

Utica Community Schools
Michigan Merit Graduation Requirements

Subject Area	Description	Personal Curriculum Grades 10 – 12	Modifications
English Language Arts 4.0 credits	<p>Aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the Department and approved by the State Board of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English 9 or Honors English 9 • English 10 or Honors English 10 • English 11 or AP English Language & Composition • English 12 or AP English Literature & Composition • EL English Level 1, 2, 3, or 4 	No Option for Personal Curriculum	AP Seminar and/or AP Research may replace the English 11 or English 12 requirement if AP Seminar and/or AP Research is taught by an English Certified teacher.
Mathematics 4.0 credits	<p>Aligned with subject area content, expectations developed by the Department and approved by the State Board of Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Algebra I •Geometry •Algebra II •One additional math or math-related credit in the final year of high school <p><i>See Note 7 Below</i></p>	<p>Personal Curriculum Math Options <i>(see below)</i></p> <p>Note: Must align with Educational Development Plan</p>	No Modification
Science 3.0 credits	<p>Aligned with subject area content, expectations developed by the Department and approved by the State Board of Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Biology •Chemistry or Physics •1 additional Science credit 	No Option for Personal Curriculum	No Modification
Social Studies 3.0 credits	<p>Aligned with subject area content, expectations developed by the Department and approved by the State Board of Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •.5 Civics •.5 Economics •U.S. History and Geography •World History and Geography 	<p>All students: Complete 2 credits in social studies, including civics.</p> <p>Personal Curriculum Options: One additional credit in English Language arts, mathematics, science or in a language other than English OR Complete a formal Career Technical Education program (see Note VI.) Note: Must align with Educational Development Plan</p>	No Modification

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Subject Area	Description	Personal Curriculum Grades 10 – 12	Modifications
Health and Physical Education 1.0 credit	Aligned with subject area content, expectations developed by the Department and approved by the State Board of Education.	Personal Curriculum Options: One additional credit in English Language arts, mathematics, science or in a language other than English OR Complete a formal Career Technical Education program (see Note V.) Note: Must align with Educational Development Plan	Physical Education credit may be awarded through a flex option for students who participate in district approved extracurricular athletics or other district approved extracurricular physical activity
Visual, Performing, Applied Arts, CTE 1.0 credit	Aligned with subject area content, expectations developed by the Department and approved by the State Board of Education. One credit must be in the area of Visual, Performing or Applied Arts	Personal Curriculum Options: One additional credit in English Language arts, mathematics, science or in a language other than English OR Complete a formal Career Technical Education program (see Note V.) Note: Must align with Educational Development Plan	No Modification
Online Learning Experience	Online course or learning experience OR Online experience is incorporated into each of the required credits	No Option for Personal Curriculum	No Modification
World Languages 2.0 credits	Aligned with subject area content, expectations developed by the Department and approved by the State Board of Education. Students must complete two credits in grades K – 12 that are grade appropriate in a language other than English or course work or other learning experiences that are substantially equivalent to 2 credits.	No Option for Personal Curriculum	Students may fulfill 1.0 credit with a formal Career Technical Education program or curriculum (see Note V.) OR Visual, Performing and Applied Arts course, plus four additional elective credits
Personal Finance 0.5 credit (Starting with the Class of 2028)	May take as an independent course or embedded in Economics	No Option for Personal Curriculum	No Modification
Michigan Merit Exam	Students must participate in all parts of the State of Michigan assessments.		Defined by the State of Michigan applicable to Special Education students.
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Students must complete FAFSA or FAFSA opt-out form.		Utica Community Schools FAFSA opt-out form completed and signed.

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Available Endorsements	UCS Seal of Global Language Multi UCS Seal of Global Language proficiency pathways exist. Click here for qualifying information	STEM Endorsement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 math credits • 6 science credits • 0.5 technology activities credits • 0.5 engineering activities credits 	AP Capstone Diploma Score of 3 or higher on the following exams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Seminar Exam • AP Research Exam • 4 additional AP Exams
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NOTES:

1. To meet minimum graduation requirements, a total of 22 high school credits must be earned. One-half credit is granted for each semester course.
2. Special Education students: The Individualized Education Plan (IEP) shall identify the appropriate course or courses of study and identify the supports, curricular requirements, or in a Personal Curriculum, and meet the requirements for a high school diploma.
3. Apart from students who have committed to play intercollegiate athletics AND are invited by that college or university to enroll in what would be the second semester of their senior year, each student is expected to successfully achieve a full high school program each year (four years, ninth to twelfth grade).
 - a. Student athletes wishing to graduate a semester early must present to their principal a letter from their recruiting college or university requesting that they graduate early along with a plan written by the student on how the graduation requirements will all be met to graduate early. For planning and scheduling purposes, all early graduation requests (letter & plan) should be submitted by the end of the student's junior year in high school. Requests submitted after this time may be difficult to plan and schedule and thus may be denied due to the inability to meet all graduation requirements on time.
 - b. Early graduation candidates must fulfill all UCS graduation requirements to graduate at the end of the first semester of the senior year. This includes a full credit of senior math to be taken in that semester.
 - c. Early graduation candidates who do not fulfill all graduation requirement by the end of first semester will be retained until they complete the graduation requirements.
 - d. Students who graduate at the end of the first semester of their senior year will not be eligible to participate in the June graduation ceremony or any other traditional end of senior year activities including prom (early graduates could still attend prom as an invited guest of a current senior).
4. It is the responsibility of students to meet with school staff to ensure course work meets the basic requirements of the college and/or career of their choice.
5. A personal curriculum may be requested after completion of grade 9.
6. Career Technical Education program or curriculum consists of the following requirements:
 - a. A coherent sequence of courses so that students gain academic, technical, and work behavior skills.
 - b. Instruction that includes classroom, laboratory, work-based learning, and leadership opportunities

