

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
MASON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CREDIT DEFICIENCY, EARLY GRADUATION/EARLY RELEASE,
PROMOTION, RETENTION SUMMER SEMESTER

A student's progress toward graduation and receiving a diploma is determined by completing required coursework, earning the necessary credits, maintaining a full, year-round academic schedule (attendance issues relating to truancy may result in the loss of participation privileges at the graduation ceremony), actively participating in and putting forth individual best effort in the MEAP, PLAN, Explore, ACT, and Michigan Merit Examinations (MME). A student is only promoted when the necessary requirements are met or the student has completed the goals and objectives of an Individualized Education Plan (I.E.P.).

It is the parent's/guardian's and student's responsibility to keep in contact with his/her counselor and teachers to ensure that all credit, course, and graduation requirements are being met. Information about credit and course requirements is available in the guidance office and a counselor will be pleased to answer any questions.

Credit Deficiency

Students will continue to be promoted until their senior year where they will be retained until all graduation requirements are met. Students who are not on track to graduate and need recovery credit(s) may take a course for credit through a variety of methods per principal's approval. A maximum of one (1) credit may be earned through a correspondence school that is accredited and preapproved by building principal. Additional courses may be granted on an individual basis per principal's approval. Other means by which to recover credits include retaking the course with a certified instructor or via e20/20. See the counseling department or Mr. Bates if you have questions. Students not on track to graduate as a result of credit deficiency may be placed on an "academic contract/graduation plan" once the following criteria have been met: Freshman—2.0 credits or more behind pace to graduate, sophomores—1.5 or more credits behind pace to graduate, juniors—1.0 or more credits behind pace to graduate, seniors—.5 or more credits behind pace to graduate.

Students who fail to make up/recover credits per their academic contract/graduation plan after one marking period or semester or over summer may be dropped from Mason Senior High School and transferred involuntarily to Orchard Center High School to create an opportunity for graduation.

Early Release/Early Graduation

Students who are on pace for early release and who have achieved the credits and graduation requirements to do so, may, with Board approval, graduate early provided

there is evidence to support that the student needs to graduate early in order to attend a post-secondary institution, serve in the Armed Forces, or has a life situation that merits early release from Mason Consolidated Area Schools. The student must state the reason for requesting such an early release and apply for Early Release/Early Graduation at least one full semester in advance and forward the request through the building principal. Students who are granted early release and meet all the qualifications for early graduation will receive a high school diploma—provided all requirements for graduation are met on the applied-for date—but do not necessarily participate in a graduation ceremony or other “senior” events.
events.

Graduation Requirements—Mason Senior High School

A student will normally complete graduation requirements in four years. However, some students do not finish in four years and may need additional time or alternative placement, or both, to finish all requirements. In order to receive a diploma and graduate, a student will need to meet the school requirements for basic coursework, and earn the total number of minimum credits. Mason Senior High School has adopted the “Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC).” This curriculum is in effect for the Classes of 2013—2016. Students not on track to graduate in the expected timeframe will continue to follow the graduation requirements designated to them as a first time ninth-grader.

In order to graduate and fully participate in the graduation ceremony, the Class of 2013 will pass 92% of all attempted credits (in a full schedule) and meet the following graduation requirements:

- 4 credits of English (English 9, English 10, English 11, *English 12)
- 4 credits of Mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and 1 math or math-related course completed in the senior year)
- 3 credits of Science (Biology I, Chemistry or Physics, **Physical Science or science elective)
- 3 credits of Social Studies (.5 Civics, .5 Economics, 1 US History and Geography, 1 World History and Geography)
- 1 credit of Visual Performing and Applied Arts
- .5 credit of Physical Education
- .5 credit Health Education
- All high school students must also participate in an online course or learning experience (can be one of the above-listed, required credits; earned in grades 9-12 or through an equivalent learning experience K-12)

The Classes of 2014—2015 will pass 92% of all attempted credits and meet the following graduation requirements:

- 4 credits of English (English 9, English 10, English 11, and *English 12)
- 4 credits of Mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, 1 math or math-related course must be completed in senior year)

- 3 credits of Science (Biology I, Chemistry or Physics, **Physical Science or science elective)
- 3 credits of Social Studies (.5 Civics, .5 Economics, US History and Geography, World History and Geography)
- 1 credit of Visual Performing and Applied Arts
- .5 credit of Physical Education
- .5 credit of Health Education
- All high school students must also participate in an online course or learning experience (can be one of the above-listed, required credits; earned in grades 9-12 or through an equivalent learning experience K-12).

