

Academic Program

Four-Year Planning Process

Introduction

The four-year plan is a road map created to chart a student's course of study through high school. It begins with the selection of freshman courses and is revised and refined annually in collaboration with the student's adviser to ensure that this individualized program is meeting the needs, interests, and goals of the student.

Objectives

- The four-year plan should include all graduation requirements.
- It should be a well-rounded, appropriately challenging program that balances core academic courses with elective courses while incorporating post-high school aspirations and interests.
- It should be a balanced, manageable program that allows the student to pursue extracurricular and co-curricular interests as well.

Resources

The worksheet on page 5 can be used to create a four-year plan. The student's adviser and post-high school counselor are key resources in mapping out the student's program and helping him or her make adjustments along the way. Prior to freshman year, the Program of Studies and the freshman transition team are valuable resources available to students and parents. Keep in mind that a student's four-year plan will change over time as his or her needs and interests evolve throughout high school.

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 - .5 credit (2 semesters)
- Consumer Education
- Civics - .5 credit (1 semester)

Beginning with the class of 2022, every course that meets 5 times per week will receive 1 credit per year (.5 credit per semester). A minimum of 23 credits will be required for graduation.

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 Media, Speech & 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 fulfill the consumer education requirement:

- 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

Civics

Students are required by the Illinois State Board of Education to take one semester of civics education. The following courses fulfill this requirement.

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors:

- Civics
- Civics and Social Justice

Open to seniors only:

- AP Government and Politics
- Current Issues
- IGSS Senior Social Studies
- Law and Justice
- Political Science
- Sociology in Action