

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program to meet that goal.

Orono High School has adopted a credit-based system of learning consistent with Maine law. Students are expected to show achievement of Maine Learning Results and Guiding Principles as demonstrated by the accumulation of required credits.

The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents prior to the start of their ninth grade school year. The Graduation Requirements will also be included in every edition of the high school student handbook.

The Board has approved the following schedule of minimum requirements for graduation, which includes minimum requirements specified by the State of Maine. The Board is aware that current law and regulations are subject to change.

The Board expects the Superintendent/designee to inform students and parents as soon as practicable of any additional State-imposed standards that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma.

### I. CREDIT-BASED REQUIREMENTS

A. The student must successfully complete the following requirements:

#### **Graduating in the years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026**

Content area & credits required:	MUST include:
English Language Arts (4 credits)	Ninth Grade English & Expository Writing or equivalents (1.5 credits)
Mathematics (4 credits)	Algebra I-A (1 credit) or Algebra I-B (2 credits but only 1 credit counts towards math requirements for graduation), Geometry (1 credit) or equivalents
Social Studies (3 credits)	World Civilizations & Geography or equivalent (1 credit) US Government and Civics or equivalent (1 credit) U.S History or equivalent (1 credit)
Science and Technology (3.5 credits)	Physical Science or equivalent (1 credit) Biology or equivalent (1 credit) Course(s) with a chemistry emphasis (1 credit) Computer Science course or equivalent (.5 credit)
Health (.5 credit)	
Physical Education (1.5 credits)	PE 9 or equivalent (.5 credit)
Visual and Performing Arts (1 credit)	

Electives (4.5 credits)	Courses selected based upon the student’s interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.
<b>TOTAL CREDITS 22</b>	

**Graduating in the years of 2027 and beyond**

Content area & credits required:	MUST include:
English Language Arts (4 credits)	Ninth Grade English & Expository Writing or equivalents (1.5 credits)
Mathematics (4 credits)	Algebra I-A (1 credit) or Algebra I-B (2 credits but only 1 credit counts towards math requirements for graduation), Geometry (1 credit) or equivalents
Social Studies (3 credits)	World Civilizations & Geography or equivalent (1 credit) US Government and Civics or equivalent (1 credit) U.S History or equivalent (1 credit)
Science and Technology (3.5 credits)	Physical Science or equivalent (1 credit) Biology or equivalent(1 credit) Course(s) with a chemistry emphasis (1 credit) Computer Science course or equivalent (.5 credit)
Health (1 credit)	<u>Healthy Bodies &amp; Wellness or equivalent (.5 credit)</u> <u>Healthy Relationships &amp; Identity or equivalent (.5 credit)</u>
Physical Education (1 credits)	<u>PE Explorations or equivalent (.5 credit)</u>
Visual and Performing Arts (1 credit)	
Electives (4.5 credits)	Courses selected based upon the student’s interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.
<b>TOTAL CREDITS 22</b>	

- B. The remaining credits may be selected by the student based on their interest, satisfaction of course prerequisites, and requirements of the field that they plan to enter upon graduation.

**MULTIPLE PATHWAYS FOR EARNING CREDITS**

A student who needs or wishes to meet these requirements through alternative means may earn and apply credits in accordance with the provisions of this section. With approval of the principal these credits may count towards content-specific graduation requirements.

Guidance requirements for students who are enrolled in the CORE Alternative Education program will be set in policy IKFC which supersedes this policy for those students.

Each alternative pathway must provide a quality learning experience comparable in rigor to the school unit’s own educational experience (course) offerings. A student who wishes to meet a credit requirement through an alternative pathway described in this section must develop a Personalized Learning Plan in partnership with their school counselor and have prior written approval from the school counselor and principal. A student

may earn credits through Adult Education provided they have prior written approval from the Director of Adult Education in addition to the School Counselor and Principal.

- A. For each year that a student enrolls at United Technology Center, they may earn up to one credit toward content-specific graduation requirements in addition to two elective credits. Final determination of which content-area credit is earned will be based on the student's choice of program and the school's designation of content-area standards addressed therein.
- B. A student may earn credits through distance learning/virtual courses provided the course is approved in advance by the School Counselor and Principal.
- C. Advanced courses or courses not available at Orono High School may be taken at other secondary schools or at approved postsecondary institutions with the approval of the School Counselor and Principal.
- D. Home schooling courses can be used for credit if the School Counselor and Principal approve it in advance. For such approval to be granted a written plan describing the material to be covered, what documentation would be expected to demonstrate work performed and proficiency, and what assessments would be used would need to be provided to and agreed upon by the School Counselor and Principal. The agreed upon documentation would have to be provided after completion of the course and be found satisfactory by the School Counselor and Principal for credit to be granted.
- E. Students may earn credits at the middle school under policy IKEB

## **STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

For students who have an active Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the requirements of this policy must be met as specified by the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plan.

## **II. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF A DIPLOMA FROM ORONO HIGH SCHOOL**

**This section applies to all students, in all graduation classes.**

### **A. Transfer Students**

Transfer students will be required to meet the same credit requirements as all other students. The Orono High School principal shall determine the progress of the student's prior educational performance towards achieving Maine's Learning Results in a manner consistent with this policy.

### **B. Home-schooled Students**

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Orono High School, the Orono High School Principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation credit requirements. A home-schooled student will be required to meet the credit requirements outlined in this policy in order to receive a Orono High School Diploma.

### **C. Options for Students from Abroad**

Students studying at Orono High School on a J-1 exchange visa may earn a Certificate of Attendance upon successful completion of a full course load (5 or more credits), one being US History. Students from abroad may earn a Orono High School Diploma by:

- Completing comparable curriculum requirements to Orono High School in their native schools during grades 9-11. Attending and completing grade 12 at Orono High School in Orono, Maine while studying on an F-1 student visa.

D. Early Awarding of Diplomas

A student who has met the State's and Board's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma with prior written approval from the school counselor and principal.

E. Extended Study

Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma if they have not reached the age of 20 at the start of the school year. Students eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other resources suitable to young learners. Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan.

F. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must complete all Board requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises. The Principal of the high school may approve alternatives with students as needed.

G. Honors and Awards at Graduation

In order to be eligible for a top-10 honor a student must have attended Orono High School for four semesters. The principal may approve exceptions for extenuating circumstances. All Orono High School students will be eligible for all remaining end-of-year honors, awards, and scholarships.

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