Increasing Choice and Flexibility:
Changes to Senior Years Graduation Requirements

Manitoba Education, Training and Youth
March 2001

Introduction

The intent of this document is to report on the Department's decisions regarding proposed changes to the Senior Years graduation requirements. These decisions are based on recent consultations with the educational community on the report *Increasing Choice and Flexibility: Proposed Changes to Senior Years Graduation Requirements.*

1. **Categories of Credits**
   The consultation results indicate unanimous support for reducing the number of categories of credits.

   Decision:

   The number of categories of credits is reduced to two: **Compulsory** and **Optional.**

   Please refer to:
   Appendix A: Grades 1 to 8 Recommended Time Allotments
   Appendix B: Senior Years Graduation Requirements for the Four School Programs

2. **Locally Developed Curricula: Locally Developed/Acquired Courses (LD/As), School-Initiated Courses (SICs), and Student-Initiated Projects (SIPs)**
   There was strong support to increase local programming. Also, there was a high degree of support for eliminating the Locally Developed/Acquired courses (LD/As). School divisions/districts that have developed LD/As could keep the LD/A course designation already made available to them.

   Decision:

   Schools may offer a variety of possible choices for students in the optional category, as long as they meet the minimum compulsory credit requirements (15 credits in the English Program, 19 credits in the Français and French Immersion Programs, 14 credits in the English Technology Education Program, and 18 credits in the Français/French Immersion Technology Education Program). These may include a maximum of eleven (11) School-Initiated Courses (SICs) and three (3) Student-Initiated Projects (SIPs) to meet the 28 credits required for graduation.

   Schools are encouraged to consult with parents and other community members, and report publicly regarding the number and nature of local courses being offered as part of the Senior Years programming.

   A revised policy document will be developed to reflect these changes.

   As proposed in the consultation document, the Department will work towards facilitating online registration and developing a mechanism for sharing registered courses. Submissions from school divisions/districts and schools will be possible.

3. **Distance Learning Courses**
There was strong support for recognizing distance learning courses as a means by which students could acquire compulsory and optional credits.

Decisions:

Compulsory Credits
Distance learning courses will be recognized as compulsory credits that satisfy Manitoba's graduation requirements if
- students secure the approval of their home school prior to registering in the courses. Refusals should be based only on sound educational reasons.
- courses are based on departmental curricula and are recognized for Senior Years credit by Manitoba Education, Training and Youth subsequent to a required peer review
- students write the Manitoba standards test applicable to compulsory subject areas and the results constitute the required percentage of the students' final grade

If a school is unable to offer one of the compulsory credits, then the school must make a reasonable effort to find an appropriate alternative means of delivery. The school is responsible for paying the associated costs as well as for providing the necessary student accommodation.

Optional Credits
Distance learning courses will be recognized as optional credits that satisfy Manitoba's graduation requirements if they
- are based on departmental curricula or are registered with Manitoba Education, Training and Youth as SICs
<p align="center">**or**</p>
- are acquired from or are delivered by an out-of-province educational authority that the home province has accredited as a credit-granting authority

The student must consult with the school principal before registering in an optional credit distance learning course. Refusals should be based only on sound educational reasons, such as potential duplication of content from a previous grade. If the related credit is perceived as not being appropriate for inclusion in the final transcript, then the school is expected to inform the student prior to the registration of the distance learning course. The student is responsible for associated costs. Schools do not have any obligation for providing accommodation but would have an interest in the student's progress.

Peer review will be optional.

The following chart summarizes some key decisions made regarding distance learning courses:

Distance Learning Course Delivery and Peer Review

Category of Credit	Can Be Delivered from within Province	Peer Review	Can Be Delivered from outside Province	Peer Review
Compulsory	Yes	Required	No	N/A
Optional	Yes	Optional	Yes	Optional

The peer review is intended to ensure that distance learning courses, particularly compulsory courses, are pedagogically sound and contain all the required learning outcomes. Manitoba Education, Training and Youth will provide criteria to guide the peer review process. Peer review results will be posted on the Department's website.

Schools will be asked to track student success rates in distance learning courses.

A support document focusing on distance learning courses will be prepared and released to the field.

4. **Challenging for Senior Years Course Credits**
The consultation results indicate that there is support, in principle, for the proposed change with respect to challenging for Senior Years course credits, but many have questions related to the implementation process.

Decision:

The consultation results indicate that more time is needed to work with the field on how to resolve some of the issues raised. Further consultation will happen over the next year.

