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**School Committee Policy:**

**#631**

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## **Maynard High School Academic Requirements**

I. Maynard High School offers a comprehensive education program. The School Committee has set the following requirements in order to earn a diploma.

A core academic subject is one taught primarily in the classroom, and the maximum amount of time allotted per week or cycle and for which students receive 2 1/2 credits for semester courses and five credits per full year courses. Courses with other time commitments and credit values may be scheduled at the discretion of the principal.

**1. The minimum number of academic courses per semester:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade                    7
- Freshmen                    7
- Sophomore                7
- Junior                        7
- Senior                        7
- Fifth (5th year)        As recommended by the guidance staff and approved by the principal.

**2. Course and Promotion Requirements Grade 8:**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade students shall take the following courses:

- English (Full year)
- World History (Full Year)
- Math (Full year)
- Earth Science (Full Year)
- World Language (Full Year)
- Exploration (4 different classes, each 1 marking period in duration)
- Topics Course (4 different core academic classes, each 1 marking period in duration. Students may alternatively be enrolled in Band, Mentoring, or Study Skills if approved by their guidance counselor.

To be promoted to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade a student must pass 3 or more of their 5 core classes (English, world history, math, earth science, world language) otherwise a summer school course approved by the principal must be satisfactorily completed.

3. **Promotion Requirements Grades 9-12:**

- 25 credits to become a sophomore
- 50 credits to become a junior
- 75 credits to become a senior

4. **Graduation Requirements:**

100 credits for academic majors  
2 credits from physical education  
8 credits from other areas

*Total of 110 credits to graduate, at least 20 credits during Senior year.*

5. **Specific Course Requirements Are As Follows:**

<b>MCAS</b>	<b>As prescribed by the Department of Elementary &amp; Secondary Education (DESE)</b>
<b>English</b>	Pass four years including one year each of Freshman English, Sophomore English, Junior English and Senior English
<b>Mathematics</b>	Pass three years
<b>Science</b>	Pass three years of science or approved engineering classes. Recommended to be fulfilled within the first three years.
<b>Social Studies</b>	Pass three years of social studies including one year of United States history.
<b>Physical Education</b>	Pass two credits of physical education prior to graduation.
<b>Senior Capstone</b>	<b>Completion of a full year course in Senior Project, Mentoring, or Digital Portfolio</b>

II. Graduation diplomas from Maynard High School shall be based on learning achievement rather than on the amount of time students spend in attendance. A student may be graduated from Maynard High School after having earned 110 credits, with at least 20 credits in the Senior year, by successfully completing a sequence of courses which meets the requirements set forth in this policy. The number of credits awarded upon completion of a specific course may be reduced for the attendance reasons set forth in the "Maynard High School Student Handbook".

1. **Exchange or Transfer of Students**

Upon entry into Maynard High School, the academic achievements of a student who transferring into Maynard High School will be assessed by a guidance counselor. The Principal's determination will be final and noted in the student record regarding which Maynard High School courses and how many credits the student must complete to become eligible for a diploma.

2. **Academic Deficiencies**

Students who, because of academic deficiencies, cannot graduate with their class, will be notified in writing by certified mail the summer preceding their scheduled graduation year. At this time, those students and their parents will receive a schedule of classes for the coming year. Necessary adjustment of the student's schedule will be made only at the beginning of each semester and acknowledged in writing. Specific graduation requirements to be met by the student, and a timetable for possible graduation will be included in the letter of notification to students and parents.

### **3. Requirements for Early Graduation**

Any student may embark on an accelerated program which would result in the earning of all required credits in fewer than four years if the following criteria have been met:

1. Recommendation from Guidance Counselor and Principal. The recommendations shall contain the reasons for special consideration.
2. Written parental permission.
3. Approval of the Superintendent:
  - a. At the end of the sophomore year for students who plan to graduate at the end of their Junior year; OR
  - b. Prior to the beginning of the Senior year for students who plan to graduate at the end of the first semester of their Senior year.
4. MCAS: As prescribed by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE)

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Current Version: 5/28/15

Earlier Versions: 5/09, 3/00, 1/95, 9/84, 5/82, 9/80, 2/79, 7/77, 5/76, 5/73

Cross References: MHS Student Handbook and Program of Studies

Legal References: MGL 71:4

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