

**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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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.	<u>Personal Curriculum Options:</u> 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	<u>Personal Curriculum Options:</u> 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		Defined by the State of Michigan applicable to Special Education students

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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. Each student is expected to successfully achieve a full high school program each year.
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 includes classroom, laboratory, work-based learning, and leadership opportunities.
 - c. Instruction that is supervised, directed, or coordinated by an appropriately certificated CTE teacher.
 - d. Consists of standards approved by the State Board.
 - e. Received approval from Michigan Department of Education/Office of Career 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 required before entering high school, the pupil shall be given high school credit.

For the class of 2022 and beyond:

Students who complete any of the three required math courses (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II) prior to grades 9 – 12 must still earn three math credits taking one math class each year during grades 9-11 and must successfully complete one credit in a math course or math related during their senior year.

For the class of 2027 and beyond:

Students taking a high school course prior to entering high school 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 Grade Point Average (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 Request Form for Letter Grade and Credit Removal from Student Academic Record](#) 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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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.

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 Probability and Statistics	1 credit	1 credit	Probability and Statistics	1 credit	3.5 credits
			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		