

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Diploma Options. Students may choose between two diploma tracks available at Thompson Falls High School. Students must earn a minimum total of twenty-two (22) credits for a General Diploma and twenty-four (24) credits for a College Prep Diploma. The requirements for each are listed below:

GENERAL DIPLOMA	CREDITS	COURSES SATISFYING REQUIRED CREDITS
English	4.0	English I, English II, English III, English IV 0.5, English Elective 0.5
Social Studies	2.0	9 th /10 th – World History, 11 th – U.S. History, 12 th – Government 0.5, SS Elective 0.5
Mathematics	2.0	Two math courses: Algebra I & Geometry Recommended
Science	2.0	Physical Science and Biology
Health & Fitness	1.0	9 th – Health & Fitness, 10 th – Health & Fitness; 0.5 each year
Fine Arts	1.0	Art or Music
Career & Technical Education	1.0	Business, Industrial Arts or Medical: Computer Apps. Recommended
Electives	9.0	Foreign language and/or additional courses from areas where requirements have been fulfilled.
Total	22.0	

COLLEGE PREP DIPLOMA	CREDITS	COURSES SATISFYING REQUIRED CREDITS
English	4.0	English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12 0.5, English Elective 0.5
Social Studies	3.0	9 th /10 th – World History, 11 th – U.S. History, 12 th – Government 0.5, SS Elective 0.5
Mathematics	3.0	Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
Science	3.0	Physical Science, Biology, and 1.0 in another lab science course
Health & Fitness	2.0	9 th /10 th – Health & Fitness
Fine Arts	1.0	Art or Music
Career & Technical Education	1.0	Computer Apps. 0.5 and Business, Industrial Arts or Medical 0.5
Electives	7.0	Foreign language and/or additional courses from areas where requirements have been fulfilled.
Total	24.0	

- ✓ Recommend 2 years of the same Foreign Language, a course beyond Algebra II, and an additional one-half year of Social Studies
- ✓ Students who are considering an out of state four-year college are required to take 2 years of the same Foreign Language.
- ✓ No more than 1.0 credit of Teacher Aide (.25 credit each) may apply towards graduation.
- ✓ Students must acquire 0.5 credit of Economics or Financial Literacy within the 2 credits of Social Studies, the 2 credits of Mathematics, or the 1 credit of Vocational/Technical education (Economics, Personal Finance, or Consumer Math).

Students earning a College Prep Diploma will meet the Montana University System College Preparatory Core requirements for students entering a four-year campus. Be sure to check the admissions requirements for any colleges in which you are interested. Students must complete the Montana Rigorous Core requirements to be eligible for a Montana University System Honor Scholarship. Please visit with the school counselor about these requirements. More information is available online at <http://mus.edu>. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be selected from among the College Prep graduates.

Montana University System Graduation Requirements

MSU-Bozeman & MSU-Billings 22 ACT or 1540 SAT or 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or rank in the top half of graduating class and complete required college prep courses.	UM-Missoula & MT Tech of the University of Montana 22 ACT or 1540 SAT or 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or rank in the top half of graduating class and complete required college prep courses.
MSU-Northern 20 ACT or 1440 SAT (4-year programs) or 960 SAT (2-year programs) or 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or rank in the top half of graduating class and complete required college prep courses.	UM-Western Montana College 20 ACT or 1440 SAT (4-year programs) or 960 SAT (2-year programs) or 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or rank in the top half of graduating class and complete required college prep courses.
Montana Community Colleges: Dawson Community, Flathead Valley Community, Miles Community High school transcript or GED certification; College placement scores (Compass, Asset or ACT scores for general placement).	Montana Colleges of Technology: UM Helena COT, UMT Missoula COT, MT Tech COT, MSU-Billings COT, MSU-Great Falls COT, Gallatin College Graduate from high school, present high school transcript or GED certification; College placement scores (Compass, Asset or ACT scores for general placement).

Montana University System Core Requirements*

Course	Core	Years
English	Content of courses should have emphasis upon the development of written and oral communication skills and literature.	4
Social Studies	The courses shall include Global Studies (such as World History, World Geography); American History; and Government, Economics, Indian History or other third year courses.	3
Mathematics	Courses shall include Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II (or the sequential content equivalent of these courses). Students are encouraged to take a math course in their senior year.	3
Science	One year must be Earth or Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics; the other year can be one of those sciences approved college preparatory laboratory science.	2 of laboratory science
Electives	Two years chosen from the following: world language (preferably two years), computer science, visual and performing arts, or vocational education units.	2

*Please Note: Admissions requirements vary from college to college, so be advised that the standards listed above are general admission guidelines. Please see the Montana University System website at <http://mus.montana.edu/admissions.htm> for college-specific admissions information.

