Policy #:	**EDU.400.2**
Policy Title:	Graduation
Approval Date:	1-25-21
Review Date:	N/A
Related Documents:	D51 Policy IKF(2) D51 Counselor Collaboration Team (CCT) Manual CDE Menu of College and Career-Ready Demonstrations MVCS Graduation Requirements Worksheet CAS 2020, Individual Career & Academic Plans (ICAP) Higher Education Admission Recommendations (HEAR)

Graduation Requirements
The MVCS high school diploma is accredited under Mesa County School District #51. MVCS graduates meet or exceed the most current requirements set forth by the District as well as the State of Colorado. While MVCS graduation requirements are the same as those of D51, specific courses may be defined and categorized differently. A student transferring to a traditional D51 school may have his or her credits applied differently to the graduation requirements by the receiving school.

Graduation Pathways
MVCS follows D51 graduation requirements current to each graduating class. If D51 updates its requirements, MVCS may apply the new requirements at a different pace than does D51. Students are encouraged to pursue the Pathway of Distinction. Students with documented learning needs and accommodations may graduate via an Individualized Pathway which is not outlined below; details are available as needed for eligible students. For the class of 2023, graduation requirements are as follows:

1. **Pathway of Distinction**
   a. Earn 25 credit hours meeting Higher Education Admission Recommendations (HEAR) with ≥ 3.5 GPA.
   b. Meet Colorado Department of Education (CDE) minimum proficiency scores in math and English (e.g. SAT, WorkKeys, Accuplacer, etc.), including a score of ≥ 24 on ACT or ≥ 1110 on SAT test.
   c. Complete Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP), demonstrating that the student is career, college, or military-ready.

Pathway of Distinction (25 credits)		
Area	**Credits**	**Specific Details**
English	4	Composition and literature. Speaking standards must be integrated into all English courses, or a speech class worth a minimum of 0.5 credit must be taken.

Math	4	Algebra I/Math I or higher.
Science	3	Physical, life, and earth/space. 2 classes should include labs.
Social Studies	3	Includes geographical studies, US history, American government/civics.
PE	1	Personal fitness/wellness and activity.
Computer	.5	Computer science.
Fine Arts	.5	Theater, video/media production, art, music, dance, or photography.
Academic Elective	2	Includes additional units in above subjects and career-technical education programs. PE, aide, advisement, etc. are not included.
World Language	1	A wide variety of languages can meet this, including sign language.
Elective	6	Includes .5 credits of personal financial literacy if not covered elsewhere.

2. Conventional Pathway

a. Earn 25 credit hours with ≥ 2.0 GPA.
b. Meet Colorado Department of Education (CDE) minimum proficiency scores in math and English (e.g. SAT, WorkKeys, Accuplacer, etc.).
c. Complete Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP), demonstrating that the student is career, college, or military-ready.

Conventional Pathway (25 credits)		
Area	**Credits**	**Specific Details**
English	4	Composition and literature. Speaking standards must be integrated into all English courses, or a speech class worth a minimum of 0.5 credit must be taken.
Math	3	Algebra I/Math I or higher.
Science	3	Physical, life, and earth/space.
Social Studies	3	Includes geographical studies, US history, American government/civics.
PE	1	Personal fitness/wellness and activity.
Computer	.5	Computer science.
Fine Arts	.5	Theater, video/media production, art, music, dance, or photography.
ICAP Elective	2	Elective aligned to ICAP.
Elective	8	Includes .5 credits of personal financial literacy if not covered elsewhere.

Course Pacing

A typical student earns 6-7 credits per year and graduates at the end of 4 years. However, the length of time spent earning a diploma may vary depending on the needs of the student. The most common exceptions follow:

- Early Graduation (junior graduating at end of 11th grade year or senior graduating after 1st semester of 12th grade year)—If a student meets all graduation requirements early and desires early graduation, this should be discussed with the Academic Advisor within the first month of the semester in which the plan is to finish. Juniors will remain in their current grade level in MVCS and D51 records until the student has completed the SAT test, and will subsequently be advanced to 12th grade.
- Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT)—Through this program, students who have completed the graduation requirements for a high school diploma have the opportunity to take college-level courses the following year which are paid for by MVCS. Eligibility guidelines and funding availability are determined by the state and may vary from year to year. The state of Colorado funds ASCENT students as 5th year seniors, allowing up to 25 college credit hours. ASCENT students may participate in the MVCS commencement ceremony at the end of their 12th grade year, but will not receive their high school diploma until they have completed the ASCENT program the following year.

Commencement Ceremony

MVCS holds a commencement ceremony for graduates each spring. Early graduates and ASCENT students may participate in this ceremony. No valedictorian or salutatorian is designated for this event.