

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	
GRADUATION SUBSTITUTIONS POLICY	3.103

POLICY SECTIONS:

- I. Purpose**
- II. Approved Course Substitutions**

- I. Purpose.**

The following courses may be substituted for graduation credit requirements. In addition to the specific courses listed in this policy, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-03-.03(7) LEAs shall accept postsecondary credits as a substitution for an aligned graduation requirement course, including general education and elective focus courses, for those students who take and pass courses at a postsecondary institution for credit. The decision to permit a postsecondary course not contained in this policy to count as a substitution for a graduation requirement course is to be determined at the local level based on a review of whether the postsecondary course covers the state standards for the graduation requirement course. Additionally, students in middle school may take coursework for high school credit. If a student completes any of the State Board-required high school credits prior to grade nine (9), they shall receive graduation credit for that coursework. Any course listed in this policy as approved to substitute for more than one (1) graduation requirement can only be used by a student to substitute for one (1) graduation requirement course; however, one (1) full-credit course may substitute for two (2) half-credit courses.

- II. Approved Course Substitutions**

- Fourth Credit Math**

Students pursuing a traditional high school diploma are required to complete four (4) credits of math. Three (3) of the required (4) credits of mathematics shall include Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry, or the equivalent Integrated Math I, II, and III. Students may complete the fourth (4th) credit of math at any point prior to, in between, or following the sequence, as long as they meet the requirements set forth in High School Policy 2.103 and State Board Rule 0520-01-03-.06 and take all of the three (3) required courses. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the fourth (4th) credit of math.

Programs of Study:

- International Baccalaureate Mathematics Program
- Cambridge Mathematics Program
- Advanced Placement Mathematics Program

Statewide Programs:

- Dual Enrollment Mathematics Program
- Statewide Dual Credit Pre-Calculus
- Statewide Dual Credit Statistics

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Science:

Physics
AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
AP Physics C: Mechanics
AP Physics I: Algebra-Based
AP Physics II: Algebra-Based
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Computer Science A

Computer Science:¹

International Baccalaureate Computer Science Program
Cambridge International Computer Science Program
Dual Enrollment Computer Science Program
Computer Science
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Computer Science A
Computer Science Foundations
Coding I
Coding II
Coding Practicum
Cybersecurity I
Cybersecurity II
Cybersecurity Practicum
Mobile App Development

CTE Course Substitutions:

Agricultural Fabrication & Biosystems Engineering
Principles of Farm and Agribusiness Management

Work Based Learning Courses²

Coding Practicum
IT (Information Technology) Clinical Internship
Web Design Practicum
Cybersecurity Practicum
Manufacturing Practicum
Engineering Practicum
STEM IV: Practicum
Supply Chain Management Practicum
Teaching as a Profession Practicum (Math Placement)

¹ Students may fulfill their required computer science graduation requirement by substituting a computer science course for the 4th credit of math.

² Pursuant to State Board Graduation Requirements Rule 0520-01-03-.06, a student pursuing an Industry 4.0 diploma distinction may substitute their 4th credit of math with a work-based learning course.

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Third Lab Science

Students pursuing a traditional high school diploma are required to complete three (3) credits of science. Two (2) of the three (3) credits of science shall include Biology and Chemistry or Physics. The third (3rd) credit of science shall be a lab science. Students may complete the third (3rd) lab science credit at any point prior to, in between, or following the required Biology and Chemistry or Physics courses. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the third (3rd) lab science.

Programs of Study:

- International Baccalaureate Science Program
- Cambridge Science Program
- Advanced Placement Science Program

Statewide Programs:

- Dual Enrollment Science Program
- Statewide Dual Credit Science Program

Computer Science:³

- International Baccalaureate Computer Science Program
- Cambridge International Computer Science Program
- Dual Enrollment Computer Science Program
- Computer Science
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science A
- Computer Science Foundations
- Coding I
- Coding II
- Coding Practicum
- Cybersecurity I
- Cybersecurity II
- Cybersecurity Practicum
- Mobile App Development

CTE Course Substitutions:

- Advanced Food Science
- Agriscience
- Applied Environmental Science
- BioSTEM I
- BioSTEM II
- BioSTEM III
- Engineering Design I
- Engineering Design II

³ Students may fulfill their required computer science graduation requirement by substituting a computer science course for the 3rd lab science.