Montana University System Rigorous Core Requirements

Course	Core	Years
English	Written and oral communication skills, literature, and a designated college-prep composition or research-writing course	4
Social Studies	Global Studies (such as World History, World Geography); American History; and Government, Economics, Indian History or other third year courses. Recommendation: ½ year of other courses such as Psychology, Humanities	3
Mathematics	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (or the sequential content equivalent) and a course beyond Algebra II (such as Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Computer Math, or course equivalent)	4
Science	Full year each: General, Physical or Earth Science; Biology; Chemistry or Physics	3
Electives	Recommendation: Two years of second language, music, fine arts, speech/debate, career and technical education (such as Information Technology, Computer Science)	3

STUDENT TRANSCRIPT EVALUATION

COLLEGE PREP DIPLOMA (24 credits)

Communication Arts: (4 credits)

English 9 _____

English 10 _____

English 11 _____

English 12 _____

Social Studies: (3 credits)

World History (Fr) _____

US History (Jr) _____

American Government (Sr, .5 cr.) _____

Social Studies Elective (.5 cr.) _____

Science: (3 credits)

Physical Science _____

Biology I _____

Science _____

Mathematics: (3 credits)

Algebra I _____

Geometry _____

Algebra II _____

Health Enhancement: (2 credits)

H.E. 1/2 _____

H.E. 3/4 _____

Fine Arts: (1 credit)

Class _____

Class _____

Vocational Education: (1 credit)

Computer I (.5 cr) _____

Class _____

Electives: (7 credits)

Foreign Language 1.0 (Recommended) _____

Foreign Language 1.0 (Recommended) _____

Classes _____

Classes _____

Classes _____

Classes _____

Classes _____

* No more than 1.0 credit of Teacher Aide (.25 each) may apply towards graduation

**0.5 credit of Economics or Financial Literacy within the 2 credits of Social Studies, the 2 credits of Mathematics, or the 1 credit of Vocational/technical education is required. (Economics, Personal Finance, or Consumer Math will meet this requirement.)*

POST HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

University/College

- **Bachelor's Degree** (4-5 years)
- **Advanced Degree** (Master's 1-3 years, or Doctorate 4-8 years beyond a Bachelor's Degree)

Technical, Trade or Community College

- **Certificate Programs** (six months to one-year programs)

Training programs in areas such as cosmetology, welding, dental assistant, EMT/Paramedic, real estate, auto body technology, heavy equipment operation, bookkeeping, medical transcription, etc.

- **Associate of Arts or Science Degree** (2-year program)

General studies degree that is transferable to colleges or universities depending on entrance requirements.

- **Associate of Applied Science Degree** (2-year program)

This degree includes education training programs for specific careers, such as welding technology, diesel mechanics, nursing, medical assisting, computer information systems, etc.

Job Corps

Job Corps is a career technical training and education program for students ages 16 through 24 who meet income requirements. It offers hands-on training in more than 100 career technical areas, including welding, automobile technician, carpentry, office administration, clinical media assistant, culinary arts, computer technician and many more. All career technical training areas are aligned with industry certifications and are designed to meet the requirements of today's careers at no cost! Job Corps helps high school graduates launch their careers. For more information, go to <http://recruiting.jobcorps.gov>

Military

Students with a high school diploma may enlist in a branch of the military (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, or Coast Guard), where training is available for many jobs. In addition, part-time activity in the military is available through the Reserves and National Guard. For more information, go to www.military.com

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)

This is a college-based, officer commissioning program designed as a college elective that focuses on leadership development, problem solving, strategic planning and professional ethics. Merit-based scholarships are available to ROTC students – often they cover a significant portion of college tuition.

Service Academies

These programs are considered to be among the best deals in higher education in that tuition, books, room and board, medical and dental expenses are paid in full for the four years a student is enrolled. Students graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree and a leadership job as a junior officer in the military. Competition for these programs is fierce, and graduates are obligated to serve in the military for a minimum of five years.

Apprenticeship

An apprenticeship is a training program where you can “earn while you learn” – earning money while you learn a skilled trade or craft from seasoned and skilled workers. See the Montana Department of Labor and Industry website at <http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/apprenticeship/default.asp> for more information or call 406.444.3998.

AmeriCorps

This is a network of local, state and national service programs that serves more than 2,000 nonprofits, public agencies and faith-based organizations. Full-time members of AmeriCorps who complete their service earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$4,725 to pay for college, graduate school or to pay back qualified student loans. Students may serve in a variety of areas including tutoring, improving health services, helping communities respond to disasters and more. To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit www.americorps.org.

Work Full-Time

It is strongly suggested that employment be secured prior to graduation.