



Graduation Requirements for Brilliant Microschools

Introduction

To attain graduation, our students must attend four years of high school or master equivalent knowledge. This document outlines the graduation requirements for students at Brilliant Microschools, highlighting our emphasis on mastery and the use of power standards to determine credits.

Please continue reading to:

- Understand the various diploma options for graduation
- Determine your student's desired graduation path
- Create a goal and plan for graduation
- Verify that your student is on track to graduate

Diploma Options

Students at Brilliant Microschools can choose between two diploma options: the 26-credit Honors diploma, and the 24-credit standard diploma. We also offer a certificate of completion pathway. We want families to make informed decisions based on their student's abilities, interests, and goals. Our school Principal can provide information about graduation options and college or career plans.

Certificate of Completion Pathway: Brilliant Microschools offers a Certificate of Completion pathway besides the standard high school diploma options. This pathway requires the completion of 12 credits, providing an alternative for Exceptional Education Students who may not meet the requirements for the full diploma options. The Certificate of Completion acknowledges the student's accomplishments and signifies their successful completion of a significant portion of their high school education.

Requirements for graduation

To be eligible for graduation, students must complete one of the following paths:

 The Brilliant Microschool	<u>Honors</u> 26 credits	<u>Standard</u> 24 Credit	<u>Certificate of Completion</u> 12-credit
GPA	3.75 on a 4.0 scale	3.0 on a 4.0 scale	2.0 on a 4.0 scale
English	4 credits	4 credits	3 credits
Mathematics	4 credits (1 Algebra, 1 Geometry required)	4 credits (1 Algebra, 1 Geometry required)	2 credits (All alternative math courses are acceptable)
Science	3 Credits (Include Biology and Chemistry or Physics)	3 Credits (Include Biology)	2 credits
Social Studies	3 credits (1 World History, 1 US History, 0.5 American Government and 0.5 Economics)	3 credits (1 World History, 1 US History, 0.5 American Government and 0.5 Economics)	2 credits
Fine and Performing Arts	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
Physical Education	1 credit	1 credit	N/A
Electives	10 electives	8 electives	2 electives
Community Service	75 hours	50 hours	10 hours

Credit Allocation

To implement this approach effectively, we follow a structured process that ensures accurate assessment and credit allocation. Here's how the process works:

1. **Standards-aligned Badges:** Students earn badges once they demonstrate mastery of specific standards. There are three standards per Badge and three Badges per subject. Our Badges and their respective standards align with the curriculum and learning objectives, as well as with the credits we allocate.

2. **Performance Tasks and Rubrics:** We design performance tasks and accompanying rubrics that clearly outline the expectations and criteria for demonstrating mastery of each badge.
3. **Student Progress:** Students engage in tasks or projects that align with the badges. These tasks allow them to showcase their understanding, skills, and content application.
4. **Formative Assessment and Feedback:** Teachers review student work and provide timely and constructive feedback aligned with the rubrics. This feedback helps students identify strengths and areas for improvement, guiding them toward mastery.
5. **Scoring Using Rubrics:** Teachers assess the submitted work using the rubrics and assign scores to each criterion. These scores reflect the level of mastery demonstrated by the student.
6. **Determining Mastery:** To consider a standard mastered, the student's overall score should meet or exceed a score of 3 or higher on the 4-point scale, which serves as the mastery benchmark.
7. **Credit Allocation:** Credit is given based on the mastery of standards, which is demonstrated through the completion of performance tasks. Students cannot merely sit and listen in class, but must demonstrate their learning to earn Badges and credit. By successfully completing all Performance Tasks with a grade of three out of four ($\frac{3}{4}$) or higher, students will have demonstrated mastery of the standards, and will accumulate the required number of credits in all subjects needed for graduation.
8. **Retakes and Revision:** Students who do not initially demonstrate mastery have the opportunity to revise their work or engage in additional learning experiences. They can resubmit their work for reassessment, providing them with multiple attempts and pathways to demonstrate mastery. This approach encourages a growth mindset and supports ongoing learning. We also offer alternative mastery pathways in certain situations.

Community Service

We believe in the importance of cultivating empathy, responsibility, and a spirit of service. To support this, all students are required to complete 50 hours of community service before graduation. These hours can be fulfilled through any unpaid activity that supports or benefits others—whether in person or online. While traditional volunteering, such as working at a local animal shelter, is always encouraged, we also recognize and value informal acts of kindness, like assisting an elderly neighbor or helping a family member in need. To document these experiences, we simply ask that a parent or guardian signs off on each activity and uploads the details to the student's portfolio. Kindly watch this video for a clear and easy-to-follow tutorial on how students can upload their volunteer hours.

