

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.

II. Approved Course Substitutions

Fourth Credit 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 fourth 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

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.

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

GRADUATION SUBSTITUTIONS POLICY

3.103

Third Lab Science

Courses substituting for the third 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 third year 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
- Food Science & Safety
- Human Anatomy & Physiology
- Natural Resources Management

³ 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

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- 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.

Programs of Study:

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

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.

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

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

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

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

GRADUATION SUBSTITUTIONS POLICY

3.103

Physical Education⁵

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 I and JROTC II and JROTC III⁶

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 I and JROTC II and JROTC III⁷

Wellness

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

JROTC I and JROTC II

Basic Training (JROTC I)⁸

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.

⁶ Students must complete all three (3) JROTC courses in order to substitute for Physical Education.

⁷ Students must complete all three (3) JROTC courses in order to substitute for U.S. Government and Civics.

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 wellness and credit in

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	
GRADUATION SUBSTITUTIONS POLICY	3.103

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.

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 I and JROTC II and JROTC III⁹

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 wellness shall be given credit for JROTC I.

⁹ 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.

Adopted: 05/19/2023