

POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

This policy establishes the requirements for student enrollment in post-secondary courses taken before high school graduation.

Student Eligibility Requirements

A student must meet the following criteria prior to enrolling in a post-secondary course:

- A. Have a minimum of a “B” (or 3.0) average in his/her courses overall, unless the eligible institution has waived the minimum grade/grade point requirement;
- B. Meet the course admission standards of the eligible institution;
- C. Provide evidence of parent/guardian approval for taking the course; and
- D. Receive a recommendation and approval to take a post-secondary course or courses from the school administration and a guidance counselor.

In general, a student may take no more than one course per semester and two courses per academic year.

Exception to Eligibility Requirements

A student enrolled in grade 11 or 12 who does not meet the “B” (or 3.0) average in his/her courses overall is eligible to take a post-secondary course provided that he/she:

- A. Has been assessed and received a recommendation to take the course from the school administration; and
- B. Has been approved for participation in the course by an eligible institution.

Eligible Institutions

Students may take courses at eligible post-secondary institutions within Maine, which include the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, and Maine Maritime Academy. Students may take courses offered through the DOE Distance Learning Network or the internet if such participation is approved by the post-secondary institution and the administration of MSAD 55.

Students may also be allowed to take courses at private colleges or other institutions, including courses offered through the DOE Distance Learning Network or the internet. Any such requests shall be considered on a case-by-case basis to the extent that funds are available and the requirements of this policy are met.

Awarding of Credits

The eligible institution shall grant full credit to any student who successfully completes a course.

High school graduation credit for a course taken under this policy shall be awarded as follows:

- A. The course must meet for a minimum of one semester, or an equivalent number of credit hours.
- B. The course must meet any applicable Learning Results Standards.
- C. Attendance must satisfy the instructor's requirements.
- D. If the the student receives a passing grade, the student shall receive one high school credit.
- E. The weight assigned to grades received in post-secondary courses approved pursuant to this policy shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal and the guidance counselor. There shall be no presumption that grades in approved courses shall receive weight simply because they are offered by a post-secondary institution.

Financial Assistance

The Maine Department of Education shall pay applicable tuition costs (up to the limits of legislative appropriation) for any student enrolled in a course under this policy if the eligible institution requires tuition payment. The student and his/her parent/guardian are responsible for paying for all textbooks, course fees, and transportation costs.

MSAD 55 Reporting Requirements

The Superintendent shall ensure that information concerning post-secondary enrollment options is made available to parents and students.

The Superintendent shall provide an annual report to the Board regarding the number of students taking courses at post-secondary institutions and the courses taken.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 4771 et seq.

Adopted: November 3, 1999

Revised: January 6, 2016