5. **Post-secondary Credits and Senior Years**
There was strong support for the dual credits. This change will permit students pursuing post-secondary university or community college credits while in Senior Years to count these credits as part of the 28 credits required to earn a Senior Years diploma. Post-secondary credits completed during Senior Years could be earned as compulsory or optional credits to a maximum of five (5) credits within the 28 credits required for graduation. In the case of the compulsory subject areas, students would not be required to write standards tests. Where a school principal has grounds for believing that the proposed college or university course does not meet the requirements of a compulsory credit, the principal will advise the student. The course would then be ineligible to substitute for a compulsory credit requirement.

Decision:

This change will be piloted over a period of three years. The Department will monitor this proposed change.

6. **Credit for Community Service**
   The consultation results indicate agreement, in principle, with the proposal to offer credit for community service. Concerns were expressed about the implementation of this proposed change.

   Decision:

   The 2001-2002 school year will be used to collaborate with educational stakeholders to resolve the implementation issues so that this credit could be offered to Manitoba students in the 2002-2003 school year.

7. **Credits for Extracurricular Activities**
   The consultation results indicate strong disagreement with the proposal to offer credits for extracurricular activities.

   Decision:

   This proposed change will not be implemented.

8. **Substitution of Credits in Unusual Situations**
   The consultation results indicate agreement with the proposal to substitute credits in unusual situations; however, some concerns were raised.

   Decision:

   This change will be piloted over a period of three years. School divisions/districts can choose whether or not to implement this change. The substitution of a maximum of two (2) credits can be made in any subject area.

APPENDIX A: GRADES 1 to 8 RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOTMENTS

ENGLISH PROGRAM—Recommended Time Allotments		
Subject Areas	**Grades 1 to 6**	**Grades 7 and 8**
Compulsory		
language arts (English)	35%	27%
mathematics	15%	17%
science	10%	13%
social studies	10%	13%
physical education/health education	11%	9%
arts	10%	8%
Optional	9%	13%
e.g., basic French* other languages, Native studies, etc.		
Total	100%	100%

* A recommendation for schools offering basic French or other second languages is to re-allocate a small portion of English Language Arts time for this purpose. This recognizes that some language concepts are transferable and should assist schools to accommodate the basic French grant requirement.

FRANÇAIS PROGRAM—Recommended Time Allotments		
Subject Areas	**Grades 1 to 6**	**Grades 7 and 8**
Compulsory		
Français ⎤ * Anglais ⎦	35%	27%
mathématiques	15%	17%
sciences de la nature	10%	13%
sciences humaines	10%	13%
éducation physique et éducation à la santé	11%	9%
arts	10%	8%
Optional	9%	13%
e.g., éducation religieuse, etc.		
Total	100%	100%

* Anglais is a compulsory subject area from Grade 4 to Senior 4. School divisions/districts and schools may elect to teach Anglais in Grade 3.

FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM—Recommended Time Allotments*		
Subject Areas	**Grades 1 to 6**	**Grades 7 and 8**
Compulsory		
English language arts - Immersion	20%	14%
Français	15%	13%
mathématiques	15%	17%
sciences de la nature	10%	13%
sciences humaines	10%	13%
éducation physique et éducation à la santé	11%	9%
arts	10%	8%
Optional	9%	13%
e.g., formation personnelle, etc.		
Total	100%	100%

* **Bilingual Heritage Language Instruction (Ukrainian, German, Hebrew):** The time allotments specified for the French Immersion Program also apply to Bilingual Heritage Language Instruction. Time allotments for English language arts will be the same as the English allotment in the table. The time allotment identified for Français will be used for language arts instruction in the heritage language. Mathematics and science will be instructed in English; the other subjects will be taught in the heritage language (following the **Policy for Heritage Language Instruction**).

SENIOR YEARS ENGLISH PROGRAM

Senior Years Graduation Credit Requirements (Minimum of 28 credits)							
Compulsory Credits: 15							
Senior 1		**Senior 2**		**Senior 3**		**Senior 4**	
Compulsory Subject Areas (5 credits)		**Compulsory Subject Areas (5 credits)**		**Compulsory Subject Areas (3 credits)**		**Compulsory Subject Areas (2 credits)**	
language arts (English)	1	language arts (English)	1	language arts (English)	1	language arts (English)	1
mathematics	1	mathematics	1	mathematics	1	mathematics	1
science	1	science	1	social studies	1		
social studies	1	social studies	1				
physical education/ health education	1	physical education/ health education	1				

Optional Credits: 13 from subject areas such as

- language arts (additional)
- mathematics (additional)
- sciences (additional)
- social studies (additional)
- basic French
- other second languages
- the arts
  - visual arts
  - music
  - drama
  - dance

- physical education
- health education
- skills for independent living
- technology education
  - vocational industrial
  - home economics
  - business and marketing
  - industrial arts

- Students must ensure that they meet the entrance requirements of the post-secondary education, training, or work situations they intend to pursue.
- Within the optional subject areas, students must complete 1 Senior 3 credit and 2 Senior 4 credits.
- **Note:** School-Initiated Courses (SICs) and Student-Initiated Projects (SIPs) may be used to fulfil the graduation requirements within the optional credits to a maximum of 11 and 3 respectively. Depending on the different requirements of the four school programs, the number of possible SICs used as optional credits may vary.

