

Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters

5400 Curriculum, Instruction, and Parent/Guardian Involvement

5409 Academic Credits and Graduation

A. Graduation Requirements

A student must successfully complete all graduation requirements to earn a high school diploma. The Superintendent will ensure that the District's required credits and graduation criteria are consistent with state law and annually published in applicable student handbooks.

In order to graduate high school, each student must earn 24 credits. Students may earn seven credits per year. All students are required to take a minimum of seven (7) units each semester. Special exceptions will require counselor, principal, and parental approval. A maximum of four (4) credits may be earned in Physical Education, Vocal Music, or Band individually. Students may not take two Physical Education classes in the same semester. Vocational Education courses and Co-Op will be given three (3) hours of credit. Work Experience will be given two (2) hours of credit. Dual enrollment courses will be given two (2) hours of credit. Class standing is updated each August for the next school year. Minimum credits earned by August to become a Sophomore: six (6); Junior: eleven (11); Senior: seventeen (17).

Graduation course requirements:

- Four credits in English Language Arts
 - English 9
 - English 10 or Honors English 10
 - English 11 or Honors English 11
 - English 12, AP English Lit or AP English Lang
- Four credits in Mathematics:
 - Algebra I
 - Geometry or CP Geometry
 - Algebra II or CP Algebra II
 - Senior Year Math or Math Related Class 12th grade Math Choices (1 Credit) Senior Math, Personal Finance, Trigonometry, AP Calculus
- Three credits in Science: Req - Biology
 - Chemistry, CP Chemistry or Physics, CP Physics,
 - Chemistry, CP Chemistry or Physics, CP Physics
- Three credits in Social Studies:
 - World History & Geography
 - US History & Geography
 - Government(.5 credit)
 - Economics (.5 credit)

- One credit in Health and Phys Ed
 - Beginning P.E. (.5)
 - Health (.5)
- One credit in Visual, Performing, Applied Arts
 - All Technology Department Courses
 - All Music Department Courses
 - All Art Department courses
 - Any Career Technical Education Course offered by the LISD that does not fulfill a requirement in another subject area.
- Two credits in World Language
 - Intro to Spanish Level 1
 - Intermediate Spanish (SPN II)
- Six credits: In addition to the credits outlined above, credit hours in electives, or career and technical education programs must be completed and awarded.
 - Any course over the basic core credit requirements
 - Any Advance Placement course
 - World Language Courses above Level II
 - Any Dual Enrollment Courses
- Additional local graduation requirements include successful completion of all state mandated student assessments.
- Maximum of two total credits through on-line and correspondence courses combined.

Early Graduation:

Eight semesters of full time attendance are required to complete requirements. However, in the interest of meeting individual needs of certain students, exceptions will be allowed. The seventh and eighth semesters of high school may provide many benefits to the student in the areas of academics, social, and maturity. Therefore, the school is providing a means whereby the academically talented and/or highly motivated student may avail him/herself of opportunities of enrichment and/or advanced study while a senior at CHS

Students who will have successfully completed graduation requirements after seven (7) semesters may petition to graduate. Applications must be submitted to the principal prior to 1st semester of the student's seventh semester.

Early graduates must take full responsibility to make arrangements with the high school office for anything pertaining to the graduation ceremony (i.e., announcements, cap and gown rental, graduation practices).

Any student enrolled in an off-campus course to fulfill graduation requirements

must show documentation of such course(s) by the last day of the seventh semester. Failure to produce this documentation will result in denial of the early graduation petition.

The student and a parent will schedule a conference with the principal and the senior counselor before 1st semester of the student's seventh semester. At the conference the student should be prepared to justify his/her request to graduate early.

7 semesters of full-time attendance may be considered provided the following requirements are met:

- The student must meet all of the requirements for graduation. Course work at Clinton High School will take priority over college enrichment courses. The school will not waive any of the specified courses.
- The high school counseling department must be involved in the development and approval of the program after which it will be acted upon through normal administrative channels.
- The parents must fully understand the course enrollment requests and the academic direction it is leading the student and must give complete approval as well as assume any financial responsibilities incurred, including transportation. Seniors could qualify for some reimbursement of tuition through the State of Michigan Dual Enrollment Program. See the counselor for information.
- The student must be accepted in a recognized program at an accredited higher education institution, where in the opinion of school officials and officials of the higher institution the student is likely to realize success.
- Students who do not meet all of the above mentioned graduation requirements will neither receive a diploma nor participate in graduation exercises.

Transfer students shall be awarded credit according to the requirements of the previous school attended for the specific year in attendance. A senior transfer student may be able to graduate under the graduation requirements of his/her previous school at the discretion of the principal and the counselor.

Students not enrolled at Clinton High School their senior year may request participating in CHS's graduation ceremony if the following criteria are met:

- The student must have attended CCS for a minimum of five years.
- The student must have been enrolled at CHS for a minimum of one school year.

- The student must provide documentation that they have been attending some other educational institution **and** this institution **does not** issue its own diploma or certificate of graduation.
- The student must meet the graduation requirements of CHS.
- The student must notify CCS at least nine weeks prior to graduation of their desire to participate in the graduation ceremony. Upon satisfactorily completing the above requirements, the principal, counselor, and any other CCS employees with specific knowledge of the student making the request will approve or disapprove the request.

B. Personal Curriculum

In some cases, it may be appropriate to modify the Michigan Merit Curriculum for a student. Modifications may only be made in accordance with state law. The parent/guardian of a student who has completed grade 9 or a student who has reached age 18 may request a personal curriculum.

A teacher or school counselor may request that the District consider providing a student with a personal curriculum. If requested by a teacher, the teacher must currently teach or have expertise in a subject area proposed to be modified by the personal curriculum or the building principal must determine that the teacher has qualifications relevant to developing a personal curriculum.

In all cases, a student's personal curriculum must be developed in accordance with state law.

The District will annually notify parents/guardians of their ability to request a personal curriculum.

C. Earning Credit

The District will grant credit to a student who successfully completes a course. Successful completion means that the student has demonstrated mastery of the state- or District-approved subject area content standards for the course by obtaining a D- or higher grade in the course based, in part, on at least 1 state or District-approved assessment.

Alternatively, the District will grant equivalent credit for a required Michigan Merit Curriculum course if the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by MDE or by the District, on a state- or District-approved assessment (i.e., "testing out").

The District will grant equivalent credit for a course if the student demonstrates a reasonable level of mastery by achieving a C+ or better on the final examination for the course or, if there is no final examination, by demonstrating subject area content knowledge by obtaining a C+ or better on an alternative assessment, such as a portfolio, performance, paper, project, presentation, or other established means. A student who earns credit in a course by "testing out" will not earn a grade in the course, and the credit will not be considered for

determining grade point average or any honors earned based on grade point average.

The District will grant a student credit toward a diploma or alternative certificate if the student successfully completes, before entering high school, a state-mandated curriculum requirement by demonstrating proficiency on the content expectations for that curriculum requirement, either through successfully completing the course or by testing out.

Once a student earns credit in a course, either by successfully completing the course or by testing out, the student may not earn additional credit for the course or for a lower level course in the same subject.

The Board will recognize credits earned at other public schools and at accredited nonpublic schools. For students transferring from a home school program, the Superintendent or designee will assess whether the home school credit reflects proficiency in state and District content expectations for each course for which the student seeks to transfer credit. If the Superintendent or designee determines that the student is proficient in the subject area content, the District will award transfer credit.

Legal authority: MCL 380.1278a, 380.1278b, 380.1279b

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