

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.

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.

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

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

D = Academic

Course Type

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

MPM 2 D 1

Principles of Mathematics

Course Descriptor

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

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 6th indicates program or credit differentiation, or the focus of the course. In this case:

1 = Regular

Program Differentiation for Non-Tech Courses

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

French Immersion and other specialty programs have a unique 6th character to indicate male and female Phys Ed. Credit value is usually one unless otherwise indicated on an individual school chart.



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 by the Ministry of Education.

Interpretation of sample course codes

ENG3U3.....English, Grade 11, University preparation, enriched, one credit
PPL2OF.....Healthy Active Living, Grade 10, Open, female, one credit