

Academic Program

Graduation Requirements

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

To graduate, New Trier students must have a minimum of 19 credits from courses taken during their high school years. Within these 19 credits, the following subject areas are required:

- English - 4 credits (4 years)
- Mathematics - 3 credits (3 years)
- U.S. History - 1 credit (1 year)
- World History - 1 credit (1 year)
- Biology - 1 credit (1 year)
- Physical Science - 1 credit (1 year)
- Kinetic Wellness/Health - 2 credits (4 years)
- Fine and/or Practical Arts (2 semesters)
- Consumer Education
- Driver Education

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

English

Successful completion of each of the four years of the English sequence is required for graduation (4 credits). In the junior and senior years, students choose from a number of course options.

Mathematics

Students must complete three full years of mathematics, Algebra 1 or higher (3 credits).

Social Studies

Two years of social studies are required: one year of world history and one year of United States history.

Science

One full year of biology (1 credit) and one full year of a physical science (1 credit) are required. All science courses are laboratory courses.

Kinetic Wellness/Health

Students are required to take a kinetic wellness course for each semester they attend New Trier. The four-year kinetic wellness program includes state-mandated health units. Students who transfer into the district with no prior health education will be required to enroll in a one-semester health course. Kinetic wellness courses earn .5 credit per year.

Fine and/or Practical Arts

To satisfy this requirement, a student may take two semesters of fine arts (Art, Music, or Speech and Theatre), two semesters of practical arts (Applied Arts or Business Education), or one semester of each. Courses taken to fulfill any other graduation requirement (such as dance for kinetic wellness) may not be used to fulfill this requirement. A freshman dance course taken in addition to a kinetic wellness course may also be used as a fine arts credit.

Consumer Education

The following courses satisfy the requirements for consumer education:

- AP Economics (full year required)
- Business Management (full year required)
- Consumer Math (full year required)
- Consumer Seminar
- Economics
- Financial Management
- Introduction to Business (full year required)
- Special Education: Vocational Education

Driver Education

The driver education requirement may be satisfied by completing the driver education course or by completing a classroom course of at least 30 clock hours with a state-certified commercial driving school.

Recommended Courses for College Admission

Colleges are looking for diversity and rigor in the high school academic record. Below is a suggested college prep course load:

- English (4 years)
- Mathematics (3-4 years): Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, Precalculus
- Social studies (3-4 years)
- Lab science (3-4 years)
- Modern and classical languages (2-4 years of same language)

No single pattern of preparation will meet the admissions requirements of all colleges. However, a four-year comprehensive and balanced program in the traditional academic subjects is strongly advised and will meet most college requirements and/or recommendations.

Preparing for specific personal, vocational, or college interests requires careful planning of the student's course of study. Students interested in highly selective colleges should pursue a four-year sequence in English, foreign language, mathematics, science, and social studies. Most colleges require more than the minimum graduation requirements for admission. All students should take at least 16 core academic, full-year courses, including two courses in science. In addition, students are encouraged to take advantage of the courses offered in the areas of applied arts, art, business, dance, music, speech, and theatre. Advisers and post-high school counselors are ready to help students with their four-year high school plan.

With over 3000 colleges in the U.S., there are always exceptions to the above. New Trier students should strive for a schedule that provides the optimal, appropriate academic challenge while still allowing time for activities they choose to enrich their lives.