

# Choose your courses

Create a plan that works for you.

## ▶ A lesson in **vocabulary**

### Course credits

To earn credits in a course, you need to complete the course with a mark of at least 50%. Each course is assigned a number of credits (usually 3 or 5), and credits can only be earned once in any course.



You need to meet course requirements and have 100 credits to graduate from high school.

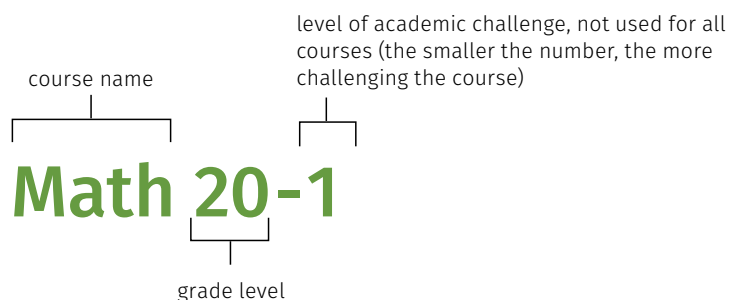
### All-year vs. semestered courses

Some courses run all year from September to June, while others are semestered. Many high schools offer flexible programming schedules. Contact the schools that interest you to learn more.

### Course numbering

A course number typically tells you both the grade level and level of academic challenge.

- Grade 10 courses are numbered 10 through 15 (for example, Science 10 and Science 14).
- Grade 11 courses are numbered 20 through 25 (for example, Biology 20).
- Grade 12 courses are numbered 30 through 35 (for example, Mathematics 31).



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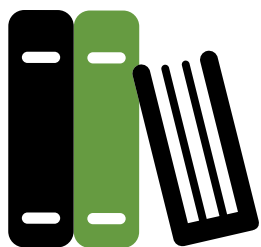
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## Choose your courses *(continued)*



### What are core courses?

Core courses are required to graduate.

They include:

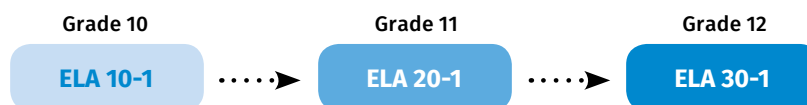
- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science

### Career and Life Management (CALM) and Physical Education

are also required for an Alberta High School Diploma.

### Course sequences

Course numbers are arranged in sequences. For example, an English Language Arts (ELA) course sequence might involve taking English Language Arts 10-1 in Grade 10, English Language Arts 20-1 in Grade 11 and English Language Arts 30-1 in Grade 12.



### Prerequisites

A prerequisite is something you need to do or know before doing or learning something else. Most Grade 11 and 12 courses have prerequisites. Usually you need to earn a grade of at least 50% in a prerequisite course to take the next course in a sequence.

For example, you'll need **at least 50%** in Social Studies 10-1 to take Social Studies 20-1.

If you earn less than 50%, you may choose to:

- repeat the course or
- continue to the next level in a less challenging course sequence (if available) and earn credits retroactively

For example, if you earn less than 50% in Social Studies 10-1, but continue to Social Studies 20-2 and complete the course (with at least 50%), you will earn credits for Social Studies 10-2 and Social Studies 20-2.

## Course options

Whether you plan to go to a university, college or technical school or transition directly to the working world after high school, the courses you choose should help you work toward your goals, interests and capabilities. Your previous marks can be part of the information that helps you decide which courses are right for you.



**In March and April, some high schools visit junior highs to help students choose courses.**

Get organized ahead of time by talking to your parents, teachers or counsellors about which courses work for you.



## Choose your courses *(continued)*

### Diploma exams

are tests given to Alberta high school students who are taking 30-level diploma examination courses. Final marks in these courses are a blend of school and diploma exam marks.

