

## APPENDIX A-5

**ADDITIONAL OPTIONS IN LIEU OF PASSING THE END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT  
MISS. ADMIN. CODE 7-3: 36.5, STATE BOARD POLICY CHAPTER 36, RULE 36.5  
(EFFECTIVE 2013 - 2014 SCHOOL YEAR AND THEREAFTER)**

Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: 36.5, State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.5 provides approved options for students to meet high school end-of-course (EOC) assessment requirements for graduation through approved alternate measures. Mississippi Admin. Code 7-3: 36.5, State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.5, applies to past, current, and future graduates and allows a student to meet the graduation requirements once he or she has failed to pass any required end-of-course (EOC) assessment one (1) time.

The following graduation options provide opportunities for students to obtain a certain score or level on the ACT, ASVAB, ACT WorkKeys, or other state-approved industry certifications. Students also may obtain a grade of “C” or higher in a dual credit/dual enrollment course, corresponding to the EOC assessment that was not passed.

## Notes:

- ACT sub-scores resulting from non-college reportable accommodations **can** be used for graduation options, but the scores are non-college reportable.
- ACT sub-scores resulting from Residual ACT Testing **cannot** be used for graduation options.
- This option is available regardless of when the student took the SATP2, PARCC, or MAP/MAAP assessments.
- The college credit option is only applicable if the student is enrolled in high school and college at the same time. Student must meet the dual enrollment/dual credit admissions requirements of the community college partnering with the school district.
- The Graduation Options listed below are applicable to any EOC assessment.

Assessment Options	Math	Science	English	Social Studies (Prior to 25-26 SY)
<b>ACT</b>	17	17	17	17
<b>Dual Credit/ Enrollment</b>	C or higher in College Algebra	C or higher in College Biology & corresponding lab	C or higher in College English Comp I	C or higher in College American History II
<b>ASVAB + Industry Certification</b>	ASVAB (PICAT prescreen scores are not allowable) score of 36 <b>plus</b> the following: Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathway’s Assessment Blueprint. (If the blueprint specifies two industry certifications, both must be earned.)			
<b>ACT Work Keys + Industry Certification</b>	WorkKeys Silver Level <b>plus</b> the following: Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathway’s Assessment Blueprint. (If the blueprint specifies two industry certifications, both must be earned.)			

### UNIVERSAL CONCORDANCE TABLE EFFECTIVE 2021 – 2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Concordance tables, effective beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, provide opportunities for students who do not obtain a passing score on an EOC assessment to utilize a different graduation option, using a combination of the assessment scores with the final course grade. The tables provide the final course grade required to use with the scale score obtained on the EOC assessment. Students shall be enrolled in school to utilize the concordance table option.

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) developed one universal concordance table that shall be used for each of the EOC assessments. The concordance tables were developed during each of the EOC test administrations, and the universal concordance table concept will alleviate confusion in determining which concordance table to apply for each test administration.

#### UNIVERSAL CONCORDANCE TABLE

Concordance Table	Scale Score			
Grade in Course	1049-1048	1047-1046	1045-1044	1043-1042
A	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
B	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
C	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
D	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail

**Composite (Combined) Score**  
**MISS. ADMIN. CODE 7-3: 36.4(3) State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4(3)**  
**(EFFECTIVE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR)**

Composite (Combined) Score Calculations provide opportunities for students who do not obtain a passing score on one or more EOC assessments. Students may utilize an additional graduation option by taking the average of all EOC assessments and achieving a minimal combined score of 1050. The student must have four scores (Algebra I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History). These four scores are added together and divided by 4. The student must have a 1049.5 or above. If a student has a COVID-related waiver from the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year(s) for any required EOC assessment, the student is not eligible to use this option. Students shall be enrolled in school to utilize the composite score option.

### Example

Calculate the student's composite (combined) score by determining the average score across all four assessments.

Assessment	Scale
Algebra (EOC)	1039
English II (EOC)	1048
Biology (EOC)	1055
US History (EOC)	1056

$$\text{Average Composite (Combined) Score} = \frac{1039+1048+1055+1056}{4} = \frac{4,198}{4} = 1049.5 = 1050$$

In the example above, the student can use the Composite Combined Score for Algebra I and English II.

\*Beginning School Year 2025-2026, the US History End-of-Course assessment will no longer be administered. Students that do not have scores on all four (4) end-of-course assessments are ineligible to use this option.

**The Student Portfolio and Exhibit**  
**MISS. ADMIN. CODE 7-3: 36.4(3) State Board Policy Chapter 36, Rule 36.4(3)**  
**(EFFECTIVE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR)**

The Student Portfolio and Exhibit option hereby known as the Bridge-to-Career Course provides an opportunity for students who (A) do not obtain a passing score on one or more End-of-Course (EOC) assessments and (B) do not meet the criteria for other options outlined in Appendix A-5 of the MS Public School Accountability Standards, 2025. Students may utilize an additional graduation option by completing the required components as outlined in the Bridge-to-Career Course. Students who meet all requirements for the Bridge-to-Career Course in addition to all other graduation requirements shall be eligible for the Traditional MS Diploma or the Traditional MS Diploma with a CTE Endorsement or JROTC Endorsement.

