

EARNING A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

One of a student's short term goals is to earn a high school diploma. This can be accomplished by the completion of a list of required courses and earning a minimum of 100 credits. Many students earn more than 100 credits. This allows students to explore a wider variety of courses and develop skills that may be helpful in the future.

CREDITS

Each high school course is worth a specific number of credits. Higher numbers of credits indicate that more material is covered and more time is spent on the course. Most courses have a 5-credit value or a 3-credit value. Course credits are earned with a final mark of 50% or above.

Trochu Valley School offers high school courses on a semester system. In this system, courses in semester one start in September and end in January. Semester two courses start in February and end in June. Classes are 80 minutes in length for 5 credits and 40 minutes in length for 3 credits.

Plan for a full schedule of courses with at least:

- 42 credits in Grade 10
- 35 – 40 credits in Grade 11
- 30 – 40 credits in Grade 12

COURSES

Of the 100 credits one needs to earn a diploma, 56 will be earned through required core course subjects. These **core** subjects are: English, Social, Math, Science, Physical Education and Career and Life Management. One will be able to choose the courses needed to earn the remaining 44 credits. Although one has considerable freedom in choosing courses in **complementary** subjects, it is important to make these choices carefully so that one gains skills that will be useful when one graduates. If planning to attend a post-secondary institution, one will discover that most institutions require more core courses than are required for a high school diploma. One will have to select these core courses as complementary choices. Each high school course is given a number:

- Courses numbered 10-19 are courses usually taken in grade 10
- Courses numbered 20-29 are courses usually taken in grade 11
- Courses numbered 30-39 are courses usually taken in grade 12

It is usually necessary to successfully complete a lower level course before registering in the course at the next level. For example, students need to complete Social 10 before taking

Social 20. Social 10 is a pre-requisite for Social 20. Select courses by determining which courses you plan to graduate with and work back to their prerequisites.

Some core subjects – English, Social, Math and Science – are designed for different purposes and are available at two or more levels of difficulty.

- Courses numbered **10-1, 20-1, 30-1, and 31** are designed primarily for students planning on entering a university or certain programs in colleges and technical schools.
- Courses numbered **10-2, 20-2, 30-2** are designed primarily for students planning on entering certain programs in colleges, technical schools or getting a job.
- Courses number **10-3** and **20-3** are designed primarily for students planning on getting a job after getting a High School Diploma.
- Courses numbered **10-4, 20-4, 30-4** are designed for students enrolled in Knowledge and Employability program and will receive a certificate.

One needs not to select all courses from the same series. For example, one may choose English 10-1, Math 10-3 and Social 10-2. One may also transfer from one series to another.

In some courses students are required to write **Diploma Examinations**. Marks in these courses are the 70% of the mark given by the teacher and the 30% of the mark received on the diploma examination. Diploma examinations are written in English 30-1 and 30-2, Social 30-1 and 30-2, Mathematics 30-1 and 30-2, Biology 30, Physics 30, Chemistry 30, Science 30 and French 30.

Alberta High School Diploma

The graduation requirements for the Alberta High School Diploma are listed below. The courses listed are the highest level students are required to complete to earn a diploma. These requirements are set to ensure students graduate from high school with a broad education. These requirements are not always the same as those needed to enter post-secondary institutions. For example, Social 30-1 or 30-2 is a diploma requirement but may not be a requirement of the post-secondary institution you are interested in attending. Math 24 fulfills the diploma requirement but may not be enough to fulfill the requirement of the post-secondary institution you are interested in attending. Check with the post-secondary institution for information on requirements.

To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, a student must:

- Earn a minimum of 100 credits
- Complete and meet the standards of the following courses:
 - English 30-1, 30-2 or French 30
 - Social 30-1 or 30-2

- Math 20-1, 20-2 or 20-3
- Science 24 or Biology 20 or Chemistry 20 or Physics 20 (or Science 10 and any other 5 credit science course)
- Complete and meet the standards of the following:
 - Phys Ed 10 (3 credits)
 - Career and Life Management (CALM) – 3 credits
 - 10 credits from career and technology studies
 - CTS or fine arts or second languages
 - 10 credits in any 30 level courses in addition to English 30-1 or 30-2 and Social 30-1 or 30-2

Selecting Courses

Core Courses

Remember that courses in English, Social, Math and Science are offered at several levels. Choosing the highest level you will succeed at is the best way to keep your options open.

