Missouri Graduation Requirements: Explained

What will I need to graduate?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Number of Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3 must be English)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science (1 Physical, 1 Biological)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Arts (0.5 Personal Finance)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Education</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri Constitution Test</td>
<td>PASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Constitution Test</td>
<td>PASS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

But what does any of this mean?
This is the *bare minimum* credit requirements to earn a High School diploma in Missouri, if you are considering going to college you will need to take *additional courses*, namely one additional year of math, and two years of the same foreign language!

How am I going to do all of this in four years?
Don’t worry, today we are going to go through all the requirements, what they mean, and create a flexible four-year plan to make sure you graduate on time.

**But first: what is a credit?**
A credit is the unit the district (and most education systems) use to measure classes. Most often, taking one year of a class will earn you one credit. So a useful way to think about it is: 

1 year = 1 credit

**SAMPLE COURSE POSSIBILITIES:**

**Language Arts- 4 credits**
NEED TO TAKE 1 EVERY YEAR! These will be General English courses:
9th English 9: Civics
10th English 10: World Literature, Honors/AP World Studies Block
11th English 11: US Literature, Honors/AP US History Block

OTHERS: African American Literature, British Lit, AP Literature, Creative Writing, Journalism, Yearbook, Newspaper, Public Speaking, Debate, Classics

**Social Studies- 3 credits**
9th: Government/Civics Block
10th: World History
11th: US History

OTHERS: Classics, African American Studies, World Geography, Psychology, Sociology, Pop Culture, AP European History, AP Human Geography

**Mathematics- 3 credits**
Need 3 credits to graduate, 4 if going on to college

**Science – 3 credits**  
**General**  
**Track:**  
9th: Physics / Honors Physics  
10th Biology / Honors Biology  
11th Chemistry / Honors Chemistry  

**OTHERS:** Entomology, Microbiology, Anatomy, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, Forensic Science, Zoology, Human Genetics, Astronomy, Environmental Science, Oceanography  

**Fine Art – 1 credits**  
Music: Band, Choir, Orchestra, Musical Theater, Piano, Music Theory, Film Studies, AP Music Theory  

Performing Arts: Public Speaking, Debate, Acting, Competitive Theater, Children’s Theatre, Technical Theatre  

Art: Art Basics, Photography, Graphic Design, Humanities, AP Art History  

**Practical Art – 1 credit**  
Anything at the career center! A great way to begin exploring career paths  

**Business/Marketing:** Managerial Accounting, Business & Personal Law, Business in a Global Economy, Marketing, AP Economics, Advertising, Entrepreneurship, Sports Marketing  

**Technology:** Keyboarding, Digital Media, Keyboarding, Programming, Web Design, C++ Programming, Computer Science, Information Technology, Video Production, 3D Modeling and Animation  

Broadcast Journalism  

**Engineering:** Automotive Technology, Certified Welding, Construction Industry, Architecture, Geospatial Technology, Laser Technology, Robotics, Electronics  

**Family and Consumer Sciences:** Child Development, Family Studies, Teen and Social Issues, Fashion and Construction, Apparel Merchandising, Interior Design, Global Cuisine, MyCuisine, Teaching Professions, Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry Arts  

Health Professions: Professions in Healthcare, Laboratory Exploration, Firefighting and Public Safety
Physical Education- 1 credit
Outdoor Education, Strength Training, Men’s/Women’s Team Sports, Women’s Body Sculpting, Swimming, Fitness Walking

Health Education- 0.5 credit you have to take health. Sorry.

Personal Finance- 0.5 credit
Same for Personal Finance. You will appreciate it in 5 years!

Electives- 7.5 credits
Mix and Match! Any space in your schedule can be filled with electives, but some are more beneficial than others...

Foreign Language- Do you want to go to college? Even considering the possibility? You will need two levels of Foreign Language to do so. Also, split courses are counted as one, for example Spanish 1A and 1B together make one credit.

Consider learning: French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Latin

Want to learn more or double check? Go to
http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/hhs/docs1213/1314enrollment/1314REGISTRATIONGUIDE.pdf