

Guidelines for Student Athletic Eligibility

Produced by The Ohio High School Athletic
Association for School Counselors

Revised May 2025



Many student scholarship appeals that come to the OHSAA office place **sole responsibility on you**, the school counselor, **for their failure to meet the requirements of the applicable scholarship bylaws** found in 4-4. The OHSAA recognizes that this notion is fundamentally flawed and incorrect and emphasizes that our rules make reference to the fact that scholastic success is a shared responsibility with parents and students expected to shoulder most of the load. The Executive Director's Office has prepared this resource to help inform you of the crucial information that you need to know in order to best advise students appropriately.

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO KNOW

HIGH SCHOOL

1. Incoming 9th graders **MUST** earn passing grades in a minimum of **four courses in their final grading period of grade 8** in order to be eligible, with regard to scholarship, during their first grading period of 9th grade.
2. Thereafter, all high school students **MUST** earn passing grades in a minimum of **five one-credit courses** (or the equivalent) during the immediately preceding grading period to have continuing eligibility.
3. Participate in every effort to ensure that all students are fully scheduled in a minimum of **five one-credit courses** each grading period.
4. If a student comes to you and asks to drop a course, ask the following questions:
 - a. Are you a student athlete?
 - b. What sports do you play?
 - c. Have you visited with your athletic administrator or principal to determine if dropping this course will affect your eligibility to play a sport?
5. Advise the student not to drop a course which reduces his/her course load below five credits unless you receive a form from a senior administrator, a template of which can be accessed here: <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/SuggestedScheduleChangeForm.pdf>
6. Physical Education Courses do count towards athletic eligibility but will **NEVER** count as a full credit course. It usually counts as only $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ credit. Do not count this course as one of the five full credit courses.
7. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.
8. The OHSAA has **no** minimum grade point (GPA) requirement, thus issues regarding eligibility when only the GPA is of concern are strictly a local school district matter and **not** an OHSAA matter

Grades 7-8

1. All 7-8th grade students **MUST** be enrolled in and earn passing grades in a minimum of **four courses** during the immediately preceding grading period to have continuing eligibility.
2. Participate in every effort to ensure that all students are fully scheduled in a minimum of **four courses** each grading period.
3. If a student comes to you and asks to drop a course, ask the following questions:
 - a. Are you a student athlete?
 - b. What sports do you play?
 - c. Have you visited with your athletic administrator or principal to determine if dropping this course will affect your eligibility to play a sport?
4. Advise the student not to drop a course which reduces his/her course load below four courses unless you receive a form from a senior administrator, a template of which can be accessed here: <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/SuggestedScheduleChangeForm.pdf>
5. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.

NOTE: "Grading period" is defined as your school's board-adopted calendar. In most school districts, this is a nine-week period, while some districts use six- or 12-week periods or semesters. It should also be noted, however, that interim, biweekly or weekly evaluations are not considered "grading periods," and restoration of eligibility is **NOT** permitted after such evaluations.

Passing grades must be received in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. To determine credit equivalency, multiply full-year courses by a factor of 1; semester courses by a factor of 2; twelve-week courses by a factor of 3; and nine-week courses by a factor of 4.

FORMULA: CREDIT VALUE x FACTOR = EQUIVELANCY

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 9-12

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English 10	C	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Spanish I	D	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Health	B	$\frac{1}{2}$ - semester	2	$\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$
Algebra	F	1 - all year	1	0
Computers	C	$\frac{1}{2}$ - semester	2	$\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$
Social Studies	C	$\frac{1}{2}$ - semester	2	$\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$
Total Credits				5 = eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English	C	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
O.W.E.	F	2 - all year	1	0
O.W.E.	D	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
History	B	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
P.E.	B	$\frac{1}{4}$ - semester	2	$\frac{1}{4} \times 2 = \frac{1}{2}$
Keyboarding	C	$\frac{1}{4}$ - 4th 9 weeks	4	$\frac{1}{4} \times 4 = 1$
Total Credits				$4 \frac{1}{2}$ = ineligible for 1st grading period of next school year

