

Franklin HIGH SCHOOL

Program OF STUDIES



ABOUT FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Franklin High School

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MISSION STATEMENT

Franklin High School exists as a covenant among students, families, staff and the community. This collaboration promotes a rigorous, safe and nurturing environment in which students are responsible and passionate learners. In an atmosphere of equality, acceptance, and respect, students prepare to contribute to our democratic society and an interdependent world.

Academic Expectations for Student Learning - Franklin High School has been in the process of the implementation of Academic Expectations for Student Learning meant to reflect the skills we all expect our students to possess as 21st century learners. These expectations are:

- Collaborate (I)
- Communicate (II)
- Create & Innovate (III)
- Own Learning (IV)
- Practice Digital Literacy (V)
- Think Critically and Solve Problems (VI)

Each has a corresponding rubric used to measure our students' progress in demonstrating these critical skills. These rubrics were developed by a committee of Franklin High School staff including administration, department coordinators, department heads, and classroom teachers in conjunction with recommendations from our most recent NEASC accreditation visit, effective practices, and the PANTHERS core values.

The Franklin Public Schools' Portrait of a Graduate represents the community's consensus of five essential skills each student practices and develops, individually and collaboratively through teamwork throughout all grades in Franklin Public Schools. Understanding that the development of these skills is a lifelong process, FPS looks to provide a foundation for graduates' future learning, growth, fulfillment, and success.



ACCREDITATION

Franklin High School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), a non-governmental, nationally recognized organization whose affiliated institutions include elementary schools through collegiate institutions offering post-graduate instruction. Accreditation of an institution by the New England Association indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of instructional quality periodically applied through a peer group review process. An accredited school or college is one which has available the necessary resources to achieve its stated purposes through appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

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SELECTING COURSES

Franklin High School is a comprehensive high school. To meet the variety of student needs and abilities, courses are offered according to four criteria: content, classroom activities, instructional pace, and assignments outside the classroom. Many courses are sequenced and may have prerequisites. Within these guidelines, courses are open to all students. Schedules are refined to accommodate student needs as much as possible. Curricular offerings are reviewed annually. A complete description of courses may be found in the "Course Descriptions" section of this document, which can also be found on the Franklin High School website.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Guidance counselors communicate to students the opportunities that are available for academic as well as personal growth. Guidance counselors provide assistance to develop a meaningful high school program, explore interests and abilities, as well as develop educational and career plans. Students are encouraged to make use of the services available through the Guidance office.

The Guidance Department provides services in the following areas:

Course Selection: Students have the primary role in determining the scope and breadth of their education. Students are expected to discuss their course selections with families and teachers. In making their course selections, students will also consult with their guidance counselors. Counselors will help students assess their strengths, weaknesses, and goals, and will explain course options to students. With the help of families, teachers, and counselors, students are responsible for their course selections.

Information: Grade level seminars, conferences, reference material about careers, colleges, and job training opportunities.

Placement: Counselors assist students to make the transition from Middle School to High School, from High School to higher education, and/or high school to career.

Evaluation: Counselors provide thorough review of each student's areas of strength and challenges as shown by test results, academic activities record, teacher observations, and student reflection.

COURSE SELECTION GUIDELINES

The best course of study for an individual student is one that is within reach, yet stretches the student's abilities to the fullest, satisfies the student's needs and interests, and meets the objectives of a long-range educational or vocational plan. Families are encouraged to review the courses their son/daughter selects each year.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are formally recognized by the College Board, and provide opportunities for students to earn advanced placement and/or credit at college.

The Advanced Placement (AP) program, which is administered by the College Board, consists of college-level courses and exams for high school students. AP exams are scored on a range from 1 to 5. Scores of 3 or higher often qualify the student for college credit or advanced courses. Since its inception in 1955, the AP Program has been remarkably successful, and many students have earned college credit or placement in advanced courses. The AP Program at Franklin High School includes the following courses: English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Spanish Language and Culture, French Language and Culture, Latin, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Calculus, Statistics, Computer Science, U.S. History, European History, Economics, Psychology, Government and Politics, Studio Art, and Music Theory. Franklin students may also take other AP exams offered by the College Board, regardless of whether those AP subject courses are offered at Franklin High School. All students who elect an Advanced Placement course are required to take the AP exam or a teacher-developed final exam of equal rigor in May. The cost to take the AP exam is approximately \$95. Examination fees are reduced for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

(Continued)

Honors (H)

Honors courses offer more highly-challenging content than the typical college preparatory course. Honors courses are quite rigorous and require consistent, independent effort for students to achieve at the highest level. Students in Honors courses develop advanced content and skills as articulated by Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

Open Honors (OH)

Open Honors courses are grouped heterogeneously regarding course level and afford students the choice of taking such courses for CP or Honors credit. Students enter into a contract at the beginning of the course, committing to complete the content/skills as articulated by Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for the respective weighted course credit.

