

Graduation Requirements

With the implementation of standards using the Maine Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction and heightened community expectations for student learning, the RSU 40 Board recognizes the need to establish minimum standards for the awarding of a high school diploma that are consistent with state law and regulations and with community educational values and expectations.

The Superintendent/designee will make accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents/guardians at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in the Medomak Valley High School Program of Studies.

Students Graduating in the Classes of 2017-2020

In order for members of the Classes of 2017-2020 to receive a Medomak Valley High School Diploma, students must meet the following requirements:

- A. Completion of a course of study whereby the student has acquired a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits, which includes successful completion of the following required courses (16.5 credits):
 1. English - 4 credits
 2. Social Studies - 3 credits, US History (1 credit), World History or Human Geography (1 credit), Economics (0.5 credit) and Government (0.5 credit)
 3. Mathematics - 4 credits, including Algebra I
 4. Science - 3 credits, Freshmen Science (1 credit), Life Science (1 credit), Physical Science (1 credit)
 5. Health - 0.5 credit
 6. Physical Education - 1 credit
 7. Fine Arts - 1 credit

- B. The remaining seven and one half (7.5) credits may be selected by the student based upon the student's interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field the student plans to enter after graduation.

- C. Alternate methods of earning credits: Students may, with prior approval and permission of the principal, use alternative means to earn credits through an approved Adult Education course, an approved summer school program, an approved correspondence course, approved tutoring, and approved college courses. The principal on a case-by case basis will review credits earned through home schooling. In

addition, with prior approval of the principal, students may be allowed to earn credits in a specific content area by presenting multiple types of evidence, including but not limited to teacher-designed or student-designed assessments, portfolios, performances, exhibitions or projects.

Students Graduation beginning with the Class of 2021

Beginning with the class of 2021, students must meet the following requirements to receive a Medomak Valley High School diploma:

- A. Completion of a course of study whereby the student has acquired a minimum of twenty-two (22) credits, which includes successful completion of the following required courses (15.5 credits):
 1. English - 4 credits
 2. Social Studies - 3 credits, US History (1 credit), World History or Human Geography (1 credit), Economics (0.5 credit) and Government (0.5 credit)
 3. Mathematics - 3 credits, including Algebra I
 4. Science - 3 credits, Freshmen Science (1 credit), Life Science (1 credit), Physical Science (1 credit)
 5. Health - 0.5 credit
 6. Physical Education - 1 credit
 7. Fine Arts - 1 credit

- B. The remaining six and one half (6.5) credits may be selected by the student based upon the student's interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field the student plans to enter after graduation.

- C. Alternate methods of earning credits: Students may, with prior approval and permission of the principal, use alternative means to earn credits through an approved Adult Education course, an approved summer school program, an approved correspondence course, approved tutoring, and approved college courses. The principal, on a case-by case basis, will review credits earned through homeschooling. In addition, with prior approval of the principal, students may be allowed to earn credits in a specific content area by presenting multiple types of evidence, including but not limited to teacher-designed or student-designed assessments, portfolios, performances, exhibitions or projects.

In addition to minimum credit requirements, students are encouraged to meet the following endorsement opportunities:

College Readiness Endorsement

Students who earn a minimum 2.8 grade point average and one or more of the following academic indicators will be eligible for the College Readiness endorsement.

Academic Indicators

- A. Algebra II with grade of “C” or better
- B. Advanced Placement course with grade of “C” or better
- C. Advanced Placement exam score of “3” or better
- D. Dual credit course with grade of “C” or better
- E. College development/remedial English or math course with grade of “C” or better
- F. SAT scores for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 480 or better; Math: 530 or better
- G. ACT scores for English: 18; Reading: 22 or better; Math: 22 or better; Science: 23 or better
- H. Other college readiness placement exam score that qualifies for a credit bearing course (determined by post-secondary institution)

Career Readiness Endorsement

Students who achieve two or more of the following career indicators will be eligible for the Career Readiness endorsement.

Career Indicators

- A. 90% attendance over the previous 175 school days
- B. Two or more organized co-curricular or extra-curricular activity certificates
- C. Community Service totaling 25 hours or more
- D. Workplace learning experience totaling 45 hours or more
- E. Dual credit career pathway course with grade of “C” or better
- F. Industry credential verified by school or employer

Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must complete all requirements for a high school diploma and pay any owed debt to Regional School Unit 40 in order to participate in graduation exercises.

Additionally, the student must be in compliance with the Regional School Unit 40 Code of Conduct.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S. §4722, §6209

Maine Department of Education Rules Chapter 127 Section 7.02

This is a required policy.

Adopted: December 4, 1993

Revised: May 1, 2014
January 19, 2017
July 18, 2019