

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The awarding of a Hampden Academy diploma by this district shall be based on a high standard of academic achievement. Although individual students and their parents may pursue special interests by making certain course selections, a core of knowledge is considered essential for the purpose of attaining a comprehensive education. This core of knowledge will be incorporated in the basic requirements for graduation from Hampden Academy.

Students will be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies and pre- and post-graduation activities only if they have met all requirements for graduation.

The following information shows the evolving graduation requirements

Priority Standards

Beginning with any diploma awarded on or after January 1, 2020, students must demonstrate proficiency in the guiding principles and four core areas of Maine state standards in order to graduate. In addition, all students must demonstrate proficiency in meeting each Hampden Academy priority standard in all content areas of Maine state standards. **All students must meet required proficiency in the priority standards of World Languages but do not need to “earn” any credits.**

Educational Experience

In addition to the credit requirements, beginning January 1, 2020, students must participate in educational experiences relating to English language arts, mathematics, and science and technology in each year of the student’s secondary schooling.

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

22 credits are needed for graduation from Hampden Academy. Details of the required courses and a recommended sequence of courses through a variety of “pathways” can be found in the Program of Studies. Of those 22 credits, students must complete the following:

English – 4 credits	Physical Education – 1 credit
Math – 3 credits	Health - .5 credit
Science – 2 credits	Family Life - .5 credit
Social Studies – 3 credits	Academic Advisory – 1 credit
Fine Arts – 1 credit	

Graduation requirements for students who are eligible for special education services are based upon their Individual Education Plans. Transcripts of students who earn a diploma based upon modified expectations will note that. (Office of Civil Rights, 2008).

Any other exemption to the above required credits must be in compliance with Board policy.

Transfer Students: For a student who transfers to Hampden Academy from another educational program the Hampden Academy principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting the credit and Maine state standards requirements.

Early Awarding of Diplomas: A student who has met the diploma requirements in fewer than four years of Hampden Academy may be awarded a diploma in accordance with Board policy/regulation.

Extended Study: Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma if they have not reached the age of 20 at the start of the school year (defined as July 1 of the school year). Students eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other suitable resources. Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan.

Certificate of Completion:

1. Students who attend school, are 18 – 20 years old, and have met the goals and objectives of their Individual Education Plans, but not the graduation requirements, will be eligible for a "Certificate of Attendance".

2. Students who participate in at least four years of high school but do not meet the above credit and standards requirements may be awarded a "Certificate of Attendance".

Delayed Awarding of Diplomas: At the Superintendent's discretion, a student who leaves Hampden Academy to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education may, upon satisfactory completion of the freshman year, be awarded a Hampden Academy diploma. Students who wish to receive a Hampden Academy diploma in this manner must notify the Hampden Academy principal or Superintendent in ample time for evaluation of the request.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop regulations to implement this policy.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722 Ch. 127 § 7 (Maine Department of Education Rules)

Maine Regional School Unit No. 22, Hampden, Maine

Adopted: 3/7/84

Amended: 2/90, 2/15/95, 4/25/01, 12/17/03, 10/20/04, 11/02/05, 9/06/06, 10/28/08, 2/6/13, 2/26/14, 5/5/15, 8/9/16

Cross reference: IKFA - Early Graduation,
 ILA - Testing and Assessment of Students,
 ILA - Local Assessment System,
 IMBB - Exemption from Required Instruction