College Preparatory (CP)

College Preparatory (CP) courses are designed to prepare students for success in college-level coursework. CP courses are rigorous and require consistent effort for students to achieve at the highest level. Students in CP courses develop a strong foundation of content and skills as articulated by Massachusetts Frameworks.

FHS Recommendations for Course Levels

- **Highly Recommended** final grade of “B-” from previous Honors level course and/or teacher recommendation to remain in Honors
- **Highly Recommended** final grade of “A-” to move from a College Prep course to an Honors course and/or teacher recommendation
- **Highly Recommended** final grade of “A” (College Prep) or “B” (Honors) to enroll in an Advanced Placement course and/or teacher recommendation.*

*In addition, data from PSATs may also be used in the recommendation for enrollment into an Advanced Placement course.

POLICY ON ADDING AND DROPPING COURSES

Students are expected to carefully consider the course of study they select and are discouraged from changing courses. Only under extenuating circumstances should a request to change or drop a course or course level be made. Permission to drop a course or change a course level will be considered after receiving input from faculty, and evaluating available space in alternate courses. The following actions will be enforced when requesting a course change:

1. No course changes will occur during the 1st cycle (seven school days) of the school year. After the first cycle, level changes only will be entertained until October 1st. Any requests for changes after this time require administrative approval.
2. The deadline for adding or dropping academic courses is October 1st.
3. First semester elective changes will not be made once the school year has started. Similarly, no elective changes for second semester will be made once 2nd semester has started.
4. The course will be deleted from the student's record if that change occurs prior to the end of Quarter 1.
5. Any level change made after the deadline date will be recorded on the student's transcript as either Withdrawn/Pass (WP) or Withdrawn/Fail (WF), depending upon the student's academic standing in the course at the end of term.
6. Any student who adds a course will be responsible for all work assigned prior to the schedule change.
7. Because credits are earned based on the final grade in a course, if a course is dropped prior to earning a final grade, no credit toward graduation will be earned.
8. A ten point grade increase will be applied to the grade being transferred in from the previous course for students who drop a level within a course.
9. Students wishing to drop a course for which there is no alternate level may not be permitted to do so until the end of the semester when another course could be put in its place. The deadline for this is October 1st.

Special Note to All Students and families:

Every attempt will be made to satisfy student requests for courses. However, budgetary constraints, staffing, availability, course enrollment, building capacity, and master schedule flexibility are factors in the scheduling process, and may necessitate alterations to student schedules. Please be aware that some courses listed may not run due to the aforementioned variables.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Pathways Aligned with the Franklin High School Mission Statement, the goal of the Pathways program for alternative education is to cultivate each student's intellectual, social, emotional and physical potential. Here, students will engage in differentiated opportunities in a small community of learners where they will engage in core academics, group process, and community work experiences. We maintain a low student-to-staff ratio and provide additional support services to ensure a safe, nurturing and respectful environment. Our commitment to our students provides them with opportunities to experience both social and academic successes and emphasizes character building to enable them to become productive citizens.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, CREDITS & GRADE POINT AVERAGE

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

<i>Required Subjects</i>	<i>Minimum Credits Required</i>
English (Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12)	20.0
Mathematics (including Computer Science A)	20.0
Science (Biology, 2 full years of additional sciences)	15.0
Social Studies (World History, US History 1 and US History 2)	15.0
2 Year Sequence: (World Language, Business, Arts, Consumer Science)	10.0
* Wellness (Grade 9, Grade 10)	4.0
Additional Credits	22.5
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Total	106.5

Physical Education is required in all grades. Wellness includes Health & Physical Education (2 credits per year in Grades 9 and 10). **In addition, beginning with the Class of 2025, students must take an in school PE elective course for one semester (2.5 credits) or participate in a school sanctioned sports team during their junior or senior year.** Members of the Classes of 2023 and 2024 have the choice of participation in one of the following 3 PE Pathways during their junior and senior years:

PATHWAY 1: Through participation in a school physical education elective for a semester.

PATHWAY 2: Through participation on one of the school's athletic teams (SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY POLICIES).

