

End of Course (EOC) Exams In Government and Science Frequently Asked Questions

The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) provides information to educators, parents and the public on student progress towards proficiency on the Maryland state content standards. Through a strong assessment system, stakeholders gain an understanding of how schools are performing and where assistance can be directed to support student growth and achievement. Graduation Requirements include course credits, the MCAP assessments and Student Service Learning (SSL) hours. The specific graduation requirements for each cohort of students can be located at the following website:
www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/graduation-requirements

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, for students entering the ninth grade (First Time Ninth Grade (FTNG) 2024, Class of 2027), the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment for government and science will count as 20 percent of the student's final grade in the respective high school level government and science courses. This 20 percent will be calculated into the semester B final grade whether the course is taken in the first or second semester of the school year. Students are not required to pass the EOC exams to graduate, but must pass the course to earn course credit. The lowest grade a student can receive on the EOC exam is 50%.

Below is a cohort transition timeline indicating when the MCAP Government and LS MISA exam will count as 20% of the final grade based on the student's ninth grade cohort.

	9 th Graders FTNG 2024	10 th Graders FTNG 2025	11 th Graders FTNG 2026	12 th Graders FTNG 2027
SY 2023-2024	EOC Exam = 20% of course grade	EOC Exam = participation only	EOC Exam = participation only	EOC Exam = participation only
SY 2024-2025	EOC Exam = 20% of course grade	EOC Exam = 20% of course grade	EOC Exam = participation only	EOC Exam = participation only
SY 2025-2026	EOC Exam = 20% of course grade	EOC Exam = 20% of course grade	EOC Exam = 20% of course grade	EOC Exam = participation only
SY 2026-2027	EOC Exam = 20% of course grade	EOC Exam = 20% of course grade	EOC Exam = 20% of course grade	EOC Exam = 20% of course grade

Government and LS MISA EOC exams. These are the identified courses where the MCAP assessment will be given as the EOC exam for first time ninth grade students. Students will find these courses on their schedule cards with an 'x' added at the end of the course ID.

Government Aligned Courses		LS MISA Aligned Courses	
COURSE ID	COURSE TITLE	COURSE ID	COURSE TITLE
SOC2003B	National State and Local (NSL) Government B	SCI2000B	Biology B
SOC2004B	Hon National State and Local Government B	SCI2001B	Honors Biology B
SOC2025B	MCPS PIB Government B	SCI2013B	Advanced Science 4 Biology B
SOC2083B	RMS Government B	SCI2049B	Environmental Science Biology B
		SCI2084B	MCPS PIB Biology B
		SCI2103B	RMS Biology 1B
		SCI2108	Honors Biology Double Period

GENERAL

Q: What is the difference between the current MCAP EOC exam and the previous high school assessment (HSA)?

A: The HSA assessment program was a series of high school assessments where a student had to earn a passing score to meet the graduation assessment requirement. A student's performance on the assessment had no impact on the student's final grade in a course or in earning any related course credits.

The MCAP EOC exam is incorporated into the student's final course grade. There is no requirement for the student to pass the EOC exam as a separate graduation requirement.

AVAILABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Q: Are there accommodated versions of the EOC exams?

A: Yes, the EOC exams are available in braille, American Sign Language, and large print. As always, testing accommodations found in a student's Individualized Education Program, 504 Plan, and/or English learner plan must be followed.

Students with significant cognitive disabilities may be registered to take the alternate assessments. Students with IEPs and 504s should take the accommodated EOC exam unless they are registered to take the alternate assessments as appropriate. Students taking the alternate assessments will not be required to have the assessment account for 20 percent of their final grade in the course.

Q: Are EOC exams offered in languages other than English?

A: For the 2023-2024 school year and beyond, the EOC exams will have a Spanish trans adapted version available for students.

Q: Who is eligible to take the Spanish trans adapted version of the EOC exam?

A: For the 2023-2024 school year, students currently with LEP accommodation 7g. are eligible for the Spanish trans adapted version. Starting July 1, 2024 this code will be 1w. Spanish Version Computer based Assessment.

