

Creating a Course Plan

This lesson is designed to help students choose the right courses to achieve their academic goals and meet graduation requirements.

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will identify what courses must be taken
2. Students will create a course plan that meets graduation and MassCore requirements
3. Students will add to the course plan throughout high school to stay on track
4. Explore AP and Dual Enrollment options

ACTIVITIES

PART 1

Content Knowledge

Ask students why it may be beneficial to plan their courses during their freshmen year. Make sure to point out that having an idea about the type of career they'd like to pursue will allow them to more easily choose the necessary classes to take in high school. Also make sure to note that certain classes are required for admission to college, regardless of major, and that certain classes are required to fulfill the MassCore requirements.

PART 2

Applying Information

Students need to log in to MEFA Pathway and go to the *Course Planner* section in the *Build Career Plan* tab. Students should scroll to the Grade 9 Semester 1 section and click on the *EDIT* button.

From there, students can add the classes they are currently taking. If counselors have added their course catalog, students should start by adding the subject area. Next, they will select the course name from the drop-down menu. If a course is not listed, students can add it as a custom course. They will then select the course level. Once the course level is selected, the maximum number of credits will automatically fill in. Students can then select the amount of credits they have earned from the drop-down menu. If the student has completed the class, the student should add his or her final grade.

Grade Level: 9

MEFA PATHWAY SECTIONS WITHIN THIS LESSON:

- Course Plan

DOMAIN:

- Academic Skills

TIME:

- 60 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Internet connection to work with the MEFA Pathway website
- Course Plan Organizer (included)

FUTURE READY SKILLS:

- Self Awareness
- Critical Thinking

VOCABULARY:

- MassCore
- Course Planner
- Major

Email any questions to:
info@mefapathway.org



LESSON PLAN

Students should repeat the process for each of their classes. Once all their classes have been added, students should click *SAVE*. Students should then add the courses they plan to take for their remaining semesters and years.

If counselors have not yet added their course catalog, they should do so in the MEFA Pathway Counselor Portal. Counselors should navigate to the *Admin* tab and select *Course Planner Admin*. From there, counselors can enter school information, classes offered, and credits/levels offered. If counselors do not add their course catalog, students must enter every class into their Course Planner as a custom course.

PART 3

Evaluating Information

Once students have saved their courses, they should scroll down to view their Progress Summary. This summary will give them an overview of their plan. It will let students know if they are on track to meet graduation requirements and MassCore requirements by showing how many credits are required and how many credits are planned for each subject area. If students are not on track, it will prompt them to work with their school counselor to rework their course plan.

PART 4

Critical Thinking/Creative Application

Students should work with their counselor to rework their course plan if necessary. This could mean changing the courses they plan to take or changing the level of those courses. The plan should be detailed, thoughtful, and thorough. To help organize their plan, students should complete the *Course Plan Organizer*. Students should add their reworked plan into their *Course Planner*.

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Course Plan Organizer

Courses needed for graduation

Courses needed for major

Courses needed for MassCore

MassCORE Requirements

MassCore Framework Massachusetts High School Program of Studies		
SUBJECT	UNITS	NOTES
English Language Arts	4 Units	
Mathematics	4 Units	Including completion of Algebra II or the Integrated Mathematics equivalent. A mathematics course during senior year is recommended for all students. Students may substitute one unit of Computer Science that includes rigorous mathematical concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a mathematics course.
Science	3 Units of lab-based science	Coursework in technology/engineering courses may also count for MassCore science credit. Students may substitute one unit of Computer Science that includes rigorous scientific concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a laboratory science course.
History and Social Science	3 Units	Including U.S. History and World History.
Foreign Language	2 Units	Of the same language.
Physical Education	As required by law	"Physical education shall be taught as a required subject in all grades for all students" (M.G.L. c.71 §3).
Arts	1 Unit	
Additional Core Courses	5 Units	Other additional coursework (including Career and Technical Education) or any of the above.

*A unit represents a full academic year of study or its equivalent in a subject that covers all the standards contained in a specific Curriculum Framework.

** Students enrolled in a state-approved Career and Technical Education program of studies have the option of opting out of Foreign Language and Art and still fulfill MassCore.

*** districts may designate students with demonstrated fluency and literacy in language(s) other than English as meeting the MassCore recommendations for foreign language

MassCore is a recommended program of study Massachusetts high school students need to excel in college, career, and civic life. Developed by an advisory group from elementary and secondary education, higher education, nonprofits, and the private sector, MassCore maintains flexibility for students while letting districts set additional graduation requirements. Courses included in MassCore should be rigorous, engaging, and based on appropriate learning standards for high school or beyond. Fulfilling MassCore is just a start. Students should also engage in a full range of additional learning opportunities, such as: accelerated/advanced coursework; capstones or senior projects; dual enrollment courses; online courses; service learning; work-based learning; clubs and student organizations; varsity and intramural athletics; and part-time employment.