

Proposed Changes to The Program of Studies 2019-2020
 Nashoba Regional High School
 1/2/2019

Additions - Proposed NEW academic offering

NEW offering (dept.)	Rationale	Levels /Grades
AP Computer Science A Math 4 credits	For those interested in pursuing CS / STEM-related field	Elective, grades 11, 12 w/ prerequisites
Design & Manufacturing Applied Arts 2 credits	Introduces students to hands-on engineering opportunities using new and emerging technologies	Elective, grades 9 - 12 NL
The Play's The Thing English 2 credits	Student interest has been fairly strong since the Theater program was eliminated several years ago.	Elective, grades 9-12 NL
Topics in Science Science 4 credits	This lab course is designed with a focus on real world application in vocational and community settings.	Grades 11,12 CP

Changes to academic program

Current Offering	Change to	Rationale
Robotics 2 Credits Applied Arts Dept. NL, Grades 9-12	Robotics & Drone Technology 4 Credits Applied Arts NL, Grades 9 - 12	This semester elective will be changed to a year-long elective course with a broadened curriculum.
Engineering The Future (ETF) 4 Credits Science / Technology CP, Grade 9-10	Co-Taught Freshmen Physics 4 credits Science NL, Grade 9	The ETF curriculum met requirements for the Science/Engineering MCAS exam. This co-taught physics curriculum is designed with the physics MCAS in mind.

Proposed POS Formatting Changes

(Department Chairs should see me no later than Monday, January 7th to discuss these proposed changes.)

1. Edit introductory message on the front cover & move to the inside of the POS
2. Accreditation Statement (page 9) moved to the first section of the POS
3. Edit language on pp 5 - 15 re: graduation requirements, proof of residency, state university admission standards, GPA's & SAT's ***See attached pages from POS for proposed changes
4. Edit the note on p40 regarding the scheduling of additional science lab periods. Reference page 9 comment about "scheduling conflicts which can prevent students from taking all their desired courses."
5. We all want a POS that is easy to use and offers information about courses being run. Removing the titles of courses we are not planning to run in 2019-2020 should make the program easier to use. Removing a course from the POS does not mean that it will not run in the future. A rotation of electives may allow courses to gain the desired enrollment, while also allowing for scheduling efficiency.

Admission Policy - District Residents

Any student residing in the district who has successfully completed the eighth grade or its equivalent in any elementary, middle, or junior high school will be admitted to the ninth grade. Students transferring from other schools in advanced grades (10th, 11th, or 12th) will be placed in an appropriate program upon evaluation of their records by the guidance director and the principal.

A student will be considered for admission without having completed the full eight grades upon written request of parents, accompanied by recommendations from local school officials. Such a student must meet any further explicit requirements that may be set by the Nashoba Regional School District Committee.

Graduation Requirements

Each student must successfully complete a total of 90 to graduate, while also meeting all of the individual subject-area requirements. Students must pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests to receive a high school diploma in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It will be necessary to plan ahead so that you will have satisfied all graduation requirements by the end of your senior year.

Courses Required

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Years</u>
English	4 years
Mathematics	3 years
Science	3 years
Social Studies	3 years (Including US History)
Languages	2 years
Fine & Performing Arts	1 years
Business/Technology/Applied Arts	1 years (at least one semester of a technology-designated course)
Wellness	4 years
Minimum total credits to graduate	90 credits

Minimum Credits Required for Graduation for All Graduating Classes

90 Credits

- A full year course which meets every day is granted 4.0 credits, a half year course earns 2.0 credit.
- Every student is expected to enroll in a minimum of 25 credits each year.
- To receive credit for a course, a student must achieve a passing grade of 60 or above and meet the high school attendance requirements.
- Students may apply for early graduation if they anticipate meeting all of the graduation requirements on an accelerated pace.
- If a student enters mid-year, the school will attempt to place them in a full schedule which reflects the distribution requirements and the total credits necessary in order to graduate.
- To receive credit for summer school and night classes, students must have earned a C- or better.

Transfer Courses

Recognizing that each educational provider offers a specific level of rigor that may or may not be reflected within a course title or level, and because we do not have the ability to objectively and inarguably determine the corresponding Nashoba level, the most advantageous method to represent these courses to colleges is for them to be presented on their originating transcript.

All credits on a student's transcript from a prior educational setting will be converted to Nashoba credits, where each full year course is granted 4 credits and all courses will be recognized. For courses being brought in from non-traditional educational institutes (home-school, online, therapeutic, etc.) that have not been awarded credit, credit will be calculated according to the amount of time spent on each course prorated for independently verified instructional hours.

Nashoba recognizes only those educational experiences which have been within an accredited educational institution. Home school programs approved by the LEA are the sole exception.