Diploma exams are required in:

- English Language Arts 30-1 and 30-2
- Social Studies 30-1 and 30-2
- Mathematics 30-1 and 30-2
- Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30 and Science 30
- French Language Arts 30-1

### Alberta High School Diploma requirements

**To obtain an Alberta High School Diploma, you must earn at least 100 credits by taking required courses plus other courses that interest you and help you achieve your goals.**

**These courses are required for a diploma.**

- ☐ English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2
- ☐ Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2
- ☐ Mathematics 20-1 or 20-2 or 20-3
- ☐ Science 20 or 24 or Biology 20 or Chemistry 20 or Physics 20
- ☐ Physical Education 10
- ☐ Career and Life Management (CALM)

The science requirement may also be met with the 10-credit combination of Science 14 and Science 10.

**Earn 10 credits or more, in any combination, from:**

**At least 10 credits should come from these courses.**

- ☐ Career and Technology Studies (CTS)
- ☐ Fine arts
- ☐ Second languages
- ☐ Physical Education 20 and/or 30
- ☐ Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) courses
- ☐ Knowledge and Employability courses

**Earn 10 credits or more in any 30-level course (in addition to a 30-level English Language Arts and 30-level Social Studies), in any combination, from:**

**At least 10 credits should come from these courses.**

- ☐ 30-level Mathematics or Science or fine arts or second languages or CTS or Physical Education
- ☐ 30-level locally developed courses
- ☐ 30-level Work Experience
- ☐ 30-level Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)
- ☐ 30-level Knowledge and Employability courses
- ☐ Advanced level (3000 series) in CTS courses
- ☐ 30-level Green Certificate Program courses
- ☐ Special Projects 30

**Locally developed courses give you a chance to explore a range of interests like film and media art, leadership or vocal jazz.**

Learn more about these course options from high schools that interest you.

More information: [education.alberta.ca](http://education.alberta.ca).

## Core courses

### English Language Arts *Words for the wise.*

Studying English Language Arts (ELA) involves much more than learning how to read and write. The two aims of the high school English Language Arts program are to:

- provide you with an understanding and appreciation of a broad range of texts
- enable you to use language for many purposes

English Language Arts focuses on six areas: listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing.



To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- ✓ **English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2**

**English Language Arts (ELA) 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1** focus on interpreting complex texts and refining your ability to show that you understand those texts. Students who take this course sequence will create and analyze a variety of literary texts with increasingly sophisticated written expression.



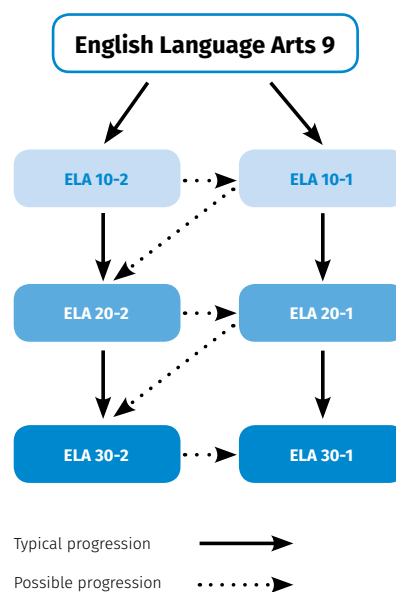
**English Language Arts (ELA) 10-2, 20-2 and 30-2** allow you to engage in the same goals as the -1 stream, but with more focus on popular non-fiction texts and feature films. The emphasis is on developing your understanding of and ability to communicate about various texts.

Both course sequences meet diploma requirements and require you to write a diploma exam upon completion of the 30-level course.

Some post-secondary programs accept English Language Arts 30-2 for entry. Make sure you're familiar with entrance requirements for the programs you're considering. Talk to your school counsellor to make sure your chosen course sequence is right for you.



Both the -1 and -2 English Language Arts course sequences can be used to apply for the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship for High School Achievement.



## Choose your courses *(continued)*

### Social Studies *Connect with your world.*



Social Studies explores how people are connected to each other and the world. By studying past and present issues, you'll learn about diversity and respecting multiple perspectives. The goal is to help you decide your future as an engaged and responsible citizen within your local and global communities.



