



Senior Years Graduation Requirements

Parents and students should be aware that the graduation requirements for provincial Senior Years diplomas are increasing from 28 credits in the 2007-08 school year to 30 credits in the 2009-10 school year. This increase is a result of the recent addition of one compulsory physical education/health education (PE/HE) credit at each of the Grade 11 and Grade 12 levels.

Students seeking to graduate in:

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 and beyond
require a minimum of 28 credits	require a minimum of 29 credits	require a minimum of 30 credits

Senior Years Graduation

French Immersion Program - Credit Requirements

To graduate from the Senior Years French Immersion Program, students must earn compulsory credits in the subject areas listed in the following table. For specific grade-level requirements, refer to Appendix 2 at the end of this document.

FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM - COMPULSORY CREDITS TABLE

2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR		2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR		2009-10 AND SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL YEARS	
SUBJECT	CREDITS	SUBJECT	CREDITS	SUBJECT	CREDITS
Français langue seconde - Immersion	4	Français langue seconde - Immersion	4	Français langue seconde - Immersion	4
English Language Arts - Immersion	4	English Language Arts - Immersion	4	English Language Arts - Immersion	4
Mathematics	4	Mathematics	4	Mathematics	4
Social Studies	3	Social Studies	3	Social Studies	3
Science	2	Science	2	Science	2
Physical Education/ Health Education	2	Physical Education/ Health Education	3	Physical Education/ Health Education	4
TOTAL COMPULSORY CREDITS	19	TOTAL COMPULSORY CREDITS	20	TOTAL COMPULSORY CREDITS	21

Within subject areas, there may be different pathways or alternatives to choose from. For example, within the subjects of English language arts and mathematics there are three pathways. When choosing courses, students should ensure they meet the entrance requirements of the post-secondary education and training, apprenticeship or private vocational opportunity they intend to pursue.

Students must also earn 9 optional credits from Grade 9 to Grade 12. At least one optional credit must be at the Grade 11 level and at least one optional credit must be at the Grade 12 level.

Students in the French Immersion Program can take Technology Education courses to meet part of their optional credit requirements. More information on optional credits appears later in this guide.



Students who entered Grade 9 in the 2004-05 school year or earlier will require 2 PE/HE credits for graduation. Students who entered Grade 9 in 2005-06 will require 3 PE/HE credits for graduation and those students who entered Grade 9 in 2006-07 or after will require 4 PE/HE credits for graduation.



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French Immersion Technology Education Program

To graduate from the Senior Years French Immersion Technology Education Program, students must earn compulsory credits in the same subject areas as in the French Immersion Program. Students must also earn Technology Education credits from within an approved Senior Years Technology Education Program cluster (e.g., power mechanics). A cluster of Technology Education courses must be an approved group of departmentally developed and/or approved courses that support the transition from school to work, apprenticeship, college or university.

The Senior Years French Immersion Technology Education Program may include courses in technical vocational education, human ecology, business and marketing education, and industrial arts/technology education.

For more information on the Senior Years Technology Education Program, please contact your school or school division.



Optional Credits



Students should ensure that they meet the entrance requirements of the post-secondary education and training, apprenticeship or private vocational opportunity they intend to pursue.

Optional Credits Offered by Schools

The types of optional credits offered in schools vary widely, depending on student needs and available resources.

Optional credits offered in some schools may include courses from the following areas:

- languages
- science
- social studies
- arts (art, drama, music)
- information and communication technology (ICT)
- career development
- business and marketing education
- industrial arts/technology education
- technical vocational education

SCHOOL-INITIATED COURSES

School-initiated courses (SICs) are courses that have been developed and approved by schools and school divisions to meet the local needs and interests of students.

Some examples of subject areas in which SICs have been developed include:

- journalism
- human ecology
- outdoor education
- psychology
- religion

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Some schools offer **International Baccalaureate (IB)** or **Advanced Placement (AP) courses**. These courses provide students with more opportunities to earn credits.



For additional information, refer to www.ibo.org and www.ap.ca.

Optional Credits Initiated by Students

Students can initiate projects or apprenticeships that earn them credits.

STUDENT-INITIATED PROJECTS

Student-initiated projects (SIPs) are curricular projects that students develop, based on their interests. For example, students may earn one credit toward graduation with a **Community Service Student-Initiated Project (CS SIP)** or a **Cultural Exploration Student-Initiated Project (CE SIP)**. Schools assign a professional staff member to review, approve and monitor student progress on SIPs.

Many opportunities are provided for **school-initiated courses (SICs)** and **student-initiated projects (SIPs)**. Students may obtain credit for a maximum of 11 SICs and three SIPs during the Senior Years. Schools are encouraged to consult with parents and other community members about their SIC and SIP options.



Guidelines and required forms for SICs and SIPs are available from schools or online at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/policy/sics_sips.html.

SENIOR YEARS APPRENTICESHIP OPTION

The **Senior Years Apprenticeship Option (SYAO)** lets students start an apprenticeship while still in high school. It links regular Senior Years school instruction with on-the-job apprenticeship training.

