



3.19 Graduation Policy

Policy Statement:

To define the requirements to earn a degree, diploma, or certificate from Central Lakes College (CLC).

Part 1. Graduation Requirements

Candidates for degrees, diplomas, and certificates must meet the following criteria:

1. Complete all courses required by the degree, diploma, or certificate, as well as all other program-specific requirements. Note: Students are subject to the program requirements in effect at the time of enrollment. When a student stops attending CLC for one year or more, the student is subject to the degree, diploma, or certificate requirements in effect at the time of re-enrollment.
2. Achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 grading scale. Note that some program majors may have additional GPA and/or grading requirements for graduation.
3. If applicable, achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 grading scale in 40 Minnesota Transfer Curriculum credits in the ten goal areas to complete the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum requirement.
4. Complete a minimum of one-fourth (25%) of the required credits at Central Lakes College. Credits awarded through Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) internal college assessments count toward the one-fourth (25%) requirement.
5. When applicable, complete all courses within the timeframe specified. Note that some technical courses expire after a specified number of years. See the program planning guides for more information.

Part 2. Other Information

- Students are required to submit an [Application for Graduation](#), regardless of whether they plan to attend commencement. The form is available on the CLC Website's forms page.

Students may receive assistance completing this online form from advisors and at the campus Welcome Centers.

- Students who achieve a 3.25-3.74 cumulative Central Lakes College GPA will graduate with honors. Students who achieve a 3.75-4.0 cumulative Central Lakes College GPA will graduate with high honors. For the commencement ceremony and program, honors and high honors are determined using the cumulative GPA at the end of the prior semester.
- Students who achieve a 3.25-3.74 cumulative Central Lakes College GPA at the time of award completion will receive a transcript notation indicating graduation with honors. Students who achieve a 3.75-4.0 cumulative Central Lakes College GPA at the time of award completion will receive a transcript notation indicating graduation with high honors. Note that this calculation includes the final semester grades, which are different than the calculation used for the commencement ceremony and program.
- Participation in the commencement ceremony does not imply that a student has officially graduated.
- Students who do not meet graduation requirements will be notified via their CLC email account. Students must reapply for graduation after meeting the requirements if the requirements are met in a subsequent academic year.
- Students meeting all requirements are eligible to graduate with only one Associate of Arts degree. However, students are able to earn multiple transfer pathway awards within the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degrees. Students who meet all requirements are eligible to graduate with an Associate of Arts degree, as well as an Associate of Fine Arts and/or an Associate of Science degree.
- Students will graduate at the end of the semester in which they complete all course requirements. However, a student may be allowed to participate in an earlier graduation ceremony if they desire to walk with their cohort. The student will not receive an award until they have successfully completed the outstanding program requirements.
- If the graduation application is not approved, students may work with their advisor to file an appeal using the Waiver/Substitution form, and/or may be required to take additional courses.
- Central Lakes College reserves the right to post certificate, diploma, and degree completion to students' academic records upon verification that all program requirements have been satisfied.

Date of Implementation/Presidential Approval: 03/31/2021

Date of Last Review: 7/31/2025