To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

✓ **Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2**

There are two main course sequences in Social Studies:

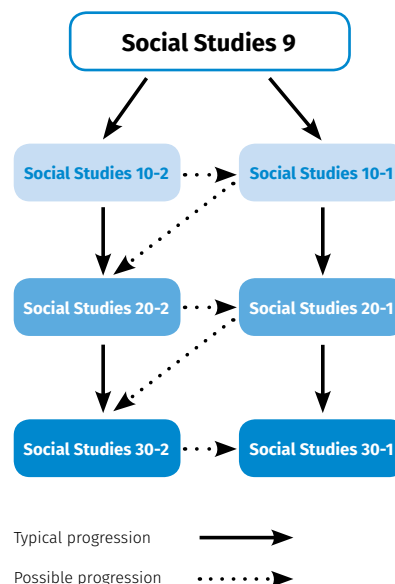
- **Social Studies 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1**
- **Social Studies 10-2, 20-2 and 30-2**

In both sequences, students explore the meaning and effects of globalization, nationalism and ideologies. Additionally, both sequences meet diploma requirements upon completion of the 30-level course. However, the expectations for Social Studies 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1 put more emphasis on complex concept development, critical thinking and skill development.

Many post-secondary schools accept Social Studies 30-2 for entry. Make sure you're familiar with entrance requirements for the post-secondary programs you're considering. Talk to your counsellors to make sure your chosen course sequence is right for you.



Both the -1 and -2 Social Studies course sequences can be used to apply for the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship for High School Achievement.



# Mathematics *Here's where it should all add up.*



Math counts! In every aspect of your life, you use numbers, problem solving and spatial reasoning to help make decisions. The more you learn about how math systems work, the better you will be at making choices that help yourself and others.



To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- ✓ a 10- and 20- level math course to earn at least 10 credits

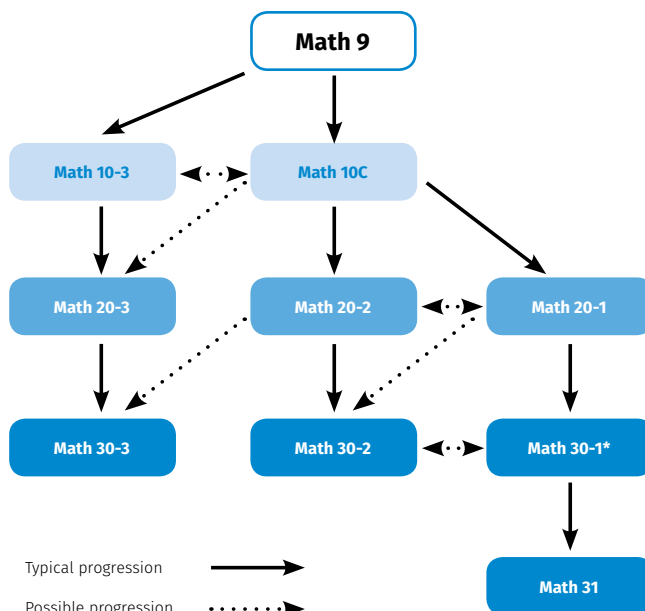
**Mathematics 10C** (Combined) is the starting point for both course sequences and will prepare you for entry into post-secondary programs that require advanced math skills. You must typically have 50% in Math 9 to enter this course.

**Mathematics 20-1** and **30-1** are precalculus courses designed to prepare you for entry into post-secondary studies involving calculus, such as engineering, business and certain sciences. You can take Mathematics 30-1 before or at the same time as Mathematics 31.

**Mathematics 20-2** and **30-2** prepare you for post-secondary studies in programs that do not involve calculus.

**Mathematics 10-3, 20-3** and **30-3** provide you with the foundational understanding and critical-thinking skills for entry into many trades and for direct entry into the workforce.

**Mathematics 31** is a calculus course that prepares you for post-secondary programs that recommend or require high school calculus for entrance. See your school counsellor for more information.



\*Math 30-1 is a prerequisite or corequisite for Math 31.



Both the -1 and -2 Math course sequences can be used to apply for the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship for High School Achievement.

## Choose your courses *(continued)*

### Science *Curiosity thrives here!*

Science inspires a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world. Studying the relationships between science, technology and society can help you understand how and why things work. You might even make discoveries that improve yourself and the world.