IMPACTS OF END OF COURSE (EOC) GRADE ON STUDENT GRADES

Q: How will the EOC score impact the semester grade?

A: The EOC score will count as 20 percent of the student's final grade in the respective high school level government and science courses. This 20 percent will be calculated into the Semester B final grade whether the "B" course is taken in the first or second semester of the school year. The Semester B final grade for these aligned courses will be made up of the marking period 3 grade (40%), the marking period 4 grade (40%) and the MCAP End of Course (EOC) exam grade (20%). The [MCPS Mark Pattern Table](#) demonstrates a student's final second semester Bsemester or semester "B" grade based on their performance in each quarter of the course and on the required End of Course assessment.

Q: When will the scores from the Government and LS MISA EOC be available?

A: Teachers will receive scores the week of June 10, however they will not be posted in StudentVue or in teacher gradebooks. Students will see their scores when shared by their teacher, on their report card, and on Individual Student Reports (ISR) sent home in early fall 2024.

Q: What happens if a student completes and passes courses that require the EOC exam and passes the EOC exam?

A: Students who pass the course with the EOC exam accounting for 20 percent of their final grade have met the graduation assessment requirement.

Q: What happens if a student fails the EOC exam but passes the course?

A: The EOC exam accounts for 20 percent of a student's final course grade. There is no requirement to pass an EOC assessment to meet the graduation assessment requirement. If a student's final course grade is passing, they will meet the course and graduation requirements.

Q: What happens if a student fails the course and fails the EOC exam?

A: Students who fail the Semester B course and fail the EOC exam must retake the Semester B course and retake the EOC as 20 percent of their final grade. See information in the section below titled EOC Make-Ups and Course Retakes. Alternatively, students can take the LEA determined credit recovery course to earn course credit. Credit recovery courses are not required to include the EOC as 20 percent of the final grade. Students should speak to their school counselor regarding whether or not they are eligible for credit recovery.

Q: How is a score on the EOC converted to a letter grade?

A: The purpose of the Grade Conversion Score (GCS) Model for the End of Course Assessment is to convert the student scale score on the assessment to a letter grade. In the GCS model, the lowest grade conversion score on the EOC exam has been set to 50%. The GCS model also allows students to maintain or increase their final course grade through performing well on the EOC exam and provides a rigorous test for high-achieving students.

GRADE CONVERSION SCORE (GCS) TABLE

Letter Grade	GCS Score	LS MISA Scale Score Range	American Government Scale Score Range
A	90-100	757-850	466-650
B	80-89	744-756	442-465
C	70-79	737-743	419-441
D	60-69	731-736	394-418
E	50-59	650-730	240-393

What does the Grade Conversion Score chart mean?

The "Test Scale Score" refers to the student's EOC exam overall (either LS MISA or American Government). It is based on the questions answered correctly on the exam.

The "GCS Score" refers to the Grade Conversion Scale score that is based on the Test Scale Score. It has a floor of 50 and a ceiling of 100.

The "Letter Grade" refers to the grade, A through E, the student received on the EOC exam and that will count for 20 percent of the student's final course grade. The Letter Grade is based on the GCS score: a GCS score of 90 and above converts to a letter grade of "A," 80 through 89 to a "B," 70 through 79 to a "C," 60 through 69 to a "D," and 59 and below to a letter grade of "E."

EOC MAKE-UPS AND COURSE RETAKES

Q: What happens if the student missed taking the EOC exam during the test window?

A: Per the COMAR assessment graduation requirements, the student will still need to participate in the assessment to earn their diploma. For the 2023-2024 school year, if the student has an excused or unexcused absence, the student will receive an Incomplete for the semester course. Once they take the MCAP test, then the final course grade will be calculated using the score from the test taken at that time. Students who missed taking the EOC exam are encouraged to take the EOC exam during the summer administration July 22-26. **Contact your school for additional information to register for the summer EOC exam or discuss other options.**

Q: Will students who take the EOC during the summer assessment window receive a new report card?

