

Planning Your Move to High School

Planning for high school takes place over time and involves many decisions. As a Senior Years student, you will enroll in one of Manitoba's high school diploma programs—for example, the Senior Years English Program or the Senior Years French Immersion Program. Each program has certain compulsory and optional requirements.

Beginning in Senior 1 (Grade 9) and continuing through Senior 4 (Grade 12), you will earn credits toward high school graduation through the courses you take. To obtain your Manitoba high school diploma, you must accumulate a *minimum of 28 credits* from a combination of compulsory courses and optional courses.

- A *compulsory course* is a course that you must take.
- An *optional course*, sometimes called an elective, is a course that you may take.

Some courses are full credits, while others are half credits.

Your school counsellor and teachers will discuss credit requirements with you as you prepare your timetable for the coming year.



Choosing from a Range of Credit Options

To graduate from high school, you must successfully complete certain compulsory courses, but you will also have opportunities to select optional courses that appeal to your interests, abilities, values, and career goals.

Compulsory Subject Areas

In high school, you will continue to take compulsory courses in

- * English language arts
- * mathematics
- * physical education and health education
- * science
- * social studies

Credit Options That Schools May Offer

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

Typical Areas:

You may be able to accumulate optional course credits in areas such as

- * arts (art, drama, music)
- * business education and marketing
- * computer education
- * industrial arts/technology education
- * languages
- * social sciences (home economics)

Special-Interest Areas:

Optional courses may be offered in special-interest areas such as

- * career education
- * psychology
- * religion
- * outdoor education

Additional Courses in Compulsory Subject Areas:

You will be taking courses in the compulsory subject areas listed on the previous page, but you can also take additional courses in these areas to meet your optional credit requirements. These courses may also be important in meeting special post-secondary entrance requirements.

International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:

Your school may offer IB and/or AP courses that provide opportunities to earn credits toward high school graduation.

Dual Credits:

If your school offers courses through a university or college, you can earn credits toward graduation for successful completion of these courses, as well as credits at the university or college level.

For more information about Manitoba's graduation requirements and credit options, visit the Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth website at:
<www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/docs/parents/grad/>



Credit Options That You Can Initiate

In addition to taking the courses offered in your school, you can earn optional credits in other ways, with a little initiative on your part. These may include the following:

Distance Learning Courses:

You can greatly expand your choice of options by taking Independent Study Option (ISO) courses or web-based courses. When taking distance learning courses, you work on your own and submit the assignments for marking, either by mail or online. Examinations are supervised.

Senior Years Apprenticeship Option:

To start apprenticeship training in a trade while you are still attending high school, you must be at least 16 years old and enrolled as a Senior 3 or Senior 4 student. You can earn a maximum of eight credits toward graduation while accumulating apprenticeship hours, if you decide to pursue one of Manitoba's designated trades at a later date.

Student-Initiated Projects (SIPs):

In the Senior Years, you can develop projects of special interest, which must be supervised by teachers. One example is the Community Service Student-Initiated Project (CSSIP). You can earn one credit toward graduation for volunteer work in the community.

Summer School:

Summer school programs allow you to repeat a course that you did not successfully complete, to improve a grade, or to take a course that is not offered in your school. You will have to pay for these courses.

You can also earn credits for abilities and skills that you develop outside your school through options such as these:

Private Music Option:

You can acquire music credits if you complete examinations with the Conservatory Canada or The Royal Conservatory of Music programs.

Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB):

You can obtain credits if you are registered in the senior levels of the RWB professional program.

Special Language Credit Option:

You can earn credits for mastery of a language other than English or French. This includes the American Sign Language credits. Special examinations are required.

Cadets:

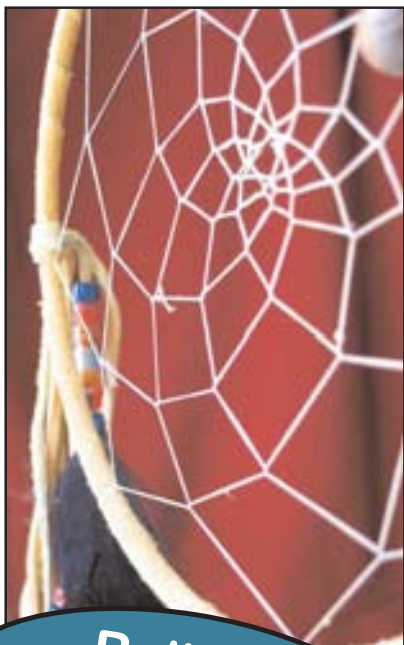
Participation in the Cadet program allows you to acquire a maximum of two credits. However, these credits cannot be included among the 28 credits required for high school graduation.

Making a Successful Transition

As you adjust to the high school system and learn more about your credit options, you will be in a better position to select courses that best suit your abilities and needs. There will be time for adjustments and changes. However, it will be very important for you to understand what courses to take in high school to prepare you for a satisfying future.

What matters most right now is that you be comfortable with the transition into high school. Here are some ways you can learn more about the programs your school offers, the kinds of courses you can take, and the variety of activities and services available to you:

- * Attend the orientation sessions for incoming students, as well as special evening meetings for parents and students.
- * Visit the school that you will be attending.
- * Speak to your school counsellor, teachers, or principal.
- * Check out the websites listed in the Resources section at the back of this Grad Planner.



Believe
that you can make your high
school years productive and
enjoyable!

