

Ontario High School Cheat Sheet for Families and Caregivers

Example: ENG2D

Each Ontario high school course code is 5 characters long, and each character has a specific meaning:

Character	Meaning	Example
1st-3rd	Subject	ENG = English
4th	Grade Level	1 = Grade 9, 2 = Grade 10, 3 = Grade 11, 4 = Grade 12
5th	Course Type	D = Academic, P = Applied, U = University, C = College, M = University/College, E = Workplace, O = Open, L=Locally Developed

Subject Codes (First 3 Letters)

Code	Subject
ENG	English
MTH	Mathematics
SNC	Science
CGC	Geography
CHC	History
FSF	French
PAF or PPL	Physical Education
AVI	Visual Arts
BEM	Indigenous Business Perspectives
ICS	Computer Studies
TAS	Exploring Skilled Trades

Course Types (5th Character)

Code	Type	Description
D	Academic	Theoretical focus (Grades 9-10)
P	Applied	Practical focus (Grades 9-10)
O	Open	Suitable for all students
U	University	Prepares for university (Grades 11-12)
C	College	Prepares for college (Grades 11-12)
M	Mixed	University/College pathway (Grades 11-12)
E	Workplace	Prepares for direct entry into the workforce

Pathways

Ontario high school courses are designed to prepare students for different post-secondary destinations. Here's how each course type aligns with future education and career paths:

Grades 9–10: Foundation Years

Course Type	Description	Leads Toward
Locally Developed (L)	Supports students who may struggled with grade-level expectations in compulsory subjects	Prepares students from Grade 11 Workplace (E)
De-Streamed (W)	Inclusive learning environment supporting all students' future pathways	All Grade 10 Courses
Academic (D)	Emphasizes theory and abstract thinking. Strong focus on reading, writing, and problem-solving.	Prepares students for Grade 11 University (U) or Mixed (M) courses.
Applied (P)	Focuses on practical, hands-on learning and real-world applications.	Prepares students for Grade 11 College (C) or Workplace (E) courses.
Open (O)	Suitable for all students regardless of pathway. Focuses on broad skills and interests.	Supports all pathways but does not lead directly to U/C/M streams.

Grades 11–12: Specialization Years

Course Type	Description	Post-Secondary Pathway
University (U)	Academic and theoretical. Prepares students for university programs.	University (e.g., Bachelor's degrees at institutions like U of T, McMaster, etc.)
College (C)	Practical and skills-based. Prepares students for college diploma or certificate programs.	College (e.g., diploma programs at Mohawk, Sheridan, etc.)
Mixed (M)	Combines academic and applied learning. Suitable for programs that accept both U and C courses.	University/College (e.g., joint programs, applied degrees, or college programs with university pathways)
Workplace (E)	Focuses on essential skills for employment or community living.	Workforce, apprenticeships, or community-based programs
Open (O)	Broad interest or life skills courses. Not tied to a specific post-secondary path.	Any pathway, depending on other courses taken

Grade 9 De-Streamed Courses

De-streaming means that students are no longer separated into Academic or Applied tracks in Grade 9 for core subjects. Instead, all students take the same course, designed to be inclusive and supportive of diverse learning needs.

Current De-Streamed Grade 9 Courses

Course Code	Subject	Notes
MTH1W	Mathematics	First de-streamed course (since 2021)
SNC1W	Science	De-streamed since 2022
ENL1W	English	New de-streamed English course (2024)
CGC1W	Geography of Canada	New de-streamed course (2024)
PPL10	Healthy Active Living Education	Open course (not streamed)
FSF10	Core French	Open course
BEM10	Indigenous Business Perspectives	Open course
TAS10	Exploring Skilled Trades	Open course

Why De-Streaming Matters

- Equity: Reduces early tracking that can disproportionately affect marginalized students.
- Flexibility: Keeps more post-secondary pathways open longer.
- Confidence: Builds foundational skills in a more inclusive environment.

Graduation Requirements

If you started Grade 9 in 2024 or in later years you must earn:

- 17 [compulsory credits](#)
- 13 [optional credits](#)
- the [literacy requirement](#)
- at least 2 [online learning credits](#)

Everyone needs 40 hours of [community involvement activities](#) (volunteering) to get their high school diploma.

Compulsory credits

You need the following 17 compulsory credits to get your OSSD:

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)
- 3 credits in mathematics (Grade 9, Grade 10 and 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 credits in science

- [1 credit in technological education](#) (Grade 9 or Grade 10)
- 1 credit in Canadian history (Grade 10)
- 1 credit in Canadian geography (Grade 9)
- 1 credit in the arts
- 1 credit in health and physical education
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 0.5 credit in career studies
- 0.5 credit in civics and citizenship
- 1 credit from the [STEM-related course group](#)

The following apply to compulsory credit selections.

- You can use the [Grade 11 English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices](#) course to meet the Grade 11 English compulsory credit requirement.
- You can use the [Grade 9 Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures](#) course to meet the compulsory credit requirement in the arts.
- You can use a [Level 1 or 2 Native languages course](#) to meet the compulsory credit requirement for French as a second language if you have taken [Native languages](#) in place of French as a second language in elementary school.
- **English language learners:** You may count up to 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English Literacy Development (ELD) towards the 4 compulsory credits in English. Your fourth credit must be a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

STEM-related course group

Of the 17 compulsory credits, you must complete 1 from the following group:

- business studies
- computer studies
- cooperative education
- mathematics (in addition to the 3 compulsory credits currently required)
- science (in addition to the 2 compulsory credits currently required)
- technological education (in addition to the 1 compulsory credit required)