

Graduation Requirements for Secondary School

Ontario Secondary School Diploma Requirements

The following requirements must be successfully completed in order to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD):

- ◆ 30 credits including 18 compulsory credits and 12 optional credits*
- ◆ 40 hours of community involvement
- ◆ successful completion of the EQAO Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC)

Compulsory credits

Students must earn the following 18 compulsory credits to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:

- ◆ 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)*
- ◆ 3 credits in Mathematics (1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- ◆ 2 credits in Science
- ◆ 1 credit in Canadian History
- ◆ 1 credit in Canadian Geography
- ◆ 1 credit in the Arts
- ◆ 1 credit in Health and Physical Education
- ◆ 1 credit in French as a Second Language
- ◆ 0.5 credit in Career Studies
- ◆ 0.5 credit in Civics

Plus one credit from each of the following groups:

- ◆ **Group 1:** 1 additional credit in English, or French as a Second Language,** or a Native language, or a Classical or an International language, or Social Sciences and the Humanities, or Canadian and World Studies, or Guidance and Career Education, or Cooperative Education***
- ◆ **Group 2:** 1 additional credit in Health and Physical Education, or the Arts, or Business Studies, or French as a Second Language,** or Cooperative Education***
- ◆ **Group 3:** 1 additional credit in Science (Grade 11 or 12), or Technological Education, or French as a Second Language,** or Computer Studies, or Cooperative Education***

* A maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English Literacy Development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

** In groups 1, 2 and 3, a maximum of 2 credits in French as a Second Language can count as compulsory credits, one from group 1 and one from either group 2 or group 3.

*** A maximum of 2 credits in Cooperative Education can count as compulsory credits.

† The 12 optional credits may include up to 4 credits earned through approved dual credit courses.

Optional Courses

In addition to the compulsory credits, 12 optional credits are required. Elective credits are selected by the student based on individual interests and goals. Parents, counsellors, teachers and administrators can help the student make a wise selection. Students who wish to enrol in a Focus Program or an Online Course should obtain a Supplementary Option Sheet from the Student Services or Guidance Department. The Supplementary Option Sheet must be submitted at the same time as the home school option sheet.

Community Involvement

As part of the diploma requirements, each student must make a positive contribution to the well-being of the community. The community involvement consists of student self-directed activities of at least 40 hours which must be completed before graduation. The activities must occur outside normal instructional hours.

The purpose of the community involvement is to promote community values by:

- ◆ helping students understand how they can make a positive difference in their environment
- ◆ having students demonstrate their integrity
- ◆ having students contribute to their community
- ◆ increasing student awareness of community needs
- ◆ discovering the role students can play in making their communities better places in which to live and work
- ◆ developing a positive self-image and a greater sense of identity in the community
- ◆ providing a possibility for exploring career opportunities

Since September 1999, all students in Ontario have been required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement as part of the secondary school diploma requirements.

Students are eligible to start accumulating community involvement hours in the summer before they enter grade 9. In order to ensure that activities are on the OCDSB list of eligible activities, the student should consult the following websites to ensure that chosen activity conforms to the OCDSB guidelines for suitable and acceptable community involvement:

- ◆ <http://volunteerottawa.ca/>
- ◆ <http://ottawa.ca/en/volunteering-city-ottawa>
- ◆ <https://www.ottawahospital.on.ca/wps/portal/Base/TheHospital/CareersAndVolunteering/Volunteering>

Education Planner

Use the following chart to plan your course selection for obtaining your OSSD:

Subject	Year	1 Grade 9	2 Grade 10	3 Grade 11	4 Grade 12	Additional
1	→	English	English	English	English	
2	→	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics		
3	→	Science	Science			
4	→	Canadian Geography	Canadian History			
5	→	French	Civics/ Career Studies			
6	→	Physical Education *				
7	→	Arts*				
8	→					

* Optional but often recommended in grade 9 (see below)

What do you need to graduate?

Checklist

18 Compulsory Credits

- 4 English*
- 3 Mathematics
- 2 Science
- 1 Canadian Geography
- 1 Canadian History
- 1 Health and Physical Education
- 1 The Arts
- 1 French as a Second Language
- .5 Career Studies
- .5 Civics

1 Credit from each of the following groups:

Group 1

Additional credit in English, or French as a Second Language, or a Native language, or a Classical or an International language, or Social Sciences and the Humanities, or Canadian and World Studies, or Guidance and Career Education, or Cooperative Education

Group 2

Additional credit in Health and Physical Education, or the Arts, or Business Studies, or French as a Second Language, or Cooperative Education

Group 3

Additional credit in Science (Grade 11 or 12), or Technological Education, or French as a Second Language, or Computer Studies, or Cooperative Education

12 Optional Credits

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40 Community Involvement Hours

Successful completion of the provincial literacy requirement OSSLT or OSSLC

Note:

- ◆ A maximum of three credits in ESL or ELD may be counted towards the four compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a grade 12 compulsory English course.
- ◆ A maximum of two credits in Cooperative Education can count as compulsory credits.
- Optional credits may include up to four credits achieved through approved Dual Credit courses.
- In groups 1, 2, and 3, a maximum of 2 credits in French as a Second Language can count as compulsory credits, one from group 1 and one from either group 2 or group 3.