

POLICY 581 - PROMOTION/GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS–UHS
EFFECTIVE CLASS OF 2010

APPROVED:

1. Students must pass the following courses with a grade of sixty (60) or better and the minimum cumulative credits indicated in order to graduate from Uxbridge High School.

AREA	CREDITS	SEQUENCE REQUIREMENTS
English	16 credits	Students must take four years of English as applicable to each grade level.
Mathematics	16 credits	At a minimum Algebra I and Geometry or Fundamentals of Algebra/Geometry I & II should be taken in Freshman and Sophomore years. Students should take either: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II; or Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra II; or Fundamentals of Algebra/Geometry I & II in sequence.
Science/Technology	16 credits	Students must take Introductory Physics/Technology as Freshmen <u>and</u> Biology as Sophomores. Additionally, students must take a Science Course <u>and</u> either an additional Science or an additional Technology Course to complete the requirement.
Social Studies	16 credits	Students must take U.S. History I in Freshman year, U.S. History II in Sophomore year, U.S. History III in Junior year, and U.S. Government as Seniors.
Foreign Language	4 credits	Students must complete a minimum of 4 credits in the same Modern Foreign Language.
Physical Education	8 credits	Students must take PE/Wellness in their Freshman year and one PE elective each year thereafter
Health	2 credits	All Sophomores must take Health
Fine Arts	2 credits	All students must take one Fine Arts elective

Massachusetts Law requires that all students awarded a diploma must have earned a competency determination and fulfilled local graduation requirements. Competency determination is achieved by receiving a passing score on MCAS exams identified as requirements to receive a diploma. Students who meet local graduation requirements but do not earn a competency determination will receive a “Certificate of Attainment” instead of a diploma.

2. Credits

2.1 A credit equals 33 hours of structured learning time. “Structured learning time” shall mean time during which students are engaged in regularly scheduled instruction, learning activities, or learning assessments within the curriculum for study of the core subjects. In addition to classroom time where both teachers and students are present, structured learning time may include directed study, independent study, technology-assisted learning, presentations by persons other than teachers, school to work programs, and statewide student performance assessments.

Students who do not earn the minimum credits will receive written notice and revised “Four Year Plan” outlining courses needed in order to graduate by Senior year. This communication will accompany their report card sent from the Guidance Department. Due to the change from a semester schedule to a trimester schedule, the number of credits needed to be promoted to the next grade level will vary over the next three years as follows:

09-10 school year:

- To be classified as a sophomore, a student must have earned 30 credits;
- To be classified as a junior, a student must have earned 65 credits;
- To be classified as a senior, a student must have earned 100 credits.

10-11 school year

- To be classified as a sophomore, a student must have earned 22 credits;
- To be classified as a junior, a student must have earned 56 credits;
- To be classified as a senior, a student must have earned 92 credits.

11-12 school year and beyond

- To be classified as a sophomore, a student must have earned 22 credits;
- To be classified as a junior, a student must have earned 48 credits;
- To be classified as a senior, a student must have earned 74 credits.

2.3 Courses for graduation may be taken at a college/university. Credit will be awarded on the basis of equivalent content as determined by the Principal.

2.4 Students will receive credit for the same subject only once, except with approval through IEP process or by the Principal.

2.5 Due to the change from a semester schedule to a trimester schedule, the number of credits needed to graduate will be adjusted over the next four years. Students must earn the following number of credits in order to graduate:

Class of 2010 - 130 credits
Class of 2012 - 113 credits

Class of 2011 - 122 credits
Class of 2013 and beyond - 104 credits

Students are also required to attend classes for four full years in order to graduate.

3. Parents of seniors in danger of not graduating due to loss of credit will be notified by registered mail, return receipt requested, at the end of the second trimester. Such notice shall include a request that the parent call for an appointment with the guidance counselor. At this meeting the student's record and procedures for acquiring lost/lacking credits will be reviewed.

4. In accordance with IDEA 2004, any student for whom the Uxbridge Public School System is responsible will be allowed to participate in **graduation** and/or receive an Uxbridge High diploma upon completion of the requirements in Section **1 and 2** (listed above) or the requirements specified in the Individual Education Plan.
5. Students who fail a subject needed for graduation from Uxbridge High School must make up that course. Make ups may be completed as follows:
 - 5.1 Studying the failed subject during the summer immediately following the year in which the course was failed. The grade earned at an approved summer school will be averaged with the numerical grade of the failed class
 - 5.2 Studying a previously failed required course at a state or private college or university at which a three (3) credit course would equal **a high school course that is taken over two trimesters or a total of four (4) credits.**
 - 5.3 Physical Education/Health make up credits are awarded on a Pass/Fail basis, if the course is not retaken at Uxbridge High School.
 - 5.4 Taking the course over at Uxbridge High School prior to graduation.
 - 5.5 Foreign Language
Students failing a Foreign Language course must either successfully repeat the failed course or attend an approved summer school. Upon completion of an approved summer school course the student must pass a departmental exam to continue to the next level of foreign language study.
 - 5.6 Independent study of a course at Uxbridge High School not previously taken. The course must contain a minimum of **33** hours of structured learning time as outlined in the student's Independent Study Contract, for each credit.
6. The Graduation Review Committee (GRC) will consist of the Principal, Assistant Principal, School Nurse, Teacher, and the Student's Counselor. The members will serve a one year term. The committee will review, upon request, the **local graduation requirements**. A student will have the opportunity to substantiate that he/she has made every effort to meet these **local** graduation requirements, including efforts to make up courses and earn back lost credit due to absence. Due to his/her unique circumstances, the GRC may develop an alternative program for this student, including waivers of required courses to allow the student to obtain a high school diploma or Certificate of Attainment. The Superintendent will be informed when a **waiver is granted**.
7. Credit for a failed subject is contingent upon following the make-up procedures correctly. The Principal has the authority to approve make-up credits in accordance with this policy.
8. Further Requirements:
 1. Each high school student must carry **fifteen (15) trimester** courses in each school year.
 2. When selecting electives at the next highest level in a given subject area (s), students must meet the prerequisites for each course as outlined in the approved program of studies.
 3. Physical Education may be omitted with a valid medical excuse from a physician.