Post-Secondary Option – College Credit Plus

In order for a CCP class to be used for determining eligibility for Bylaw 4-4-1, the class must count toward HS graduation. In addition, students electing to enroll in CCP must be certain that 1.) The faculty members at the post-secondary institution understand that they will need to provide grades or a progress report at the time when the high school's grading period is over, and 2.) The student-athlete is taking enough course work at the post-secondary institution exclusively or between the post-secondary institution and the high school combined to be equivalent to five one-credit courses. Calculating equivalency of credits in the post-secondary institution is conducted in the same manner as in the high school, based on the Carnegie unit. **College courses for which three or more semester hours of credit are earned shall be awarded one Carnegie unit. Fractional Carnegie units will be awarded proportionately. This means that courses which are four, five, six or even seven hours of credit receive just one Carnegie unit.**

For the 2023-24 school year, the OHSA membership made changes to how "sprint" and/or "A/B" courses can be counted. A student enrolled in a College Credit Plus (CCP) course or courses which credit hours would have counted towards the satisfaction of this Bylaw BUT FOR the fact that the actual course work did not commence in the grading period in question (but within the same semester), can nonetheless have the course credit/credits count towards satisfaction of this requirement PROVIDED the student was enrolled in the CCP course at the beginning of the semester in question. Likewise, if the CCP course work is successfully completed within the semester of the high school's calendar but before the high school's calendar's next grading period within the same semester starts, the CCP credits can count towards satisfaction of this requirement. **A student who is engaged in a CCP course has an added responsibility to immediately notify the school for which they participate when any changes with their enrollment status within the CCP course occurs, and it is the school's obligation to confirm the schedule change upon receipt of notification.**

Examples of CCP options:

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period (College on SEMESTERS)

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or
Equivalent) History	High	1 (year course)	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Literature	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Calculus	CCP	5 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Biology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Total Credits			7 = eligible for 2nd grading period provided all courses passed

The factor of 2 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the semester system.

The factor of 4 is used for post-secondary institutions that are using quarters.

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period (College on QUARTERS)

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
French	CCP	5 semester hours	$1 \times 4 = 4$
Sociology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 4 = 4$
Computers	CCP	2 semester hours	$.67 \times 4 = 2.68$
Total Credits			10.68 = eligible for 1st grading period of next school year provided all courses passed

The factor of 4 is used for post-secondary institutions that are using quarters as long as the class is completed during one quarter.

Note that this student is taking all courses at the post-secondary institution, which is acceptable.

Block Scheduling

Block scheduling or double blocking of courses does not change the calculation of credit equivalencies as required in OHSA bylaws. Courses taken over one semester or one quarter (9-week period) carry a factor of 2 and 4, respectively. Therefore, if a student takes an English course during the first semester only and receives one credit for passing that course, that class carries an equivalency of 2 ($1 \text{ credit} \times \text{the factor for a semester course (2)} = 2$). Examples of block scheduling:

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English 10	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Spanish 2	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Health	B	$1/4$ - 1st 9 weeks	4	$1/4 \times 4 = 1$
Total Credits				5 = eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
Calculus	B	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
French	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Phys. Ed	A	$1/4$ - semester	2	$1/4 \times 2 = 1/2$
Total Credits				4 1/2 = ineligible for 4th grading period

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 7-8

Passing grades are required in a minimum of four subjects in which enrolled in the immediately preceding grading period. All courses, regardless of how many times per week the course meets, in which a student receives a grade count toward this eligibility requirement.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	B
Home Economics	B
Computers	F
Music	C
Health	F
Subjects Passed	3 of 6 classes = NOT eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	D
Social Studies	C
Science	B
Physical Education	B
Subjects Passed	4 of 5 classes = Eligible for 4th grading period