The practical application to a student who transfers to Nashoba as an upperclassman will result in the following example transcript entry:

Minuteman Regional High School
Transfer credit 30

As a matter of policy, any outside transcript received by the high school will be forwarded along with Nashoba's transcript for the college's review.

Proof of Residency/Guardianship:

When a student is enrolling new to the Nashoba Regional School District, evidence of residency, evidence of occupancy and evidence of identification must be provided. the following conditions must be satisfied. First, either a Residency may be established with a Purchase and Sale (if new construction, Oct. 1 Occupancy/Building Permit) or a Lease agreement; ~~real-estate tax statement; occupancy may be established with a current~~ utility bill (that shows actual street address & name) ~~is required to register a student in Nashoba Regional High School; identification can be established with a valid and current passport or state issued identification.~~ If a student's guardian is not named on the above document, the school must have a notarized statement from the owner/lessee indicating that the guardian and student are current residents of the address indicated (P.O. Boxes will not be accepted).

Proof of guardianship is also required if the guardian is not a parent. Either a DSS statement of custody, foster parent agreement, or a Legal Order of temporary guardianship (attorney/notary seal required) is sufficient. In addition, current immunization records and physical exam reports are necessary. Finally, last year's transcript, which will include historical and current academic grades, is needed if a student is transferring mid-year.

Nashoba Regional High School Foreign Exchange Student Contract

Sponsoring organizations shall notify the NRHS Principal and/or Foreign Exchange Student representative (guidance department) no later than May 25th regarding potential Foreign Exchange Students for the forthcoming school year. Each request shall be reviewed by the principal and/or representative. Notification of approval shall be issued to the sponsoring program no later than June 1st. NRHS will not be able to accommodate mid-year or semester break transfers into the school.

In order to provide outstanding service and achieve our mission statement goals, Nashoba Regional High School allows **three** Foreign Exchange students per academic year. The principal reserves the right to reduce the number of foreign exchange students based on financial hardships or unforeseen circumstances. Students must be approved by an accredited foreign exchange program. Students are eligible for a maximum stay of one continuous academic year, September through June at NRHS. Students must register prior to the first day of school. Host parents and students are required to be present at the time of registration. Foreign Exchange students must maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average at the end of each semester to remain in good standing at NRHS. Foreign Exchange students who are enrolled as seniors (grade 12) are able to participate in graduation ceremonies and will receive a Nashoba diploma provided that they pass MCAS exams, a US History course, and the NRHS graduation requirements. An 'Honorary Recognition Diploma' will be awarded if the full MCAS requirements or local graduation requirements are not met at the conclusion of the academic year.

Agreement:

- 1 Foreign Exchange students will be subject to all rules and regulations governing all students at Nashoba Regional High School
- 2 The program representative is responsible for informing students of any agreements with the program and all rules and regulations.
- 3 Foreign exchange students are not eligible for FREE and REDUCED lunches.
- 4 The following information should be presented for acceptance:
 - a Insurance (medical and accidental coverage)
 - b Permission to participate in athletics sponsoring organizations must meet MIAA standards.
 - c Physical examination form including shot record and current physical.
 - d If the student wishes to achieve an NRHS diploma, an official English translated transcript from the foreign student's school.
 - e A profile of student and his or her family.
 - f Statement regarding responsibility of host parents for supervision and support of all school activities.
 - g A copy of host family application and host family profile.

Course Levels

Course levels give students of different abilities opportunities for academic success, appropriate challenge and enrichment. Different levels are geared to specific student characteristics and academic needs. Most elective courses are not differentiated by level and are not included in the weighted GPA to encourage students to explore their interests.

It is expected that all NRHS students will participate in the program sequences for various departments as described in the Nashoba High School Program of Studies. Students wishing to accelerate an academic course of study have options to do so, but must follow the process and guidelines listed here. "Opting out" of courses – i.e., not taking a course in the sequence listed in the Program of Studies – is not allowed.

The following options exist for students wishing to accelerate a program:

