

Grade 9 to 10 Frequently Asked Questions

Entering High School is a big period of transition for students. Not only do credits and marks take on a different significance, we recognize that there are many different high schools available to students, each with their own unique offerings for students.

We know many students and their families look at different high schools and we at Westmount fully support and respect families making their own choice as to what school and program will best serve the interests and needs of their child.

Why Westmount?

At Westmount, we pride ourselves on working with our students from the inside out. Being a small tight knit community, we offer smaller classes where each student is known for who they are, not just what they produce. Being a part of a congregated gifted community, high school students at Westmount establish connections and bonds that last well beyond the school years. While we provide programming that challenges students academically and will consistently set them up for continued success after graduation, we maintain a focus on the student as a whole. We strongly believe in helping our students realize their best selves academically, socially, and emotionally.

What are semestered classes and how do they work?

If you are new to Westmount in grade 10, then you've been in year long classes until now. This means you've likely taken LA & Social Studies (Humanities), Math, Science, and PE all year (unless you were at Westmount in grade 9). Moving forward you will now be in semestered classes. For example, you will have Math every day for half the year from September to January; you will then be done math for the year and not take it from February to June.

What is a credit and what does it mean?

- Students are awarded credits for achieving at least 50% in high school courses. You need 100 credits to receive a Alberta High School Diploma (please see what I need to graduate section lower down in this document).
- Some courses are worth 5 credits i.e...English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Drama, and Art.
- Some core courses and some options courses are worth 3 credits i.e...PE, CALM, and Personal Psychology.
- Some option courses are worth 1 credit. These are modules taken within courses like Comm tech, Outdoor Ed, and Computer Programming.

Can I take all core classes and no options?

No. As you will see from the Alberta Education requirements below, you must take courses outside the range of just core courses.

Do I need CTS credits to graduate?

No. You can have CTS credits that go towards your graduation requirements; however, you may also choose a course path that does not include CTS credits. The other credits required come from the complementary areas, as laid out by Alberta Education, which include options outside of CTS.

Can I take 20 & 30 Level Courses in grade 10?

Yes, as long as you've passed the prerequisite course you can take both 20 and 30 level courses. This will need to be approved by school administration. At Westmount, we allow grade 10 students to take a maximum of 1 higher level course per term as long as they have the prerequisites.

Advanced Placement (AP)

At Westmount, we run AP classes for students in grade 11 and 12, with the appropriate pre-requisites. We do not run an AP stream, instead, students may choose to take AP courses at Westmount as needed. Students may also register to write AP exams at Westmount, even if we do not offer the AP class. This is arranged through conversation with student services and administration.

Can I take online, Summer School or Work Experience courses?

Westmount Charter School does not offer work experience as part of our programming. Summer School or online courses are only recommended if courses do not fit into your timetable or we do not offer them. *Please note, Summer school is designed more as **remediation** for students wishing to upgrade their courses. While we have had students take courses over the summer for the first time - it is a more condensed course and will not provide the depth of understanding and experiences that a regular school year course would offer.*

Dual credit courses

Westmount does offer dual credit courses with post secondary institutions where students receive high school credit and post secondary credits. More info to come or talk to Mrs. Kesik. (There is an additional cost to families)

Can I take spares in grade 10?

Yes. As long as you are meeting all requirements to graduate, you can take a spare. Keep in mind you may want to conserve spares for when you have diploma and/or AP classes, which typically happen in grade 11 and 12.

What do I need to graduate?

Requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma

The chart below outlines one way of achieving Alberta High School Diploma graduation requirements, in English. Course sequencing and selection will vary for individual students.