SENIOR YEARS ENGLISH TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Senior Years Graduation Credit Requirements (Minimum of 28 credits)							
Compulsory Credits: 14							
Senior 1		**Senior 2**		**Senior 3**		**Senior 4**	
Compulsory Subject Areas (5 credits)		**Compulsory Subject Areas (5 credits)**		**Compulsory Subject Areas (2 credits)**		**Compulsory Subject Areas (2 credits)**	
language arts (English)	1	language arts (English)	1	language arts (English)	1	language arts (English)	1
mathematics	1	mathematics	1	mathematics	1	mathematics	1
science	1	science	1				
social studies	1	social studies	1				
physical education/ health education	1	physical education/ health education	1				

Senior Years Technology Education Program Credits: 8 to 14
- A minimum of 8 to a maximum of 14 approved credits are required from within an approved Senior Years Technology Education Program cluster.
- Plus, students must fulfil the minimum 28 credit graduation requirement by completing (0 to 6) credits from the optional category.

To graduate with an approved **Senior Years Apprenticeship Option,** students must complete the 14 compulsory requirements and 8 approved Senior Years Apprenticeship Option credits, along with the optional credits (0 to 6) .

Optional Credits: 0 to 6 from subject areas such as
- language arts (additional)
- mathematics (additional)
- sciences (additional)
- social studies (additional)
- basic French
- other second languages
- the arts
  - visual arts
  - music
  - dance
  - drama
- physical education
- health education
- skills for independent living
- technology education (additional)
  - vocational industrial
  - home economics
  - business and marketing
  - industrial arts

- Students must ensure that they meet the entrance requirements of the post-secondary education, training, or work situations they intend to pursue.
- Within the approved Senior Years Technology Education Program cluster, students must complete a minimum of 2 Senior 3 credits and 2 Senior 4 credits.
- **Note:** School-Initiated Courses (SICs) and Student-Initiated Projects (SIPs) may be used to fulfil the graduation requirements within the optional credits to a maximum of 11 and 3 respectively. Depending on the different requirements of the four school programs, the number of possible SICs used as optional credits may vary.

Senior Years Français Program

Senior Years Graduation Credit Requirements (Minimum of 28 credits)							
Compulsory Credits: 19							
Senior 1		**Senior 2**		**Senior 3**		**Senior 4**	
Compulsory Subject Areas (6 credits)		**Compulsory Subject Areas (6 credits)**		**Compulsory Subject Areas (4 credits)**		**Compulsory Subject Areas (3 credits)**	
Français	1	Français	1	Français	1	Français	1
Anglais	1	Anglais	1	Anglais	1	Anglais	1
mathématiques	1	mathématiques	1	Mathématiques	1	mathématiques	1
sciences de la nature	1	sciences de la nature	1	sciences humaines	1		
sciences humaines	1	sciences humaines	1				
éducation physique et éducation à la santé	1	éducation physique et éducation à la santé	1				

Optional Credits: 9 from subject areas such as

- Français (additional)
- Anglais (additional)
- autre langues
- mathématiques (additional)
- sciences de la nature (additional)
- sciences humaines (additional)
- éducation physique
- éducation à la santé

- études technologiques
  - formation professionelle industrielle
  - économie familiale
  - affaires et commercialisation
  - arts industriels
- les arts
  - arts plastiques
  - éducation musicale
  - arts dramatiques
  - danse
- vie autonome

- Students must ensure that they meet the entrance requirements of the post-secondary education, training, or work situations they intend to pursue.
- Within the optional subject areas, students must complete 1 Senior 3 credit and 1 Senior 4 credit.
- **Note:** School-Initiated Courses (SICs) and Student-Initiated Projects (SIPs) may be used to fulfil the graduation requirements within the optional credits to a maximum of 11 and 3 respectively. Depending on the different requirements of the four school programs, the number of possible SICs used as optional credits may vary.