To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:



**Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics at the 20 level OR both Science 14 and 10**

**Science 10** is the prerequisite for all the academic sciences. In other words, you need to complete Science 10 before advancing to other science courses. Science 10 provides you with an overview of the biological, chemical, physical and earth sciences, as well as an awareness of the connections between them.

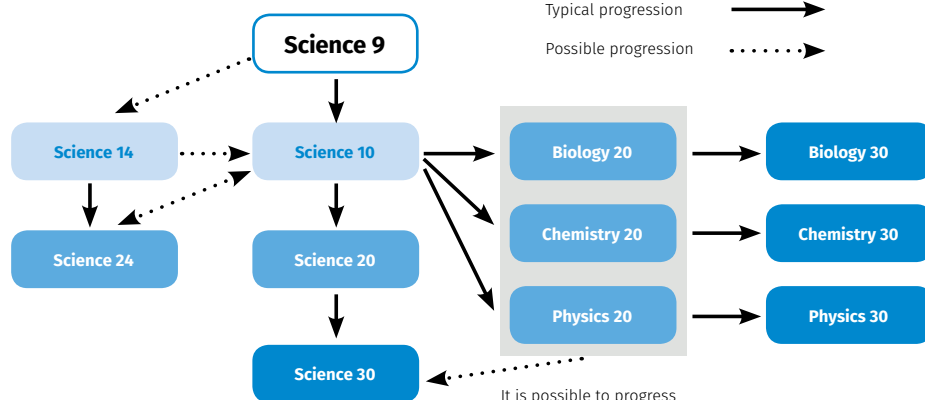
**Biology 20** and **30** explore how living organisms interact with each other and within their systems. Biology 20 focuses on energy and matter exchange and is a prerequisite for Biology 30. Biology 30 emphasizes adaptation and change.

**Chemistry 20** and **30** examine matter and how it interacts on a molecular level. You'll get a chance to explore and understand the natural world and see chemistry's great influence on your everyday life.

**Physics 20** and **30** examine matter and energy and their interactions. You will study the underlying physics principles behind natural events and man-made technologies.

**Science 20** and **30** explore concepts related to physics, biology, chemistry and earth sciences. Biology 20, Chemistry 20 and Physics 20 can be used as prerequisites for Science 30.

**Science 14** and **24** include topics in biology, chemistry and physics you can apply in your daily life. These courses allow you to meet the credit requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma for approved science coursework.



It is possible to progress from any of these 20-level courses to Science 30.



## Physical Education *Make your move!*

Physical Education classes are a great way to foster a healthy and active lifestyle. Their central theme—daily active living—explores four main concepts: movement activities, health benefits, interacting positively with others and personal responsibility.

### REQUIRED

To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- ✓ **at least 3 credits in Physical Education 10**

**Physical Education 10** (3 or 5 credits) is one of the requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma. Physical Education gives you the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to lead an active, healthy lifestyle.

**Physical Education 20** and **30** (3 or 5 credits) are optional courses and involve increased exposure to life-skill activities and leadership experience. The skills developed in these courses help you make choices that lead to an active, healthy lifestyle.



Physical Education 9



Physical Education 10



Physical Education 20



Physical Education 30

## Career and Life Management (CALM) *Grow your skills.*

Career and Life Management (CALM) helps you develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for well-being in our rapidly changing society. You will learn to make well-informed decisions in all aspects of your life.

**CALM** is organized around three main themes:

- self-awareness and health
- resources related to independent living
- career and life choices

Students will participate in independent assignments, group projects and discussions. Guest speakers may visit the class to provide information on a wide range of health and wellness issues.

### REQUIRED

To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- ✓ **CALM**

# Choose your courses (continued)

## Knowledge and Employability

### Earning a Certificate of High School Achievement

Students enrolled in Knowledge and Employability (K&E) courses can take advantage of community partnerships to prepare for employment, further studies, active citizenship and lifelong learning. K&E courses give you the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities at school and off-campus, maximizing your chances for success in whatever you choose to do.

Earn a **Certificate of High School Achievement** when you complete 80 credits in a combination of K&E and other courses.

