Policy Rule 36.5 applies to past, current, and future Mississippi students.

While it is possible that a student will meet one of the options below before taking the subject area test, this policy states that a student is eligible to use any of these options once he or she has failed to pass any required EOC assessment one (1) time. Specifically, students may meet the graduation requirements outlined in State Board Policy Rule 36.4 by attaining any one (1) of the measures outlined below for each of the EOC assessments listed.

1. Algebra I
   a. Obtain a score of 17 or higher on the Math subject sub score of the ACT.
   b. Earn a C or higher in a dual enrollment/dual credit/College Algebra.
   c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 (PICAT prescreen scores are not allowable) plus one (1) of the following:
      i. Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
      ii. Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway’s Assessment Blueprint and outlined in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.
   d. Obtain the Silver on the ACT Work Keys plus one of the following:
      i. Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
      ii. Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career pathway’s Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

2. Biology I
   a. Obtain a score of 17 or higher on the Science subject sub score of the ACT.
   b. Earn a C or higher in a dual enrollment/dual credit/College-Biology I and the corresponding Biology lab.
c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 (PICAT prescreen scores are not allowable) plus one (1) of the following:

i. Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.

ii. Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway’s Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

d. Obtain the Silver Level on the ACT Work Keys plus one (1) of the following:

i. Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.

ii. Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway’s Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

3. English II

a. Obtain a score of 17 or higher on the English subject sub score of the ACT.

b. Earn a C or higher in a dual enrollment/dual credit/College English Composition I.

c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 (PICAT prescreen scores are not allowable) plus one of the following:

i. Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.

ii. Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway’s Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

d. Obtain the Silver Level on the ACT Work Keys plus one (1) of the following:

i. Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.

ii. Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway’s Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*.

4. U.S. History

a. Obtain a score of 17 or higher on the reading subject sub score of the ACT.

b. Earn a C or higher in a dual enrollment/dual credit/College American History II.
c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 (PICAT prescreen scores are not allowable) plus one (1) of the following:

   i. Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.

   ii. Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway’s Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

d. Obtain the Silver Level on the ACT Work Keys plus one (1) of the following:

   i. Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.

   ii. Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway’s Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §37-1-3, 37-17-6, and 37-16-7 (Revised 7/2017, 7/2019)
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Rule 36.6 Optional Graduation Requirement for Students Displaced by a Federally or Nationally Declared Natural Disaster

The State Board of Education encourages Mississippi school districts to make every effort to assist displaced students in meeting Mississippi graduation requirements.

In situations where students are displaced from other states, territories, or countries due to a federally or nationally declared natural disaster and have been unsuccessful in meeting the Mississippi graduation requirements, the State Superintendent of Public Education shall have the authority to allow these displaced students to graduate from a Mississippi public school if certain criteria are met as described below.

The State Superintendent of Public Education may grant the Mississippi school district in which the student is enrolled as a senior the authority to collaborate with school officials from the student’s home state, territory, or country to determine the procedures and requirements (i.e., assessment and course requirements) for awarding a diploma to eligible students.

This policy shall be limited to students who were last enrolled as a junior or senior in their home school in another state, territory, or country.