However, it is important to look at one's potential realistically. It is frustrating to be struggling in a course that is too difficult. If one is having problems, there are several options. One can get extra help from a teacher or a fellow student. One may consider getting a tutor or may decide to move to a less challenging course series. If doing better than expected, one may want to move to a more challenging course series. Should one decide to move from one series to another, the principal, counselor or teacher can advise you on the best way and time to make the change. Although junior high marks are usually the best indicator of how one will do in high school, it is always possible, with effort, to improve one's marks.

English	English 10-1, 20-1, 30-1	English 30-1 is required for entrance into university
ones	English 10-2, 20-2, 30-2	These courses are the
entrance to		usually required for
colleges		certain programs in
focus on		and technical and trade schools. The courses
		practical English skills like

		writing business correspondence.
Social for institutions.	Social 10-1, 20-1, 30-1	Social 30-1 may be used post-secondary
	Social 10-2, 20-2, 30-2	Entrance to college and vocational programs. Some programs in University accept 30-2.
Math	Math 10C	
	Math 10-1, 20-1, 30-1, 31	Students wanting to enter university will require most of these Math courses.
designed university college and life	Math 10-2, 20-2, 30-2	These courses are to enter into some programs and most vocational programs.
	Math 10-3 and 20-3	These courses deal with skills math.
Science introduction to Physics.	Science 10	This course is an Biology, Chemistry and
intended for specialize attend	Biology 20, 30 Chemistry 20, 30 Physics 20, 30	These courses are students planning to in an area of science and

that

Science 14, 24

post-secondary education.

If science is not an area of strength, this is a route

deals with foundational life skills science.

Career and Life and Life Management (CALM)

Students are required to take CALM at some time during high school. This course provides students with the opportunities to develop and practice the skills required for dealing with a variety of issues and situations, living independently and planning a career. In this course, one learns how to build upon personal strengths and make good decisions.

Physical Education 10

Students experience a variety of activities in order to develop a better understanding of personal fitness and a lifelong interest in leading an active, healthy lifestyle.

These are the core courses needed to earn a diploma. Remember that the Alberta high school program is quite flexible. One can change one's route without too much difficulty and there is enough room to repeat a course if necessary. Courses may also be repeated through summer school.

Complementary Courses

Complementary courses offer a chance to broaden knowledge by studying a variety of subjects. Some complementary courses will help build skills that will help to get and keep a job. Approximately 25 to 35 credits of study in a particular area could provide a basis for getting a job.

Some students have as many as 19 credits left for complementary courses each year. If one needs each of the three sciences to get into a post-secondary institution, one may have less than 5 credits left for complementary courses. One may select from the complementary courses offered at the school or from core courses.

Complementary courses are grouped into the following specialties:

Career and Technology (CTS)

This includes the areas formerly called business education, home economics and industrial education. All these courses emphasize “learning through doing” and include the components of career awareness and career development. CTS includes: agriculture, communication technology, construction technology, cosmetology, design studies, electronics, energy and mineral resources, enterprise and innovation, fabrication studies, family studies, fashion and design, financial management, food studies, forestry, health sciences, information processing, legal studies, living environments, management and marketing studies, mechanics, tourism studies, transporting goods and people, wildlife, and work experience.

Fine Arts

Includes courses in studio arts, art appreciation, drama, choral, general and instrumental music.

Language Arts

Includes courses in English literature, communications, reading and English as a second language.

Second Languages

Includes courses in Blackfoot, Cree, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Spanish, Ukrainian and other languages.

Social Sciences

Includes courses in psychology, sociology, geography, economics, ethics, history, philosophy and world religions.

Special Projects

These projects encourage you to become involved in the selection, planning and organizing of your own program in a specific area of interest that goes beyond the regular curriculum.

Work Experience

These courses allow you to gain practical applications of the knowledge and skills you learn in school. Under the supervision of a teacher, you receive on-the-job training and explore career options in a variety of work placements.