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- c. Instruction that is supervised, directed, or coordinated by an appropriately certificated Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher.
 - d. Consists of standards approved by the State Board of Education.
 - e. Received approval from Michigan Department of Education/Office of Career and Technical Education through an application process.
 - f. Successful completion is defined as completed coursework covering all program standards, and/or take any required technical assessment.
7. If a pupil successfully completes one or more of the required high school credits before entering high school, the pupil shall be awarded high school credit.
- a. For the class of 2022 and beyond:

Students who complete any of the 3 required math courses prior to grades 9 – 12 must still earn three math credits (taking one math class each year during grades 9 -11) in grades 9 – 12 and must successfully complete 1 credit in a math course or in a math related course during their senior year.
 - b. For the class of 2023 thru 2026:
 - i. Students who received a grade of credit (CR) for a high school course taken in grade 7 and/or grade 8, may choose to keep the CR or change the CR to the earned letter grade and the grade will count towards the Grade Point Average (GPA) and class ranking determination. This request will need to be submitted to the building principal by December 20, 2024.
 - ii. A parent or guardian must submit the UCS CR Removal to Letter Grade Form to the building principal requesting to have the CR changed to the earned letter grade.
 - c. For the class of 2027
 - i. Students who received credit (CR) for a high school course taken in grade 7, may choose to keep the CR or change the CR to the earned letter grade and the grade will count towards the GPA and class ranking determination. This request will need to be submitted using the Utica Community Schools CR Removal to Letter Grade Form to the building principal by December 20, 2024.
 - ii. Students taking a high school course in 8th grade will earn a letter grade for the course according to the UCS grading policy for high school students. The high school course will be placed on the high school transcript, and the grade will count towards the student's GPA and class ranking. Any student taking a high school course prior to grade 9 can have the course removed from their transcript and may retake the course if the following criteria is met. A parent or guardian must submit the UCS Credit Removed Request Form to the building principal prior to the first day of the student starting grade 9, requesting the course to be removed from the student's high school transcript and for the student to retake the course. Credits that are removed will act as if the course was never taken.

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- d. Beginning with the classes of 2027 and 2028:
- i. Students taking a high school course prior to grade 9 will earn a letter grade for the course according to the UCS grading policy for high school students. The high school course will be placed on the high school transcript, and the grade will count towards the GPA and class ranking determination.
 - ii. Any student taking a high school course prior to grade 9 can have the course removed from their transcript and may retake the course if the following criteria is met. A parent or guardian must submit the UCS Credit Removed Request Form to the building principal prior to the first day of the student starting grade 9, requesting the course to be removed from the student's high school transcript and for the student to retake the course. Credits that are removed will act as if the course was never taken.

8. In accordance with MCL 380.1278b each student shall be provided the following opportunities:

- a. Develop an Educational Development Plan (EDP) during grade 7 and shall have his or her EDP reviewed by school personnel during grades 8 – 12.
- b. Develop a Talent Portfolio. A talent portfolio shall be developed and revised throughout the implementation of a pupil's EDP.
- c. Develop and use a resume and talent portfolio. In addition, know how to request and use a letter of reference and school record.

9. Beginning with the Class of 2026, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form prior to graduation. The FAFSA form must be completed as a graduation requirement. Students may opt-out of this requirement by completing the Utica Community Schools FAFSA opt-out form. Either the completed FAFSA form or the Utica Community Schools FAFSA opt-out form must be on file prior to graduation.

Personal Curriculum Math Options

A student earns Algebra II credit when he or she has demonstrated proficiency in the required content expectations for Algebra II. Students may take Algebra II over 1.5 years for 1.5 credits without requesting a Personal Curriculum.

	Geometry	Algebra I	Algebra II	Senior Math or Math Related Course	Total Credits
Traditional Model	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	4 credits
Modified Traditional Model	1 credit	1 credit	Algebra II	0.5 credit	4 credits
			1.5 credits		
Personal Curriculum Request with Algebra II	1 credit	1 credit	Algebra II	1 credit	3.5 credits
			0.5 credit		
Personal Curriculum Request with	1 credit	1 credit	Probability and Statistics	1 credit	3.5 credits

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Probability and Statistics			0.5 credit		
Personal Curriculum Request with Career and Technical Education (CTE) course	1 credit	1 credit	Marketing II	1 credit	3.5 credits
			0.5 credit		