

Other Important Stuff: Course Types

Academic Courses (Grades 9 and 10)

(D in the 5th position) focus on the essential concepts of the discipline, and also explore related concepts. Course work develops students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing theoretical and abstract applications of the essential concepts and incorporating practical applications as appropriate. The emphasis is on theory and abstract thinking as a basis for future learning and problem solving.

Alternative (non) Credit Courses (Grades 9–12)

(N in the 5th position) have been developed to meet students' educational needs not met by existing credit granting courses within the provincial curriculum. "K-Courses" focus on a developmental continuum of specific skill development which may be taken in preparation for credit courses or in place of.

Applied Courses (Grades 9 and 10)

(P in the 5th position) focus on the essential concepts of the discipline. Course work develops students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing practical, concrete applications of these concepts and incorporating theoretical applications as appropriate. Course work relates to familiar real-life situations and provides students with the opportunity for extensive hands-on applications of the concepts they study.

NOTE

Substitutions

In order to allow flexibility in designing a student's program and to ensure that all students can qualify for the secondary school diploma, substitutions may be made for a limited number of compulsory credit courses using selections from the remaining courses offered by the school. The decision to make a substitution for a student should be made only if the student's educational interests are best served by such substitution. If a parent/guardian or an adult student requests a substitution, the Principal will determine whether or not this should be made. A Principal may also initiate consideration of whether a substitution should be made. The Principal will make his or her decision in consultation with the parent/guardian or adult student and appropriate school staff.

Locally Developed Compulsory Credit Courses (Grades 9 and 10)

(L in the 5th position) have been developed to meet students' educational needs not met by the existing provincial curriculum. Courses currently available in Grade 9 and 10 include: one in English, Mathematics, Science and Canadian History. Each of the courses may be counted as compulsory credits. These particular courses will provide additional support for students who experience considerable difficulties in the study of one or more of these subjects.

Locally Developed Courses (Grades 9–12)

Boards may develop other courses locally that are counted as optional credits. These may be created in any discipline. There are very strict guidelines for the development of such courses, and all local courses require Ministry approval. Schools with specialized programs often include such courses in areas such as entrepreneurship, athletics, and specialized arts. Other "Locally Developed" courses are indicated with the use of the following characters in the 5th position:

1 = Academic	5 = Workplace	8 = Mixed
2 = Applied	6 = College	
3 = Open	7 = University	

Open Courses (Grades 9–12)

(O in the 5th position) allow students to broaden their skills and knowledge in a subject that interests them and which may or may not be related to their post-secondary path. Open courses have one set of expectations for the subject, appropriate for all students in a given grade. These courses are designed to provide students with a broad educational base that will prepare them for productive participation in society.

Transfer Course (Grade 9)

A transfer course enables students to achieve the expectations not covered in one course type, but required for entry into a course in the next grade. Currently, the only transfer course available is in Mathematics which is required to change from Grade 9 Applied Mathematics to Grade 10 Academic. A transfer course can be taken as a summer or night school course.

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Dual Credit Programs

Dual Credit programs are intended to assist secondary students in the completion of their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and successful transition to college and apprenticeship programs. The primary focus is on those students facing the biggest challenges in graduating. This includes disengaged and underachieving students (under the age of 21) with the potential to succeed but who are at risk of not graduating from high school, and students who have left high school before graduating. Approved Dual Credit Programs also include students in Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs (OYAP). A maximum of four optional credits may count toward the OSSD for approved college courses or Level 1 Apprenticeship college-delivered Dual Credit programs.

For specific program offerings see page 18. For more information on the application process, please contact your school Guidance Counsellor or visit www.tdsb.on.ca/programs/dualcredit.

College Preparation Courses (Grades 11 and 12)

(C in the 5th position) provide students with the knowledge and skills to meet entrance requirements for most college programs; they have been developed in consultation with community college staff. Teaching and learning will emphasize concrete applications of the theoretical material covered in the course and the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The courses will focus on the development of independent research skills and independent learning skills.

University Preparation Courses (Grades 11 and 12)

(U in the 5th position) provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to meet entrance requirements for university study. Teaching and learning will emphasize theoretical aspects of the course content, with supporting applications. The courses will focus on the development of both independent research skills and independent learning skills.

NOTE

Students receive a percentage grade of which 50% is required for a credit to be granted.

University/College Preparation Courses (Grades 11 and 12)

(M in the 5th position) include content that is relevant for both university and college programs. They provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the entrance requirements for specific university and college programs. The range of courses offered and the content of these courses will allow students to prepare for college and university programs and related occupations. Teaching and learning will emphasize both theoretical aspects and related concrete applications of the course content.

Workplace Preparation Courses (Grades 11 and 12)

(E in the 5th position) prepare students to move directly into the workplace or to be admitted to apprenticeship or other training programs in the community. These courses emphasize practical workplace skills.

Credit Recovery Courses

Students may enroll in a credit recovery program designed for a group of students if one is offered at his or her school through a referral from the Student Success Team. Credit Recovery provides the opportunity to get a credit without repeating the entire course.

N.B. Credit Rescue provides support to students by way of intervention to attempt to rescue the credit before the student fails. See your Guidance Counsellor for details.

NOTE

Enrichment Opportunities (Grade 9–11)

(“3” in the 6th position) are offered in some secondary schools. These classes are based on the same course expectations of the academic level, and student achievement is evaluated at that level. Enrichment opportunities, are for students with a particular ability and interest in a subject, offer challenging ways of exploring additional related materials and participating in alternative activities related to the study of the subject.