

MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
Milford, DE 19963

POLICY

6306

SENIOR OPTIONS

The high school shall offer a formal program of educational senior options for academic credit. The purpose of the program will be to further the student's education in a career area, to demonstrate and extend career pathway competencies and/or to provide a service to the community. The program will be structured to meet the individual career goals of the student. The intent of the program is to extend the education of the student. Students must apply for acceptance into the program by June 1 of their junior year. The school will provide a guidebook and assistance by the guidance counselors to complete a formal application to be submitted to the principal, who will approve or disapprove all applications, based upon the program criteria and notify students and their parents by July 1. The Milford School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in educational programs, services or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disabilities, marital status, genetic information or Veteran Status. If any person has a complaint alleging any action which is prohibited by this policy, they should contact the Title IX Coordinator or the District 504 and ADA Coordinator, 906 Lakeview Avenue, Milford, Delaware 19963. Telephone (302) 422-1600.

Criteria for acceptance into the program will include:

- The completion or currently enrolled in all credit requirements for graduation
- No more than 12 days of absences during the junior year (excluding non-chargeable absences)
- Successful completion, or having scheduled for completion in the senior year, the requirements the student's chosen Career Pathway
- A grade point average of 2.5 or higher to enroll in college courses
- Less than 10 demerits by the end of the junior year
- If the student has not met the standard on any state test required for graduation, remediation classes or any other required academic work must be completed or in progress (unless the student is not seeking a state diploma)
- All students must be enrolled in senior options programs for academic credit.

Program criteria include:

- The intent of the program is to extend the career education of the student, but not to provide release time for students to work during the school day, with the exception of formal coop programs.
- This career-oriented program will be individualized.
- It may or may not be during the school day and may or may not be off campus, depending upon the individual circumstances of the senior option and the student's needs.
- All senior option programs must be set up to meet the standards for academic credit if they are during the school day (released time).

Upon approval, the guidance counselor and student will complete a written contract to be signed by the student, parent, principal and any involved community agency where the student will study or perform services. Administrative regulations governing the program will be contained in a guidebook that each senior student must follow to apply and shall include the criteria for acceptance and successfully completing the program for academic credit.

Senior options will include:

1. **College courses** – Students may be released from one high school class for each college course scheduled.
2. **Volunteer service** – The focus of this option is the benefit of others or the community agency. The benefit to the student is the satisfaction of helping others for the sake of doing so. Academic credit will be granted based on acceptable reporting by the student and a minimum of 90 hours per credit. Student may be released from one class per credit of volunteer service.
3. **Internships** – The focus of this option is experiencing the workplace in a career pathway area. While the student may provide some benefit to the agency, the purpose of this option is the career experience for the student, enabling him/her to practice and extend skills learned in the career pathway of choice. Academic credit will be granted based on acceptable reporting by the student and a minimum of 90 hours per credit. Students may be released from one class per credit of internship.
4. **Cooperative work experience** – This option is similar to an internship; however, students will be released for a half-day to work, which may be for pay. Students must have completed their three sequenced pathway courses and be released by the co-op approval process.
5. **Senior project** – This option is a more traditional independent study for seniors who wish to study a special problem, topic or extend their knowledge in their Career pathway. The project must be under the direction of one of the teachers in the student's Career pathway and must be specifically defined in writing to be approved.

ADOPTED: 1/25/99; 9/28/09

REVISED: 11/28/11