A: Yes, students who received an Incomplete due to not taking the assessment during the spring testing window, or taking the assessment after May 15, will have a second report card issued once their EOC score is received and can be calculated into their semester grade for the course. Their first report card will reflect an Incomplete as scores for exams taken after May 15 will not have been received prior to report card printing.

Q: Will students be allowed to retake the EOC to improve their course grade?

A: No. Students may not retake the EOC exam separate from retaking the course to earn a higher score.

Q: Will students be allowed to retake the Semester B course to improve their course grade?

A: Students may retake the Semester B course to improve their course grade and are required to retake the EOC if retaking the course.

Q: Will students have the opportunity to retake the Semester B course during summer school?

A: For First Time Ninth Grade students, Semester B courses for Biology and NSL are offered during the summer school Session 1. Students must register for Session 1 in order to complete course content prior to taking the EOC exam during the summer testing window, July 22-26. Updates regarding session 1 registration for FTNG students taking Biology B and NSL B will be found on the MCPS Summer School website.

Q: If a student cannot enroll in Session 1 of summer school to retake the Biology or NSL Semester B course and the EOC, what other options do they have?

A: Students may enroll in the Online Pathway to Graduation (OPTG) courses offered outside the school day, retake the course within their regular school day, or wait until summer 2025 to enroll in Session 1 of summer school. School counselors can provide additional information regarding registration for these options. Information is also available on the MCPS Summer School and the Online Pathway to Graduation webpages.

Q: If a student fails Biology A or National, State, and Local Government A, will they be allowed to take the EOC at the end of Semester B?

A: Yes, they may still take the EOC as the assessment will only be calculated into the Semester B final grade.

ALTERNATIVES AND EXEMPTIONS

Q: What happens if a student transfers from out of state or from a non-public school with a course credit in National State and Local Government or biology? Does this student need to take the EOC assessment?

A: The past practice of awarding a transfer credit will continue. A student who earned these credit(s) outside of MCPS will be awarded a transfer course and test credits and would not need to take the MCAP government and/or LS MISA EOC exam(s).

Q: Will MCAP Government be required for the Advanced Placement (AP) Government course?

A: Students who enroll in the Advanced Placement (AP) American Government course are required to pass the course and either take the Government EOC exam or the AP exam to meet the graduation requirement. The EOC exam grade will not count as 20% of their final course grade.

Q: Will the LS MISA EOC exam be required for the AP Biology of International Baccalaureate (IB) Biology course? If so, what about students that have already taken Biology and MCAP LS MISA in a previous year?

A: If the student previously took the MCPS biology course and the MCAP LS MISA, the student will not need to retake the EOC if they take an AP Biology or IB Biology course. Ninth graders who take AP Biology will need to take the AP Exam or the EOC exam. The results of their test will not be calculated into the student's final semester B grade. Tenth through twelfth graders who take AP or IB Biology for their Life Science Credit and did not take Biology prior, will have to take the MCAP LS MISA but the results of their test will not be calculated into the student's final semester B grade.

Q: Will students who take a college biology or government course (dual enrollment) have to take the EOCs?

A: Yes, if the student did not previously take the LS MISA, the student will need to take the EOC. Their School Test Coordinator will contact them to arrange for testing during the pre-identified testing windows. The results of their test will not be calculated into the student's final course grade. There is no government course at the college level that fulfills the government credit requirement, and therefore the MCAP Government EOC should have been taken prior to dual enrollment.

Q: Should emergent multilingual learners (EML) take Biology and/or National, State, and Local Government courses during their ninth grade year?

A: The course sequence was adjusted to ensure that EMLs at higher levels of English language proficiency are taking the EOC exams based on the MCPS guidelines provided to high schools regarding course sequence for EMLs. Therefore, there is a recommendation that most EMLs take these exams in Grade 10 or Grade 11, with consideration of their level of proficiency in English.

Q: Will newly arrived EMLs have to take EOC exams?

A: EML students who have been enrolled in school for less than 12 months will have to take EOC exams if they are enrolled in the corresponding courses. They must sit for the exam(s) to meet the graduation requirements. However, the EOC will not be factored into their course final grade.