PATHWAY 3: Through participation in an outside of school organized physical activity or activities totaling more than 30 hours in a school year, including those listed in the Pathways description or other activities that may be proposed by students, that receive prior administrative approval. In order to meet the requirements for approval, the proposed program must be supervised by a certified instructor and have a strong instructional component for the FHS student participants. Fitness classes taught by a certified fitness instructor, programs with a coach or personal trainer, or a certified physical educator will be accepted. General gym memberships, online or computerized workouts, and unsupervised or non-instructor lead workouts will not be accepted. [Link to pre-approved Pathway 3 activities](#)

Notes (applicable to all students):

1. All graduation credits must be earned in grades 9-12.
2. Only courses that are completed will earn credit. Partial credit will not be given for courses that are not completed.
3. Determination and acceptance of transfer credits is at the discretion of the principal. Transfer credits must have been earned at accredited schools.
4. Credit is earned only for courses completed while in attendance at Franklin High School. The Principal or designee will determine if credit will be awarded to students who are tutored outside of the regular school day or participate in other learning opportunities.

Higher Education Admission Standards: Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Massachusetts State Colleges and University of Massachusetts campuses have adopted the following standards for admission.

Course Requirements

<u>Required Courses</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Including</u>
English	4	English 9, 10, 11, 12
World Language	2	Single language
Mathematics	4	Algebra I & II, Geometry and a math class in final year of high school
Sciences	3	3 years of laboratory science
Social Science	3	World History, US 1 and US 2
Electives	2	From subjects listed above or from Arts & Humanities,

Grade point averages are calculated based on grades earned in college preparatory courses. Each state University of Massachusetts campus to which a student applies will calculate his/her GPA for purposes of applying the admissions standards. If an applicant's GPA falls below the required minimum GPA, a sliding scale will apply. Information on Undergraduate Admissions Standards for the Massachusetts State University System and The University of Massachusetts can be found [here](#).

Test Requirements: Due to COVID, standardized test policies have shifted. Please check individual school requirements.

Grade Point Requirements

A minimum grade point average (GPA) required in college preparatory courses for both state colleges and universities is 3.00 (weighted).

SEAL OF BILITERACY

The State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given to students who have attained a high level of proficiency in English through the ELA MCAS or ACCESS and another language through a district-selected standardized test. The qualifying student will demonstrate a high level of proficiency in all four domains of language (reading, writing, speaking and listening when all exist) of both languages. In Franklin, qualifying seniors will receive an official state seal beginning with the graduating class of 2021. This program is designed to both motivate and recognize students who have pursued and attained biliteracy during their academic career in Franklin. This designation will be applied to Franklin High School transcripts for all qualifying students.

Many of the students who matriculate through Franklin Public Schools graduate with functional literacy in two or more languages. The Seal of Biliteracy will benefit students in the workforce and our global society because it serves as evidence of the language skills that a student possesses to future employers and college admissions offices and will encourage students to cultivate their understanding of the complex, diverse and interdependent world in which we live.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY

<p>State Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A score of <i>Exceeding Expectations</i> on the grade 10 Next-Gen ELA MCAS (or 531-560) 2. Minimum Score of Advanced-Low on all 4 communication modes of an approved proficiency test such as ACCESS (see ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012)
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State Seal of Biliteracy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A score of <i>Meeting Expectations</i> on the grade 10 Next-Gen ELA MCAS (500-530) or an overall score of 4.2 and a composite score of 3.9 on ACCESS 2. Minimum Score of Intermediate-High on all 4 communication modes of an approved proficiency test such as ACCESS (see ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012)
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**Students who earn a scaled score between 220 and 238 on the English Language Arts grade 10 Legacy MCAS or between 455 and 471 on the Next-Gen MCAS may satisfy the English language criteria for the State Seal of Biliteracy if they fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan and attain a minimum score or level on a nationally recognized and readily available English proficiency assessment approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Franklin High School recognizes that regular physical activity is important for all students. As such and consistent with Massachusetts General Laws, the school requires four years of physical education for all students in grades 9-12.

Grade 9 and 10 students will meet this requirement through their scheduled Wellness course. In addition, beginning with the Class of 2025, students must take an in school PE elective course for one semester (2.5 credits) or participate in a school sanctioned sports team during their junior or senior year.

Students in the Class of 2023 and 2024 may elect from 3 Pathways by which to meet the physical education requirement.

Pathway 1: Through completion of a one-semester elective course in each of the 11th and 12th grade years.

Pathway 2: Through participation on one of the school's athletic teams.

(SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY POLICIES AND COMPLETION OF THE SEASON).

Pathway 3: Through participation in an outside of school organized physical activity or activities totaling more than 30 hours in a school year. This may include those listed or other activities that may be proposed by students should they receive prior administrative approval. In order to meet the requirements for approval, the proposed program must have a strong instructional component. **(See additional notes on page 12.)**

HEALTH EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Franklin High School requires students to pass Health Education through their Wellness courses in grades 9 and 10 as a requirement for graduation.

