

**WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
West Bloomfield, Michigan

STUDENTS

Proposed revision, policy 5127

Oakland Early College

POLICY dated: May 11, 2009

Oakland Early College (OEC) is an Early College High School representing an ongoing partnership between the West Bloomfield School District and Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus. OEC students (grades 9-13) attend high school on OCC's campus, and engage in an exciting college-preparatory curriculum taught by teachers from award-winning West Bloomfield Public Schools. A core element of OEC is dual enrollment in coursework at OCC. Students graduate with a high school diploma, innovative educational and professional experiences, and up to 60 transferable college credits or an Associate Degree in the field of their choice.

Policy submitted:

Rules and Regulations:

Graduation requirements shall be as follows:

Mandatory Testing

In order to satisfy the requirements for graduation, every student must take all state-mandated tests at the grade level mandated unless excluded under the guidelines established by the Michigan State Department of Education. However, a student will not be denied graduation on this basis if the student was not enrolled in the West Bloomfield School District when the test was offered. Further, special exceptions may be granted by the superintendent upon a showing of extraordinary circumstances.

**Core high school credit requirements**

Summary of minimum requirements

- 4 Math, including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and a senior-level math course taken at the college;
- 4 ELA, including one taken at the college;
- 3 Science, including Biology and either Chemistry or Physics;
- 3 Social Studies, including .5 Civics, .5 Economics, U.S. History, and World History
- .5 Physical Education
- .5 Health Education
- 1 Arts
- 2 World Language
- 2.5 Life or Academic Skills (prorated)

- 2 Capstone/Related Experiences
- 1 Online Learning Experience (minimum 16 hours)
- 30 college credits

As noted below, college coursework can be taken to meet high school graduation requirements.

### Specific requirements

Consistent with the Michigan Department of Education's Michigan Merit Curriculum, a core transcript consisting of the following coursework, or their equivalencies (see below), is required of all students at Oakland Early College. These core credit requirements are in addition to college and related requirements described below.

#### *Mathematics:*

Students must demonstrate proficiency, and complete four credits of mathematics, in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II; and must successfully complete an approved, transferable college math course, to be completed in the student's fourth or fifth year.

#### *English Language Arts:*

Students must demonstrate proficiency, and complete four credits of ELA instruction, in ELA 9, ELA 10, ELA 11, or equivalent coursework, and either ELA 12 or two semesters of approved college English courses (such as English 1510 and 1520), as deemed administratively appropriate by the Head of School or designee.

#### *Science:*

Students must demonstrate proficiency, and complete three credits of science instruction, including a course in Biology, and a course in either Physics or Chemistry, at the high school level. A college course may be substituted for one of the required high school courses, as deemed administratively appropriate by the Head of School or designee. Students must successfully complete at least one transferable college course in science prior to graduating.

#### *Social studies:*

Students must demonstrate proficiency, and complete three credits of social studies instruction, including .5 credit in Civics, .5 credit in Economics, 1.0 credit in American History and Geography, and 1.0 credit in World History and Geography. A college-level course covering equivalent topics may be substituted for any of the above courses with administrative approval.

#### *Physical education and health:*

Students must successfully complete one course in physical education for a minimum of .5 high school credits, and one course in a health-related area for a minimum of .5 high school credits, or equivalent courses at the college level as deemed administratively appropriate.

*Visual, performing and applied arts:*

Students must complete 1 credit in visual, performing, or applied arts, or an equivalent course at the college level, as deemed administratively appropriate. Students must successfully complete at least one course in visual, performing, or applied arts at the college level.

*Online learning experience:*

An online course, or an online experience that is integrated into regular coursework comprising a minimum of 16 hours of online learning-related activities, must be taken by all students at the high school or college prior to graduation.

*World language:*

Proficiency to level two in a world language at the college level, or proficiency to level one in two different world languages at the college level, is required of all students, for a total of 2 high school credits.

Minimum college coursework requirements

*A minimum of 30 college credits towards a college degree program shall be required for graduation from OEC.*

College coursework must be approved at the high school and college levels to be counted towards graduation requirements. Credits taken at the student's expense during Summer II may be counted towards high school graduation requirements pending administrative approval.

Students must be in good standing at both OEC and OCC to be granted a diploma.

Successful completion of college coursework will demonstrate proficiency at the high school level for the purposes of granting high school credit. Translation of college credits to high school credits will be determined on a course-by-course basis by the Head of School or designee.

Other requirements

Students are required to earn a minimum of .5 high school credits in Life and Academic Skills courses at the high school level (including Focus, approved research project, or internship, or similar coursework), *for each year in which they are eligible to be enrolled in OEC*, beginning with their first semester of enrollment. Students enrolling at OEC mid-year shall have their Life and Academic Skills course requirements pro-rated appropriately.

Additionally, students must take at least one approved Life and Academic Skills course (such as Orientation to College, Career Counseling, or Academic Support Center courses) at the college prior to graduation. Qualifying courses shall be approved by the Head of School or their designee.

