

## ALBERTA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (ENGLISH)

The requirements indicated in this chart are the minimum requirements for a student to attain an Alberta High School Diploma. The requirements for entry into post-secondary institutions and workplaces may require additional and/or specific courses.

100 CREDITS  
including the following:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – 30 LEVEL  
(English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2)

SOCIAL STUDIES – 30 LEVEL  
(Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2)

MATHEMATICS – 20 LEVEL  
(Mathematics 20-1, Mathematics 20-2 or Mathematics 20-3)

SCIENCE – 20 LEVEL <sup>①</sup>  
(Science 20, Science 24, Biology 20, Chemistry 20 or Physics 20)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 10 (3 CREDITS) <sup>②</sup>

CAREER AND LIFE MANAGEMENT (3 CREDITS) <sup>③</sup>

10 CREDITS IN ANY COMBINATION FROM:

- Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses
- Fine Arts courses
- Second Languages <sup>④</sup> courses
- Physical Education 20 and/or 30
- Knowledge and Employability courses
- Registered Apprenticeship Program courses
- Locally developed/acquired and authorized courses in CTS, fine arts, second languages or Knowledge and Employability occupational courses <sup>⑤</sup>

10 CREDITS IN ANY 30-LEVEL COURSE (IN ADDITION TO A 30-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND A 30-LEVEL SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE AS SPECIFIED ABOVE) <sup>⑥</sup>

These courses may include:

- 30-level locally developed/acquired and authorized courses
- Advanced level (3000 series) in Career and Technology Studies courses
- 30-level Work Experience courses <sup>⑦</sup>
- 30-level Knowledge and Employability courses
- 30-level Registered Apprenticeship Program courses
- 30-level Green Certificate Specialization courses
- Special Projects 30

(continued)

- ① The science requirement—Science 20 or 24, Biology 20, Chemistry 20 or Physics 20—may also be met with the 10-credit combination of Science 14 and Science 10.
- ② See information on exemption from the physical education requirement.
- ③ See information on exemption from the CALM requirement.
- ④ Students may earn any number of credits in the study of second languages, but only a maximum of 25 language credits may be used to meet the 100-credit requirement for the Alberta High School Diploma.
- ⑤ Integrated Occupational Program (IOP) occupational courses may be used in place of Knowledge and Employability occupational courses to fulfill this requirement.
- ⑥ 30-level English language arts or 30-level social studies courses from a different course sequence may not be used to meet the 30-level course requirement.
- ⑦ Students may earn a maximum of 30 credits in Work Experience, but only 15 credits may be used to meet the 100-credit requirement for the Alberta High School Diploma.

**Further Notes:**

- For 30-level courses that have a diploma examination, the final course mark consists of a blend of the school-awarded mark (70%) and the diploma examination mark (30%).
- For more information, students in Francophone programs should consult the Alberta High School Diploma Requirements (Francophone).
- Mature students should consult the Mature Students section for applicable requirements.

[https://education.alberta.ca/media/3272731/guide\\_to\\_ed\\_2016.pdf](https://education.alberta.ca/media/3272731/guide_to_ed_2016.pdf)

## **Frequently Asked Questions by International Students**

- Passing grade for a course is 50%. Each course is 125 hours of instruction. Each course passed is worth 5 credits. A student must earn a minimum of 100 credits for the Alberta High School Diploma.
- A student will typically take eight courses in a year. In most Calgary high schools, students take four courses in Fall (September to January) and four courses in Winter (February to June). Summer vacation is in July and August.
- It takes three years for students in Alberta to earn a high school diploma. Some students can get credits transferred for courses completed in their home country if the courses are found to be the same content/hours/etc. A guidance counsellor will determine transfer credits when the student arrives at the school.
- Students learning English can expect that earning a High School Diploma will take longer, as they are learning English AND learning the content of the provincially mandated curriculum. Language acquisition is individual and is based on aptitude and effort. Some students will need extra time to complete the curriculum, especially those starting at the grade 11 and 12 levels.
- Many universities require MORE than the minimum requirements for admission. Please look at admission requirements for the program you are interested in at the university.