

Nordonia High School Credit Flexibility

OVERVIEW

Credit Flexibility is any alternative coursework, assessment or performance that demonstrates proficiency needed to be awarded equivalent graduation credit as approved by the school district. Approved credit awarded through this policy will be posted on the student's transcript and counted as required graduation credit in the related subject area or as an elective. The State of Ohio's plan for credit flexibility is designed to broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, increase the depth of study possible for a particular subject, and allow tailoring of learning time and/or conditions.

Are you ready for a credit flexibility opportunity?

A credit flex opportunity at Nordonia High School is a student owned learning opportunity that:

- ✓ Provides more choice and autonomy in deciding how, when and where students learn.
- ✓ Provides more options for individually suited pathways to post-secondary and career goals.
- ✓ Provides acceleration and convenience including more options for courses in the school schedule (especially for fitting in electives).

Students may earn credit through ONE of the following:

1. Demonstration of Mastery (see attached application)
2. Enrichment through Experience or Performance (see attached application)

Students who can answer affirmative to the following statements are ready for a credit flex course:

- ✓ I will follow the rules of Nordonia Hills City Schools and the code of conduct while working on this credit flex opportunity.
- ✓ I understand that Nordonia Hills City Schools cannot offer hardware or software support for my personal computer.
- ✓ I am the only one responsible for my own learning.
- ✓ I am able to manage my study time effectively and easily complete assignments on time.
- ✓ I am self-disciplined and find it ways to set aside reading and homework time.
- ✓ When it comes to learning, I am a self-directed person.
- ✓ I am willing to follow the recommendations made by the committee approving my credit flex plan.
- ✓ I am willing to revise my credit flex plan according to the specifications of the committee.

APPLICATION

Any student may apply for credit to be awarded through Credit Flexibility. The student will submit an application via the district designated forms. All required information must be presented. The student may be required to provide supporting documentation as determined by the administration. Applications may be made three times a year; deadlines are SEPTEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, AND JUNE 1.

FEES

The student assumes all of the financial and transportation obligations of alternate course work. Obligations may be related to tuition, textbooks, fines, fees, and job-specific uniforms.

APPLICATION REVIEW

The application will be reviewed by committee designated by the administration. Upon approval of a completed application, the student will proceed with the learning activity. An appeal may be made to the committee of district administrators should a student's proposed alternative learning credit be denied.

CREDIT FLEXIBILITY COMMITTEE

The Credit Flexibility Committee shall consist of no fewer than four (4) educators and must represent those personnel involved in the process including but not limited to:

- A high school teacher of the content area for which an individual plan is written
- A high school guidance counselor
- A district administrator
- An additional appropriate educator

AWARDING CREDIT

The student will be eligible to receive credit upon satisfactory completion of the alternative coursework, activity, assessment, and/or performance as required by the committee.

The following standards and guidelines apply to awarding of credit:

- The total number of credits earned towards graduation requirements is not limited.
- Credit may count toward a course requirement for graduation as aligned with the district's course of studies. Credit may also be awarded for electives that do not appear in the district's curriculum. All credit must be linked to the Ohio Content Standards.
- The student may be awarded one (1) full, one-half (1/2), or one quarter (1/4) credit as approved by the committee.
- The assessment to determine how credit will be awarded must be outlined in the student's plan at the time of its approval. A student must demonstrate proficiency through an assessment, performance, or work product as required and approved by committee.
- Progress will be reviewed quarterly.
- Flexible credit for courses that are equivalent to the course offered through the school district will be awarded equivalent credit.
- As approved, credit may be earned from other districts and other educational providers.
- If a student is a transfer from another district and the student has not completed their flexible credit plan as approved by the other district, the administration shall consider this a new application for credit.
- Tests or assessments used to determine advancement and course credits will be given semi-annually due to planning for the subsequent school semester/year. Applications must be approved prior to the test/assessment. If a test or other assessment is used, the student must score 80% or better to receive credit. A student failing to achieve this score may not apply for the assessment for the same course until the next application date. Any assessment for a particular course credit may only be attempted twice.

