

# Understanding Course Codes and Descriptions

## COURSES

Courses are available in many subject areas in secondary school. Within a subject area, students can further specialize their study, depending on their interests. For example, within the area of music, students might choose to study one or more of instrumental music, vocal music, and composition. Courses are offered in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

## CREDITS

A credit is granted when a course that has been scheduled for a minimum of 110 hours is successfully completed. "Scheduled time" is defined as the time during which students participate in planned learning activities designed to lead to the achievement of the curriculum expectations of the course. Planned learning activities include interaction between the teacher and student as well as assigning individual and/or group work, excluding homework.



**Careful attention should be given to these:**

**Prerequisite:** A course which the Ministry of Education has designated as a requirement to be completed prior to undertaking a course.

**Co-requisite:** A course which must be studied at the same time as another course.

**Recommended Preparation:** A course which is highly recommended as providing the necessary foundation for another course but which is not designated as mandatory preparation

### Interpretation of sample course codes

**ENG3U3** = English, Grade 11, University preparation, enriched, one credit

**PPL2OF** = Healthy Active Living, Grade 10, Open, female, one credit

### MPM2D1

#### Principles of Mathematics, Grade 10, Academic

This course enables students to broaden their understanding of relations, extend their skills in multi-step problem solving, and continue to develop their abilities in abstract reasoning. Students will pursue investigations of quadratic functions and their applications; solve and apply linear systems; solve multi-step problems in analytic geometry to verify properties of geometric figures; investigate the trigonometry of right and acute triangles; and develop supporting algebraic skills.

**Prerequisite:** *Principles of Mathematics, Grade 9, Academic or Grade 9 transfer course*

### Sample Course Descriptor

The first three characters indicate the Ministry approved course title. In this case:

**MPM = Principles of Mathematics**

#### Major Subject Areas

Course Descriptors are alphabetically organized in the Course Descriptor section by major subject area.

<b>A</b> = The Arts	<b>K</b> = Alternative (Non-credit)
<b>B</b> = Business Studies	<b>L</b> = Classical, International and Native Languages
<b>C</b> = Canadian and World Studies	<b>M</b> = Mathematics
<b>E</b> = English, English Literacy Development, English As a Second Language	<b>N</b> = Native Studies
<b>F</b> = French	<b>P</b> = Health and Physical Education
<b>G</b> = Guidance and Career Education	<b>I</b> = Interdisciplinary Studies
<b>H</b> = Social Sciences and the Humanities	<b>S</b> = Science
	<b>T</b> = Technological Education

The fifth position indicates the course type. In this case:

**D = Academic**

#### Course Type

<b>C</b> = College
<b>D</b> = Academic
<b>E</b> = Workplace
<b>L</b> = Locally Developed Compulsory
<b>M</b> = College or University
<b>O</b> = Open
<b>P</b> = Applied
<b>U</b> = University
<b>N</b> = Non-Credit

**MPM 2 D 1**

**Principles of Mathematics**

The fourth position indicates the grade or language level.

In this case:  
**2 = Grade 10**

#### Grades

- 1 = Grade 9
- 2 = Grade 10
- 3 = Grade 11
- 4 = Grade 12

#### Languages

- A** = Level 1
- B** = Level 2
- C** = Level 3
- D** = Level 4
- E** = Level 5

The sixth indicates program or credit differentiation, or the focus of the course. In this case:

**1 = Regular**

#### Program Differentiation for Non-Tech Courses

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> = Regular credit course              | <b>9</b> = Self-contained special education course |
| <b>2</b> = Beginner or Introductory course    | <b>0</b> = Advanced Placement                      |
| <b>3</b> = Enriched course                    | <b>A</b> = Part 1 (0.5)                            |
| <b>4</b> = Extended French course             | <b>B</b> = Part 2 (0.5)                            |
| <b>5</b> = French Immersion course            | <b>Health and Physical Education</b>               |
| <b>6</b> = Gifted course                      | <b>F</b> = course for females                      |
| <b>7</b> = International Baccalaureate course | <b>M</b> = course for males                        |
| <b>8</b> = Self-contained ESL course          | <b>1</b> = co-ed courses                           |

French Immersion and other specialty programs have a unique sixth character to indicate male and female Phys Ed. Credit value is usually one unless otherwise indicated on an individual school chart.