ALBERTA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (ENGLISH)
The requirements indicated in this chart are the <u>minimum</u> requirements for a student to attain an Alberta High School Diploma. The requirements for entry into post-secondary institutions and workplaces may require additional and/or specific courses.
100 CREDITS including the following:

<p>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – 30 LEVEL (English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2)</p>
<p>SOCIAL STUDIES – 30 LEVEL (Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2)</p>
<p>MATHEMATICS – 20 LEVEL (Mathematics 20-1, Mathematics 20-2 or Mathematics 20-3)</p>
<p>SCIENCE – 20 LEVEL (Science 20, Science 24, Biology 20, Chemistry 20 or Physics 20)</p>
<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION 10 (3 CREDITS)</p>
<p>CAREER AND LIFE MANAGEMENT (3 CREDITS)</p>
<p>10 CREDITS IN ANY COMBINATION FROM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses· Fine Arts courses· Second Languages courses· Physical Education 20 and/or 30· Knowledge and Employability courses· Registered Apprenticeship Program courses· Locally developed courses in CTS, fine arts, second languages or Knowledge and Employability occupational courses

10 CREDITS IN ANY 30-LEVEL COURSE

(IN ADDITION TO A 30-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND A 30-LEVEL SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE AS SPECIFIED ABOVE) ‘

These courses may include

- 30-level locally developed courses
- Advanced level (3000 series) in Career and Technology Studies courses
- 30-level Work Experience courses’
- 30-level Knowledge and Employability courses
- 30-level Registered Apprenticeship Program courses
- 30-level Green Certificate Specialization courses
- Special Projects 30

What do I need to get into the University of my choice?

This will depend on the facility or program you are wanting to pursue. You are encouraged to meet with your school counselor or visit our career counsellor, Ms. Kesik, in Student Services to plan for post-secondary transitions.

Who will help me program plan?

Throughout the month of March you can meet with members of the student services team and admin, to do course selections and program planning drop in during lunch. You can also see Joanne Reynolds to book an appointment with your counsellor or admin.

What will my schedule look like?

You will have your own individual schedule, which may look different from your friends. You will need to take the required classes to graduate: Humanities 10, Mathematics 10C, Science 10, and Physical Education 10.

At Westmount, CALM 20 happens over 2 years and is completed during SOURCE, therefore it will not appear in your timetable. CALM is a required course that you need to have to graduate with an Alberta Education High School Diploma.

In your grade 10 year, you will have a mix of 5 credit classes and 3 credit classes. Five credits courses (e.g. English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Drama, and Art) you will take every day. Three credit courses (e.g. PE, CALM, and Personal Psychology) you will take every other day. Some option courses have a collection of modules worth 1 credit each. These modules are taken within courses like Comm Tech, Outdoor Ed, and Computer Programming. Depending on how many modules you complete in the course, determine the number of credits possible. You will notice that some courses, like Comm Tech, are offered everyday, but others, like Outdoor Ed, are every other day. That is because you usually will complete 5 credits in Comm Tech and only 3 credits in Outdoor Ed.

Sample course schedule below:

TERM 1	Grade 10 Student	
Block	Day 1	Day 2
MH1	Humanities 10-1	Humanities 10-1
MH2	PE 10	PE 10
MH3	Math 10C	Math 10C
MH4	Drama 10	Drama 10

TERM 2	Grade 10 Student	
Block	Day 1	Day 2
MH1	Humanities 10-1	Humanities 10-1
MH2	Science 10	Science 10
MH3	Comm Tech I	Comm Tech I
MH4	Outdoor Ed 15	spare

When will I find out my schedule and when can I make changes?

Schedules will be released early-June via an email to your wcs-g from your SOURCE teacher. Grade 10 students will get to do schedule changes once we have completed the schedule changes for Grades 11 - 12 students. We encourage students to ensure their schedule reflects a balance, with core classes spread throughout the year, rather than stacked in one term. If students need help selecting courses for Grade 10, they are welcome to drop-in to Student Services during lunch in March.

I am a student who currently receives TLA support - what does that look like in Grade 10?

For students who are dual coded and received TLA support in grade 9, that support remains for Grade 10 and beyond. Typically, students are connected to the same TLA throughout their high school years to maintain the relationship, understanding and support for the student.