

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.

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 second or the semester "B" final grade. 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%). Students are not required to pass the EOC exams to graduate, but must pass the course to earn course credit. Below is a cohort transition timeline indicating when the MCAP Government and Life Science Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (LS MISA) EOC exam will count as 20% of the final grade based on the student's ninth grade cohort.

	9th Graders	10th Graders	11th Graders	12th Graders
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

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

Listed below are the course codes and titles of the courses that are aligned to the MCAP 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	Honors National State and Local (NSL) 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

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.

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 transadapted version available for students.

End of Course (EOC) Grading

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 longer a requirement to pass an EOC exam to meet the graduation assessment requirement. If a student's final course grade is passing, they will meet the course and assessment graduation requirements.

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

A: Students who fail the course and fail the EOC exam must retake the course with the EOC exam to count as 20 percent of their final grade. Alternatively, students can take the school's determined credit recovery course to earn course credit. However, the EOC exam grade will not count as 20 percent of the final grade.

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

A: If the student has an excused absence, the student will receive an *Incomplete* for the semester course. Once they take the EOC exam, then the final course grade will be calculated using the score from the EOC exam. The student's counselor will need to complete MCPS Form 355-27C to have the grade updated. If the student had an unlawful absence (i.e. unexcused absence), the student will receive a zero (0) on assessment which will be calculated in their final course grade. Per the COMAR assessment graduation requirements, the student will still need to participate in the assessment to earn their diploma.

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

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

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

A: The scores from the EOC exam will be posted to StudentVue/ParentVue and teacher grade books before the end of the marking period.

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

A: Yes, they may still take the EOC exam 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 exam?

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 the Government EOC 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 participate in the Government EOC exam or the AP exam to meet their 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 or 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 exam 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 LS MISA EOC exam to meet their graduation requirement. The EOC exam for biology will not count as 20% of their final course grade. Tenth through twelfth graders who take AP or IB Biology for their NGSS Life Science Credit and have not taken Biology, will have to take the LS MISA EOC exam in addition to the AP or IB biology exam. However, 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 LS MISA EOC exam. 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; 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 the 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 exam grade will not be factored into their course final grade.