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Food Science & Safety
Human Anatomy & Physiology
Natural Resources Management
Nutrition Science & Diet Therapy
Plant & Soil Science
Principles of Engineering & Technology (PLTW)
STEM I: Foundations
STEM II: Applications
STEM III: STEM in Context
Veterinary Science Technologies

Work Based Learning Courses⁴

Coding Practicum
IT (Information Technology) Clinical Internship
Web Design Practicum
Cybersecurity Practicum
Clinical Internship
Nursing Education
Emergency Medical Services Practicum
BioStem Practicum
STEM IV: Practicum

English III or IV

Courses substituting for a third (3rd)- or fourth (4th)- English course should contain English content that extends the student's English knowledge beyond English II or English III content. Therefore, the substituting course credit for English III or IV will need to be earned following the English II or English III credit, respectively. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the third (3rd) or fourth (4th) credit of English.⁵

Programs of Study:

AP English Language & Composition
AP English Literature & Composition
AP Research
AP Seminar
Cambridge International English Program
International Baccalaureate English Program

⁴ Pursuant to State Board Graduation Requirements Rule 0520-01-03-.06, a student pursuing an Industry 4.0 diploma distinction may substitute their 3rd lab science with work-based learning courses.

⁵ Pursuant to State Board English as a Second Language Programs Rule 0520-01-19-.03, for students who are English learners, two (2) high school English as a Second Language (ESL) courses shall be counted toward the four (4) required English credits required for graduation. At least one (1) of the ESL courses counted toward graduation credit shall be counted toward credit in an English course with an end-of-course assessment..

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Statewide Programs:

- Dual Enrollment English Program
- Statewide Dual Credit: Speech and Communication

Economics

Courses substituting for an Economics course should contain economics content that extends the student's knowledge in Economics. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the Economics course.

Programs of Study

- AP Microeconomics
- AP Macroeconomics

Statewide Programs

- Statewide Dual Credit Introduction to Agricultural Business
- Statewide Dual Credit Introduction to Business
- Dual Enrollment Business Program
- Dual Enrollment Economics Program

CTE Course Substitutions

- Agricultural Business & Finance
- Business Economics
- Entrepreneurship
- Marketing & Management I
- Retail Operations
- Virtual Enterprise International

Visual and Performing Arts (Fine Arts)

Courses substituting for a Fine Arts course should contain visual and/or performing arts content that extends the student's knowledge in Fine Arts. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the Fine Arts course.

Programs of Study

- AP Art History
- AP 2-D Art and Design
- AP 3-D Art and Design
- AP Drawing
- AP Music Theory
- International Baccalaureate Fine Arts Program

Statewide Program

- Dual Enrollment Fine Arts Program

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CTE Course Substitutions

Digital Arts & Design I
Floral Design and Operations
Foundations of Fashion Design
Foundations of Interior Design
Landscaping & Turf Science
Web Design Foundations

Physical Education⁶

Courses substituting for a Physical Education course should contain physical education content that extends the student's knowledge in Physical Education. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the Physical Education course.

JROTC II

U.S. Government and Civics

Courses substituting for a U.S. Government and Civics course should contain U.S. Government and Civics content that extends the student's knowledge in U.S. Government and Civics. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the U.S. Government and Civics course.

Programs of Study

AP United States Government and Politics
AP United States History

Statewide Programs

Dual Enrollment U.S. or American History Program
Statewide Dual Credit American History

CTE Course Substitutions

Pre-Law I and Pre-Law II and Pre-Law III
American Business Legal Systems

Other Course Substitutions

JROTC III⁷

⁶ Pursuant to SBE High School Policy 2.103, the Physical Education requirement may be met by substituting a documented and equivalent time of physical activity in marching band, JROTC, cheerleading, interscholastic athletics, school sponsored intramural athletics, and other areas approved by the local board of education.

⁷ Students who complete JROTC III may substitute that course for one-half (½) credit of Personal Finance and one-half (½) credit of U.S. Government and Civics.

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Lifetime Wellness

Courses substituting for a Lifetime Wellness course should contain wellness content that extends the student's knowledge in Lifetime Wellness. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the Lifetime Wellness course.

JROTC I
Basic Training (JROTC I)⁸

Personal Finance

Courses substituting for a Personal Finance course should contain personal finance content that extends the student's knowledge in business and/or finance. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the Personal Finance course.

Statewide Programs

Dual Enrollment Business Program
Statewide Dual Credit Introduction to Business

CTE Course Substitutions

Agricultural Business and Finance
Business Management
Entrepreneurship

Other Course Substitutions

JROTC III⁹

⁸ Pursuant to SBE High School Policy 2.103 and T.C.A. § 49-6-1209, If, during high school, a student enlists in a branch of the United States military or in the national guard through the military delayed entry program, the national guard split training option or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduation from high school, then the student shall receive high school credit towards graduation for basic training. Credit for basic training may be substituted, upon the choice of the student, for the required credit in lifetime wellness and credit in one (1) elective course or for credit in two (2) elective courses. A student who completes basic training and chooses to utilize basic training to substitute for the required credit in lifetime wellness shall be given credit for JROTC I.

⁹ JROTC III may substitute for one-half (½) credit of U.S. Government and Civics and one-half (½) credit of Personal Finance if the JROTC instructor attends the Personal Finance training.