

Appendix 1

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) Requirements

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) Requirements

In order to be granted an OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma), students must complete a total of 30 credits, 18 of which are compulsory, and 12 of which are elective. Students must also complete two non-credit requirements. All of these requirements are stipulated by the Ontario Ministry of Education, and are used in all Ontario schools, both private and public.

Compulsory Credits:

- 4 English (one at each grade level)
- 3 Math (grade 9, grade 10, and grade 11 or 12)
- 2 Science (grade 9, grade 10)
- 1 additional Science (grade 11 or 12) or Technology (grade 9 - 12)
- 1 Geography (grade 9)
- 1 History (grade 10)
- 1 Arts
- 1 Physical Education
- 1 French
- 1 Career Studies/Civics
- 1 additional English, Third Language, Social Science, or Canadian and World Studies
- 1 additional Arts, Business or Physical Education

Elective Credits:

12 elective credits must also be completed. These may be in any subject area, at any grade level.

Non-Credit Requirements:

In addition to credit requirements, students must also fulfill 2 non-credit requirements. This includes passing the OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) and completing 40 hours of community involvement.

The Ontario Secondary School Certificate

The Ontario Secondary School Certificate will be granted on request to students who leave school before earning the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, provided that they have earned a minimum of 14 credits distributed as follows:

Compulsory Credits (total of 7)

- 2 credits in English
- 1 credit in Canadian Geography or Canadian History
- 1 credit in Mathematics
- 1 credit in Science
- 1 credit in Health and Physical Education
- 1 credit in the Arts or Technological Education

Optional Credits (total of 7)

7 credits selected by the student from available courses

The Certificate of Accomplishment

Students who leave school before fulfilling the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma or the Ontario Secondary School Certificate may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment. The Certificate of Accomplishment may be a useful means of recognizing achievement for students who plan to take certain vocational programs

or other kinds of further training, or who plan to find employment after leaving school. The Certificate of Accomplishment will be accompanied by the student's Ontario Student Transcript. For those students who have an IEP, a copy of the IEP may be included.

Different Types of Courses in Ontario Secondary Schools

The Ontario Secondary School Curriculum is designed with several types of courses:

Grade 9 and 10:

Applied Courses - intended for students who wish to study at college or join the workforce after completing secondary school. These are usually used as prerequisites for college preparation courses in grade 11 and 12.

Academic Courses - intended for students who wish to study at university after completing high school. These are usually used as prerequisites for university preparation courses in grade 11 and 12.

Open Courses - intended for all students.

Grade 11 and 12:

College Preparation Courses - intended for students who wish to study at college after completing high school.

Workplace Preparation Courses - intended for students who wish to join the work force after completing high school.

University Preparation Courses - intended for students who wish to study at university after completing high school.

Student Success Teams

Every high school has a Student Success Team that includes the Principal, teachers and guidance staff to provide extra attention and support for individual students.

Student Success Teams support students who are struggling, who need extra attention to help them graduate or who are looking for new challenges in high school.

Student Success Teams can help students:

- select course options that match their interests and meet their individual needs
- match students with appropriate alternatives to regular classroom learning
- provide information on E-learning, Dual credits, Specialist High Skills Majors, Expanded Co-op Credit Recovery

For more information about Student Success Teams and what is available in your community:

- contact your high school
- get a copy of the Ministry of Education Brochure, *More Ways to Succeed in High School, A Guide for Parents and Students*
- or visit www.Ontario.ca/MoreStudentSuccess