



The Michigan Merit Curriculum and the Personal Curriculum Component of the MMC

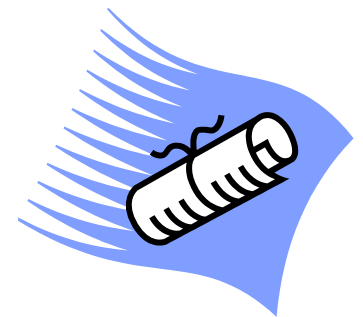
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Diploma or Certificate of Completion

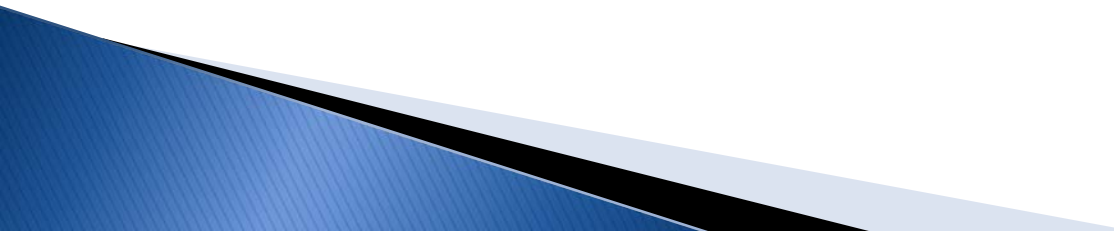


Diploma

Legislation clearly stipulates that a diploma shall not be awarded unless the pupil successfully completes all of the credit requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.¹



With a high school diploma a student may be eligible for:

- ▶ Entering any branch of the U.S. military and armed forces
 - ▶ Attending a community college or four-year university
 - ▶ Entering a trade or vocational school.
 - ▶ Applying for scholarships and financial aid (certain test scores such as the MME, ACT, and SAT are also considered).¹
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Certificate of Completion

School districts may issue a “certificate of completion” for those students who do not meet all of the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum and have completed the school district’s credit requirements.¹



Without a diploma student may:

- ▶ Enter trade or vocational school

(“Ability to Benefit” admission method which is usually based on the results of a standardized test such as the ACT, SAT, Work Keys, etc.).¹

Without a diploma student may:

- ▶ Attend most community colleges

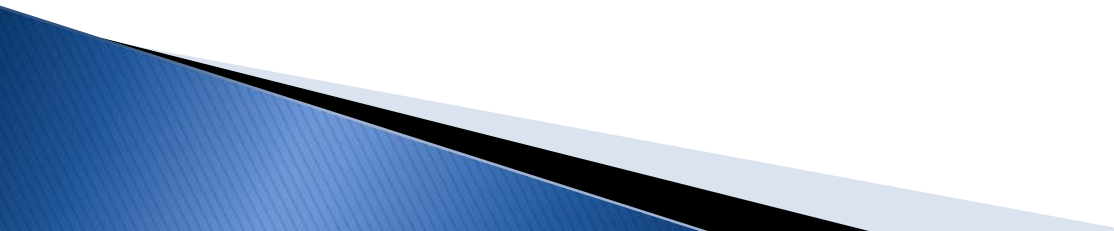
(“Ability to Benefit” admission method which is usually based on the results of a standardized test such as the ACT, SAT, Work Keys, etc. Most community colleges also require students to take placement exams).¹

Without a diploma student may:

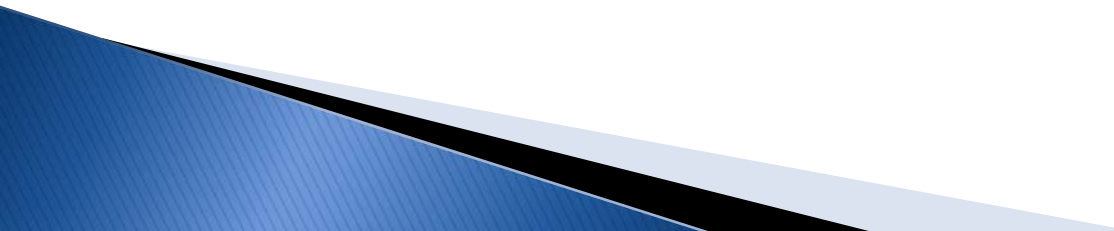
- ▶ Enter certain branches of the U.S. armed forces

The U.S. armed forces will accept applicants who possess a “Certificate of Attendance”. These are sometimes called certificates of competency or completion, but they are based on course completion rather than a test such as the GED or CHSPE. These candidates are called Tier II candidates.¹

Less than 1% Air Force enlists are Tier II candidates each year. Approximately 10% of Army and Navy enlistees are Tier II candidates. Approximately 5% of Marines enlistees are Tier II candidates.¹



Without a diploma a student may apply for scholarships and financial aid such as:

- ▶ Michigan Competitive Scholarship
 - ▶ Michigan Tuition Grant
 - ▶ Children of Veterans Tuition Grant
 - ▶ Adult Part-Time Grant
 - ▶ Federal Title IV Student Aid¹
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The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC)



4 English Language Credits

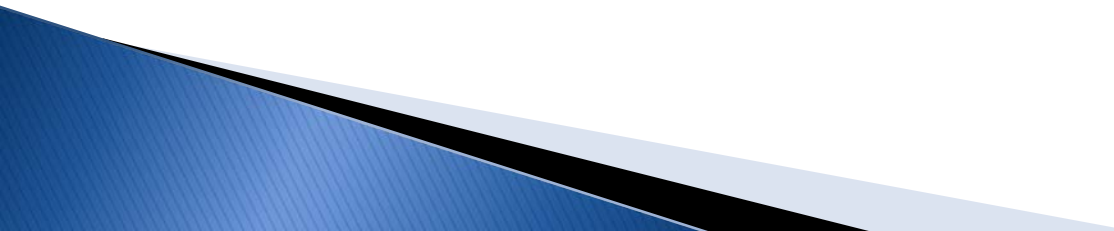
- ▶ ELA in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade
- ▶ All credits aligned with state content expectations²

4 Mathematics Credits

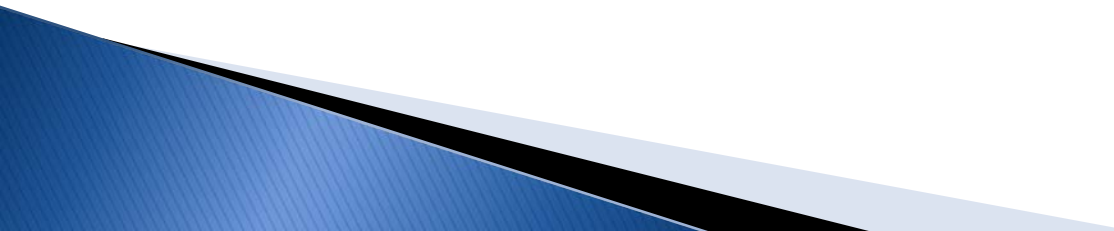
- ▶ 3 credits aligned with the required state content expectations i.e., Geometry, Algebra I & II
- ▶ 1 credit math or math-related, not required to be aligned
- ▶ Math or math-related course required in the final year which could include any of the 4 credits described above or may be an additional district credit²

Mathematics Credit


Students may earn a mathematics credit in a CTE program if the CTE program is fully aligned with the mathematics expectations that define the credit. Students may earn math-related credit in CTE programs that apply high school mathematics concepts.²



3 Science Credits

- ▶ 1 credit Biology
 - ▶ 1 credit Chemistry or Physics
 - ▶ 1 additional Science credit
 - ▶ All credits aligned to state content expectations²
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3 Social Studies Credits

- ▶ .5 Civics
 - ▶ .5 Economics
 - ▶ US History and Geography
 - ▶ World History and Geography
 - ▶ All credits aligned to state content expectations²
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1 Physical Education and Health Credit

Credit aligned to state guidelines²

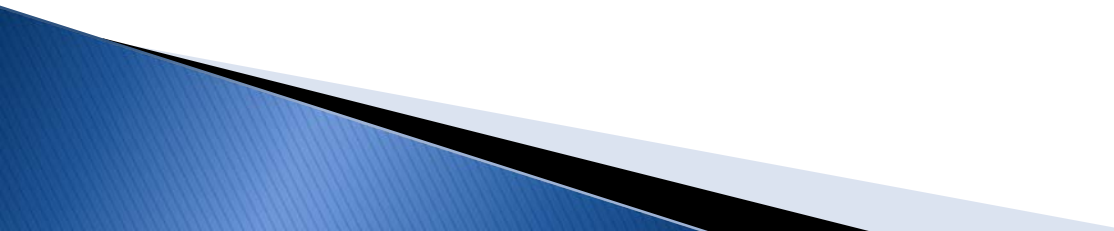


1 Visual, Performing, Applied Arts Credit

Credit aligned to state guidelines²

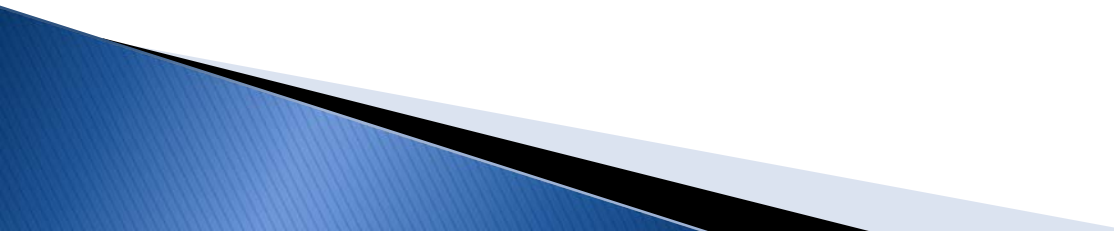


2 World Language Credits (Begins with Class of 2016)

- ▶ Credits earned in grades 9–12 OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K–12
 - ▶ Credits aligned to state guidelines²
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Online Learning Experience

