

Selecting Courses for Grade 9

Ontario Secondary School Diploma Requirements

- 30 credits* (17 compulsory, 13 elective)
- 40 hours of community involvement
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Requirement
- 2 eLearning courses completed (opt out available)

The 17 compulsory credits are:

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade, includes NBE3)*
- 3 credits in Mathematics (1 credit in each of grade 9, grade 10 and grade 11 or 12)
- 2 credits in Science
- 1 credit in Canadian History (grade 10)
- 1 credit in Canadian Geography (grade 9)
- 1 credit in The Arts
- 1 credit in Health and Physical Education
- 1 credit in French as a Second Language
- 1 credit in Technological Education (Grade 9 or 10)
- 0.5 credit in Career Studies
- 0.5 credit in Civics

Plus one credit from the following STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) course grouping including:

- Business
- Computer Studies
- Co-operative Education
- Math (in addition to the 3 compulsory math credits required)
- Science (in addition to the 2 compulsory science credits required)
- Technological education (in addition to the 1 compulsory credit required)

Note: All grade 10 math courses starting in the Fall of 2025 will also include a required financial literacy graduation requirement.

Types of Courses in Grades 9

Students and parents/caregivers/guardians can explore secondary course offerings on myBlueprint, our HDSB Individual Pathways Planning tool.

De-streamed Course (1W)	De-streamed courses equip all students with the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind to be successful in academic or applied courses in grade 10. HDSB has de-streamed grade 9 courses to ensure students are able to make informed decisions about their pathway in grade 10. If a grade 9 course is not yet de-streamed, it is offered as an academic course. HDSB Guide to De-Streaming Flyer
Academic Courses (1D)	Academic courses focus on the essential concepts of the discipline plus additional related concepts. Academic courses develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing theoretical, abstract applications of the essential concepts while incorporating practical applications. Academic courses will be phased out as new de-streamed courses are developed.
Locally Developed Courses (1L)	Locally Developed (Essential) Compulsory credit courses are intended for students whose educational needs are not met by the de-streamed curriculum. These courses are offered at our regional HDSB Locally Developed Program sites (CKSS, GEO, MMR, NEL, WOSS.)
Open Courses (1O)	Open courses in Grades 9 and 10 are offered in all subjects other than those offered as Academic, Applied, or Locally Developed. An open course has a set of expectations that is suitable for all students at a given grade level. Designed to provide students with a broad educational base.
Alternative Curriculum (begin with a K)	Alternative curriculum (K-coded) courses are non-credit bearing and begin with a K. These courses are for students in the Community Pathway Program.

* Notes for Compulsory Credits

- 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, the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.
- HDSB is implementing the Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices (NBE3) as the compulsory grade 11 English credit.
- 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.
- Indigenous (Native) Language and Studies Courses may be counted toward some compulsory credits.

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Individual Pathways Planning

All students will navigate their individual pathway based on their skill development, interests, post-secondary and destination goals. Students will work with Guidance Counsellors to develop their individual pathway plan that meets their needs.

Students that wish to make a pathway change at any point in secondary school will work with their Guidance Counsellor to develop an individual pathway plan that includes ensuring their skill development and course prerequisites match their post-secondary pathway plan. Students that wish to make a pathway change for post-secondary study will work with their Guidance Department to ensure they have the skill development and course prerequisites to successfully change pathways.

HDSB Guide to Secondary School

The Halton District School Board's Guide to Secondary School is a comprehensive guide intended for all secondary students. The guide outlines course information, graduation requirements, regional programs, pathways opportunities, and additional learning through initiatives such as eLearning and co-operative education, athletic involvement and co-curricular activities and more. Visit www.hdsb.ca to access the HDSB Guide to Secondary School.

'Other' Graduation Requirements

Outside of the credits required for graduation, students also must complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Requirement, at least 40 Community Involvement Hours, and two eLearning courses (unless an opt out form is submitted). Your high school's Guidance team will inform you about criteria and considerations for these additional requirements so you feel well informed and know how to work toward the completion of each of these graduation requirements.

myBlueprint

Explore the numerous tools with your student on their myBlueprint account or with your own family account at www.myBlueprint.ca/halton

- High School– visually plan courses, track progress toward graduation, and instantly identify post-secondary eligibility for opportunities in every pathway. This is also the tool used for course selection by students
- Post-Secondary – detailed information on apprenticeships, college programs, university programs and workplace sectors across Canada
- Who Am I – 6 unique assessments for self-exploration and discovery (including Learning Styles, Myers-Briggs Personality, Holland Interests, Knowledge, Motivations, and Compatibility), to be matched with occupations and programs
- Occupations– compare comprehensive information on occupations
- Goals – create and track progress towards interactive SMART goals and action plans
- Portfolios – create personal or career portfolios and share it with parents, teachers, or future employers
- Resumes & Cover Letters – record experiences, build a resume, write a cover letter
- Budgets – build a budget to track income and expenses
- Job Search – find real-world job postings that relate to occupations of interest

For Additional Information:

- Visit the **Grade 8-9 Transition** page on www.hdsb.ca
- Visit the **HDSB Guide to Secondary School** on www.hdsb.ca
- Explore opportunities on www.myblueprint.ca/halton for high school courses, post-secondary opportunities, and occupation planning
- Attend the board livestream session and information evenings for grade 8 families at each secondary school
- Meet with your student's grade 7 and 8 teachers to discuss strengths and learning style
- Discuss questions about transition with your elementary school's Student Success teacher, Special Education Resource teacher (SERT), or English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher or secondary school Guidance Counsellors