Nationwide Recognition and Specific State Compliance

Brilliant Microschools is proud to offer a comprehensive, rigorous, and quality education accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Accreditation involves a rigorous process in which a school's programs, faculty, services, and more are evaluated to ensure they meet specific quality standards. The U.S. Department of Education maintains a list of recognized accrediting agencies, including WASC, that it considers reliable authorities on the quality of education. Therefore, a WASC-accredited private school diploma is typically recognized and accepted by colleges, universities, employers, and other entities across the U.S., regardless of the state where the school is located.

However, it's important to note that while accreditation can ensure a high level of quality, it does not guarantee that a particular institution will accept a high school diploma from a specific private school. Admission decisions often involve various factors, and different institutions may have different requirements. Specifically, we understand that admission to certain state scholarship programs or post-secondary institutions may have additional requirements. While our graduation requirements are designed to meet or exceed those of many U.S. state public school systems (including Florida's), we recognize that some students have ambitious goals that go above and beyond our diploma requirements. Therefore, we encourage families to proactively communicate with their student's teacher if they wish their student to comply with a specific institution or program. This enables us to tailor the student's academic plan and customize their transcript to

meet these specific requirements, ensuring they can earn the necessary credits in the appropriate subject areas.

Universal Design for Learning and Curriculum Design

At Brilliant Microschools, we employ Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles to make our curriculum accessible and engaging for all students. Following UDL, we focus on mastering badges containing power standards that are accessible to all our students. These standards are carefully selected to reflect the most essential and transferable knowledge and competencies needed for success in higher education, careers, and life. These standards also map directly onto achieving the credits required for graduation. Focusing on power standards provides a clear and targeted roadmap for student achievement, allowing students to delve deeper into their learning and make meaningful connections across subjects.

Coursework Outside of Brilliant Microschools

At Brilliant Microschools, we highly value the diverse learning experiences students gain beyond the traditional classroom setting. We recognize that students can engage in meaningful learning outside our school environment, and we embrace the opportunity to incorporate these experiences into their educational journey. If a student is passionate about a particular subject and has created a learning artifact related to that subject that aligns with one of our standards, it can be utilized as a valuable resource. Under the guidance of their teacher, students can use their artifacts to demonstrate mastery of the standard by engaging in proper reflection and showcasing a deep understanding of the underlying concepts.

Earning Credits in Middle School

Middle school students at Brilliant Microschools have the opportunity to earn high school credits in specific subjects. These credits are available for core subjects like Mathematics, Foreign Language, and Electives. High school teachers will review these credits by reviewing the standards a student mastered during Middle School Mathematics, Foreign Languages, and Electives and evaluating student performance tasks and portfolios on these subjects.

Recognizing Prior School Credits

We understand that students may have attended accredited schools where they have already completed coursework aligned with our curriculum. To acknowledge their past achievements, we welcome transcripts from accredited high schools and will carefully review them to enhance our understanding of each student. However, we will not rely solely on these transcripts and will instead use a diverse list of strategies to assess past learning and allocate credits. We utilize a mix of diagnostics to assess students' current understanding of key concepts. We also assist students in compiling a portfolio of their best work. This portfolio serves as a showcase of their growth, progress, and achievements.

By combining the evaluation of prior credits, targeted diagnostics, and the compilation of portfolios, we ensure that each student's individual strengths and achievements are acknowledged.

Minimum Enrolled Prior to Graduation

Prior to graduating from Brilliant Microschools, students must earn at least 25% of their required credits while enrolled at Brilliant Microschools. Additionally, they must be continuously enrolled for a minimum of 10 months prior to their anticipated graduation date. This policy ensures that graduates are well-prepared for their future endeavors and that the school can thoroughly evaluate their academic progress. While exceptions may be considered in extraordinary circumstances, such as family relocation or medical emergencies, these will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and require approval from school leadership.

Dual and Concurrent Enrollment

Brilliant Microschools is determined to offer dual enrollment opportunities to students who are able to master our K-12 course requirements at an accelerated pace. We will offer specific partnerships with select post-secondary institutions but we are also open to collaborating with your target institutions and trying to align their courseworks to ours, if they have a Dual and Concurrent Enrollment policy.

Conclusion

Our graduation requirements, including the Certificate of Completion pathway, ensure that students receive a well-rounded education and develop the skills necessary for their chosen paths. We believe these requirements will empower our students to thrive in higher education or their desired careers.