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**1. Course Overview:**

Beginning in school year 2025-2026 The Bridge-to-Career Course is a graduation option available to second semester seniors who (A) do not obtain a passing score on one or more EOC assessment and (B) do not meet the criteria for other options outlined in Appendix A-5 of the MS Public School Accountability Standards, 2025. The course serves as an alternative pathway to demonstrate academic and career readiness through the completion of the following components:

- **Portfolio Development:** The course requires students to develop a comprehensive portfolio that highlights their academic growth, professional development, and post-graduation aspirations. This will include academic projects, skills demonstrations, professional documents (e.g., resumes), and evidence of career exploration activities such as job shadowing and skill-based certifications.
  - **Exhibit Creation:** Students shall create an exhibit showcasing their academic and career readiness. This exhibit will include evidence of completed projects, reflections on academic progress, and documentation of any work-based learning or training experiences.
  - **Remediation and Support:** Before enrollment in the course, students shall complete targeted remediation for any failed EOC assessments and be reassessed during each administration. The goal is to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery in the areas where they initially struggled, based on MAAP and additional benchmark data that aligns with the MAAP assessment. The school administering the remediation shall maintain records of the data used, remediation implemented, and any progress made.
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**2. Course Enrollment and Requirements:**

- **Eligibility:** Students who (A) have not achieved a passing score on one or more EOC assessments shall be eligible for the Bridge-to-Career Course and (B) do not meet the criteria for other options outlined in Appendix A-5 of the MS Public School Accountability Standards, 2025. Prior to enrolling in this course, students shall:
  - Demonstrate a commitment to targeted remediation and improvement
  - Maintain an overall 2.0 GPA during the junior and senior year

- Have an overall attendance rate of 83% or higher during the junior and senior year. Any absence excused or unexcused will count against this record.
    - Receive no more than six (6) nonviolent referrals during the students' junior and senior years. Students with violent behavior referrals may be ineligible for the course at the Superintendent's discretion.
    - Assess each time the EOC assessment is administered
    - Obtain written recommendation from the District Superintendent and school principal
  - **Course Enrollment:** Students shall be enrolled in the Bridge-to-Career Course no sooner than during the final semester of the graduating year aligned with their ninth-grade cohort or peer-age cohort. The course shall be taken alongside other senior-year coursework.
    - Districts on a traditional schedule or alternating block schedule will offer this course as a .5 Carnegie unit option.
    - Districts on a 4X4 or 5X5 block schedule will offer this course as a 1.0 Carnegie unit option.
  - **Grading and Completion:** Students must achieve a grade of C or higher in the Bridge-to-Career Course for the course to substitute for one or more EOC assessments.
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### 3. Course Components and Expected Outcomes:

The Bridge-to-Career Course is divided into key sections focused on academic recovery, career exploration, and portfolio curation. The school shall verify that the students enrolled do not meet the criteria for other options outlined in Appendix A-5 of the MS Public School Accountability Standards, 2025. The Bridge-to-Career Course should be used as the last option for student graduation. Students shall:

- **Build a Professional Portfolio:** Students shall work collaboratively with the school counselor, Work-Based Learning teacher, Career Coach (if the school participates in the State, regional or district Career Coach Model) and/or the MS Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to develop a comprehensive Commencement Level Career Plan that includes at the minimum:
    - Academic achievements (projects, essays, assessments).
    - Extracurricular involvement (clubs, sports, volunteer work).
    - Career-related documents (professional resumes, cover letters, certificates).
    - Personal reflections on the learning process and career aspirations.
  - **Professional Resume:** Students shall create a professional resume tailored to a specific job or career path of interest. This resume should highlight skills, achievements, and work experiences, giving students a practical tool for post-graduation employment or college applications.
  - **Training and Credentials:** Students shall have the opportunity to complete specific training programs or earn certifications from an approved MDE list related to their career goals. This may include job-readiness programs, technical certifications, or specialized training relevant to industries they wish to pursue.
  - **Job Shadowing and Career Exploration:** Students shall work with the Bridge-to-Career Course teacher to explore potential careers, gain insight into job markets, and understand the skills needed for success in their chosen fields. Students should work with the school counselor, Work-Based Learning teacher, and/or Career Coach (if the school participates in a State, regional or district Career Coach Model) and/or the MS Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to engage in job shadowing or other work-based learning activities. This will provide students with real-world experience and insight into potential career fields, enhancing their employability and professional development.
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### 4. Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have:

- A **professional resume** that is tailored to a specific job or career path.
- **Training and credentials** required for employment or continued education in a specific field.
- A comprehensive **Commencement Level Career Plan** that outlines their post-secondary transition and life plan

These outcomes are designed to ensure that students are not only equipped with academic knowledge but also prepared for life after high school, whether that be in a career, further education, or other post-graduation plans. The final Portfolio/Exhibit and all supporting artifacts must be maintained in the student's cumulative folder for MDE access and review.

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### 5. Remediation and Reassessment:

- **EOC Remediation:** Prior to enrolling in the Bridge-to-Career Course, students who have not passed one or more of the EOC assessments shall undergo remediation. The school shall provide targeted support for these students, addressing the specific areas in which they did not meet the required standards. Documentation of a student's EOC remediation shall be maintained in their cumulative folder.
- **Reassessments:** Students shall demonstrate progress in their deficient knowledge and skills before being considered eligible for enrollment in the course. Student progress does not have to be reflected through EOC retest scores but can be shown through intervention and remediation assessment methods.

### 6. Consequences for Non-Compliance:

Students who do not meet the required criteria for course completion (i.e., earning a grade of C or higher) or who fail to submit a complete portfolio and exhibit shall not be eligible for graduation. In such cases, students may be referred for additional support.

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### Conclusion:

The Bridge-to-Career Course provides an option for students who (A) have not passed one or more EOC assessments and (B) do not meet the criteria for other options outlined in Appendix A-5 of the MS Public School Accountability Standards, 2025, enabling them to demonstrate readiness for graduation through alternative means. This course emphasizes professional development, career exploration, and remediation to ensure that all students have the skills and documentation needed to transition successfully to post-secondary endeavors. Through this initiative, the state aims to support students in their academic and career journeys while maintaining high graduation standards.

This policy shall be reviewed annually to assess its effectiveness and ensure alignment with student needs and state educational requirements.