

Robbinsdale Area Schools

Non-traditional Options for Earning High School Credit



Post-Secondary Education Options. This program is available to juniors and seniors. It allows students to exclusively or concurrently enroll in a post-secondary institution of their choice and to earn high school credit while also earning college credit. The tuition is paid from the student's state aid. The enrolling institution determines the entrance requirements and the school counselor determines how the PSEO credit translates into high school credit.

How are credit hours determined? **Two college credits are typically equal to one high school credit.**
What is the allowable grading scale? **A-NC**
Who determines the course grade? **The post-secondary institution determines the course grade**
Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? **YES**
Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? **No restrictions; the counselor determines elective or required based on the course description.**

Hennepin Technical College. The HTC program enlarges and enhances the district's Career and Technical Education program and is available to juniors and seniors. Transportation is provided and students typically earn two elective credits during a three-period timeframe.

How are credit hours determined? **One hour of instruction equals one credit**
What is the allowable grading scale? **A-NC**
Who determines the course grade? **The HTC instructor determines the course grade**
Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? **YES**
Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? **No restrictions; the counselor determines elective or required based on course description.**

Mentor Connection. This program is sponsored by Intermediate District 287 and enrolls up to 25 district students each year. Students apply to the program and are selected by 287 personnel. Students are paired with a professional in the student's field of interest. The student meets regularly with the mentor during the school year, conducting research, usually at the mentor's place of work. The student also meets regularly with his or her cohort and 287 staff. Students present the results of their research at a public event.

How are credit hours determined? **Students may earn 2 elective credits each semester.**
What is the allowable grading scale? **A-NC**
Who determines the course grade? **The Mentor Connection Program participants determine the grade.**
Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? **YES**
Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? **No restrictions but usually elective credit is awarded**

ALC Independent Study. Students who are 16 years old and meet the state criteria for ALC funding may elect Independent Study for up to three credits each year. The lessons are packet-based, with students periodically meeting with a licensed teacher for guidance and support. Independent Study is also offered during the summer months. Each high school has an Independent Study facilitator.

How are credit hours determined? This may vary somewhat but typically, 17 instructional hours with the teacher is provided for each credit. The actual number of hours the student devotes to completing the work required in any particular packet may vary.

What is the allowable grading scale? Pass/NC

Who determines the course grade? The 287 procedures are followed

Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? No. The Pass/NC grading scale does not translate into grade points.

Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? No. Most students use Independent Study to earn earning required credits.

ALC Summer Programming. Students who are 16 years old and meet the state criteria for ALC funding may participate in the summer credit recovery program. The summer programs use one of two instructional methods: the traditional seat-based method and the self-paced, computer-based method.

How are credit hours determined? The number of credits awarded depends on the instructional method. In the traditional seat-based method, 60 hours is required for each credit. In the self-paced, computer-based method, 40 hours is required for each credit.

What is the allowable grading scale? Typically the A-NC grading scale is applied but the Pass/NC option is justifiable in some circumstances as determined by the course instructor.

Who determines the course grade? The course instructor

Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? YES

Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? No

Robbinsdale Cooper High School Daytime Credit Recovery. The ABC lab at CHS is available during the day to students qualifying for ALC funding. Students use a self-paced, software instructional program. A licensed teacher is available to provide off-line instruction. The credits are transferred to the student's official school transcript.

How are credit hours determined? Students receive credit when they complete the course requirements contained in the module.

What is the allowable grading scale? A-NC

Who determines the course grade? The course instructor

Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? YES

Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? No; most students are seeking credit for required courses

Robbinsdale Armstrong High School Daytime Credit Recovery. The Fresh Start lab at AHS is available during the day to students qualifying for ALC funding. Students use a self-paced, software program. A licensed teacher is available to provide off-line instruction. The credits are transferred to the student's official school transcript.

How are credit hours determined? Students receive credit when they complete the course requirements contained in the module.

