

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 the 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 graduation requirement can only be used by a student to substitute for one graduation requirement course.

- II. Approved Course Substitutions

Fourth Year Math

Courses substituting for mathematics credit should contain mathematics content that extends the student's mathematics knowledge beyond Algebra II/Integrated Math III content. Students must be enrolled in a mathematics course each year; therefore, the substituting course credit will need to be earned following the Algebra II/Integrated Math III credit. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the 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

Science:

- Physics

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

GRADUATION SUBSTITUTIONS POLICY

3.103

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

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

Third Lab Science

Courses substituting for the 3rd year lab science credit should contain science content that extends the student's knowledge beyond the first and second year lab science content. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the 3rd year lab science.

¹ Beginning with the 9th grade students in the 2024-25 school year, 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.

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

GRADUATION SUBSTITUTIONS POLICY

3.103

Programs of Study:

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

Statewide Programs:

- Statewide 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
- BioSTEM III
- Engineering
- Design II
- Food Science & Safety
- Human Anatomy & Physiology
- Natural Resources Management
- Nutrition Science & Diet Therapy
- STEM III: STEM in Context
- Veterinary Science Technologies

³ Beginning with the 9th grade students in the 2024-25 school year, students may fulfill their required computer science graduation requirement by substituting a computer science course for the 3rd year lab science.

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

GRADUATION SUBSTITUTIONS POLICY

3.103

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- or fourth-year English course should contain English content that extends the student's English knowledge beyond English II content. Therefore, the substituting course credit will need to be earned following the English II or English III credit. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the third or fourth credit of English.

- AP English Language & Composition
- AP English Literature & Composition
- AP Research
- AP Seminar
- Cambridge International English Program
- Dual Enrollment English Program
- International Baccalaureate 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. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the Economics course.

- Agricultural Business & Finance
- Business Economics
- Entrepreneurship
- Marketing & Management I
- Retail Operations
- Virtual Enterprise International
- Statewide Dual Credit Introduction to Agricultural Business
- Statewide Dual Credit Introduction to Business

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 year lab science with work-based learning courses.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION | |
| GRADUATION SUBSTITUTIONS POLICY | 3.103 |

Dual Enrollment Business Program
Dual Enrollment Economics Program
AP Microeconomics
AP Macroeconomics

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. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the Fine Arts course.

Digital Arts & Design I
Web Design Foundations
AP Art History
AP 2-D Art and Design

AP 3-D Art and Design
AP Drawing
AP Music Theory
IB Fine Arts Program
Dual Enrollment Fine Arts Program

Physical Education⁵

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

JROTC I and JROTC II and JROTC III

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. The following list includes allowable course substitutions for the U.S. Government and Civics course.

Pre-Law I and Pre-Law II and Pre-Law III
JROTC I and JROTC II and JROTC III
American Business Legal Systems
Dual Enrollment U.S. or American History Program
Statewide Dual Credit American History
AP United States Government and Politics
AP United States History

⁵ 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.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION | |
| GRADUATION SUBSTITUTIONS POLICY | 3.103 |

Wellness

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

JROTC I and JROTC II⁶

Personal Finance

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

Agricultural Business and Finance
Business Management
Entrepreneurship
Statewide Dual Credit Introduction to Business
JROTC I and JROTC II and JROTC III⁷

⁶ Pursuant to SBE High School Policy 2.103, credit in basic training may be substituted for the required credit in Wellness. A student who completes JROTC I shall be given credit for basic training.

⁷ Pursuant to SBE High School Policy 2.103, three (3) years of JROTC may be substituted for one-half (½) credit of Personal Finance if the JROTC instructor attends the Personal Finance training.