



### 1.50 - SCHOLASTIC STANDING / SCHOLARSHIP

1.51 To be eligible to participate, practice, and/or try out in interscholastic activities, a student must be academically eligible. A student is required to pass classes that carry at least 2.5 Carnegie Units counting toward graduation the semester immediately preceding participation.

Exception 1: First semester ninth grade students.

Exception 2: A cheerleader who is academically ineligible for the spring semester may try out if she is passing ALL classes at the time of the tryout. The window of opportunity to try out under these conditions is available only during the ten (10) days set aside for tryouts that the school chooses.

(a) Passing in all GHS.A member schools is a grade of seventy (70).

(b) Students participating in junior varsity or "B" team competition must meet all scholastic requirements.

(c) If an eligible student transfers from a school that uses a block-schedule format to a school using a traditional format (or vice versa) and that student cannot get a full schedule of classes with equivalent credit in the semester of the transfer, the school may petition the Executive Director for a waiver of this rule for the first semester after the transfer occurs.

(d) For schools offering courses with yearlong grading, eligibility must be computed for each semester.

(1) At the end of the first semester, the school must determine that the student has a grade of 70% or higher in classes carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie Units.

(2) The second semester grade will be the grade given for the entire course and shall include the end-of-course test grade.

(3) Remediation programs designed to bring the student's first semester grade up to 70% or higher may be used (in accordance with GHS.A guidelines) if the school allows such programs for all students.

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1.52 Students gain or lose eligibility on the first day of the subsequent semester. The first day of the Fall semester shall be interpreted as the first date of practice for the first sport.

(a) Exception: Students who successfully complete summer school to maintain eligibility become eligible the last day of summer school.

(1) Summer school is an extension of the previous semester and courses may be:

a. remedial in nature where a previously-taken course is repeated in its entirety with a new grade being given.

b. enrichment in nature where a new course is taken that results in new credit being earned.

(2) A maximum of two (2) Carnegie unit credits earned in summer school may be counted for eligibility purposes. NOTE: Additional credits may be earned in credit recovery programs or make-up programs.

(3) Summer school credits earned in non-accredited home study programs or non-accredited private schools may not be used to gain eligibility. Accreditation recognized under the rule shall be from the Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC) or a regional accreditation agency (such as SACS) or the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council (GAPSAC).

(4) An independent study course taken in summer school must be regionally accredited and accepted by the school system for graduation credit.

(b) Courses completed after the beginning of a new semester may not be used to gain eligibility for that semester. Example: night school classes, correspondence courses, etc.

(c) Independent study courses taken during the school year must meet the criteria of 1.52 (a)

1.53 Students must **accumulate Carnegie units towards** graduation according to the following criteria:

(a) **First-year students** (entering 9th grade) are eligible academically. Second semester **first-year students** must have **passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** the previous semester in order to participate.

(b) **Second-year students** must have **accumulated five (5) total Carnegie units** in the first year, **AND**

passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units in the previous semester.

(c) **Third-year students** must have **accumulated eleven (11) Carnegie units** in the first and second years, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.

(d) **Fourth-year students** must have **accumulated seventeen (17) Carnegie units** in the first three years, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.

(e) Students may accumulate the required Carnegie units for participation during the school year and eligibility will be reinstated at the beginning of the next semester.

#### **ADVISORY NOTICE: CURRICULAR INNOVATIONS**

##### **A. BLOCK FOUR PROGRAMS:**

1. The student takes four courses that are worth one (1) Carnegie unit each and the classes meet twice the number of hours per week as in the standard curricular programs.

2. To be eligible, a student must earn at least 2.5 Carnegie units.

3. Carnegie unit requirements are the same in all curricular programs.

##### **B. BLOCK EIGHT PROGRAMS:**

1. The student takes eight courses at some time during the term, and each course is worth one-half Carnegie unit.

2. To be eligible, a student must earn at least 2.5 Carnegie units during the term.

3. Carnegie unit requirements are the same in all curricular programs.

##### **C. HYBRID SCHEDULING:**

1. Definition: A student takes a combination of courses scheduled as block courses, yearlong courses and/or traditional courses.

2. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled in a combination of courses that carry at least 2.5 Carnegie units.

3. To be eligible, a student must have passed a combination of courses the previous semester that carries at least 2.5 Carnegie units.

1.54 A Dual Enrollment program is defined as a program in which a fulltime student at a GHSA member high school takes one or more courses from a state public or private postsecondary institution and receives credit at the high school (toward graduation) and at the postsecondary institution.

(a) Dual enrolled students shall take courses that are approved by the Georgia Department of Education.

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(b) Courses may be taken in a variety of formats (including distance learning and virtual courses) as long as the courses are approved.

(c) Postsecondary semester hour credit shall be converted to high school unit credit as follows:

(1) 1-2 semester hours equates to .5 unit

(2) 3-5 semester hours equates to 1 unit

(d) Postsecondary quarter hour credit shall be converted to high school unit credit as follows:

(1) 1-3 quarter hours equates to .5 unit

(2) 4-8 quarter hours equates to 1 unit

1.55 Students involved in approved Dual Enrollment programs shall be eligible to participate in GHSA activities provided that academic eligibility is maintained.

(a) Courses taken each semester at the high school and/or postsecondary institution must total at least 2.5 units.

(b) Courses passed the previous semester at the high school and/or postsecondary institution must total at least 2.5 units

(c) Students will gain or lose eligibility on the first day of each semester at the high school and a college calendar that differs from the high school calendar may cause problems.

(d) Students who withdraw or are dropped from a Dual Enrollment program and are returned to the high school only, may encounter eligibility problems.

(e) Students involved in Joint Enrollment programs, Early College programs, or Gateway to College programs may not be eligible at their respective high schools.

(f) A student who participates on an intercollegiate athletic team may not participate in any GHSA activity.

1.56 **Loss of Eligibility:** Students assigned to an **alternative school** or on **out-of-school suspension for disciplinary reasons, or adjudicated to YDC**, lose their eligibility. Suspension is considered to have ended when the student is physically readmitted to the classroom.

1.57 **Failure to Meet Academic Standards:** When a school administrator believes that the student has failed to meet the academic eligibility requirements due to conditions that were beyond the control of the school, the student, and/or his parents, and such that none of them could have been expected reasonably to comply with the rule, he may request that the student's case be put on the agenda of the **Hardship Committee**.

(a) Ignorance of the rule(s) on the part of any individual is not sufficient cause to set aside the rule(s).

(b) Schools must supply all the materials requested on the Hardship Application Form on the GHSA web site.

**1.58 Credit Recovery/Make-up Work:** Students who have academic deficiencies at the end of a semester may make up those deficiencies in programs that are available to any student in the school.

(a) Credit recovery programs are short-term programs that involve a course that has been completed and a grade given. The student is given the opportunity to work on areas of deficiency.

(b) Make-up programs occur when a course has not been completed and an "Incomplete" grade has been given. The student is given the opportunity to work on areas of deficiency.

(c) Credit recovery and make-up work must be completed within fourteen (14) school days after the start of the next semester. The student is ineligible until such time as the work is completed and the required passing grade has been recorded. Exception: If the end-of-course test is not offered within 14 days of the beginning of the next semester, the student may be granted a reasonable extension by the GHSA.

(d) The GHSA Executive Director shall be authorized to approve credit recovery or make-up work completed later than fourteen days after the start of the next semester if he finds that the:

(1) timeframe was not met due to circumstances outside the control of the student, his parent(s), and the school, AND

(2) work was completed as soon as reasonably possible, AND

(3) allowance for such a delay is offered on the same basis to all students in the school.

(e) Credit recovery programs operated during the summer or in intersessions shall be completed within fourteen days of the beginning of the new semester. Students using those credits to gain eligibility are ineligible until the course is completed successfully. Credit recovery is used for remedial work only, and no new credit courses may be applied under this provision.

(f) Students using credit recovery or make-up programs must have their eligibility submitted to the GHSA office on a "Form C."