What is the allowable grading scale? A-NC

Who determines the course grade? The course instructor

Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? **YES**
Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? **No; most students are seeking credit for required courses**

ALC Highview Student, aged 16+ with 9th grade credits, who qualify for ALC funding may apply to enroll in Highview ALC. Students attend full-time and their credits transfer to the official transcript of their home school. "ALC" is noted on the transcript for the credits earned at Highview ALC. The diploma may be awarded by Highview or the home high school.

How are credit hours determined? 60 hours = 85 units= 1 semester credit
What is the allowable grading scale? A - NC
Who determines the course grade? Instructor
Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? N/A
Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? No

ALC Treatment Facilities. Students receiving treatment (usually mental health disorders or drug dependency) earn one credit for each 60 hours of instruction, usually conducted on-site. The classroom teacher may be asked to supply lesson plans for the student. Students participating in group therapy from a licensed provider may receive elective credit. Fewer than 60 instructional hours is awarded partial credit and/or the partial credit blended with equivalent courses.

How are credit hours determined? 60 hours = 1 semester credit
What is the allowable grading scale? A – NC; Pass/NC
Who determines the course grade? Instructor
Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? Yes, if letter grade is awarded
Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? No

TASC (The Alternative Study Center). Students in the TASC program have been excluded from school. Students attend TASC two hours each day and utilize a self-paced, computer based program with supplemental guidance and support from licensed teachers and other staff. Credits that are completed at TASC are transferred to the student's official school transcript. Partial credit is blended into existing equivalent courses.

How are credit hours determined? Completion of instructional module
What is the allowable grading scale? A - NC
Who determines the course grade? Instructor
Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? Yes
Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? No

Online Learning. The online learning legislation allows students to participate in online learning either as a shared-time or a full-time online student. Students select an online provider from a list of providers approved by MDE and may earn up to 6 online credits (12 semester credits) each year. Any student can elect online learning, and their earned credits transfer directly and equally to the enrolling district.

How are credit hours determined? By Online provider
What is the allowable grading scale? A-NC
Who determines the course grade? Online provided

Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? Yes
Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? No

Since online learning does not usually include direct instruction (face-to-face) from a licensed teacher, it does not satisfy ALC requirements and thus may not be used for ALC membership hours.

Credit for Work. Students age 16 or older may be granted one elective pass/fail credit for holding a paying job during the school year. Students may earn an additional elective pass/fail credit for completing a portfolio of paperwork associated with their work experience. The district does not participate in the employment search, transportation to the job site or any other aspect of the student's responsibilities on the job. Students who are interested in coordinated work experiences register for courses in Service Occupations through the FACS department or enroll in the district's Work Experience Program.

How are credit hours determined?
What is the allowable grading scale?
Who determines the course grade?
Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)?
Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)?

NOTE TO GAYLE: THIS SECTION NOT NEEDED – STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR WORK ARE DOING SO THROUGH OTHER SECTIONS OF THIS DOCUMENT.

Home Schooling. Home Schooling is governed by Minnesota statute and requires that families providing home schooling inform the district of their intent. It also requires that certain courses be taught as part of the curriculum. All home-schooled students seeking a public school diploma must have earned the required number of credits (46) in the areas required by the district, and have passed all Basic Skills Tests.

Licensed Teacher. If the adult providing the instruction is a licensed teacher or otherwise holds a B.S. degree, no other requirements are in effect and the home-schooled credits are transferred directly onto the public school transcript.

How are credit hours determined?
What is the allowable grading scale?
Who determines the course grade?
Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)?
Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)?

Accredited Agency. If the educational entity providing the instruction is accredited, no other requirements are in effect and the home-schooled credits are transferred directly onto the public school transcript.

How are credit hours determined?
What is the allowable grading scale?
Who determines the course grade?
Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)?
Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)?

Non-Licensed, Non-Accredited. If the adult providing the instruction is not a licensed teacher or does not hold a B.S. degree, or if the educational entity is non-accredited, the home educator or other entity is asked to provide a description of the instructional plan for each required high school credit. The instructional plan should include the curriculum and standards-based assessments for each of the MN Academic Standards. This procedure is in effect beginning with the 2006-07 school year for any incoming home-schooled, high school students.