SENIOR YEARS FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Senior Years Graduation Credit Requirements (Minimum of 28 credits)							
Compulsory Credits: 19							
Senior 1		**Senior 2**		**Senior 3**		**Senior 4**	
Compulsory Subject Areas (6 credits)		**Compulsory Subject Areas (6 credits)**		**Compulsory Subject Areas (4 credits)**		**Compulsory Subject Areas (3 credits)**	
Français	1	Français	1	Français	1	Français	1
English language arts - Immersion	1	English language arts - Immersion	1	English language arts - Immersion	1	English language arts - Immersion	1
mathématiques	1	mathématiques	1	mathématiques	1	mathématiques	1
sciences de la nature	1	sciences de la nature	1	sciences humaines	1		
sciences humaines	1	sciences humaines	1				
éducation physique et éducation à la santé	1	éducation physique et éducation à la santé	1				

Optional Credits: 9 from subject areas such as

- Français (additional)
- Anglais (additional)
- autre langues
- mathématiques (additional)
- sciences de la nature (additional)
- sciences humains (additional)
- éducation physique
- éducation à la santé

- études technologiques
  - formation professionnelle industrielle
  - économie familiale
  - affaires et commercialisation
  - arts industriels
- les arts
  - arts plastiques
  - éducation musicale
  - arts dramatiques
  – danse
- vie autonome

- Students must ensure that they meet the entrance requirements of the post-secondary education, training, or work situations they intend to pursue.
- Within the optional subject areas, students must complete 1 Senior 3 credit and 1 Senior 4 credit.
- **Note:** School-Initiated Courses (SICs) and Student-Initiated Projects (SIPs) may be used to fulfil the graduation requirements within the optional credits to a maximum of 11 and 3 respectively. Depending on the different requirements of the four school programs, the number of possible SICs used as optional credits may vary.
- Out of a total of 28 credits, a minimum of 14 credits from courses taught in French are required to obtain the provincial diploma in French Immersion: at each grade in Senior 1 and in Senior 2, a minimum of 4 credits must be completed in French and at each grade in Senior 3 and in Senior 4, a minimum of 3 credits must be completed in French.

SENIOR YEARS FRANÇAIS/FRENCH IMMERSION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Senior Years Graduation Credit Requirements (Français and French Immersion) (Minimum of 28 credits)							
Compulsory Credits: 18							
Senior 1		**Senior 2**		**Senior 3**		**Senior 4**	
Compulsory Subject Areas (6 credits)		**Compulsory Subject Areas (6 credits)**		**Compulsory Subject Areas (3 credits)**		**Compulsory Subject Areas (3 credits)**	
Français	1	Français	1	Français	1	Français	1
Anglais or English language arts - Immersion*	1	Anglais or English language arts - Immersion*	1	Anglais or English language arts - Immersion*	1	Anglais or English language arts - Immersion*	1
mathématiques	1	mathématiques	1	mathématiques	1	mathématiques	1
sciences de la nature	1	sciences de la nature	1				
sciences humaines	1	sciences humaines	1				
éducation physique et éducation à la santé	1	éducation physique et éducation à la santé	1				

Senior Years Technology Education Program Credits: 8 to 10
- A minimum of 8 to a maximum of 10 approved credits are required from within an approved Senior Years Technology Education Program cluster.
- To graduate with an approved **Senior Years Apprenticeship Option,** students must fulfil the minimum 28 credit graduation requirements. Students must complete the 18 compulsory requirements and 8 approved Senior Years Apprenticeship Option credits, along with the optional credits (0 to 2).

* Anglais for students in a Français Program; English language arts - Immersion for students in a French Immersion Program.

Optional Credits: 0 to 2 from subject areas such as
- autre langues
- sciences de la nature (additional)
- mathématiques (additional)
- les arts
  - arts plastiques
  - éducation musicale
  - arts dramatiques
  - danse
- éducation physique
- éducation à la santé
- sciences humaines (additional)
- language arts (additional)
- vie autonome
- études technologiques
  - formation professionelle industrielle
  - économie familiale
  - affaires et commercialisation
  - arts industriels

- Students must ensure that they meet the entrance requirements of the post-secondary education, training, or work situations they intend to pursue.
- Within the approved Senior Years Technology Education Program cluster, students must complete a minimum of 1 Senior 3 credit and 1 Senior 4 credit.
- **Note:** School-Initiated Courses (SICs) and Student-Initiated Projects (SIPs) may be used to fulfil the graduation requirements within the optional credits to a maximum of 11 and 3 respectively. Depending on the different requirements of the four school programs, the number of possible SICs used as optional credit may vary.