

MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM (MMC) High School Graduation Requirements

Effective for Students Entering 8th Grade in 2006 (Class of 2011)

To prepare Michigan's students with the knowledge and skills needed for the jobs in the 21st Century, the State of Michigan has enacted a rigorous new set of statewide graduation requirements that are among the best in the nation. With these new graduation requirements, students will be well-prepared for future success in college and the workplace.

The Michigan Merit Curriculum requires students entering 8th grade in 2006, to obtain a minimum of 16 credits for graduation, which could be met using alternative instructional delivery methods such as alternative course work, humanities course sequences, career and technology courses, industrial technology or vocational education courses, or through a combination of these programs. In addition, students entering the 3rd grade in 2006 (Class of 2016) will need to complete two credits of a language other than English in grades 9-12; OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12 prior to graduation.

Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements	
MATHEMATICS - 4 Credits	
Algebra I Algebra II	Geometry One math course in final year of high school
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS - 4 Credits	
English Language Arts 9 English Language Arts 10	English Language Arts 11 English Language Arts 12
SCIENCE - 3 Credits	
Biology Physics or Chemistry	One additional science credit
SOCIAL STUDIES - 3 Credits	
.5 credit in Civics U.S. History and Geography	.5 credit in Economics World History and Geography
PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH - 1 Credit	
VISUAL, PERFORMING AND APPLIED ARTS - 1 Credit	
ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE Course, Learning or Integrated Learning Experience	
LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH - 2 Credits In grades 9-12; OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12 effective for students entering third grade in 2006 (Class 2016)	

All required courses/credits must be aligned with Course/Credit Content Expectations and Guidelines developed by Michigan Department of Education, may be acquired through Career and Technical Education programs, and integrated courses.



Michigan Merit High School Graduation Requirement Overview

Goal: To ensure that Michigan's high school graduates have the necessary skills to succeed either in postsecondary education or in the workplace.

Components:

- Sixteen mandatory credits, which are aligned with recommended college- and work-ready curriculum:
 - Four credits in English language arts.
 - Four credits in math, including Geometry and Algebra I and II. At least one math course must be taken during the student's senior year.
 - Three credits in science, with use of labs, including biology and chemistry or physics.
 - Three credits in social sciences including U.S. History & Geography, World History & Geography, .5 Civics, .5 Economics.
 - One credit in Visual, Performing and Applied Arts.
 - One credit in Physical Education and Health.
 - All high school students must also participate in an online course or learning experience.
 - Effective for the class of 2016, the credit requirement will increase to 18 credits, to include two credits in world languages. Students may receive credit if they have had a similar learning experience in grades K-12.
- Awarding credit is based on proficiency in expectations, not seat time and can be earned prior to a student entering high school or by testing-out.
- Credit may be earned through one or more of the following: alternative course work, humanities course sequences, career and technical education, industrial technology courses, or vocational education.
- Credit can be earned through advanced studies such as accelerated course placement, advanced placement, dual enrollment, or international baccalaureate program or an early college/middle college program.
- Requirement that the department of education develops subject area content expectations and subject area assessments to evaluate whether students have met those expectations.
- Option for a student's parent to request a personal curriculum for the student which is developed with the high school counselor or other designee selected by the high school principal. The personal curriculum is for that *small percentage* of students who seek to exceed the requirements of the MMC or for students with disabilities who need special accommodation and modifications.
- Beginning with students entering 8th grade in 2006 (Class of 2011), schools must give 7th grade students the opportunity to create an educational development plan based on a career pathways program or similar career exploration program. All students must create a plan before entering high school.
- The superintendent of public instruction may designate up to 15 specialty high schools that are exempt from certain requirements of the Michigan Merit High School Graduation Requirements. These specialty schools are eligible for exemptions if the school:
 - Incorporates a significant reading and writing component throughout its curriculum.
 - Uses a specialized, innovative and rigorous curriculum in areas such as performing arts, world language, and extensive use of internships or other learning innovations.
 - Demonstrates the following: mean scores from ACT math and science exams that exceed by 10% the district average; an 85% graduation rate; and enrollment of 75% of graduates into a postsecondary institution.