Online course, learning experience OR
experience into one or more required
credits²



The Personal Curriculum Process



Personal Curriculum Defined

“The legislative intent of the Personal Curriculum (PC) is to individualize the rigor and relevance of the educational experience and provide a tool to help ALL students succeed with the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC).”¹

Personal Curriculum Team

- ▶ Student
- ▶ Parent/guardian
- ▶ Counselor/designee
- ▶ School psychologist (if available/appropriate for student with an IEP)
- ▶ Teacher(s) with content expertise¹



Personal Curriculum

A documented process initiated by:

- ▶ The parent/legal guardian
- ▶ Student over 18 (if no appointed guardian)
- ▶ Emancipated youth
- ▶ School personnel¹

Personal Curriculum

An agreement between:

- ▶ The parent or guardian
- ▶ The superintendent
- ▶ The student¹



PC Eligibility

Before granting a Personal Curriculum, school districts should make certain all efforts have been made to help students successfully complete the MMC requirements.¹

Personal Curriculum

A Personal Curriculum is **NOT**:

- ▶ “A substitute for good teaching.”¹
- ▶ “...convenient escape door for schools to shy away from providing access to the MMC for students who are more difficult to reach and teach.”¹

Before Pursuing a PC Option

- ▶ What instructional strategies have been used with the student?
- ▶ What interventions have been implemented with the student?

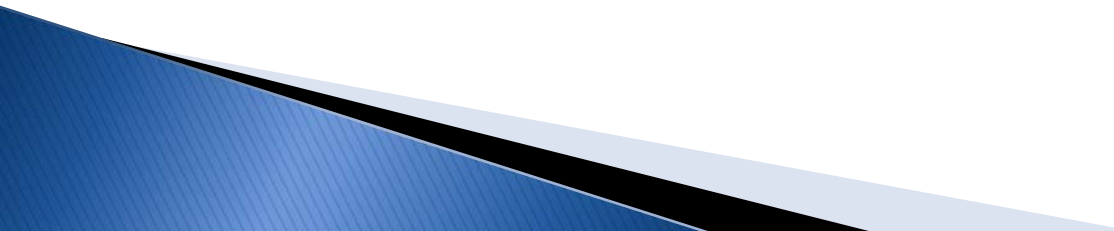


Reasons for a Personal Curriculum (PC)

The four reasons for a PC:

1. A student wishes to modify the mathematics requirements.
2. A student wishes to add more math, science, English language arts or world languages.

Four Reasons for a PC (cont.)

3. To modify requirements because a student has transferred from an out of state or non-public school.
 4. To modify, if necessary, the credit requirements of a student with an IEP.¹
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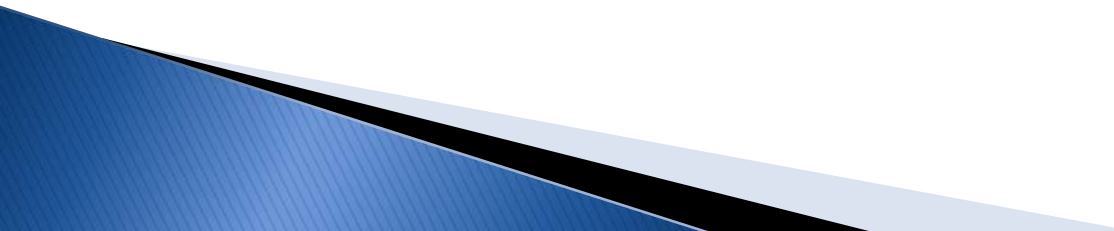
Steps to a Diploma via the Personal Curriculum (PC)

- ▶ **Step 1:** PC is requested by the parent, student, or school personnel. (Request is reviewed to determine if modifications are consistent with state and district policy.)
- ▶ **Step 2:** If eligible, the PC Team writes the PC using the Educational Development Plan (EDP) and (IEP) for those students in special education.

Steps to a Diploma via the Personal Curriculum (PC)

- ▶ **Step 3:** PC is agreed to in writing by student, parent/legal guardian and Superintendent/Designee.
- ▶ **Step 4:** PC is implemented by the appropriate staff. The PC must meet as much of the MMC as practicable, must include measurable goals, and a method of appropriate evaluation.

Steps to a Diploma via the Personal Curriculum (PC)

- ▶ **Step 5:** Student progress is monitored quarterly by parents with each teacher in the modified area.
 - ▶ **Step 6:** The board of a local school district may award a diploma to students completing requirements of a PC.¹
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Resources

¹MDE – Personal Curriculum Guidelines
www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334_49879---,00.html

²MMC FAQ Document (PDF)

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/FAQ_-_Entire_Document_12.07_217841_7.pdf