DETERMINING GRADES

- All flexible credit will be reported as a letter grade. Grades will not be weighted, will be posted on the transcript, and will be included in the student's grade point average. Students must achieve a mastery level of 80% of course or plan objectives. Grades will be awarded as determined by the committee.
- If a student fails to complete the alternative coursework, activity, assessment, and/or performance as stated in the plan approved by the committee, the approval to pursue the proposed credit will be revoked and a failing grade reported. The failing mark will be included on the transcript and calculated into the grade point average.
- The grade must be posted before the credit can count toward graduation.
- If a student is unable to complete the proposed credit due to physical illness (with a medical excuse), the committee may extend time permitted or revise requirements. With medical documentation, the committee may also choose to revoke the application without posting a failing grade.

OHSAA/NCAA CONSIDERATIONS

Students wishing to participate in high school athletics must be aware the Credit Flexibility learning experiences may not be factored into the eligibility considerations. We recommend that students continue to enroll in courses posted on the approved NCAA website to remain eligible for participation. Seniors wishing to pursue Division I or Division II NCAA athletics eligibility are responsible for ensuring that they will meet the appropriate requirements. OHSAA requires that all student-athletes must receive passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period in order to be eligible to participate.

RETROACTIVE CREDIT

Students will not be allowed to retroactively receive credit for courses or experiences taken prior to the submission of an application. Therefore all courses taken or credit gained prior to the approval of the committee will not be granted to students.

DEADLINES

Session 1 – application deadline – SEPTEMBER 1

- ✓ Course must be completed by January 15th for grades to be posted at the end of semester 1.
- ✓ Athletes must provide evidence of a “passing” level at the end of the first and second quarters.

Session 2 – application deadline – JANUARY 1

- ✓ Course must be completed by May 15th for grades to be posted at the end of semester 2.
- ✓ Athletes must provide evidence of a “passing” level at the end of the first and second quarters.

Session 3 – application deadline – JUNE 1

- ✓ Course must be completed by August 15th for grades to be posted before the new school year.
- ✓ Athletes must provide evidence of a “passing” level at the end of the first and second quarters.

ACCESS

This policy does not in any way prohibit access to online education, postsecondary options or services from another district approved by the Board of Education.

Interested students should read and reflect on the following statements:

- ✓ I am responsible for ensuring that I have met graduation requirements by established deadlines to participate in graduation.
- ✓ I recognize that the course s may not match the academic standards for NHS and may not adequately prepare me for subsequent courses.
- ✓ I am responsible for maintaining my OHSAA athletic eligibility.
- ✓ If I am planning to participate in athletics in college, I have referred to NCAA requirements at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- ✓ I am on an IEP or 504 and require support services.
- ✓ I will write my plan according to the learning outcomes derived by the State of Ohio’s new Learning Standards and present such plan to the NHS Credit Flex Committee in the following format or through submission of a course syllabus by an accredited agency:

Ohio’s New Learning Standards	Explain how you will demonstrate proficiency in this standard.	Explain how this standard will be measured.
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STEPS IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Discuss possible credit flex plan with your parent(s) and counselor.
2. Application packets are available in the guidance office and on our school website www.nordoniaschools.org
3. Download related course information from the [Ohio Department of Education New Learning Standards](#). You will need these guidelines, or a copy of the course syllabus, to help you complete the application if you have selected **Enrichment through Experience or Performance** as your method of achieving credit (see application).
4. Turn completed packet into the high school guidance office by the specified deadlines.
5. Be prepared to attend a meeting to discuss your proposal or to re-submit it as necessary.
6. Once the course proposal is approved, the course must be completed as indicated by the committee. The course must be approved BEFORE student begins coursework.

