

POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

The intent of this policy is to establish the requirements for student enrollment in post-secondary courses taken before high school graduation.

Eligible Institutions

Students may take courses at eligible post-secondary institutions within Maine, which include the University of Maine System, the Vocational Technical College System and Maine Maritime Academy.

Students may be allowed to take courses at private colleges or other institutions. Any such requests shall be considered on a case by case basis and must be approved prior to enrollment.

Student Eligibility Requirements

A student must be in grade 11 or 12 and may take no more than one course per semester and two courses per academic year. Courses taken in excess of this will not be considered for credit.

A student must meet the following criteria prior to enrolling in a post-secondary course:

- A. Meets or exceeds all graduation standards in the relevant subject as demonstrated on the transcript and in-progress grades and is on track to meet all VS graduation requirements;
- B. Meets the course admission standards of the eligible institution;
- C. Provide evidence of parent/guardian approval for taking the course; and
- D. Obtain approval from the principal as recommended by the content area specialist and guidance counselor. The student must meet with his/her guidance counselor to develop a plan describing how the course will help the student meet graduation requirements in order to obtain approval.

A student enrolled in grade 11 or 12 who does not meet requirement A above may take a post-secondary course provided that he/she:

- A. Has been assessed and received a recommendation to take the course from the relevant VS subject teachers and the guidance counselor, and as decided by the principal; and
- B. Has been approved for participation in the course by an eligible institution.

Acceptable Courses

Post Secondary courses will be approved and recognized by Vinalhaven School in the following instances.

- A. The student has taken, received credit for, and meets or exceeds graduation standards in all VS course offerings available to the student in the relevant subject area.
- B. The student wishes to take an elective course which VS does not offer and which meets the student's aspirational needs.
- C. Post secondary courses will not be recognized and credit will not be awarded by VS when the course is taken in lieu of an equivalent course offered by Vinalhaven School in order to meet

VS graduation requirements. For the purpose of this policy, Advanced Placement courses are considered to be the equivalent of college courses.

Awarding of Credits

The eligible institution shall grant full credit to any student who successfully completes a course.

High school graduation credit for a course taken under this policy shall be awarded as follows:

- A. The course must meet for a minimum of one college semester.
- B. The student must earn a passing grade in the course.
- C. If the above criteria are met, the student shall receive 1 credit. This credit will be reflected on the student's transcript as a credit earned, but will not be included in the grade point average (GPA) computation.*
- D. Approved courses taken in the summer will be considered as being taken in the subsequent academic year. The same approval process as outlined above pertains to courses taken during summer months.
- E. Any post secondary distance learning courses approved under this policy will be part of the students VS schedule and time and location at school will be designated for the course on the student's school daily schedule.

Waivers

Any exceptions made to this policy shall be approved in writing by the superintendent upon recommendation by the principal and after review by the relevant subject teacher and the guidance counselor.

Financial Obligation

The student and his/her parent/guardian are responsible for paying all costs.

School Unit Reporting Requirements

The Superintendent shall ensure that information concerning post-secondary enrollment options is made available to parents and students.

The Superintendent shall provide an annual report to the School Board regarding the number of students taking courses at post-secondary institutions and the courses taken.

*See GPA Calculation Policy IKA2-VH

Legal Reference: 20-A MRS ' 4771 et seq.

Adopted: 12-17-07

Revised: April 2018 to be implemented in July 2018