Health Curriculum Exemption

The Franklin Public Schools, in compliance with federal and state regulations, developed a comprehensive Health Education program, which is implemented in our secondary schools. This program strives to promote the health and wellness of the student population and to enable students to make informed decisions during their adolescent years.

As part of this comprehensive Health Education program, topics involving human sexuality and gender education are discussed and studied. Additionally, topics such as dating relationships, consent, communication skills, abstinence, birth control, abortion, racial, gender and sexual orientation inclusivity, prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections are all explored as part of the comprehensive high school Health Education curriculum.

Under Massachusetts State Law and School Committee Policy, families/guardians may exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum that involves human sexuality. To receive an exemption, please forward a written request to the Franklin High School Principal prior to October 1 of the school year. Students exempted for this portion of the curriculum will not be penalized and will be provided with an alternative assignment.

CREDITS

Credit Hours per Course

Credits will be awarded for courses upon successful completion as indicated in the course listings contained in the Program of Studies.

Advancement

Grade level placement is based upon the number of previously earned credits. To be promoted at the end of the school year, a student must have earned the following number of credits for the grade and school year:

Grade	Credits Taken *	Cumulative Credits	Required for Promotion
9	32	32	25
10	32	64	50.5
11	30-35	94-99	71.5
12	30-35	124-134	106.5

* Due to health and physical education requirements, not all students are required to carry the maximum credit load (35) per year. As such, a range of credit requirements is published as a general reference

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) CALCULATION

Grade Point Average (GPA) is tabulated according to a 4 point weighting system. This system is consistent with the requirements of colleges and universities for the method of reporting student GPA for the application process and is in compliance with the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education guidelines for computing weighted grade point average. Courses at Franklin High School are grouped in three levels and will be given differing weights in the computation of grade point average according to the table below.

GPA = course credits x weighted grade = weighted score in each course

GPA TABLE

Grade	AP	H	CP
A+	5.33	4.83	4.33
A	5.00	4.50	4.00
A-	4.67	4.17	3.67
B+	4.33	3.83	3.33
B	4.00	3.50	3.00
B-	3.67	3.17	2.67
C+	3.33	2.83	2.33
C	3.00	2.50	2.00
C-	2.67	2.17	1.67
D+	2.33	1.83	1.33
D	2.00	1.50	1.00
D-	1.67	1.17	0.67
F	0.00	0.00	0.00

The weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) is determined by weighting marks received in each subject according to the degree of difficulty of the subject. Academic subjects are designated as Advanced Placement (AP), Honors (H), and College Preparatory (CP). Rank in class is based on courses in Grades 9-12 only. Rank in class is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Sum of weighted scores for all courses} \div \text{Sum of credits earned during the student's career}$$

Note

1. All scheduled classes with a curriculum will be applied to GPA.
2. Two semester courses will be combined to equal the credit equivalent of one year.
3. Independent study will not be applied to class rank.
4. Courses taken on a P/F basis will not be applied to GPA or class rank.

Reporting of Student Grade Distribution

1. A weighted GPA will be computed and will include all courses with a prepared curriculum.
2. A student distribution by deciles will be developed, based on the first six semesters of grades. It will be distributed with the student's transcript and school profile.
3. Valedictorian and Salutatorian determination will be based on weighted GPA after the third quarter of Senior year.

Transfer Students / Rank in Class

1. Only courses designated as honors or the equivalent thereof at the student's former school will be classified as honors courses for class rank at Franklin High School. The high school administration will interpret the appropriateness of a course designation.
2. To receive credit toward class rank at Franklin High School equaling that of the student's former school, the course at the student's former school must have equivalent hours and designation.
4. Students must complete two full years at Franklin High School to be considered in class rank.
5. In fairness to transfer students completing less than two years at Franklin High School, an approximation of class rank will be sent to colleges, and a letter from the student's guidance counselor will accompany the transcript for explanation.

RELATED TOPICS

Other related topics of interest to students and families can be found in the [Franklin High School Student Handbook](#).

