

Essential Skills



How do students meet the graduation requirements?

Students prove that they have mastered these Essential Skills by earning at or above an achievement standard on an assessment from one of the approved categories within their district.

Categories of assessments approved for Essential Skills graduation requirement

- 1st Category: **Statewide Assessment**
- 2nd Category: **Other Assessments**
- 3rd Category: **Work Samples**

The 1st category, statewide assessment (Smarter Balanced), is the assessment approved for federal accountability purposes.

1st Category: Statewide Assessment

Assessment Option and Achievement Standards				
	Assessment	Reading	Writing	Math
Students enrolled in 11th grade during the 2014-2015 academic year and beyond	Smarter Balanced	To be determined. Oregon Department of Education will use multiple methods, including using Smarter Balanced field test results, to establish a Smarter Balanced scale score that represents an equivalent level of rigor to the prior OAKS achievement standard.		

2nd Category: Other Assessments

Assessment Options and Achievement Standards			
Assessment	Reading	Writing	Math
ACT ¹	18	19*	19
Accuplacer	86	N/A	N/A
AP (Math Exams) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics • Calculus AB • Calculus BC 	N/A	N/A	3
AP (Reading Exams) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European History • English Literature & Composition • Macroeconomics • Microeconomics • Psychology • United States History • World History • United States Government & Politics • Comparative Government & Politics 	3	N/A	N/A
Asset	42	N/A	41 (Int Alg)
Compass	81	N/A	66 (Int Alg)
IB (Math Exams) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics SL • Mathematics HL • Math Studies 	N/A	N/A	4
IB (Reading Exams) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language • History of Americas • History of Europe • 20th Century Topics • Economics • Psychology • Social Anthropology 	4	N/A	N/A
Plan	18	N/A	19

¹ ACT Writing refers to the combined English/Writing test (75 selected response questions and a timed, 30-minute essay).

Assessment	Reading	Writing	Math
PSAT	44	N/A	45
SAT ²	440	460*	450
WorkKeys ³	5	N/A	5

3rd Category: Work Samples

Assessment Options and Achievement Standards			
	Reading	Writing	Math
Number of Work Samples	2 Total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •One of which must be informational 	2 Total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •One must be expository or persuasive •One in any of the approved modes (expository, persuasive, narrative) 	2 Total: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •One each for any two of the required content strands (algebra, geometry, or statistics)
Score Categories (from the Official State Scoring Guides)	Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate General Understanding • Develop an Interpretation • Analyze Text 	Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas/ Content • Organization • Sentence Fluency • Conventions 	Process Dimensions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Sense of the Task • Representing and Solving the Task • Communicating Reasoning • Accuracy • Reflecting and Evaluating
Work Sample Score Requirement	Minimum score of 12, with no Trait lower than 3.	Minimum score of 4 in all Traits.	Minimum score of 4 in all Process Dimensions.

² SAT Writing refers to the Writing section of the SAT (49 selected response questions and a timed, 25-minute essay).

³ To satisfy the Reading Essential Skills requirements, a student must earn a 5 or better on the WorkKeys “Reading for Information,” assessment. To satisfy the Mathematics Essential Skills requirements, a student must earn a 5 or better on the WorkKeys “Applied Mathematics” assessment. In order for an individual to earn his or her National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), he or she needs to complete all three WorkKeys assessments: “Reading for Information,” “Applied Mathematics,” and “Locating Information” with a qualifying score of at least a level 3 on each assessment.