

MARIEMONT HIGH SCHOOL

CREDIT FLEXIBILITY

The Mariemont Board of Education has developed a credit flexibility plan to comply with Ohio Department of Education policy. Credit flexibility is one method to facilitate student learning by allowing access to more resources, customization around individual student needs, and the use of multiple measures of learning.

Credit flexibility shifts the focus from “seat time” to performance. Students can earn units of high school credit based on an individually developed and school approved credit flexibility plan.

In addition to completing courses in the traditional manner, students will now be able to earn high school credit by:

1. Completing coursework independently;
2. Testing out or showing mastery of course content;
3. Pursuing an educational option and/or an individually approved option; and/or
4. Any combination of the above.

Students wishing to pursue a course through credit flexibility must adhere to all student scheduling dates and meet with a teacher certified in the area being pursued to develop a proposal for that course.

All credit flexibility applications must be approved by a committee of counselor, department chair and principal before the start of the term according to the following dates:

- **August 15-** for a full year course or a first semester course
- **January 10-** for a second semester course

Students pursuing a credit flexibility course must include a syllabus of activities, methods for demonstrating mastery for credit, timelines and pertinent forms necessary for the duration of the credit flexibility experience.

Grades will be assigned for credit flexibility courses.

Students will not receive additional grade weight for credit flexibility courses.

Any student who is denied participation in a credit flexibility course may appeal the principal’s decision to the superintendent. The appeal must be requested within ten calendar days from the date of denial and must be made in writing.

All students involved in credit flexibility courses must discuss and display their body of work before a panel of educators at the conclusion of the semester. This panel, in cooperation with the faculty advisor, will determine the grade for the course.

All fees or costs associated with a credit flexibility course are the responsibility of the student.

Please contact your child's school counselor to request a Credit Flexibility Application

Pre-Planning Reflection

In most cases credit flexibility calls for a great deal of maturity and self-discipline on the part of the student in order to earn the high school credit. All students should spend time discussing this credit flexibility option with their parents, school counselor, and mentors. Please thoroughly and thoughtfully answer the following questions:

1. What is my purpose in taking a credit flexibility option and how does it relate to my future goals?
2. Am I ready for this credit flexibility option? What prerequisites do I have that prepare me to take this course?
3. What standards (both content and skills) do I need to show mastery for this course?
4. What skills do I need to demonstrate or cite to prove that I have mastered the course?
5. What variety of methods will be used to assess the success of my credit flexibility plan?

Policy Statements

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Student ID number: _____

Current Grade Level: _____

To the STUDENT:

Please read the following statements and then initial next to the statements indicating that you understand the policies. I understand that:

_____ If my credit flexibility proposal is accepted, I will earn a letter grade (A, B, C, D, F) for the course.

_____ The grade that the I earn will appear on my transcript, be calculated into my GPA, and be factored into my class ranking regardless of the final grade. All credit and grades earned are final.

_____ No grades gained through credit flexibility will receive an additional weight.

_____ I must abide by the same rules for dropping and adding courses for credit flexibility that are followed for all courses offered at Mariemont High School.

_____ Academic honesty rules apply just as they do in a traditional class setting.

_____ Many traditional classes are offered at MHS and I have discussed with my school counselor how the outcome of a flexible credit course might impact my ability to take any subsequent courses that call for prerequisites.

_____ I must meet attendance requirements set forth by my plan.

_____ I am responsible for meeting graduation requirements and doing so by established deadlines to participate in senior graduation.

_____ I understand that the district reserves the right to reassign a student participating in a credit flexibility option to a traditional course if the student fails to meet the standards for ongoing participation and satisfactory progress described in his or her Credit Flexibility Proposal form.

_____ I understand that credit flexibility courses may impact my eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities and that I must develop a plan with the counselor and athletic director to make certain that eligibility is maintained.

_____ I understand that no credit flexibility course will be counted as a Cum Laude course in calculating Cum Laude honors, valedictorian / salutatorian standing, etc.

_____ All students involved in credit flexibility courses must discuss and display their body of work before a panel of educators who will collaborate with the teacher mentor to determine a final grade for the course.

_____ All fees and costs associated with a credit flexibility course are the responsibility of the student.

Your signature indicates that you have discussed the above statements with your parents, understand the commitment you are endeavoring to undertake, and agree to the policies set forth by Mariemont High School.

Signature of Student

Date

To the PARENT/GUARDIAN of the student submitting a credit flexibility proposal:

Please read and discuss the above policy statements with your student. Your signature indicates that you have read the above statements and agree to the policies set forth by Mariemont High School. Your signature also relieves the school of any liability for your son/daughter during the times in which your student is not required to be at school due to the flexible credit proposal should it be accepted.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of MHS Mentor Teacher

Date

Signature of School Counselor

Date

Signature of Principal

Date

Credit Flexibility Proposal

Name of proposed course: _____

Beginning date: _____

Ending date: _____

Semester 1 Credit _____ Semester 2 Credit _____ (Please check one or both)

Progress Checkpoints (circle one): 2 weeks 4 weeks 8 weeks Other: _____

MHS Mentor Teacher(s): _____

Method of achieving credit (check all that apply):

_____ Complete coursework independently

_____ Online course through (name of institution) _____

_____ College/university course (name of institution) _____

_____ Other (please specify) _____

Explanation of the methods for achieving credit: (Must include a syllabus of activities. Attach additional pages if necessary).

Timeline for achieving credit, including benchmarks and checkpoints (be specific). Remember that a student may need a quarterly grade to maintain extra-curricular eligibility.

Methods for demonstrating mastery for credit. You must select at least three:

_____ Project(s)

_____ Tests/quizzes

_____ Labs (must be selected if a lab-based)

_____ Internship

_____ Research paper/project

_____ Portfolio

_____ Final exam

_____ Culminating project

_____ Other (please specify):

Resources requested of Mariemont High School:

Support services requested of Mariemont High School if on an IEP:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

To be completed by MHS administrative staff.

Date proposal submitted: _____

Received by: _____ (Administrator / Counselor)

Drop date for flexible credit course: _____

Decision: Approved Denied

Reason(s) for denial of proposal:

Resubmission due date: _____

MHS Mentor Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

School Counselor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student may appeal the denial of the credit flexibility option to the superintendent within 10 days of the resubmission date.