OR

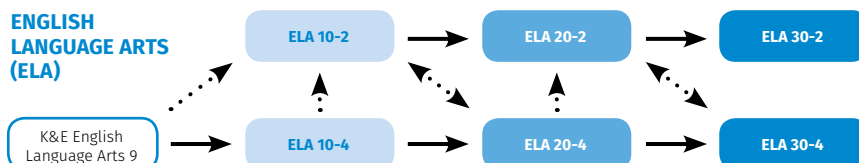
Earn an **Alberta High School Diploma** if you meet the requirements listed on page 4.

#### K&E courses are for you if:

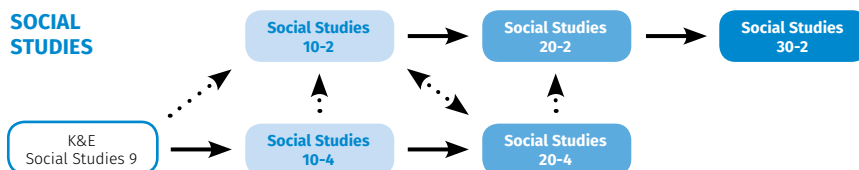
- you plan to complete a Certificate of High School Achievement (rather than an Alberta High School Diploma)
- your goals include succeeding in school to better prepare for the workplace
- you achieve your greatest success through hands-on learning activities

Some students start in K&E courses and then shift to other high school courses. To make the transition, consult with your school counsellor and parents or guardians. Transitions will be decided based on your needs, goals and achievements. You may also transition to training opportunities and continuing education (which includes some colleges and apprenticeship programs).

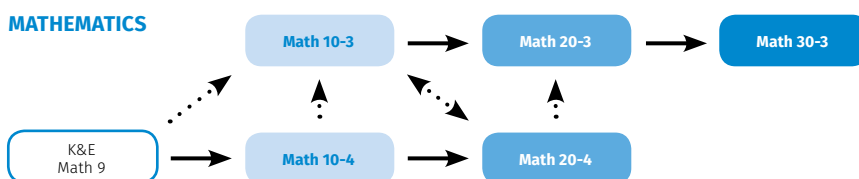
#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)



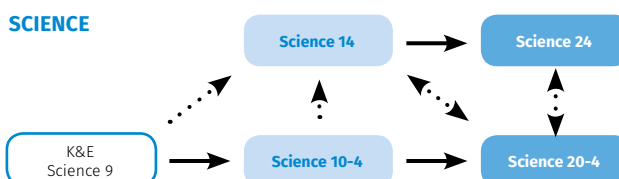
#### SOCIAL STUDIES



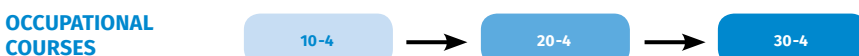
#### MATHEMATICS



#### SCIENCE



#### OCCUPATIONAL COURSES



Typical progression →  
Possible progression .....→

## Your high school plan

Use what you learn from this guide to make decisions about your studies for the next three years. By planning ahead, you can make sure your studies meet requirements and serve your goals and interests.



### Checklist

Make sure you:

- ☐ choose core and option courses needed for your program\*
- ☐ have the prerequisites you need
- ☐ consider what you need in order to apply for post-secondary studies and achieve your career goals

\* Career and Life Management (CALM) and Physical Education are not core courses, but are required for an Alberta High School Diploma, so don't forget to add them to your list!

## Sample plan

The sample plan gives you a sense of the courses required to get an Alberta High School Diploma.

Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS
English Language Arts	5	English Language Arts	5	English Language Arts	5
Social Studies	5	Social Studies	5	Social Studies	5
Mathematics	5	Mathematics	5	30/35/30-4 level course:	5
Science	5	Science	5		
Physical Education	5	CALM	3	30/35/30-4 level course:	5
Option:	5	Option:	5	Option:	5
Option:	5	Option:	5	Option:	5
Option:	5	Option:	5	Option:	5
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>		<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>		<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	
Recommended credits: 40		Recommended credits: 35 minimum		Recommended credits: 30 minimum	