- Double-up on courses in a given year. Students should work with their guidance counselor and subject teacher to determine acceptable courses to take concurrently; for example, taking Algebra II and Geometry concurrently is an appropriate option because of the disparities in the two curricula, whereas taking Algebra II and Pre-Calculus concurrently would not be appropriate because the Pre-Calculus curriculum depends in part on prior mastery of the Algebra II curriculum. All general deadlines around dropping and adding courses apply when students double-up on courses.
- Students may take an approved course outside Nashoba Regional High School through an accredited academic institution. Students wishing to explore this option must set up a meeting beforehand with the guidance department head and the subject area department head to ensure that the outside provider is an approved and accredited institution, and that the proposed curriculum offered by the outside provider covers the same content covered by the equivalent course at Nashoba. Students wishing to advance their program must enroll in outside courses independently, pay for the courses themselves, and provide proof of completion with an official transcript. Students choosing to take a course at an outside institution will be required to complete a NRHS summative assessment of the curriculum, both to determine mastery of content and to inform placement in the next course and level. Course levels at an outside institution (e.g., Honors, Accelerated, College Preparatory) do not automatically guarantee placement at a commensurate level in the next course at Nashoba.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Only courses taken and completed at Nashoba Regional High School will be calculated in the student's GPA. Statistics are reported in a format containing only the weighted and unweighted GPA accompanied by a graph profile. Each student's transcript will have an annual weighted GPA and a cumulative weighted and unweighted GPA. - A valedictorian and salutatorian will still be recognized at graduation, based upon seventh semester cumulative weighted GPA, less standing.

Weighted GPA

Grades in each leveled course are assigned quality points when computing the weighted measures. Non-leveled courses are not factored into the weighted GPA calculation. The more difficult the course, the greater the number of quality points awarded. The weighted GPA is calculated using the allotted quality points multiplied by the number of credits and the above product is then divided by the total number of credits.

$$\frac{\text{Quality Points} \times \text{Credits}}{\text{Total Credits}} = \text{Weighted GPA}$$

Quality Points

Honors	Accelerated	College Prep
A+ 5.00	A+ 4.50	A+ 4.00
A 4.75	A 4.25	A 3.75
A- 4.50	A- 4.00	A- 3.50
B+ 4.25	B+ 3.75	B+ 3.25
B 4.00	B 3.50	B 3.00
B- 3.75	B- 3.25	B- 2.75
C+ 3.50	C+ 3.00	C+ 2.50
C 3.25	C 2.75	C 2.25
C- 3.00	C- 2.50	C- 2.00
D+ 2.75	D+ 2.25	D+ 1.75
D 2.50	D 2.00	D 1.50
D- 2.25	D- 1.75	D- 1.25

daily for the entire year are given 4.0 credits. Those which meet daily for a semester are given 2.0 credits. Those which meet daily for a quarter are given 1.0 credit.

Credit for all special projects, independent study courses, and teacher aides will be determined by the number of hours completed. All courses of this type must be approved by the Principal.

Make-Up Credit

Students must earn a grade of F (50 – 59) in order to be eligible to earn credit through summer school. Students who earn an F (0-49) are not eligible to earn academic credit in summer school. To receive credit, a C- (70%) grade or better in summer school is required. Prior approval from the guidance office is required for summer school courses.

Placement Exams

Nashoba Regional High School has the right to administer a Nashoba placement exam in courses such as Math and Foreign Language where prerequisite knowledge is essential in order to progress to the next level. Guidance will typically request a writing sample of a student to assist with placement in Humanities courses.

Credit Courses at Other Schools

Credit toward a Nashoba diploma for outside activities will be awarded to a student only if the following criteria are met:

- The outside activity is an academic classroom course given by an accredited institution.
- The Principal or the Director of Guidance must approve the course prior to enrollment.
- The student must achieve a satisfactory grade and must be in attendance ninety percent of the class time.

Early Graduation

Students who wish to graduate early must plan to earn the required credits and complete the required courses in the appropriate time-frame. Students are expected to present a plan to their guidance counselor and the principal for approval. This agreement must be signed by student, parent, guidance counselor and principal by the end of sophomore year for graduation after junior year and by the end of junior year for graduation mid-senior year.

Students graduating early will be able to begin college, work to save for college, join the military, explore careers, do volunteer work, or travel. Be advised that this option may weaken one's chances for college admission.

Planning for After High School

Massachusetts State Universities & UMass Minimum Admissions Standards

The admissions standards for the state universities and UMass emphasize a strong academic high school background so that students enter college ready to learn. These standards represent minimum requirements; meeting them does not guarantee admission since campus officials consider a wide range of factors in admissions decisions. Students shall have fulfilled all requirements for the high school diploma or its equivalent upon enrollment. It is important to note that admissions standards for the state's community colleges differ. *Community colleges may admit any high school graduate or GED recipient.*

Freshmen Applicants

The new admissions standards for freshmen applicants have two main parts:

- 176 required academic courses
- A minimum required grade point average (GPA) earned in college preparatory courses completed at the time of application.

Applicants must also submit an SAT or ACT score if required: many but not all Mass public universities are test optional – notably, as of 2019 testing is still required at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Academic Course Requirement

~~Sixteen~~ Seventeen college preparatory courses distributed as follows are required. ~~(A course is equivalent to one full school year of study. Courses count toward the distribution only if passed).~~

* Effective with the college freshman class entering fall 2016, the number of required courses will increase to 17 with the additional year of math.

