

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.--~~

Courses required for graduation in the four core areas are:

Social Studies

- World History
- US History
- Economics
- MGP

English Language Arts

- English 9A
- English 9B
- Interpersonal Communication
- Expository Writing

Science

- Science 9
- Biology

Math

*All students must take, at a minimum three years of math while at Hampden Academy. The three year specific course sequence shall be based on individual student achievement, the progressive math curriculum and individual student post high school plans.

~~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. Additional details of the required courses and a recommended sequence of courses through a variety of “pathways” can be found in the Program of Studies. **Every course has designated priority standards. Although the scoring standards will occur, those scores will not affect graduation status.** 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	

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 Attendance:

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)
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794) § 504, and its implementing regulation (34 C.F.R. Part 104)
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12131 et seq.) Title II, and its implementing regulation (28 C.F.R. Part 35)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.), and its implementing regulation (34 C.F.R. Part 300)
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. §1232g), and its implementing regulation (34 C.F.R. Part 99).

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, 5/3/17, _____

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