CREDIT FLEXIBILITY APPLICATION

Name _____ Grade _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Parent Cell Phone _____

Parent email _____

Parents'/Guardian name _____

Name of Course: _____

Start Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

Adult Supervisor(s)/Teacher(s)/ Mentor(s): _____

Company name (for online courses only): _____

Method of achieving credit (Check one):

Demonstration of Mastery:

Local course assessment provided by subject area department for approved course.

Enrichment through Experience or Performance (please specify below):

Online Courses

Mentorship

Independent Study

Honors

Internship

Awards

Study Abroad

Selective Membership

Distance Learning

Art Portfolio

Educational Travel

Music Portfolio

Other, specify _____

Credit to be earned: (select one)

.25

.50

1.0

If you have selected **Enrichment through Experience or Performance** on page one of the application as your method of achieving credit, please complete the chart below. You will find information to assist you with this activity at www.ode.state.oh.us (Click on "Teaching", then "Instruction", then select the academic area from the list on the left side of the screen that you are working in to identify the "New Learning Standards" for column one of the chart below).

You may also attach a course syllabus to your application, instead of completing the chart below, if you are taking a course through an accredited agency.

Ohio's New Learning Standards	Explain how you will demonstrate proficiency in this standard.	Explain how this standard will be measured.

General Information & District Guidelines

Student Name: _____ Date: _____ Current Grade Level: _____

I am interested in pursuing Credit Flexibility during the _____ academic school year.

Credit Flexibility is used as a means of diverse instructional needs of students with different talents, interests, and development. All such options must be aligned with the district's educational goals and objects. These options are expected to meet the content, concepts, and skills of the course competencies established by both the district and Ohio Academic Content Standards.

To the STUDENT:

Please read the following statements and then initial next to the statements indicating that you understand the policies. I understand that:

_____ Parents/ guardians and students assume all of the financial and transportation obligations of alternate course work.

_____ All flexible credit will be reported as a letter grade. Grades will not be weighted, will be posted on the transcript, and will be included in the student's grade point average. A failing mark will be included on the transcript and calculated into the grade point average.

_____ All senior flexible credits must be completed by the third nine weeks of their senior year.

_____ Grades will be determined by using the percentage scale outlined in the Parent/Student handbook.

_____ Academic honesty rules apply just as they do in a traditional class setting.

_____ I am responsible for meeting graduation requirements.

_____ Senior participants must meet graduation requirements by established deadlines to participate in senior graduation.

_____ I am responsible for maintaining athletic eligibility.

_____ I recognize that the course may not match the academic standards for NHS and may not adequately prepare me for subsequent courses.

_____ If I am dissatisfied with the results of the application, grade or credit award, I have the option of appealing to a committee designed by the Board Office.

_____ I understand that all granting of credit will be based on my demonstration of competencies as approved by certified educators.

_____ I have met the prerequisites that prepare me to take this course/assessment.

Your signature indicates that you have discussed the above statements with your parents, understand the commitment you are endeavoring to make, and agree to the guidelines set forth by Nordonia High School.

Signature of Student

Date

To the Parent/Guardian of the student submitting a flexible credit proposal:

Please read and discuss the above guidelines with your student. Your signature indicates that you have read the above statements and agree to the guidelines set forth by Nordonia High School. Your signature also relieves the school of any liability for your son/daughter during times in which your student is not required to be at school due to this flexible credit proposal, should it be accepted.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Principal

Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

To be completed by NHS Credit Flexibility Committee

Student Name: _____

Date Application Submitted: _____

Received by: _____
(Administrator/Counselor)

Athlete in sport(s): _____

Present Level of Academic Achievement

Cumulative Grade Point Average _____

Total Credits Earned _____ Credits in Progress _____

Attendance - days missed in high school years: _____

Members present:

Submission Approval: **Approved** **Denied**

Reason(s) for Denial of Submission:

Resubmission Date: _____

Approved Flexible Credit Completion

Final Grade for Flexible Credit Course: _____ **Credit Earned** _____

Course number _____

Course name _____

Course code _____

Date _____