Requirement for college freshman class entering...						
Subject	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017 and beyond
English	4 courses					
Mathematics	3 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or Trigonometry or comparable coursework)				4 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or Trigonometry, or comparable coursework) including mathematics during the final year of high school	
Sciences	3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering; including 2 courses with laboratory work); <i>Technology/engineering courses must be designated as science courses (taken for science credit) by the high school</i>				3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering); including 3 courses with laboratory work	
Social Sciences	2 courses (including 1 course in U.S. History)					
Foreign Languages	2 courses (in a single language)					
Electives	2 courses (from the above subjects or from the Arts & Humanities or Computer Sciences)					

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Requirement</u>
<u>English</u>	<u>4 courses</u>
<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>4 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry required)</u>
<u>Sciences</u>	<u>3 courses with lab work (from Natural and/or Physical Science and Technology/Engineering)</u>
<u>Social Sciences</u>	<u>2 courses (including 1 course in US History)</u>
<u>Foreign Language</u>	<u>2 courses (in a single language)</u>
<u>Electives</u>	<u>2 courses (from above subject areas, or Arts & Humanities or Computer Science)</u>

Minimum Required Grade Point Average (GPA)

The minimum average GPA for freshman applicants, weighted for Honors and Advanced Placement courses, is 3.0 for both the state universities and the UMass campuses and **no applicant with a high school GPA below 2.00 may be admitted to a Massachusetts state college or university campus.** Calculating the weighted GPA is a process conducted by admissions office and does not reflect policies and practices in place in high schools. This GPA is based on all academic courses completed and grades received for courses in which the student is currently enrolled (for example, mathematics courses in which the student is enrolled during the senior year of high school).

~~The GPA must be achieved based on all college preparatory courses completed at the time of application and should be weighted for Honors or Advanced Placement courses only. Effective fall 2001 the required minimum high school GPA is 3.0 for the four-year public state college and university campuses and **no applicant with a high school GPA below 2.00 may be admitted to a Massachusetts state college or university campus.**—The NRHS unweighted GPA is often very close to the Massachusetts Public system calculation, but students are urged to do their own calculations ~~with the table below.~~ Pay particular note to the fact that that the formula does not allow for weighting of our accelerated level in this calculation formula. To calculate a weighted GPA, individuals must convert each final grade earned in college preparatory courses to a 4-point grading scale (where "A+"=4.3; A=4.0; "A-"=3.7; "B+"=3.3; etc.). Honors level and Advanced Placement courses will~~

receive an extra .5 and 1.0 points on the 4-point scale, respectively. For details, see <http://www.mass.edu/forstudents/admissions/admissionsstandards.asp>

SAT Scores

~~Applicants who meet the GPA requirement do not have to use the sliding scale for admission but still must submit SAT or ACT test scores for consideration if they are applying to a state college or UMass within three years of high school graduation. See <http://www.mass.edu/forstudents/admissions/admissionsstandards.asp>~~

If an applicant's GPA falls below the required minimum, a sliding scale will apply. This scale should be used only when an applicant's GPA falls below the required 3.0 minimum for admission to the state colleges or UMass. An applicant with Learning Disabilities may submit the current IEP in lieu of testing.

Twelfth Year Program/Dual Enrollment

Students wishing to complete their high school education at a state community college, state college, or state university may do so through the Twelfth Year or Dual Enrollment Program. The student's family must cover all costs (i.e., tuition, fees, books, and transportation). Costs may range from \$3,000 to \$7,000 per year. Requirements for the Twelfth Year Program differ from school to school. As a general rule, appropriate applicants must:

- Have a high school profile free of any disciplinary actions
- Have attained a G.P.A. of 3.0 higher
- Pass the appropriate placement tests in math and English at the institution they wish to attend. In some cases, students may also be required to take a placement test in science.

Students interested in the Twelfth Year Program should plan to meet with their guidance counselor to discuss the requirements.

College Articulation Agreements

Students taking Accounting I or Information Computer Technology (ICT) are eligible to receive ~~three~~ 3.0 college credits from Quinsigamond Community College and Mount Wachusett Community College. Seniors enrolled in College Writing semester 1 will be awarded 3.0 undergraduate English credits from Quinsigamond Community College upon satisfactory completion of all requirements.

College-Bound Student Athletes

Students wishing to compete on a Division I or Division II college athletic team must meet NCAA Clearinghouse eligibility requirements. Requirements include a strong set of academic course requirements, a minimum GPA, and a sliding scale SAT or ACT requirement. If you are considering college athletics, please see the NCCA Guide for details. Division III sports do not use the Eligibility Center, and college intramural teams are open to all.