The Class of 2016 will pass 92% of all attempted credits and meet the following graduation requirements:

- 4 credits of English (English 9, English 10, English 11, and *English 12)
- 4 credits of Mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, 1 math or math-related course must be completed in senior year)
- 3 credits of Science (Biology I, Chemistry or Physics, **Physical Science or science elective)
- 3 credits of Social Studies (.5 Civics, .5 Economics, US History and Geography, World History and Geography)
- 2 credits of World Language
- 1 credit of Visual Performing and Applied Arts
- .5 credit of Physical Education
- .5 credit of Health Education
- All high school students must also participate in an online course or learning experience (can be one of the above-listed, required credits; earned in grades 9-12 or through an equivalent learning experience K-12).

Note 1: *On-line or correspondence credit for English 12 cannot be counted towards graduation.

Note 2: **Physical Science is required prior to taking Physics or Chemistry unless a grade of “B-” or better is obtained in Biology and with permission of instructor.

Note 3: Full Academic Schedule and Closed Classes. In order to participate and/or attend the graduation ceremony, students must maintain a full academic schedule throughout their high school career where no more than one class has been closed due to attendance between the freshman and junior year and where no classes have been closed due to attendance or dropping/withdrawal from a dual enrollment course (without administrative replacement) during the senior year.

Definition of a Closed Class—A closed class is one where the administration has reassigned a student to an alternative placement due to attendance or behavior issues, the student is removed from a course of instruction; usually happens as a result of behavior/attendance contract violation(s) on the part of the student.

Note 4: Possession of graduation requirements: Students who cannot demonstrate possession of the graduation requirements (at the end of final exams for seniors) three full calendar days prior to the graduation ceremony may be excluded from the graduation ceremony by the high school principal. Students who fulfill the requirements for graduation after this cutoff date but prior to the beginning of the next academic year will receive their diploma in the high school office without a ceremony.

Note 5: Unpaid bills, missing equipment or lost uniforms. Students who owe the school money for unpaid bills or lost uniforms/equipment, fines or fees may be excluded from the graduation ceremony by the high school principal.

Note 6: Caps and gowns must be worn in order to walk at the graduation ceremony. Caps and gowns are to be purchased by the student/student's parents or guardians from the company identified by the school for the purpose of uniformity and decorum. Caps and gowns will not be issued to the student until the senior check out is complete. For those students who are not walking at the graduation ceremony, either the student will be issued the cap or gown within the next five business days following the ceremony or a refund will be issued by the company from whom the cap and gown were purchased.

Note 7: Students choosing not to participate in the graduation ceremony or who otherwise are not permitted to walk at graduation, will be issued their diploma—when all requirements have been demonstrated—no sooner than the first business day following the ceremony for the graduating class.

Test Out in Algebra I and Earth Science at Mason Middle School

Mason Middle School Students who pass the Algebra I “test out” for credit will receive 1 math credit towards graduation and will be scheduled into Algebra II upon entrance into Mason High School. For this purpose, a score of 77% or better must be achieved on the high school mathematics unit-approved test.

Mason Middle School Students who pass the high school science unit-approved Earth Science “test out” for science credit will receive 1 elective credit in science to be applied towards graduation upon entrance into Mason High School. For this purpose, a score of 77% or better must be achieved on the test.

Testing Out in Other Courses

Not enrolled in the course: In order to take more advanced classes, dual enroll in college coursework, or clear room on a student schedule for other courses, a student or parent/guardian may wish for the opportunity to “test out” of a core content class (English, Math, Social Studies, or Science). Board policy, in compliance with State law allows students to test out of a course with a passing score of a 77% or better on an end of course exam or approved equivalency (such as a portfolio or presentation).

Any high school student who wishes to test-out of a course in which s/he is not enrolled may do so by taking the final examination for the course and receiving a grade of at least

C+ or by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter as determined by the course instructor's alternative assessment used in lieu of a final examination. Students currently enrolled in a course must have permission of the principal. However, the student must take, and can only take, the "Testing Out" Exam during dates and times set by our high school. It is not testing out on demand. Credit for a course earned by a student through this process may be used to fulfill a course or course-sequence requirement and be counted toward the required number of credits needed for graduation, but may not be used to determine the student's G.P.A. Students requesting to attempt high school credit will be given the opportunity to test out.

Transfer Credit Formula:

Mason students are required to earn 92% of the credits attainable for graduation. This requirement is the same for transfer students. This does not exempt students from completing the number of core credits for graduation. Students who transfer prior to the completion of a term, semester or trimester may be awarded partial credit based on grades at time of transfer and other variables. Counselors will also consider the academic strengths of the student, the timing of the transfer, and other special circumstances in determining whether the partial credit courses will fulfill Mason graduation requirements. On a case-by-case basis, as may be needed, the building principal will decide on the acceptance and transferability of coursework from other high schools. Coursework with ambiguous course descriptions or from non-accredited public, home or private high schools may be denied due to lack of rigor or relevance.