



Frequently Asked Questions on Civics Credit Requirement

Supporting the implementation of Oregon's 0.5 Civics Credit

VERSION 1.0 (MARCH 2026)



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



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Overview

[SB 513](#), adopted by Oregon in 2021, requires students first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2022-2023 school year, typically graduating in 2026, to complete a standalone 0.5 credit Civics course as part of the 3.0 credit social science graduation requirement. This FAQ provides guidance for districts implementing this requirement.

For additional support, please view the [asynchronous webinar](#) available on the [ODE Social Science webpage](#).

Basic Requirements

What are the social science [credit requirements for graduation](#)?

Students must earn a total of 3.0 credits in social science, which includes:

- 0.5 credits in Civics, a standalone course aligned to the current [Oregon Social Science Standards](#).
- 2.5 credits aligned to the remaining Oregon Social Science Standards in the domains of U.S. History, World History, Geography, and Economics.

When does the 0.5 Civics requirement take effect?

The 0.5 credit Civics requirement is in effect for students first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2022-2023 school year. For most students, this means graduating from high school in 2026.



“Standalone” Explained

What does "standalone" mean for the Civics requirement?

A standalone Civics course means:

- The course addresses only the Civics/Government standards from the [Oregon Social Science Standards](#)
- Civics standards may not be blended or integrated with other standards (U.S. History, World History, Geography, or Economics).
- The course must be coded with the correct NCES code, e.g., 04161 Civics or 04151 Government. A full-year course (1.0 credits) such as AP Government and Politics 04157 also satisfies the Oregon Civics Diploma requirement.

Important: While the Civics course must be standalone (not integrated with other standards), it still counts as part of the 3.0 total social science credits required for graduation.

Can we call our course "Government" instead of "Civics"?

Yes. Districts with courses named “Government” can ensure that instruction is aligned to the Oregon Civics standards and can use either the Government NCES code or rename and recode the course as Civics:

- 04151 Government, or
- 04161 Civics

The key requirement is that the course addresses all the Civics standards and does not integrate standards from history, geography, or economics.

Our district has always taught Civics/Government content in a 1.0 credit Government class. Does this meet the requirement?

If the Government class addresses all of the Civics standards without integrating other social science standards (such as U.S. history or economics), it satisfies the intent of the law and rule. However, the following must be ensured:

- The course is not used to provide credit for the other 2.5 required social science credits
- Student transcripts indicate at least 0.5 credits in the standalone Civics course
- The course is properly NCES coded (e.g., 04161 or 04151)

Standards and Curriculum

Which Oregon Social Science Standards should we use?

Districts in the 2025-26 school year are in a transition period with three sets of Oregon Social Science Standards potentially in use:

- 2018 Oregon Social Science Standards
- 2021 Oregon Social Science Standards (includes Civics updates)
- [2024 Oregon Social Science Standards](#) (to be implemented in the 2026-2027 school year)

Districts may continue using the 2018 standards until the 2026-2027 school year, though some have already transitioned to the 2021 or 2024 standards. Regardless of which version districts use, the Civics course must address all applicable Civics/government standards.

The 2024 Civics standards include 19 standards total (13 existing standards plus 6 new standards added in 2024). These standards were designed to support a semester or 0.5 credit course and are the required standards to use starting in the 2026-2027 school year.

How do we ensure all social science domains are covered with only 2.5 credits remaining after Civics?

Districts must ensure students receive instruction in all five domains: Civics, U.S. History, World History, Geography, and Economics. The U.S. History, World History, Economics, and Geography standards were developed to cover five semesters of content. While challenging, there are several approaches districts can take (see sample course sequences below).

What about Economics? Do we need a separate Economics course?

No. ODE recognizes that many districts do not have the capacity to add additional courses beyond the required 3.0 social science credits. While some districts offer a standalone course in Economics, other districts integrate the Economic standards into other courses such as U.S. History or World History. Either approach satisfies the requirement for awarding credit in social science, provided all 15 Economics standards are adequately taught and assessed.

