



**BOSTON COLLEGIATE
CHARTER SCHOOL**

**Boston Collegiate's Graduation Requirements and Competency
Determination Language
2024-2025 Student and Family Handbook Revisions**

Boston Collegiate Graduation requirements

Boston Collegiate offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum that fosters both college readiness and independence. These requirements include the following and are detailed below:

- Graduation requirements including:
 - Local coursework requirements
 - Local community service requirement
 - Local MCAS requirements
- Competency Determination Requirements

If a student is unable to meet local graduation requirements and successfully meet the benchmarks of the state Competency Determination, they will not be eligible to receive a high school diploma but may be eligible to receive a certificate of completion. It may be determined that a student needs more than four years to achieve a certificate of completion.

Local Graduation Requirements

Coursework Requirements

For graduation, students are required to complete: 4 years/credits of English, 4 years/credits of math, 3.5 years/credits of science, 3.5 years/credits of history, 3 years/credits of a world language and 2 additional year/credit of advanced art, world language, English, history, science or math. This is equivalent to 20 full year courses, with a standard load of 5 per year of HS. Each full year course is 1 credit and semester courses are equivalent to .5 credit. Course credit is earned, and mastery is demonstrated, when a student achieves a 70% or above in a course.

Students must also successfully complete four years of physical education, three years of art, and the school's Collegiate Skills program (the ninth through twelfth grade course sequence that focuses on college and career readiness and preparation).

Community Service Requirements

Students must complete 80 hours of community service.

MCAS Requirements

Boston Collegiate is committed to maintaining a rigorous benchmark to meet state academic standards and curriculum requirements. In addition to the coursework aligned to the 10th grade high school MCAS test that is required for the Competency Determination (see above), we believe it is imperative that our students meet the expectations set by the MCAS test. As a



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result we will require that students continue to meet the following requirements that the state set for the classes of 2024 and 2025 prior to removing the state MCAS graduation requirement.

1. ELA score: Scaled score of 455 or higher
2. Math score: Scaled score of 469 or higher
3. Science score: Scaled score of 467 for Biology OR scaled score of 470 for Physics

A student who does not achieve the minimum scores indicated does not meet our local graduation requirements and is unable to receive a diploma from Boston Collegiate. Students will be enrolled in proficiency development coursework and allowed to retake the assessment to meet the requirement.

MCAS grade-level portfolios

The MCAS grade-level portfolios are alternative methods of student assessment that use a collection of a student's work samples to measure the educational performance of a small number of students who possess skills *at or near grade level*, but who cannot demonstrate those skills on the standard MCAS tests, even with accommodations, due to a significant disability. Participation in these assessments is written into students' Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and fulfills the state's MCAS participation requirements, measuring a student's knowledge of the academic knowledge, concepts, and skills outlined in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

If a student demonstrates in their grade-level or competency portfolio a level of achievement comparable to or higher than that of a student who has achieved *Partially Meeting Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, or *Exceeding Expectation* on the standard MCAS content area and grade-level test, the student will earn the corresponding achievement level through a state level review of the 10th grade submission. Students who achieve *Meeting Expectations* or *Exceeding Expectations* for ELA, Math, or Science will fulfill the local MCAS graduation requirements.

If a student does not receive a designation of *Meeting Expectations* or *Exceeding Expectations* after submission of the portfolio to the state, the Boston Collegiate student support team will continue to work with the student to add to the portfolio. A local committee consisting of the Chief Student Support Officer (CSSO), the Chief Academic Officer (CAO), and the High School Student Support Manager will review the portfolios quarterly to determine if they have met the state level of *Meeting Expectations*. Portfolios across all three content areas (ELA, Math and Science) must attain this status for a student to receive a diploma from Boston Collegiate.

Competency Determination Requirements

State law requires students to satisfy the requirements of the "competency determination" (CD) in order to graduate from high school. G.L. c. 69, s. 1D (i). According to the state and the law, the "competency determination" shall be based on the academic standards and curriculum frameworks for tenth graders in the areas of mathematics, science and technology, history and



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social science, foreign languages, and English, and shall represent a determination that a particular student has demonstrated mastery of a common core of skills, competencies and knowledge in these areas, by satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student's district as showing mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests administered in 2023 (Math, ELA, and Science).

Course credit is earned, and mastery is demonstrated, when a student achieves a 70% or above in a course. In order to fulfill this requirement, students must successfully complete the following:

- To demonstrate mastery of the academic standards and curriculum frameworks measured by the high school Math MCAS, students must pass our Integrated Math II course (*or their equivalent**) and all prerequisite courses. Middle school math courses may be certified by Boston Collegiate as meeting the coursework requirement for the mathematics component of the CD; Boston Collegiate will confirm the course aligns to the high school standards.
- To demonstrate mastery of the academic standards and curriculum frameworks measured by the high school ELA MCAS, students must pass our English 10 course (*or its equivalent**) and all prerequisite courses. These courses must be taken in grades 9-12.
- To demonstrate mastery of the academic standards and curriculum frameworks measured by the high school Science MCAS, students must pass our Physics course or our Biology course (*or their equivalents**). This course must be taken in grades 9-12.
- Beginning with the graduating class of 2027, to demonstrate mastery of the academic standards and curriculum frameworks, students must pass a one-year of US History. Course offerings include: Self Society and Politics.

Additional Considerations

Boston Collegiate is committed to providing comprehensive and high quality services for students with disabilities and meets all requirements of state and federal legislation. Students are entitled to a free and appropriate publicly funded education (FAPE). Students educated at Boston Collegiate, in an out-of-district day program or in a residential program, will be given equal opportunity to meet the CD requirements, including specialized supports or modifications.

English Learners will have equal opportunity to meet the CD requirements. Consideration of specialized support will be made by the English Language Coordinator and the Chief Student Support Officer.



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The High School Principal and Chief Academic Officer will review all transcripts for late-enrolling students. Enrollment ceases after the 10th grade, allowing ample time for course-taking opportunities to take place.

**If a student is not taking a typical course sequence the Chief Academic Officer and department chairs will evaluate the course standards of the course work to ensure equivalency. This could be due to completing a portion of high school at another institution, a student's specific needs based on their IEP or as an English Learner. Consideration will be made of the grade-appropriate standards, course length, relevant coursework and demonstration of mastery.*

Appeals Process

Students who do not successfully meet the CD requirements, or the parents/guardians of such students, may notify the Executive Director, in writing, of their appeal. The Executive Director shall render a decision on the appeal within 5 working days of the appeal and will respond with a written decision. Such a decision shall be the final decision of the school and shall be based upon a review of the student's transcript, coursework completed, alignment to the pertinent appropriate standards, and demonstrated completion and mastery.

Transcript Review

Former students who did not qualify for a diploma are able to request a transcript review. A review of the transcript will be made by the Executive Director and will follow the same process as outlined in the appeals process.

Participation in senior events and graduation

All students are expected to meet both the CD and local graduation requirements in order to participate in senior events and graduation (including walking in the commencement ceremony), unless otherwise determined by the student's Individualized Education Plan Team and written in the student's IEP. If a student needs additional time in the summer to meet the local graduation requirements an additional ceremony will be offered.

In order for a student to participate in our graduation ceremony, they must be within one course credit of our graduation requirements listed above. Students who have more than one course credit remaining to complete within 48 hours of graduation will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony and the high school administration will work with the student and family to determine the path ahead.