To start apprenticeship training in a trade while attending high school, students must be at least 16 years old and enrolled as a Grade 11 or Grade 12 student. They can earn a maximum of eight credits toward graduation while accumulating apprenticeship hours, which they may use if they decide to pursue one of Manitoba's designated trades at a later date.



For additional information, students are encouraged to contact their school counsellors and to visit the **SYAO website** at www.manitoba.ca/tce/apprent/educators/senioryears.html.

Students may also earn credits for abilities and skills they have developed outside of school through options that may include:

ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET OPTION AND PRIVATE MUSIC OPTION

Students can obtain credits if they are registered in the senior levels of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet professional program.

The Private Music Option is open to students who have successfully obtained standing in the Conservatory Canada Programs or Royal Conservatory of Music, starting at the appropriate grade level for instrument or voice. One credit may be earned at each of the grade levels, up to a maximum of four credits.



For additional information, refer to www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/arts/music.html.

SPECIAL LANGUAGE CREDIT OPTION

The Special Language Credit Option recognizes Manitoba's linguistic diversity. Students can earn up to a maximum of four credits for mastery of a language other than English or French. This includes the American Sign Language. Only one special language credit may be earned in each year of high school. Special examinations are required.



For additional information, refer to www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/diversity/langcredits/index.html.

Alternative Ways to Earn **Credits**

A young man with dark, curly hair is sitting cross-legged on a polished, light-colored floor in a school hallway. He is wearing a black long-sleeved sweater, blue jeans, and white sneakers. He is looking down at an open book on the floor in front of him. The hallway has blue lockers on the left and a series of windows along the right wall. The ceiling is dark with recessed fluorescent lights. A white curved line graphic arches over the top left of the image.

Fees may be charged for some of the following alternatives, depending on local school and school division policies.

DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

Distance Learning can greatly expand a student's options. Compulsory or optional courses are available in print, audio conference or online format. Students who take these courses need to be able to be self-directed and work on their own. The **Independent Study Option (ISO)** is print-based and provides students with support by email or phone. **Teacher Mediated Option (TMO)** provides scheduled instruction in an audio conference with the teacher and other students. **Web-based courses (WBC)** are offered by teachers via the Internet.



For additional information on **Distance Learning**, refer to www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/dl/index.html.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Students take summer school courses for various reasons. If a student does not earn a credit for a course taken during the regular school year, summer school provides an opportunity to repeat the course and gain the credit. Some students attend summer school to improve their grade in a particular course or to earn extra credits. Students are encouraged to consult with their school counsellors for more information.

COURSES COMPLETED OUTSIDE MANITOBA

High school courses completed outside of Manitoba by students registered in Manitoba schools can be evaluated and accepted as Senior Years credits by local school principals.

For evaluation and placement, parents and students should submit an official, original transcript of marks or a certified copy of the original. Generally, transcripts are issued by government departments or ministries of education. If the student has little or no documentation or formal schooling, the school will determine an appropriate awarding of credits and placement by meeting with parents and the student, and by using available information and assessment results.



For additional information, refer to *Evaluating Out-of-Province Course Completions for Senior Years Credits: A Guide for School Administrators* at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/policy/op_credits/index.html.

POST-SECONDARY CREDITS AND DUAL CREDITS

If a high school offers courses in collaboration with a college or university, students may use them for Senior Years graduation credits. Students can earn up to a maximum of

five dual credits toward high school graduation while earning credits for the same courses at the college or university level.



For additional information, refer to *Guidelines for Post-Secondary Credits and Senior Years (Dual Credits)* at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/policy/gradreq/choice-guidelines.html.

SUBSTITUTION OF CREDITS

Principals may substitute a maximum of two compulsory credits in Grade 9 through Grade 12 when there is a strong case for doing so, in keeping with local school division policies.

CHALLENGE FOR CREDIT OPTION

The Challenge for Credit Option offers students the opportunity to apply prior knowledge in a particular subject area by demonstrating learning in that course/specialty and receiving credit for it.



For additional information on the **Challenge for Credit Option**, refer to Attachment A and Appendices A1 to A4 at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/policy/gradreq/report_forms.html.

POST-GRADUATION CREDITS

After high school graduation, students have the option of taking additional credits. Students who pursue this option will be funded on a prorated basis up to a maximum of four credits. Tuition fees may also be charged, depending upon the age and residency status of the pupil.



Further details can be found in Appendix C of the *Funding of Schools booklet* at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/finance/fund_grant.html.

ADULT LEARNING CENTRES

Students who do not earn their high school diploma before leaving high school may consider attending adult learning centres. Adult learning centres offer a range of high school credit courses for adult learners (age 19 and over) who are seeking to earn a Mature Student High School Diploma, prepare for post-secondary education, and/or improve employability skills.



For Manitoba Advanced Education and Literacy's directory listing of all adult learning centres, refer to www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ael/all/directory/list_ALC.html.

For information regarding the **Mature Student Diploma**, refer to www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/dl/iso/cmature.html.