

Grade 9 to 10 Frequently Asked Questions

What are semestered classes and how do they work?

From ECS to grade 8 you've been in year long classes. This means you've taken LA, Math, Science, and Social Studies all year. Moving forward you will now be in semestered classes. For example you will have Math every day for half the year from September to January, you will then be done math for the year and not take it from February to June.

What is a credit and what does it mean?

Students are awarded credits for achieving at least 50% in high school courses. You need 100 credits to receive a Alberta High School Diploma (please see what do I need to graduate section lower down in this document).

Some courses are worth 5 credits i.e...English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Drama, and Art. Some core courses and some options courses are worth 3 credits i.e...PE, CALM, and Personal Psychology.

Some option courses are worth 1 credit. These are modules taken within courses like Comm tech, Outdoor Ed, and Computer Programming.

Can I take all core classes and no options?

No. As you will see from the Alberta Education requirements you need to take courses outside the range of just core courses.

Do I need CTS credits to graduate?

No. You can have CTS credits that can go towards your graduation requirements. However you may also choose a course path that does not include CTS credits. That is just fine, as long as you have the requirements laid out by Alberta Ed which have options beyond CTS.

Can I take 20 & 30 Level Courses in grade 10?

Yes, as long as you've passed the prerequisite course you can take both 20 and 30 level courses.

Can I take ADLC, Summer School or Work Experience courses?

Westmount Charter School does not offer work experience as part of our programming. ADLC and Summer School are only recommended if courses do not fit into your timetable or we do not offer them. ADLC requires school approval, you will need to see a school counsellor for approval.

Can I take spares in grade 10?

Yes! As long as you are meeting all requirements to graduation you can take a spare. Keep in mind that conserving spares for when you have diploma and/or AP classes which typically happen in grade 11 and 12.

What do I need to graduate?

Requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma

The chart below outlines one way of achieving Alberta High School Diploma graduation requirements, in English. Course sequencing and selection will vary for individual students.

ALBERTA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (ENGLISH)

The requirements indicated in this chart are the minimum requirements for a student to attain an Alberta High School Diploma. The requirements for entry into post-secondary institutions and workplaces may require additional and/or specific courses.

100 CREDITS including the following:**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – 30 LEVEL**

(English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2)

SOCIAL STUDIES – 30 LEVEL

(Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2)

MATHEMATICS – 20 LEVEL

(Mathematics 20-1, Mathematics 20-2 or Mathematics 20-3)

SCIENCE – 20 LEVEL

(Science 20, Science 24, Biology 20, Chemistry 20 or Physics 20)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 10 (3 CREDITS)**CAREER AND LIFE MANAGEMENT (3 CREDITS)****10 CREDITS IN ANY COMBINATION FROM**

- Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses
- Fine Arts courses
- Second Languages courses
- Physical Education 20 and/or 30
- Knowledge and Employability courses
- Registered Apprenticeship Program courses
- Locally developed courses in CTS, fine arts, second languages or Knowledge and Employability occupational courses

10 CREDITS IN ANY 30-LEVEL COURSE

(IN ADDITION TO A 30-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND A 30-LEVEL SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE AS SPECIFIED ABOVE)

These courses may include

- 30-level locally developed courses
- Advanced level (3000 series) in Career and Technology Studies courses
- 30-level Work Experience courses
- 30-level Knowledge and Employability courses
- 30-level Registered Apprenticeship Program courses
- 30-level Green Certificate Specialization courses
- Special Projects 30

What do I need to get into the University of my choice?

This will depend on the facility or program you are wanting to pursue. You are encouraged to meet with a school counselor or visit the career planning department so you can plan for post-secondary transitions.

Who will help me program plan?

Throughout the month of March you can meet with members of student services and admin to do course selections and program planning during lunch, or please see Joanne Reynolds to book an appointment.

What will my schedule look like?

You will have your own schedule, which may look different from your friends. You will need to take the mandatory classes to graduate. English 10, Mathematics 10C, Science 10, Social Studies 10, Physical Education 10.

At Westmount, CALM 20 happens over 2 years and is completed during SOURCE, therefore it will not appear in your timetable. CALM is a mandatory course that you need to have in order to graduate with an Alberta Education Diploma.

In your grade 10 year, you will have a mix of 5 credit classes and 3 credit classes, 5 credits courses i.e...English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Drama, and Art you will take every day. 3 credits courses i.e...PE, CALM, and Personal Psychology you will take every other day. Some option courses are worth 1 credit. These are modules taken within courses like Comm tech, Outdoor Ed, and Computer Programming depending on how many credits you are to complete in the courses you will notice that comtech is offered everyday, but a course like Outdoor Ed you will take every other day. That is because you usually will complete 5 credits in Comm Tech and only 3 credits in Outdoor Ed. **See sample below:**

TERM 1	Grade 10 Student	
Block	Day 1	Day 2
MH1	Eng 10-1	Eng 10-1
MH2	Math 10C	Math 10C
MH3	PE10	PE 10
MH4	Drama 10	Drama 10

TERM 2	Grade 10 Student	
Block	Day 1	Day 2
MH1	Social 10-1	Social 10-1
MH2	Science 10	Science 10
MH3	Comm Tech I	Comm Tech I
MH4	Outdoor Ed 15	

When will I find out my schedule and when can I change it?

Schedules will be released in Powerschool mid-june during the highschool exam break. Grade 10 students will get to do schedule changes once we have completed the schedule changes for Grades 11 - 12 students. We encourage students to ensure their schedule reflects a balanced schedule, with core classes spread throughout the year, rather than stacked in one term. If students need help selecting courses for Grade 10, they are welcome to drop-in to Student Services during lunch in March.