COURSE OF STUDY

CORE SUGGESTED SEQUENCE

Grade 9		Grade 10	
<u>Course</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Level</u>
1 English 9	H or CP	1 English 10	H or CP
2 World Language	H or CP	2 World Language	H or CP
3 Mathematics	H or CP	3 Mathematics	H or CP
4 Biology	H or CP	4 Science	H or CP
5 World History	H or CP	5 U.S. History I	H or CP
6 Elective*	H or CP	6 Elective*	H or CP
7 Wellness	H or CP	7 Wellness	H or CP

(Continued)

Grade 11			Grade 12		
	<u>Course</u>	<u>Level</u>		<u>Course</u>	<u>Level</u>
1	English 11	H or CP	1	English 12/Elective	AP, H or CP
2	World Language	AP, H or CP	2	World Language	AP, H or CP
3	Mathematics	AP, H or CP	3	Mathematics	AP, H or CP
4	Science	AP, H or CP	4	Science	AP, H or CP
5	U.S. History II	AP, H or CP	5	Social Studies	AP, H or CP
6	Elective*	AP, H or CP	6	Elective*	AP, H or CP
7	Physical Education Elective or Pathway	H or CP	7	Physical Education Elective or Pathway	AP, H or CP

*An elective can be a course offered in any department. It is usually selected primarily out of student interest

GRADES 9-12 SELECTION CHECKLIST

Scheduling the proper courses for the next year is one of the most important activities in which you will engage this school year. It is very important that you do a careful and thorough job. This Program of Studies is a tool for you and your families to use in the scheduling process. This electronic resource describes the courses as they will be offered. It describes the level of difficulty and the number of periods per week that a course is offered. Please read the Program of Studies carefully before completing the course selection process with your guidance counselor. Please make careful choices. It is very difficult to change a course once the selection process has been completed. You will meet with your guidance counselor in February-March to review your recommendations and selected courses.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR SCHEDULE

Freshmen (2026)

1. Have you selected English, Math, Biology, World History, World Language, and Wellness?
2. Are you taking 6 courses each semester (excluding Wellness for 9th)?
3. Do your choices agree with your teachers' and guidance counselor's recommendations?
4. Does your program prepare you for your long-range education or vocational plans?

Sophomores (2025)

1. Have you passed all your previous requirements?
2. Have you selected English, Math, Science, US History I, World Language, and Wellness?
3. Will you be taking 6 courses each semester (excluding Wellness)?
4. Will you have at least 50.5 credits before entering your junior year?
5. Do your choices agree with your teachers' and guidance counselor's recommendations?
6. Does your program meet Massachusetts Higher Education Admission Standards?

Juniors (2024)

1. Have you passed all your previous requirements?
2. Have you selected English, U.S. History II, Math, Science, and P.E/Pathway.?

3. Will you have at least 80.5 credits before the beginning of your senior year?
4. Are you taking 7 courses (could include directed study) each semester?
5. Do your choices agree with your teachers' and guidance counselor's recommendations?
6. Remember, you must have 20 credits in English; 15 credits in social studies, (including U.S. History I); 15 credits in science (biology); 20 credits in mathematics; 10 credits in a sequence; 2.5 credits in Health Ed.; and a sufficient number of credits to meet your P.E. requirement to graduate.
7. Does your program meet Massachusetts Higher Education Admission Standards?
8. Will you participate in P.E. during the school day or select an alternate pathway?
9. Have you considered the World Language requirements of the post-secondary schools to which you plan to apply?

Seniors (2023)

1. Have you passed all your previous requirements?
2. Have you selected English for 1st and 2nd semester?
3. Will you have 106.5 credits (including a sufficient number of P.E. credits) upon completion of your senior year?
4. Are you taking 7 (could include directed study) courses each semester?
5. Do your choices agree with your teachers' and guidance counselor's recommendations?
6. Remember, you must have 20 credits in English; 15 credits in social studies, (including U.S. History I and II); 15 credits in science (biology); 20 credits in mathematics; 10 credits in a sequence; 2.5 credits in Health Ed.; and a sufficient number of credits to meet your P.E. requirement to graduate.
7. Does your program meet Massachusetts Higher Education Admission Standards?
8. Will you participate in P.E. during the school day or select an alternate pathway?
9. Have you considered the World Language requirements of the post-secondary schools to which you plan to apply?

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Special Education Department of Franklin High School offers participating students a curriculum that is based upon each student's specific needs as stated in his/her Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Entrance into this special education is in accordance with Chapter 766, Massachusetts Special Education Regulations, which requires referred students to be evaluated through a team process. As a result of a Team Evaluation, an individualized educational plan is developed and implemented which may provide one or more of the following services or course offerings: academic support, replacement academic subjects, inclusion subjects, speech and language therapy, counseling services and/or other specialized services deemed appropriate by the team to accommodate the unique learning style of each participating student. A full range of special education services is available to identified students who need support in order to be successful in regular education classes. Services are designed to provide study skills, reinforce mainstreamed curriculum and enhance basic academic skills.