

Community Regional Charter School Graduation Requirements

Awarding a high school diploma based on the accumulation of credits earned for passing courses has been a longstanding practice in American high schools, but this system has not ensured that learners meet high academic standards and demonstrate proficiency. Consequently, many graduates leave high school unprepared to succeed in postsecondary education and modern careers.

To ensure that all learners graduate from our schools with the knowledge, skills, and work habits they will need in adult life, Community Regional Charter School has adopted a proficiency-based system of teaching, learning, promotion, and graduation. All learners will need to demonstrate achievement of all cross-curricular and content-area graduation standards before receiving a high school diploma. These graduation requirements will ensure that each learner provides evidence that they have achieved proficiency in expected learning standards, and acquired the knowledge, skills, and work habits that will prepare them for postsecondary education and future careers.

Secondary schools must provide a comprehensive program of study that includes instruction for all learners in career and education development, English language arts, health education and physical education, mathematics, science, social studies, visual and performing arts, and world languages.

Additionally, all learners must complete the following minimum requirements for a high school diploma. These requirements reflect the minimum required by the State in order for a school administrative unit (SAU) to award a high school diploma. All SAUs have the ability, through local policy, to add requirements to these minimums.

State of Maine - §4722. High school diploma standards

1. Minimum instructional requirements. The instructional requirements leading to a high school diploma must include a minimum 4-year program that meets the requirements established by this section and any other instructional requirements established by the commissioner and the school board.

2. Required subjects. Instruction in the following subjects must be provided in separate or integrated study programs, and learners must complete the following minimum requirements for a high school diploma:

A. English--4 years or the equivalent in standards achievement;

- B. Social studies and history, including American history, government, civics and personal finance--2 years or the equivalent in standards achievement;
- C. Mathematics--2 years or the equivalent in standards achievement;

- D. Science, including at least one year of laboratory study--2 years or the equivalent in standards achievement; and
- E. Fine arts, which may include art, music, forensics or drama--one year or the equivalent in standards achievement.
- F. ½ yr Health and 1 yr. Physical Education
- G. Technologically proficient
- H. 8 hours of documented community service for each year attending Overman Academy.

The Guiding Principles also state that each Maine learner must leave school with the skills to be:

1. A clear and effective communicator
2. A self-directed and lifelong learner
3. A creative and practical problem solver
4. A responsible and involved citizen
5. An integrative and informed thinker

3. Implementation of multiple pathways and opportunities. Students may demonstrate achievement of the standards through multiple pathways. Achievement may be demonstrated by evidence documented by course and learning experiences using multiple measures, such as, but not limited to, examinations, quizzes, portfolios, performances, exhibitions, projects and community service.

4. Satisfactory completion. A diploma may be awarded to a secondary school learner who has satisfactorily completed all diploma requirements in accordance with the academic standards of the school administrative unit and this section. All secondary school learners must achieve the content standards of the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established pursuant to section 6209. A child with a disability, as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-B, who satisfies the local diploma requirements in the manner specified by the goals and objectives of the child's individualized education plan must be awarded a high school diploma. Career and technical learners may, consistent with the approval of the commissioner and the local school board, satisfy the requirements of subsection 2 through separate or integrated study within the career and technical school curriculum, including through courses provided pursuant to section 8402 or 8451-A.

5. Advanced study. A learner who has completed all diploma requirements in fewer than 4 years of study may graduate early with parent and administrator permission. The learner needs to have a post graduation plan.

6. Exception. A secondary school learner who has satisfactorily completed the freshman year in an accredited degree-granting institution of higher education or a secondary school learner who has satisfactorily completed the junior and senior years in a dual enrollment career and technical education program formed pursuant to chapter 229 may be eligible to receive a high school diploma from the secondary school the learner last attended, although the learner may not meet the graduation requirements of this Title.

7. Additional Considerations

A. Transfer Students For learners who transfer to Overman Academy from another state or from an educational program that is not required to be aligned with the content standards of the system of Learning Results, Overman Academy Principal shall determine the value of the learner's prior educational experience towards meeting graduation requirements.

B. Home-schooled Students For home-schooled learners wishing to receive a diploma from Overman Academy, the Overman Academy Principal shall determine the value of the learner's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation requirements. A home-schooled learner must have attended Overman Academy for a minimum of one year in order to receive an Overman Academy diploma.

8. Participation in Graduation Ceremony A learner must complete all Board requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Adopted: June 13, 2022