Sample Course Sequences

The following are examples of how districts might structure their social science offerings to meet the 3.0 credit requirement while addressing all five domains:

Option 1 (Integrating Geography with U.S. and World History standards):

- 0.5 credit: Civics (all Civics standards only)
- 0.5 credit: Economics (all Economics standards, no Personal Finance)
- 1.0 credit: U.S. History (all U.S. History standards, some Geography standards)
- 1.0 credit: World History (all World History standards, remaining Geography standards)

Total: 3.0 Social Science credits

Option 2 (Integrating Economics with U.S. and World History standards):

- 0.5 credit: Civics (all Civics standards only)
- 0.5 credit: Geography (all Geography standards)
- 1.0 credit: U.S. History (all U.S. History standards, some Economics standards)
- 1.0 credit: World History (all World History standards, remaining Economics standards)

Total: 3.0 Social Science credits

Note: These are examples only. Districts have local control to determine course sequences that work best for their students, provided all standards in all five domains are adequately taught and assessed.

Transcript Coding and Compliance

How should Civics appear on student transcripts?

Student transcripts must indicate at least 0.5 credit in a standalone Civics course. The transcript should clearly show:

- The course name (Civics or Government)
- The credit value (0.5 or higher)
- That the Civics credit is part of the 3.0 total social science requirement

Sample transcript format:

Social Science:	2.5 credits
Civics:	0.5 credits

Total Social Science: 3.0 credits

What NCES code should we use for the Civics course?

The Civics course should be coded with one of the following:

- 04161 Civics (0.5 credit)
- 04151 Government (0.5 credit)
- 04157 AP Government and Politics (1.0 credit)
- 04159 AP Government (1.0 credit)

Proper coding is essential for compliance and reporting.

When will districts report on compliance with this requirement?

Districts will first report on compliance with the Oregon Civics Diploma requirement for the 2025-26 school year in November of 2026 through Division 22 Assurances. A district reporting in compliance must ensure that student transcripts show at least 0.5 credits in a standalone Civics course and:

- The course addresses all Civics standards without integration of other Oregon Social Science Standards
- All five social science domains are being taught across the 3.0 credit requirement
- Courses are coded with the correct NCES codes

Transition From Financial Literacy → Personal Financial Education

What happened to Financial Literacy in social science?

For the Class of 2026: Financial Literacy remains part of the Oregon Social Science Standards and may be integrated into social science courses.

Beginning January 1, 2027 and beyond: High school students are required to complete 0.5 credits in Personal Financial Education in order to receive an Oregon diploma in alignment with SB 3. The 0.5 Personal Financial Education requirement is not part of the 3.0 required social science credits. Financial Literacy concepts were removed from the 2024 Oregon Social Science Standards and Personal Financial Education standards were created as a separate diploma requirement. This change reflects the passage of legislation requiring Personal Financial Education as a distinct graduation requirement.

- Beginning with the students graduating on or after January 1, 2027:
- Financial literacy is removed from the Oregon 3.0 credit Social Science requirements
- [Personal Financial Education](#) is added as a separate 0.5 credit requirement (standalone course)

- [Higher Education and Career Path Skills](#) is added as a separate 0.5 credit Oregon Diploma requirement (standalone course)

Can we combine Economics and Personal Finance in one course?

Beginning January 1, 2027 and beyond, districts must verify that students earning a high school diploma meet the credit requirement for Personal Financial Education. Districts may offer a standalone course or a course that addresses both Economics (social science) and Personal Financial Education standards, provided:

- All 15 Economics standards are taught and assessed
- All 16 Personal Financial Education standards are taught and assessed
- Both content areas are coded with their respective NCES codes
- The course is substantial enough to cover both sets of standards (likely requiring a full-year course rather than a semester)

However, Personal Financial Education may not be embedded into other content areas. Districts cannot offer a Social Science (Economics) course that awards PFE credits. Districts can have a PFE course and embed Social Science (Economics) standards to award credits for both content areas. For more details on this, districts can review the [Frequently Asked Questions on Senate Bill 3 Implementation](#) guidance.

Additional Support

Where can we find additional guidance and support?

- [Asynchronous Webinar](#): Available on the ODE Social Science webpage.
- [Civics Credit Guiding Document](#): Available on the ODE Social Science webpage.
- [Oregon Social Science Standards](#) and “crosswalks” available on the [ODE Social Science webpage](#).
- [Oregon’s Diploma Requirements for Personal Financial Education](#) webpage.
- **Direct Questions**: Contact the [ODE Social Science team](#).