

# Guidelines for Student Athletic Eligibility

Produced By The Ohio High School Athletic Association  
For School Counselors

Revised 4/15



As a school counselor, you are a vital link of the OHSAA team in efforts to promote scholarship and protect the eligibility of students. Information contained on this card will acquaint you with the OHSAA scholarship bylaws and regulations. In addition to the OHSAA standards, your school may have other standards that apply. **Any questions you have concerning standards should be reviewed with your school principal or athletic administrator.**

**NOTE: In addition to any local standards or state mandated standards (GPA), the OHSAA standards must be met without exception in order to maintain athletic eligibility.**

## OHSAA Bylaws for Students in Grades 7-12

Please familiarize yourself with the following OHSAA Bylaws:

- All beginning seventh graders are eligible insofar as the scholarship bylaw.
- All beginning ninth graders must have passed a **minimum of five** of all subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period.
- Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received in the preceding grading period. Per Bylaw 4-4-1, a grading period is defined as the school's Board-adopted calendar (e.g. six week, nine week, 12 week or semester). **Semester and yearly grades have no effect on OHSAA eligibility.**
- **Grades 9-12:** To be eligible, a student-athlete must have received passing grades in a minimum of **five** one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period (**Note:** Students taking post-secondary options must comply with these standards along with those participating via state law that permits home educated, non-public, community and STEM school students to participate at public schools in the district of residence of the parents).
- **Grades 7-8:** To be eligible, a student-athlete must have received passing grades in a minimum of five of all subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period. Students who are participating via state law that permits home educated, non-public, community and STEM school students to participate at public schools in the district of residence of the parents must also comply).
- For eligibility, summer school grades shall not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken in the preceding grading period.

**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.**

## Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 9-12

Passing grades must have been 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.

### 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 x 1 = 1
Spanish I	D	1 - all year	1	1 x 1 = 1
Health	B	1/2 - semester	2	1/2 x 2 = 1
Algebra	F	1 - all year	1	0
Computers	C	1/2 - semester	2	1/2 x 2 = 1
Social Studies	C	1/2 - semester	2	1/2 x 2 = 1
<b>Total Credits</b>				<b>5 = eligible for 2nd grading period</b>

### 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 x 1 = 1
O.W.E.	F	2 - all year	1	0
O.W.E.	D	1 - all year	1	1 x 1 = 1
History	B	1 - all year	1	1 x 1 = 1
Health	B	1/4 - semester	2	1/4 x 2 = 1/2
Typing	C	1/4 - 4th 9 weeks	4	1/4 x 4 = 1
<b>Total Credits</b>				<b>4 1/2 = ineligible for 1st grading period of next school year</b>

## College Credit Plus – New for 2015-16

Note: If a student is participating in the College Credit Plus program, regardless of where or how the post-secondary course is delivered, the calculation of equivalency has changed. Please note that in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, all courses taken in College Credit Plus must count toward high school graduation.

It is highly recommended that you review the program requirements and obtain a copy of the regulations governing College Credit Plus. This information can be found at [www.ohiohighered.org/ccp](http://www.ohiohighered.org/ccp). In addition, eligible student selecting to participate 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 post-secondary course work 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.** Examples of CCP options:

### Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
History	High	1 (year course)	1 x 1 = 1
Literature	CCP	3 semester hours	1 x 2 = 2
Calculus	CCP	5 semester hours	1 x 2 = 2
Biology	CCP	3 semester hours	1 x 2 = 2
<b>Total Credits</b>			<b>7 = eligible for 2nd grading period provided five credits passed.</b>

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

(Over)

### Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
French	CCP	5 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Sociology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Computers	CCP	2 semester hours	$.67 \times 2 = 1.34$
Geology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
<b>Total Credits</b>			<b>7.34 = eligible for 1st grading period of next school year provided five credits passed</b>

The factor of 2 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the semester system. Note that this student is taking all courses in CCP, which is acceptable.

## Block Scheduling

Block scheduling or double blocking of courses does not change the calculation of credit equivalencies as required in OHSAA 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 credit x 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	$1/4 \times 4 = 1$
<b>Total Credits</b>				<b>5 = eligible for 2nd grading period</b>

### 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	$1/4 \times 2 = 1/2$
<b>Total Credits</b>				<b>4 1/2 = ineligible for 4th grading period</b>

For information on Credit Flex as it relates to OHSAA eligibility standards, please go to [www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/default.asp](http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/default.asp)

## Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 7-8

Passing grades must have been received in a minimum of five of all subjects in which enrolled in the immediately preceding grading period. All courses 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	C
Music	C
Health	F
<b>Credits Passed</b>	<b>4 of 6 classes = NOT eligible for 2nd grading period</b>

### Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	D
Industrial Arts	C
Music	B
Computers	B
Physical Education	B
<b>Credits Passed</b>	<b>5 of 6 classes = eligible for 4th grading period</b>

## Quick Reference for Protecting Student Eligibility

- Parents and students share the responsibility to comply with scholarship standards. Therefore, a student should be advised not to drop a class without first consulting with the athletic administrator to determine whether it will affect athletic eligibility.
- Advise any student-athlete who desires to transfer that transferring may affect eligibility. At the beginning of the ninth grade year, students may enroll in and attend any member school that accepts him or her. Once eligibility has been established at a member school, a student who transfers will be ineligible for all contests until the first 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been competed in any sport in which the student participated during the previous 12 months unless one of the exceptions to the transfer bylaw is met. Should one of your student-athletes plan to transfer, set up a meeting between the student-athlete, his/her parents and your school principal or athletic administrator to review what effect the transfer will have on athletic eligibility.
- Be knowledgeable of the OHSAA eligibility requirements.
- Attempt to identify students who are or may become athletes when reviewing class schedules. *Insure that student-athletes are taking enough courses to meet the eligibility requirements so that they may participate the next grading period.*
- Work closely with the coaches and athletic director.
- Contact the athletic director or principal on questions pertaining to eligibility and ask them to discuss any unresolved issues with the administrators in the OHSAA office who handle eligibility issues.

NOTE: The OHSAA has no minimum grade point (GPA) requirement, thus issues regarding eligibility when only the GPA is of concern is strictly a local school district matter and not an OHSAA matter.

For additional information, contact:

**Ohio High School Athletic Association**

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: (614) 267-2502 • Fax: (614) 267-1677 • Website: [ohsaa.org](http://ohsaa.org)

The complete text of the Bylaws and Regulations is published in the OHSAA Handbook, which is mailed to your school each summer and is posted on the OHSAA website.