

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Credit Equivalency

Content	Academic Standards	Credits	Credit Equivalency	Teacher Licensure
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra II Integrated Mathematics III Or an equivalent in high school as defined by the high school math standards 	3 Credits	<p>A CTE course may fulfill a Mathematics credit (Minn. Stat. 120B.024, subd. 2, (c) [2023]) for Algebra 2 or its equivalent as defined by standards (Minn. Stat. 120B.021, subd. 1 (a2) [2023]).</p> <p>Note: Algebra 1 is not a high school course for graduation.</p>	Teachers must have a Tier 3 or 4 CTE license in the subject they teach and have passed the relevant Minnesota Teacher Licensure Exam (MTLE) for Math (Minn R. 3505.1150, subp. 2 [2023]).
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth and Space Science Life Science Chemistry or Physics 	3 Credits	A CTE course may fulfill the Chemistry or Physics credit (Minn. Stat. 120B.024, subd. 2, (b) [2023]).	Teachers must have a Tier 3 or 4 license in the subject they teach and have passed the relevant Science MTLE licensure test (Minn R. 3505.1150, subp. 2 [2023]). Agriculture teachers do not have to take the MTLE (Minn. Stat. 120B.024, subd. 2, (d) [2023]).
Arts	<p>One of the arts areas (visual arts, theater, music, media arts, or dance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundations Create Perform Respond Connect 	1 Credit	A CTE course may fulfill an Arts credit (Minn. Stat. 120B.024, subd. 2, (c) [2023]).	<p>Teachers must have a Tier 3 or 4 CTE license in the subject they teach and have passed the relevant arts MTLE test (Minn R. 3505.1150, subp. 2 [2023]).</p> <p>Note: for media arts courses, districts are encouraged to use the visual arts MTLE.</p>
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U. S. and World History Geography Government and Citizenship Economics 	3.5 Credits	An agricultural, food, and natural resources (AFNR) or business education CTE course may fulfill the one-half Economics credit in social studies (Minn. Stat. 120B.024, subd. 2, (a) [2023]).	Teachers must have a Tier 3 or 4 CTE license in the subject they teach; there is not a requirement for teachers to have passed the social studies MTLE licensure test (Minn R. 3505.1150, subp. 2 [2023]).
Personal Finance	Course content should align with MDE guidance and locally-developed CTE standards (Minn. Stat. 120B.022, subd. 1 [2023]).	For Credit	For CTE equivalency, course must be part of an approved sequence of career pathway courses in Family and Consumer Science or Business Education.	Teacher must have a field license or out-of-field permission in agricultural education, business education, family and consumer science, math or social studies (Minn. Stat. 120B.024, subd. 1, (7b) [2023]7b).

Content areas for which NO CTE courses currently fulfill credit equivalency requirements:

- English Language Arts: 4 credits required for graduation; high school students must satisfy all English Language Arts standards
- Health: credits are locally determined; high school students must receive instruction in health education at least once
- Physical education: credits are locally determined; high school students must satisfy all physical education standards

Relationships among Standards, Credit, and Licensure

Academic standards, course credit, additional legislative requirements, and licensure are separate but related issues:

1. **Standards:** Districts determine the course options or pathways through which students can complete the required standards. Students may complete state standards in one subject area (e.g., science standards) through coursework in another subject area (e.g., CTE courses).
2. **Credit:** Districts determine the type and amount of credit awarded to students for the courses they satisfactorily complete. Districts are responsible for ensuring that the credit awarded (e.g., mathematics credit or CTE credit) matches the content taught in the course. Credit means “the determination by the local school district that a student has successfully completed an academic year of study or mastered the applicable subject matter” ([Minn. Stat. 20B.018 \[2023\]](#)).
3. **Licensure:** CTE teachers must hold an appropriate and valid license for the subject matter they teach and not be operating on a Tier 1 or Tier 2 license or an Out-of-Field Permission (formerly a waiver or variance).

School districts must consider the following statutes and rules when determining how their students will meet state graduation requirements:

1. All students must satisfactorily complete all required state standards ([Minn. Stat. 120B.02 \[2023\]](#)).
2. All students must earn (a) **4 language arts** credits, (b) **3 science** credits, (c) **3 mathematics** credits, (d) **3.5 social studies** credits, and (e) **1 arts** credit:
 - a. Four credits of language arts sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in English language arts;
 - b. Three credits of mathematics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in mathematics;
 - c. Three credits of science, including: one credit to satisfy all the earth and space science standards for grades 9 through 12, one credit to satisfy all the life science standards for grades 9 through 12, and one credit to satisfy all the chemistry or physics standards for grades 9 through 12;
 - d. Three and one-half credits of social studies, including credit for a course in government and citizenship in either grade 11 or 12 for students beginning grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and later or an advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or other rigorous course on government and citizenship under section [Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 120B.021, subdivision 1\(a\)](#), and a combination of other credits encompassing as least United States history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics sufficient to satisfy all of the academic standards in social studies.
 - e. One credit of the arts sufficient to satisfy all of the state or local academic standards in the arts;
 - f. Credits sufficient to satisfy the state standards in physical education; and
 - g. A minimum of seven elective credits.
 - h. Students who begin grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and later must successfully complete a course for credit in personal finance in grade 10, 11, or 12. A teacher of a personal finance course that satisfies the graduation requirement must have a field license or out-of-field permission in agricultural education, business education, family and consumer science, social studies, or math.
3. A Career and Technical Education (CTE) credit may fulfill a credit in mathematics, science (other than biology), economics, and/or the arts if:
 - If the district determines that appropriate standards are met with integrity and the CTE teacher has passed the Subject Assessment and Specialty Area MTLE licensure test in the science, mathematics, or arts area in which the credit is given ([Minn. R. 3505.1150, subp. 2 \[2023\]](#)).
 - An agricultural education teacher is not required to pass the MTLE for science. There is not a requirement for an agricultural education or a business and marketing education teacher to pass the MTLE for social studies.
 - Computer science and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses are included in these requirements.

For questions about using a CTE credit to meet a science, mathematics, arts, or economics credit requirement, please contact:

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