With administrative approval, a college Life and Academic Skills course may be substituted for a high school Life and Academic Skills course.

Students must enroll in at least one high school course each semester they are enrolled at OEC.

Additionally, students must fulfill at least TWO of the following requirements prior to graduation:

- Completion of an approved Capstone Activity during grade 13. (Capstone Activities may include successful completion of a seminar course; an approved internship, externship or co-op experience; an approved study abroad or travel-based program; an approved service learning or research project; or other approved academic and/or professional activities); or
- Completion of a career and/or professional portfolio, and successful presentation of the portfolio, including an exit interview; or
- Proficiency to Levels 1 and 2 on the state proficiency exam in all content areas.

#### High school placement

Placement into high school courses may be determined by placement exams as appropriate, as determined by the Head of School or designee.

#### Credit granted from other institutions

Online and/or correspondence-based high school courses taken through accredited entities authorized by the Head of School or designee shall be accepted for credit, provided the student has successfully passed the course, and earned a score of 75% or higher on OEC's credit assessment exam, as appropriate.

Online and/or correspondence-based high school courses taken through unauthorized entities shall be accepted for credit, provided the student has passed the course, and earned a score of 90% or higher on OEC's credit assessment exam, as appropriate.

#### Credit structure

Because OEC follows a unique calendar modeled off the college calendar, the following credit structure shall be in place, unless otherwise noted, for high school courses:

##### *When on a high school trimester:*

Year long high school courses shall be worth 1.0 credits. For the purpose of transfer and translation, students earn credit in the following fashion: 0.4 credits earned during Fall trimester, 0.4 credits earned during Winter trimester, 0.2 credits earned during Summer I trimester.

Trimester-long high school courses shall be worth 0.4 credits, if taken during Fall or Winter trimester. Trimester-long high school courses taken during Summer I shall count for 0.2 credits unless otherwise noted in the course schedule or syllabus.

Focus courses, and other Life and Academic Skills courses, shall be counted as 0.5 credits for a full-year course, unless otherwise noted. For the purpose of transfer and translation, students earn credit in the following fashion: 0.2 earned during Fall trimester, 0.2 earned during Winter trimester, 0.1 earned during Summer I trimester.

With administrative approval, passing grades in trimester-long college courses worth three or more credits, and/or representing appropriate proficiency in that subject area, may be counted as a full high school credit.

*When on a high school semester:*

Year long high school courses shall be worth 1.0 credits. For the purpose of transfer and translation, students earn credit in the following fashion: 0.5 credits earned during Fall trimester, 0.5 credits earned during Winter trimester.

Trimester-long high school courses shall be worth 0.5 credits, unless otherwise noted in the course schedule or syllabus.

Focus courses, and other Life and Academic Skills courses, shall be counted as 0.5 credits for a full-year course, unless otherwise noted. For the purpose of transfer and translation, students earn credit in the following fashion: 0.25 earned during Fall trimester and 0.25 earned during Winter trimester.

With administrative approval, passing grades in trimester-long college courses worth three or more credits, and/or representing appropriate proficiency in that subject area, may be counted as a full high school credit.

#### Determination of Credit and Grades for High School

In accordance with SB 1427, 2006, PA 623, students must demonstrate competency in the High School Content Expectations to earn credit. Competency must be based in part, according to State law, on an assessment of the content expectations. Minimally, assessments developed as a part of the Michigan Department of Education's Secondary Credit Assessment System (SCAS) will be used to determine the granting of credit. The administration may add locally developed assessment items. The same assessment will be used to grant credit for courses included in the Michigan Merit Curriculum, regardless of the district's course title.

Students who meet a threshold of 90% on the assessment for a high school course will be granted credit for the course whether or not they sit for the course and whether or not they earn a "passing" grade in the course, including those who meet the threshold by testing out.

Students who meet a threshold of 90% on the assessment for a high school course and who sit for the course, will be granted credit and their transcripts will document the grade earned in the course.

Students who sit for a high school course and receive a failing grade or "F" in the course, must pass the assessment at a threshold of at least 90% to be granted credit. The students' transcript will reflect the grade earned.

Students who sit for a high school course and earn a passing grade of “D” or higher, must pass the assessment at a threshold of at least 60% to be granted credit.

If a student passes a high school course but fails the course’s assessment, he or she can re-take the assessment to earn credit. The students’ transcript will reflect the grade earned.

Course grades can only be changed by re-taking the course, or by teacher discretion. In the event a course is retaken, the new grade shall be reflected in the student’s grade point average, and the previous grade shall be denoted an R.

### Exceptions

The Superintendent, Head of School, or designee, can make modifications of requirements for a student in compliance with the State law regarding Personal Curriculum Modification Plans.

Parents or legal guardians must request a Personal Curriculum Modification Plan in accordance with State law.

### Records

It shall be the responsibility of the Administration to maintain a record system that will adequately provide the information necessary to assure that this policy is enforced.

It is the policy of the West Bloomfield School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, religion, marital status, disability or sexual orientation, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in employment or any of its programs or activities.