

Peak Academy

High School Course Catalog



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Peak 2020/21 High School Course Registration Guide

Selecting and Registering for Courses

Students, parents/guardians, and the counselor work together to choose courses that fulfill students' ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan) and lead to graduation within 4 years. Below you will find information about graduation requirements, high school progression, and course information. **While the counselor works to ensure a proper schedule, ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to fulfill the graduation requirements (if a student fails a course, the student/family needs to set up a time to meet with the counselor to make a plan to earn those credits back).**

Here are some key things to consider prior to registering for courses:

- *Accelerated/Advanced Courses* – Peak does offer some AP and concurrent/college courses. All of these have prerequisites that students' need to meet to be eligible for the classes. Students wishing to enter Geometry in 9th grade MUST demonstrate proficiency on standardized tests and have passed Algebra I with a minimum of a B or higher.
- *Minimum Expectations* – Students are expected to pass all classes with a minimum of a D- (60%) or higher. If a student fails a class, he/she may no longer be on track to graduate on time and may need to take summer school classes. It is the parent's responsibility to sign a student up for summer school and pay for the assigned classes.
- *Course Options* – Your course options may be limited if you have failed a course or are missing courses required for graduation.
- *High school graduation versus college entrance requirements* – High school graduation requirements are different than many college entrance requirements. If you/your student wishes to attend college, it is important to create a schedule that meets the college entrance requirements.
- *Schedule Changes* – Students have 2 weeks from the first day of the trimester to make changes to their schedule. Any change made later than that will result in a "Withdraw/Fail" on their transcript.
- *Early Graduation* – Students may graduate early if they have met all of the graduation requirements. Students must meet with the counselor to ensure all requirements have been met. There will only be one graduation ceremony, so if a student completes the requirements early, they can get the diploma and will have the opportunity to participate in the ceremony in May.

Credit – Awarding of Credit for Peak Classes

Completion of a class with a grade of 'D' (60%) or higher results in the awarding of credit, typically ½ credit for each one-trimester class. Spanish and math give 1 full credit for 3 of 3 trimesters and students are expected. A few classes meet for two class periods within the same trimester and are

worth one full credit (examples may include work/study or concurrent enrollment). Classes that are graded 'Pass/Fail' earn ½ credit for a Pass and 0 credit for a Fail.

Credit – Awarding of Credit for Concurrent Enrollment Classes

Qualified students may participate in concurrent enrollment where they take classes on a college campus and earn both college and high school credit. A 3 or 4 credit college course equates to 1 high school credit. If the college course is taken over the course of a semester, the student will earn 1 high school credit for that semester, replacing 2 high school classes. If the college course is taken over the course of a full year, the student will earn 1 high school credit for the year.

Credit Recovery

Students who have failed a required class or are credit deficient can recover credit through RE-1J Summer School. Students must check with their school counselor for recommendations and approval.

Equivalent Teacher-Pupil Instruction and Contact Time

As a hybrid school, Peak has both in-person and online requirements. Attendance is taken daily. Reports are used to show school login data, in addition to each unique course log-in and time spent in course. Class attendance is monitored by each teacher and also logged into reports. The school calculates attendance in the following way:

- Attending 5+ hours daily in their online course curriculum;
- Course progress in curricular assessments; and/or
- Attending live class sessions for each course as per the schedule

Full Time

Students who take 4 or more courses each 12-week trimester, which is a minimum of 360 hours of teacher-pupil instruction and contact time per trimester, are considered full time by Peak and the State of Colorado. This equates 540 hours/semester in a traditional schedule. (540 hours x 2 semesters = 1080 hours/year; 360 hours x 3 trimesters = 1080 hours/year).

Part Time

Students who take 2-3 courses each 12-week trimester, which is a minimum of 180 and less than 360 hours of teacher-pupil instruction and contact time, are considered part time by Peak and the State of Colorado. Students must be enrolled in at least 2 courses to be enrolled at Peak.

Concurrent Enrollment

Students meeting certain criteria may take college classes during high school. Concurrent enrollment allows a student to earn high school credit *and* college credit simultaneously at no tuition cost to the student or the student's parents/guardians. Students **MUST** get prior approval from their school counselor before registering for concurrent enrollment. All courses must be offered through an approved postsecondary partner (such as Colorado Mesa University or Technical College of the Rockies).

There are 2 main types of concurrent enrollment:

- Career and Technical Education
 - Students take classes for a certification program such as Welding, Computer Help Desk Technician, Early Childhood Education, or Certified Nurse Assistant (please see counselor for full list)
 - Requirements to apply for these classes
 - Must be a Junior or Senior
 - Minimum 2.5 GPA
 - Maximum 9 absences
 - Been at Peak or in Montrose County School District for at least 1 trimester or semester

- General Education Concurrent Enrollment
 - These are classes on a college campus that apply toward a postsecondary academic degree and will transfer to other public institutions of higher education in Colorado.
 - Requirements to apply for these classes
 - Students must meet prerequisites for the course
 - Minimum 3.0 GPA
 - Have qualifying PSAT/SAT scores
 - Been at Peak or in Montrose County School District for at least 1 trimester or semester
 - The course is included in student’s graduation plan.
 - The course exceeds what is offered at Peak.

Montrose County School District Graduation Requirements

Credit Area	Number of Credits Required
English	4
Math	3
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Physical Education	1.5
Health	0.5
Technology	0.5
Fine Arts	0.5
ELA ICAP*	0.5
Math ICAP*	0.5
Elective	8.5
Total	25.5

15 hours of community service – to be performed during high school

*College & Career-ready Demonstrations for English & Math - To receive .5 credit for ELA ICAP and .5 credit for Math ICAP, students must meet or exceed the minimum scores for at least one English *and* at least one Math College and Career-ready Demonstration option.

HS Progression

9th Grade

- English 9 – 1 credit
- Geography – 1 credit
- STEM 9 Science – 1 credit
- Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, or Geometry* – 1 credit
- Spanish 1 – 1 credit
- PE 1, 2, or 3 – 0.5 credit
- Health – 0.5 credit
- Technology – Adobe Photoshop – 0.5 credit
- *Total 6.5 credits*

10th Grade

- English 10 – 1 credit
- US History – 1 credit
- Biology – 1 credit
- Introduction to Algebra, Geometry, or Algebra 2* – 1 credit
- PE 1, 2, OR 3 – 1 credit
- Fine Arts Option – 0.5 credits
- Personal Finance (Counts for required Math ICAP credit) – 0.5 credit
- Career Explorations (Counts for required ELA ICAP credit) – 0.5 credit
- *Total 6.5 credits*

11th Grade

- English 11 or AP/Concurrent English* – 1 credit
- American Government and Economics – 1 credit
- Science choice: Physics, Mechatronics, or Anatomy and Physiology – 1 credit
- Financial Math, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus*, or Statistics* – 1 credit
- Elective Choice – 2.5 credits
- *Total 6.5 credits*

12th Grade

- English 12 or AP/Concurrent English* – 1 credit
- Senior Seminar – 0.5 credit
- Elective Choice – 4.5 credits
- *Total 6 credits*

*Accelerated Class with Pre-requisites – To be considered for accelerated classes students must have earned A's in prior classes and earned proficient or higher test scores. If a student would like to take an accelerated class and has B's in previous classes (with proficient or higher standardized test scores), student must also have teacher recommendation.

Required Classes that fulfill graduation requirements with Course Descriptions

(Please note that 1 credit = 2 of 3 trimesters for English, Social Studies, Science, and most electives. 1 credit = 3 of 3 trimesters for Math, Spanish, and AP/Concurrent.). Class with an asterisk * have prerequisites.

English – 4 Credits

English 9 – (1 credit) Students will read a variety of texts, including novels, poetry, and nonfiction, and write for a variety of purposes.

English 10 – (1 credit) Students will read a variety of texts, including novels, poetry, and nonfiction, and write for a variety of purposes.

English 11 – (1 credit) Students will survey American literature and write for a variety of purposes.

English 12 – (1 credit) Students will survey world literature and write for a variety of purposes.

Concurrent Enrollment Language and Composition* - (1 credit) Students will study rhetoric and conduct in depth readings of non-fiction texts. Students will earn both high school and college credit for this course. Pre-requisites: A or B in English the previous year.

Concurrent Enrollment Literature* - (1 credit) Students will conduct an in depth thematic study of literature and write literary analyses. Students will earn both high school and college credit for this course. Pre-requisites: A or B in English the previous year.

Mathematics – 3 Credits

Pre-Algebra – (1 credit) Topics include number sense, expressions, equations, inequalities, and graphing.

Introduction to Algebra – (1 credit) Topics include linear functions, linear equations, absolute value, inequalities, systems of equations, interpreting data, and graphing.

Algebra I – (1 credit) Topics include: developing and working with algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities, interpreting and using linear and quadratic functions, interpreting categorical and quantitative data, and graphing a variety of different types of functions.

Geometry – (1 credit) Topics include: using rational, irrational complex and real numbers for a variety of purposes, reasoning with equations and inequalities, conditional probability, similarity, trigonometry, surface area, volume and properties of circles.

Algebra II – (1 credit) Topics include: linear and quadratic equations, algebraic manipulation of rational expressions and polynomials, interpreting and using linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, arithmetic and geometric sequences, families of functions, exponents, logarithms, polynomials, statistics, and systems of linear equations.

Financial Math – (1 credit) Topics include consumer loans, consumer credit, insurance, taxes, consumer debt, and buying a house.

Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry* – (1 credit) Topics include basic trigonometric values, the unit circle, basic identities, graphs and transformations of trigonometric functions and their inverses, triangle relationships, vectors and complex numbers.

Statistics* – (1 credit) Topics include probability, sampling, data distributions, data analysis, scatterplots, and two-way tables.

Science – 3 Credits (All Peak science classes are lab-based)

STEM 9 – (1 credit) Physical science, chemistry, earth science content with focus on scientific and engineering processes.

Biology – (1 credit) Study of living organisms as defined by the Colorado Academic Standards.

Physics – (1 credit) Conceptual emphasis on physical science standards.

Mechanics– (1 credit) The combination of math, science, engineering, computer science, and robotics with emphasis on scientific and engineering processes.

Chemistry* – (1 credit) The study of matter as defined by the Colorado Academic Standards.

Anatomy & Physiology – (1 credit) Blend of anatomy and physiology with emphasis on content for how systems work and interact.

Social Studies – 3 Credits

Geography – (1 credit) Students study the physical and cultural aspects of world geography.

US History – (1 credit) Course traces the historical events, social trends and political developments of the United States from 1887 to present.

American Government – (0.5 credit) Students will be introduced to the study of federal, state, and local governments with specific emphasis on the role of a citizen.

Economics & Global Affairs – (0.5 credit) Students will study foreign policy with an in-depth focus on macro and micro economics.

Physical Education – 1.5 Credits (Course descriptions below with trimester information)
PE 1-4 or Sports PE 1-4*

Health – 0.5 Credits in Health (Course descriptions below with trimester information)

Technology – 0.5 Credits (Course descriptions below with trimester information)
Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Animate

Fine Arts – 0.5 Credits (Course descriptions below with trimester information)
Art, Yearbook, or Fine Arts Log

Math and ELA ICAP – 1.0 Credits (Course descriptions below with trimester information)
Personal Finance ICAP, Career Explorations ICAP, or other college and career-ready demonstration (cut scores on standardized tests)

Electives – 7.5 Credits (Course descriptions below with trimester information)
Spanish I, Spanish II*, Spanish III*, FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), Leadership (Student Government), Introduction to Business, Internship, Work/study, Senior Seminar, Career Planning and Development, Psychology, Sociology

* Indicates prerequisites are required

Elective Courses by Trimester with Course Descriptions

Trimester 1

- ***Physical Education 1 & 4*** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students study health and wellness basics and complete a fitness log
- ***Sports Physical Education 1*** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students must be playing a varsity or junior varsity sport at MHS or OHS or be on the Black Canyon Gymnastics team where they practice a MINIMUM of 8 hours/week; document based
- ***Adobe Photoshop or Animate*** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students learn about Photoshop and create a culminating project using that application

- **Leadership/Student Council** (year-long for 1 credit) → Students learn how to be an effective leader and plan activities for Peak
- **Introduction to Business** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students learn business basics
- **Sociology** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students learn topics including culture, socialization, defiance, social norms, poverty, gender, race, and family
- **Spanish 1** (year-long for 1 credit) → Students begin their introduction to Spanish in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing through this highly interactive class
- **Spanish 2*** (year-long for 1 credit) → Students continue their introduction to Spanish in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing; must pass Spanish 1 prior to this course
- **Spanish 3*** (year-long for 1 credit) → Students will deepen their understanding of the vocabulary and grammar structures learned in Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 and will focus on fluency in listening, reading, writing and speaking; must pass Spanish 2 prior to this course; hybrid 3x/week (there is additional class time on Wednesdays)
- **Senior Seminar** (1 trimester for 0.5 credit) → Seniors will create and work to implement their plan for after high school. This may include completing college, technical school, military and/or job applications. Students will learn about loans, scholarships, and other financial aid options.
- **Work/study** – Students earn 0.5 credit for every 85 hours worked; Students MUST complete associated paperwork; Maximum 4 credits in this area during high school
- **Internship** – Students earn 0.5 credit for 70-hour internship plus reflection paper; ALL internships must be set up and approved by the school counselor and electives teacher
- **Fine Arts Log** – Students earn 0.5 credit for 85-hours of documented participation in fine arts (such as Magic Circle play or Valley Symphony Orchestra); Other documentation also required

Trimester 2

- **Physical Education 2 & 4** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students study health and wellness basics and complete a fitness log
- **Sports Physical Education 2** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students must be playing a varsity or junior varsity sport at MHS or OHS or be on the Black Canyon Gymnastics team where they practice a MINIMUM of 8 hours/week; document based
- **Adobe Photoshop or Animate** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students learn about Photoshop and create a culminating project using that application
- **FBLA** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Economics, accounting, taxes, marketing and advertising are part of our everyday culture, learn the basics and have fun competing in our District, State and National competitions
- **Art** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students study a variety of concepts relating to art and create art projects
- **Psychology** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Introductory course on the scientific study of behavior and mental processes that seek to describe, explain, predict, and influence behavior
- **Yearbook** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students will design and create the yearbook, learning layout and editing aspects.

- **Careers ICAP** (trimester long for 0.5 ELA ICAP credit) → Students learn about a variety of careers with culminating written projects
- **Work/study** – Students earn 0.5 credit for every 85 hours worked; Students MUST complete associated paperwork; Maximum 4 credits in this area during high school
- **Internship** – Students earn 0.5 credit for 70-hour internship plus reflection paper; ALL internships must be set up and approved by the school counselor and electives teacher
- **Fine Arts Log** – Students earn 0.5 credit for 85-hours of documented participation in fine arts (such as Magic Circle play or Valley Symphony Orchestra); Other documentation also required

Trimester 3

- **Physical Education 3** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students study nutrition, achieving a healthy body composition, and complete a fitness log
- **Sports Physical Education 3** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students must be playing a varsity or junior varsity sport at MHS or OHS or be on the Black Canyon Gymnastics team where they practice a MINIMUM of 8 hours/week; document based
- **Health** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students study a variety of concepts relating to health
- **Art** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students study a variety of concepts relating to art and create art projects
- **Career Planning and Development** (trimester long for 0.5 credit) → Students complete self-exploration tasks as related to careers and education, as well as a job shadow experience
- **Personal Finance** (trimester long for 0.5 Math ICAP credit) → Students learn about various aspects of personal financial planning
- **Work/study** – Students earn 0.5 credit for every 85 hours worked; Students MUST complete associated paperwork; Maximum 4 credits in this area during high school
- **Internship** – Students earn 0.5 credit for 70-hour internship plus reflection paper; ALL internships must be set up and approved by the school counselor and electives teacher
- **Fine Arts Log** – Students earn 0.5 credit for 85-hours of documented participation in fine arts (such as Magic Circle play or Valley Symphony Orchestra); Other documentation also required

Colorado Higher Education Academic Requirements (College entrance requirements)

Credit Area	# of Credits Required
English (2 credits must include writing, grammar, or comp)	4
Math (Math I/Algebra I or higher)	4
Science (2 credits must be lab based)	3
Social Science (1 credit must be US or World History)	3
Foreign Language	1
Academic Electives	2

If you are planning to attend a 4-year college following high school, please note that you will need to take some different classes than are required for high school graduation. Also, please note that different colleges may have requirements exceeding the ones listed in the table above.