- How are credit hours determined?
- What is the allowable grading scale?
- Who determines the course grade?
- Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)?
- Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)?

Adult Academic. Students who are a few credits short of earning the diploma and have withdrawn from high school may enroll in the Adult Academic program. Students who are many credits short of a high school diploma and who have dropped-out of high school are generally enrolled in the GED program. (ADULT ACADEMIC IS AN ALC AND THE SAME PROVISIONS APPLY.)

- How are credit hours determined?
- What is the allowable grading scale?
- Who determines the course grade?
- Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)?
- Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)?

Study Abroad. Students who study abroad for one semester are generally awarded six semester credits. Counselors equate the student's completed coursework to the district high school program.

- How are credit hours determined? By the counselor
- What is the allowable grading scale? Pass/NC or A-NC
- Who determines the course grade? Sponsoring agency
- Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? Yes
- Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? No

Alternative Instruction. Minnesota statute 120B.20, Parental Curriculum Review, allows a parent, guardian or an adult student 18 years of age or older to provide alternative instruction if they object to the contents of the district curriculum. Students receiving alternative instruction for part or all of a course do so in addition to taking a full-load of credits and thus retain their full-time status in the district.

Accredited Educational Entity If a student completes 60 hours of instruction from an accredited educational entity in a single content area, and if the educational entity provides an official transcript of the course credit and grade, high school credit is awarded. (NOTE TO GAYLE: DOES SYLVAN FIT? SHOULD THERE BE ANOTHER SECTION?)

- How are credit hours determined? 60 hours of instruction = 1 credit
- What is the allowable grading scale? A – NC or Pass/NC if no grade is forwarded
- Who determines the course grade? Accredited Educational Entity
- Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)? Yes, if a grade is awarded

Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)? No

Non-accredited Educational Entity. An instructional proposal must be submitted to the district for pre-approval when the instruction will be delivered by a non-accredited educational entity or by a family member. The instructional proposal should describe the curriculum and standards-based assessments that will be used for each of the MN Academic Standards (or district standards if pertinent). It must include at least 60 hours of instruction for each credit earned. The district will provide a packet of information to assist the family in the development of their instructional proposal.

If the proposed instructional plan is below district standards, it will be returned with suggestions for improvement. The revised plan must be resubmitted for pre-approval. Elective course credit will be applied if an instructional plan is not submitted or if it does not meet district standards of rigor after it is resubmitted for pre-approval.

The student's work and his or her results on the standards-based assessments must be submitted to the district before course credit will be awarded. If the student's work and/or assessment results are below district standards, elective credit will be awarded.

How are credit hours determined?

What is the allowable grading scale?

Who determines the course grade?

Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)?

Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)?

Credit by Assessment. District policy allows enrolled students who are confident they have already met the course outcomes of a particular course to "test out." Students must earn a composite grade of "B" or higher on a series of teacher-developed tests and/or projects and demonstrations. (Referred to Director of Teaching and Learning)

How are credit hours determined?

What is the allowable grading scale?

Who determines the course grade?

Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)?

Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)?

High School Standards in Middle School. Students who take a middle school course that equates in terms of curriculum, standards and assessments to a required high school level course (usually a grade 9 course) may concurrently earn high school credits. The district does not, at this time, have a system for awarding high school credit for middle school coursework.

How are credit hours determined?

What is the allowable grading scale?

Who determines the course grade?

Does the grade point qualify for academic awards (valedictorian/salutatorian)?

Do restrictions exist on the type of credit awarded (elective or required)?

Other Credit Options: The provisions applicable to other accredited/non-accredited academic opportunities will apply to all other requests for credit. It is the student's responsibility to obtain documentation of accreditation, upon request. These include but are not limited to the following:

Pre-collegiate Opportunities
Concordia Language Village
Sylvan Learning
Huntington
Tree Trust
Tribal Language Instruction
UMTYMP