

INSTRUCTION

Graduation Requirements: High School

Okemos High School shall offer a comprehensive program of studies which meets the needs of students of varying interests and abilities. Graduation requirements shall be based on a philosophy of education which is geared toward the provision of a broad-based program of studies for all of its students.

Minimum graduation requirements are established by the State of Michigan and Michigan Department of Education and are known as the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC). The Board shall ensure that each student in the District is offered the curriculum necessary to meet these requirements.

Graduating Class of 2012 through 2015

Beginning with the graduating class of 2012, each student is required to be enrolled in and to attend a minimum of six (6) class periods per semester until he/she reaches a minimum of twenty-two (22) credits to graduate from Okemos High School, of which 18 credits (subject to modification in some areas as provided by statute) will be comprised of:

1. Four (4) credits in English, which must include Literature and Composition 9 as well as Literature and Composition 10, or their approved alternative.
2. Four (4) credits in mathematics, which must include: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and math in the senior year.
3. Three (3) credits in science, which must include: Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics, or their approved alternative.
4. Three (3) credits in social studies, which must include: one (1) credit of U.S. History to include Geography, one (1) credit of World History to include Geography, one-half (.5) credit of American Government, and one-half (.5) credit Economics.
5. One (1) credit in health and physical education, which must include the Foundations of Physical Education course. This course will be a prerequisite to any elective course in Physical Education and is usually taken during ninth or tenth grade.
6. Three (3) elective credits, with one (1) full credit taken from two of three areas (listed in alphabetical order): Career and Technology Education (Business and Computer Education, Career Center, Life Management Education, Technology Education) or Fine Arts (Art, Drama, Music); and World Languages. One-half (.5) credit of the three (3) credits can be satisfied by a Physical Education elective (not to include credit for the Foundation of Physical Education course).

In addition, students must incorporate twenty hours of online experience in grade six (6) through twelve (12) into their required credits as outlined in the Okemos High School Guide to Curriculum for Students and Parents and the Okemos High School Student-Parent Handbook.

Graduating Class of 2016 Through 2018

Beginning with the graduating class of 2016, each student is required to be enrolled in and to attend a minimum of six (6) class periods per semester until he/she reaches a minimum of twenty-two (22) credits to graduate from Okemos High School, of which 18 credits (subject to modification in some areas as provided by statute) will be comprised of:

1. Four (4) credits in English, which must include Literature and Composition 9 as well as Literature and Composition 10, or their approved alternative.
2. Four (4) credits in mathematics, which must include: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and math in the senior year.
3. Three (3) credits in science, which must include: Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics, or their approved alternative.
4. Three (3) credits in social studies, which must include: one (1) credit of U.S. History to include Geography, one (1) credit of World History to include Geography, one-half (.5) credit of American Government, and one-half (.5) credit Economics.
5. One (1) credit in health and physical education, which must include the Foundations of Physical Education course. This course will be a prerequisite to any elective course in Physical Education and is usually taken during ninth or tenth grade.
6. Two (2) credits in World Language; may substitute 1 credit for state-approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) program or Visual, Performing and Applied Arts (VPAA) credit.
7. One (1) elective credit, (listed in alphabetical order): Career and Technology Education (Business and Computer Education, Career Center, Life Management Education, Technology Education) or Fine Arts (Art, Drama, Music).

In addition, students must incorporate twenty hours of online experience in grade six (6) through twelve (12) into their required credits as outlined in the Okemos High School Guide to Curriculum for Students and Parents and the Okemos High School Student-Parent Handbook.

Graduating Class of 2019 and Thereafter

Beginning with the graduating class of 2019, each student is required to be enrolled in and to attend a minimum of six (6) class periods per semester until he/she reaches a minimum of twenty-two (22) credits to graduate from Okemos High School, of which 18 credits (subject to modification in some areas as provided by statute) will be comprised of:

1. Four (4) credits in English, which must include Literature and Composition 9 as well as Literature and Composition 10, or their approved alternative.
2. Four (4) credits in mathematics, which must include: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and math in the senior year.
3. Three (3) credits in science, which must include: Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics, or their approved alternative.
4. Three (3) credits in social studies, which must include: One (1) credit in U. S. History to include Geography, one (1) credit in World History to include Geography, one-half credit (.5) of American Government, and one-half (.5) credit of Economics.
5. One-half (.5) credit in Skills for Health and Life (no PC modification)
6. One-half (.5) credit in Foundations of Physical Education.
7. Two (2) credits in World Language; may substitute 1 credit for state-approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) program or Visual, Performing and Applied Arts (VPAA) credit.
8. One (1) elective credit, (listed in alphabetical order): Career and Technology Education (Business and Computer Education, Career Center, Life Management Education, Technology Education) or Fine Arts (Art, Drama, Music).

In addition, students must incorporate twenty hours of online experience in grade six (6) through twelve (12) into their required credits as outline in the Okemos High School Guide to Curriculum for Students and Parents and the Okemos High School Student-Parent Handbook.

Certificate of Completion

The board may issue alternative certificates such as “Certificate of Completion” for students who do not meet all of the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum for a high school diploma. A Certificate of Completion, however, has no legal standing as a substitute for a diploma. Application for a certificate of completion may be made by the student and/or by the student’s parents or legal guardians [as outlined in board policy 6156.2 as well as the Okemos High School Guide to Curriculum for Students and Parents and the Okemos High School Student-Parent Handbook.]

Personal Curriculum Option

Okemos High School students and parents/legal guardians have the right to request a Personal Curriculum (PC) which modifies certain requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) as permitted by state law [and as outlined in board policy 6156.1 as well as the Okemos High School Guide to Curriculum for Students and Parents and the Okemos High School Student-Parent Handbook.] All requests will be reviewed for eligibility before any modification is executed.

Testing Out Option

Okemos High School students may request to “test out” rather than enroll in a course by receiving a qualifying score on one or more assessments selected by the District that measures the student’s understanding of the subject area content expectations or guidelines specified in the Michigan Merit Curriculum as permitted by state law [and as outlined in board policy 6160 as well as the Okemos High School Guide to Curriculum for Students and Parents and the Okemos High School Student-Parent Handbook].

References: No Child Left Behind
MCL 380.1278a; 380.1278b
Individuals with Disabilities Act
Okemos High School Curriculum Guide for
Students and Parents
Okemos High School Student-Parent Handbook
www.michigan.gov/highschool

See Also: Board Policy 6156.1: Graduation Requirements:
Personal Curriculum
Board Policy 6156.2: Graduation Requirements:
Certificate of Completion
Personal Curriculum/Michigan Merit Curriculum
Board Policy 6160: Dual Enrollment

POLICY

Adopted: 10-12-81

Amended: 03-09-15

Reviewed: