

GRADE 9 ALP COURSE SELECTION FOR GRADE 10 ALP
FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

PLEASE NOTE: It is expected that students/parents have reviewed the following materials in order to fully research the information for course selection:

Parent Course Selection Evening, Tuesday December 6, 2016

- *Grade 9 ALP Course Selection PowerPoint*
- *Grade 10 Course Selection Sheet*

Copies of these materials were introduced during the Information session above. Copies can also be found:

- *On the White Oaks school website at www.wossweb.com/students/course_selection*

These FAQs are responses to student questions about the course selection process that have been collected. They represent almost all questions asked by students/parents about this process.

Civics and Careers/Summer School

Q. Which grade 10 courses can be taken during summer school?

A. Most summer school course offerings are compulsory areas courses (i.e. math, science, English, etc...) Elective courses are rarely offered in summer school, due to low interest. ALP students need to take all of their core compulsory courses in ALP, therefore these courses are not recommended for summer school, as you will take them at WOSS in grade 10. The one exception is Civics/Careers, as it is an Open level course that is not part of the specific ALP cluster classes. This is why many ALP students choose to take these two half courses in summer school.

Q. Do I have to take Civics and Careers in order to continue in IB? How long is the summer course? When in the summer?

A. Civics/Careers are two compulsory half-credit courses taken in grade 10 for the Ontario diploma. If you want an extra elective for grade 10 ALP, then you may take both half-courses in summer school, either in-class or online as offered. [Non-French Immersion] Summer school runs for the full four weeks of July (20 days total, 10 days for each half credit course). There is only room for the equivalent of one full credit course at summer school (no, you can't complete a second course).

Q. If I am going to apply to summer school for Civics and Careers, when/how do I apply? Do I still choose Civics and Careers for my course selection at WOSS?

A. Summer school course offerings come out usually near the last week of April, first week of May. Application processes will be put on the bulletin board outside Student Services and we will make announcements once they are available.

If you are going to summer school for Civics and Careers, you do NOT choose these courses as part of your course selection for next year. You need to choose the elective course that you want to take in their place.

Q. *I'm in French Immersion. Are Civics and Careers offered in summer school in French so that I can make room for another elective?*

A. Historically, Civics and Careers is NOT offered in summer school in French. A few students have had success taking it with the Ottawa-Carleton DSB online during the summer in French; however it is the student/parent responsibility to contact the OCDSB to register.

Q. *The course selection sheet says I can take only 8 credits, but that doesn't include Civics and Careers over the summer right? So I could finish gr10 with potentially 9 credits.*

A. You must take 8 full credits in grade 10 as part of your daily school program. If you choose to take summer school, that is your choice, and yes, would earn another two half credits at the end of grade 9.

Q. *Is there a difference in assignments between online and at school? What kinds of lessons are online?*

A. There is no difference between the online and in-class curriculum of any course. It is the method of delivery, and of course, the teaching style of the instructor that would dictate the kind and choice of daily lessons and evaluations, as with any course. AND, you must be prepared to dedicate the equivalent of 5.5 hours per day for ANY summer course, online and face-to-face.

Q. *If I take the course during the school year, will I take both courses in the same semester during the same period?*

A. Yes, Civics and Careers are timetabled into the same period of the day and semester, one in term 1 and one in term 2.

Taking Grade 11 Science?

Q. *I just wanted to clarify that in gr 10 we'll be taking gr10 AND gr11/university math, English, French, science, and history. If I do civics and careers over the summer, that leaves me 2 electives. [Non-French Immersion] I can take one of the sciences (chemistry, biology, physics?) so I'll take biology. Biology is more of something you'd take if you were thinking about being a doctor right?*

A. Yes it is, but if you want to take biology as part of your IB diploma, you would NOT take SBI3U1 in grade 10. If you did, and you take it in IB, then you would be taking gr 11 biology twice. There is no need to do this. If your focus for your IB diploma is biology and chemistry, then if you want to take a THIRD science (in this case Physics), then you could take it in grade 10. However, you could also take it in summer school between grade 10 and grade 11 as well. This would allow you another elective in grade 10 (elective subjects are rarely offered in summer school, but grade 11 sciences are!)

Courses wanted in IB Year 1/2	Course to take in Summer School after grade 10	Course to take in grade 10
Biology/Chemistry	Physics (SPH3U1)	Physics (SPH3U1)
Chemistry/Biology	Biology (SBI3U1)	Biology (SBI3U1)

Q. *Say I take the 6 mandatory courses ALP grade 10 courses (10 grade English, 10 grade math, 10 grade science, tenth grade history, grade 10 French, and 11 grade math) If I take Civics and Careers in the summer, that would mean I have two slots left during the year that I can choose two electives. [Non-French Immersion]*

Is it possible to take two Grade 11 sciences in the place of those two extra slots? What options are available to me to fill up the extra two slots? Is it possible for me to do more than one class during the summer?

A. You can choose whichever grade 10 elective options you want from the Grade 10 course selection list. It is highly unusual for ALP students to take 2 grade 11 science courses in grade 10. As stated in the question above, some students choose to take the "3rd science" in grade 10, the science that they would NOT take as part of their IB diploma course load. Usually this is chosen by students who will take 2 sciences in IB (either bio and chem, or chem and physics); they choose the "other" science in either grade 10, semester 2, or in summer school after grade 10. Yet, technically, yes you could if you wanted to, as long as you only take one science in the IB program.

Grade 10 Electives

Q. *What are the courses available as electives for grade 10 ALP students that would fulfill the group 2 requirement of the OSSD?*

A. The Ontario Group 2 requirement for the Ontario Diploma requires that students take one course from the following subject areas: extra music (including lunch music), art, drama, physical education (other than the grade 9 arts or Phys. Ed); business; French as a Second Language; cooperative education credit. Please check the course selection booklet for information on courses in grade 10 that fulfill these areas. This Group 2 credit can be from any grade level.

Q. *I'm not sure which electives to take, as I want to take courses that will help me sample careers and help me decide my future. Are there any pre-requisites I must take in gr 10 if I wanted to have a particular career and go in depth with courses in IB?*

A. Elective courses are supposed to BROADEN your perspective and "give you a sample" of something different. They are not necessarily meant to direct your future, but if they do, then that's great! They are meant to give you a balance within your school day, perhaps stimulate both hemispheres of your brain, and allow you to express yourself in a different way than the more traditional "academic"- focused subjects.

Certainly in grade 11, if you want to take Group 6 IB Arts (music, visual art, theatre, film studies), then it is required that you take the pre-requisite grade 10 ALP course in that area.

Q. *Is there any difference in the credit value of the grade 11 science (say, physics) I take in grade 10 compared to if I take that same science in grade 11? Is the course the complete same as well as the credit? If not what is the difference?*

A. Any course at any level that you take in the Ontario curriculum is the same value and curriculum no matter the grade in which you take it. Also, you will be taking it with grade 11 students in a grade 11 class.

Q. *How would I plan out all the courses I would need to take in each grade so that I can successfully apply and get into a medical university? I want to make a clear cut plan about every course I will take in each grade from now so that by the time I get into 12 grade I have the best chances of getting into the medical program of my choice.*

A. If you are interested in medicine, you will most likely enter a university program in either Life Sciences or Health Sciences. These programs all require grade 12 U English, 2 12 U maths, 12 U biology and chemistry. For a few programs, physics is also recommended.

If you take the IB Diploma, you can take all of the required courses as part of your 6 groups. You can take the physics course as your “third science”, as is outlined in the questions above.

You will be taking all of the pre-requisite courses in grade 10 (English, science, math, history, French or Spanish) for the IB Diploma courses; therefore, you have already planned out the courses you need to take to lead you towards your dream career in medicine!

Use your My Blueprint High School Planner to plan out this idea.

Q. *I am already taking Grade 10 Math this year in grade 9. So, how many math courses do I have to take in ALP grade 10 next year?*

A. You can plan to take only the grade 11 MCR3UB Functions math course. In lieu of the grade 10 Math, you can choose another elective for grade 10.

Q. *I am already taking Grade 10 French this year in grade 9. So, how do I have to take French in ALP grade 10 next year?*

A. No, as you have already taken the required second language requirement; however, if you want to take ALP grade 10 Spanish as a second alternative to prepare for the IB Group 2 Second Language requirement, then you would be able to choose either French or Spanish in IB Year 1/2.

Otherwise, you can choose another elective for grade 10. However, please note that you will have one whole year without any second language instruction.

IB Diploma Program

Q. *Would I be able to take both French and Spanish next year and throughout the IB program?*

A. Yes. You must take either one of French or Spanish as part of your ALP Grade 10 course load. If you wish to take both, one will count as one of your elective choices.

As for the IB Program in Grades 11/12, yes, in theory you could choose one as the compulsory Group 2 Second Language, and the other in lieu of Group 6 Arts as a second Group 2. However, in the past, this has been prohibited due to timetabling issues.

Q. *How long do I have to take French for in order to complete the IB diploma?*

A. If you want to take French as your Group 2 Second Language as part of the IB diploma, then you will take French in grade 10 and in IB Year 1 and 2. If you want to take Spanish as your Group 2 for IB, then you would take Spanish in grade 10 as the intro course and you would no longer need to take French.

Q. *One of the compulsory courses for grade 10 ALP is grade 11 math, which we don't understand. Why do the students take this course?*

A. The grade 11 MCR3UB Functions course is needed to ensure ALP students are adequately prepared to take either Math SL or Math HL as the compulsory Group 5 Math for their IB Diploma. HL/SL is the equivalent of Grade 12 Math.

Q. *I have some questions that I would like to discuss about Grade 11 and 12 courses, such as: which courses are mandatory, how many electives will be available, etc.*

A. The IB program has 6 Groups; students take one course from each group. Please refer to the IB info on the WOSS website for more information. There are no electives in either year of IB, as the 6 courses + Theory of Knowledge course take up all available periods.

Q. *Can I take one of the courses required in the IB Diploma Programme in the summer between Grade 11 and 12 and have that count as one of the groups? If I don't take Physical Education in Grade 10, can I take it in Grade 11, which is to say if the above is possible and leaves an open slot for another course?*

A. No. All 6 IB courses are taken during the two years of the IB program (during grades 11/12). These courses do not run the way regular Ontario courses run and must run consecutively over the two years. As indicated in the question above, there is no room for any other courses other than IB courses during the two years of the IB Diploma. If you want to take Phys. Ed, you can do so in Grade 10. Otherwise, you will have at least 50 hours of "Action" as part of your mandatory CAS hours where you can engage in physical activity during IB.

Q. *I'm wondering about the volunteer hours as an ALP student. I've heard that we have to do an extra 120 hours and only during the IB years. Is this true?*

A. You are required to complete 40 hours of Community Service to earn your Ontario Secondary School Diploma. For ALP students, we recommend that you look to complete these hours during grades 9-10.

IB Diploma students are required to complete **150** CAS hours (Creativity, Action, and Service) to earn the IB Diploma. These hours can only be completed between September of IB Year 1 and March 31 of IB Year 2. This is why we recommend ALP students complete their Ontario hours prior to IB Year 1.

A student cannot count Ontario hours and CAS hours with the same activities. The hours only count once.

Q. *I heard my music teacher say something about Mr. Gassi and band, and that you can get CAS hours in IB for doing band, only if you take 2 music classes in total between gr 9 and 11. I take gr 9 lunchtime music right now. Can I use my piano exam as my other music credit, then join band that way?*

- A. You can only earn CAS hours starting in September of Year 1 and ending on March 31 of Year 2. Yes, you can use involvement in band as part of Creativity for CAS. As for whether you can continue in band during IB (without taking IB Group 6 Arts Music of course), you would need to ask Mr. Gassi directly.