

Equivalency Credit Opportunities

The Mount Vernon School District recognized the value in providing students with flexible pathway options to meet graduation requirements. The Mount Vernon School District believes that course equivalencies provide high school students with increased opportunities and flexibility to meet high school graduation requirements.

Equivalency is the determination of high school courses which satisfy more than one subject area requirement. CTE Equivalencies may be approved at the state and local level. The determination is a local District decision based on relevant law, Board Policy, Regulations, and the District's standards. Prior to course scheduling or course registration for the next school term, the district will provide information to students and their parents or legal guardians about meeting credit-based graduation requirements through equivalency courses.

Local and State CTE Equivalency Course: refers to a course in one subject area being equal or equivalent to a specific course in a different subject area that is required for graduation. The course deemed as equivalent will satisfy two graduation requirements with a single credit. (RCW 28A. 230.097/RCW 28A.700.070)

Locally Determined 'Cross-Credit' Equivalency: Unlike state-approved equivalency courses, a Locally Determined Cross Credit is a district-approved course that meets the learning standards of two different subject areas. The content of courses, the determination of which courses satisfy particular subject area requirements and whether a particular course may satisfy more than one subject area requirement are determined at the local level based on alignment with state learning standards and approved by the district's school board. (WAC 180-51-025).

The courses must be either from the state approved list of equivalencies or reviewed and approved for equivalency credit by a District team appointed by the Superintendent or their designee.

Equivalency Committee: The District will establish an equivalency committee to review and approve all equivalency proposals. The District team will include a school administrator, the career and technical administrator, an instructor from the core academic subject area, an instructor or manager from the appropriate career and technical course, and a representative from the district curriculum department.

I. Career and Technical Education Course Equivalency Provided by the District

On or after September 1, 2021, any statewide equivalency course offered by the district or accessed at a skill center will be offered for academic credit. Any approved state and local equivalency course offered by a host district in a skill center in which the district participates under an interdistrict cooperative agreement will be honored as an equivalency course by the district. Students served at any core, branch, or satellite skill center campus must have access to academic credit for any approved local or state equivalency courses offered at those sites and in accordance with transcript requirements in RCW 28A.230.097.

The district may also adopt local course equivalencies for career and technical education courses that are not on the list of courses approved by the superintendent of public instruction under RCW 28A.700.070.

Each high school will adopt core academic course equivalencies for high school career and technical courses, provided that the career and technical course has been reviewed and approved for equivalency credit by a district team appointed by the superintendent or a designee.

Career and technical courses determined by the school District to be equivalent to academic core courses, in full or in part, shall be accepted as meeting core requirements, including graduation requirements, if the courses are recorded on the student's transcript using the equivalent academic high school department designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be recorded as appropriate.

The District believes that course equivalencies provide high school students with increased opportunities and flexibility in meeting high school graduation requirements

Courses approved for equivalency must meet the following criteria:

State and Local CTE Equivalency Course:

1. Aligned with the state's essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations; and
2. Aligned with current industry standards, as evidenced in the curriculum frameworks. The local career and technical advisory committee will certify that courses meet industry standards.
3. Recorded on the student's transcripts as the academic course the equivalence credit fulfills.

II. Locally determined Cross Credit Equivalency

Mount Vernon School District recognizes the importance of providing students with flexible pathways to meet graduation requirements. In accordance with WAC 180-51-025, the district establishes Locally Determined Cross Credit Equivalences as a process by which certain courses may satisfy requirements in more than one subject area. The determination is a local district decision based on relevant law, policy and the district's standards.

Unlike state-approved equivalency credits, a Locally Determined Cross Credit is a district-approved course that meets the learning standards of two different subject areas. The content of courses, the determination of which courses satisfy particular subject area requirements and whether a particular course may satisfy more than one subject area requirement are determined at the local level/District Team based on alignment with state learning standards and approved by the district's school board.

Implementation:

1. The district equivalency committee shall identify courses eligible for locally determined cross credit through a review process ensuring alignment with applicable Washington State Learning Standards.
2. Cross-credit options will be listed in the district's course catalog and communicated to students, families, and school counselors.

3. Students who complete an approved cross-credit course will receive credit applied to one subject area, as determined by the student, guidance counselor, or administrator based on the student's graduation requirements, but will not earn additional total credits toward graduation.
4. The district shall periodically review cross-credit courses to ensure continued alignment with graduation requirements and state standards.

By implementing locally determined cross credits, Mount Vernon School District supports student choice, college and career readiness, and a more integrated approach to learning.

III. Experiential Education/Non-School Based Opportunities

Cross Reference Policy 2410P: Credits for Experiential/Non-School Based Opportunities

IV. Competency/Proficiency-based credits

Cross Reference Policy 2415

V. Elective Credit for Paid Work Experience

Cross Reference Policy 2410P: Work Based Learning Credits

VI. Courses taken before attending high school

Cross Reference 2410P: Period of Eligibility to Earn Credits

VII. Competency/Proficiency-based credits

Cross Reference 2415: High School Credits Awarded for Competency/Proficiency

VIII. Computer Science Courses

AP courses

The board will approve Advanced Placement (AP) computer science courses as equivalent to high school mathematics or science, and may be used by a student to meet math or science graduation requirements. The superintendent or designee will adopt procedures to denote on the student's transcript that AP computer science qualifies as a math-based quantitative course for students who complete it in their senior year.

The district may award academic credit for computer science to students based on student completion of a competency/proficiency examination that is aligned with the state learning standards for computer science or mathematics and course equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the superintendent of public instruction (OSPI).

To receive competency/proficiency-based credits for computer science, a student must take a competency/proficiency examination that OSPI has found aligns with the state learning standards for computer science or mathematics and that aligns with course equivalency requirements adopted by OSPI. The number of credits awarded will be based on the student's performance on the competency/proficiency examination.

Legal References

RCW 28A.230.010 Course content requirements - Access to career and technical course equivalencies
- Duties of school boards of directors - Waivers
RCW 28A.230.097 Career and technical high school course equivalencies.
RCW 28A.230.120 High School Diplomas - Issuance- Option to receive final transcripts - Notice
WAC 180-51-025 Local school district application of state requirements.
WAC 180-51-068 High school graduation requirements
WAC 392-410 Courses of study and equivalencies

Cross References

2170 - Career and Technical Education
2410 - High School Graduation Requirements
2415 - Financial Education Competency/Proficiency-Based Learning and Credit