



# Creating a Course Plan



## Grade Level:

 9, 10

## Domain:

 Academic Skills

## TIME:

 60 Minutes

This lesson is designed to help students choose the right courses to achieve their academic goals and meet graduation requirements.

## Objectives

### Students will:

1. Identify what courses must be taken based on graduation and MassCore requirements.
2. Create a course plan.
3. Explore AP and Dual Enrollment options.
4. Add to the course plan throughout high school to stay on track.

## MEFA Pathway Activities

- My Course Plan

## Materials Needed

- Internet connection
- *MassCore Framework* (attached)
- *Course Plan Organizer* (attached)

## Vocabulary

- MassCore
- Course Planner
- Major

## Future Ready Skills

- Self-Awareness
- Critical Thinking

## PART 1

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### CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

#### In-Class Activity



Ask students why it may be beneficial to plan their courses during their freshman year. Make sure to point out that having an idea about the type of career they'd like to pursue will allow them to more easily choose the necessary classes to take in high school. Also, make sure to note that certain classes are required for college admission, regardless of major, and that certain classes are required to fulfill MassCore requirements. Reference the *MassCore Framework* (attached)

## PART 2

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### APPLYING INFORMATION

Students should log in to MEFA Pathway and click on **My Course Plan** in the *About Me* tab. Students should scroll to the Grade 9 section and click on the *EDIT* button.

From there, students can add the classes they are currently taking. If counselors have uploaded their course catalog to MEFA Pathway, students should start by selecting a subject area from the drop-down list. Next, they can select the course name and course level. The maximum number of credits will automatically fill in. If a course is not listed, students can add it as a custom course and include a description and maximum number of credits. If the student has completed the course, the student should add the credits earned and final grade.

Students will need to click the green *SAVE* button after the addition of each course and should repeat the process for each of their classes. Students should then add the courses they plan to take for their remaining high school years. To help organize their plan, students should complete the *Course Plan Organizer* (attached).

**If counselors have not yet uploaded their course catalog**, they should do so in the MEFA Pathway Counselor Portal. Counselors can navigate to the *Admin* tab and select *Course Planner Admin*. From there, counselors can enter school information, classes offered, and credits/levels offered. If counselors do not upload their course catalog, students must enter every class into their **My Course Plan** as a custom course.

## PART 3

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### **EVALUATING INFORMATION**

Once students have entered their courses, they can view their progress in the chart at the top of the page. This chart will give them an overview of their plan. It will let students know if they are on track to meet graduation and MassCore requirements by showing how many credits are required and how many credits are planned for each subject area.

## PART 4

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### **CRITICAL THINKING/CREATIVE APPLICATION**

Students should work with their counselor to rework their course plan if necessary. This could mean changing the courses they plan to take or changing the level of those courses. The plan should be detailed, thoughtful, and thorough.

# MassCore Framework

## Massachusetts High School Program of Studies

Subject	Units	Notes
English Language Arts	4 Units	
Mathematics	4 Units	Including completion of Algebra II or the integrated Mathematics equivalent. A mathematics course during senior year is recommended for all students. Students may substitute one unite of <b>Computer Science</b> that includes rigorous mathematical concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a mathematics course.
Science	3 Units of lab-based science	Coursework in technology/engineering courses may also count for MassCore science credit. Students may substitute one unit of <b>Computer Science</b> that includes rigorous scientific concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a laboratory science course.
History and Social Science	3 Units	Including U.S. History and World History.
Foreign Language	2 Units	Of the same language.
Physical Education	As required by law	"Physical education shall be taught as a required subject in all grades for all students" (M.G.L. c 71 §3).
Arts	1 Unit	
Additional Core Courses	5 Units	Other additional coursework (including Career and Technical Education) or any of the above.

# MassCore Framework

## Massachusetts High School Program of Studies

\*A unit represents a full academic year of study or its equivalent in a subject that covers all the standards contained in a specific Curriculum Framework.

\*\*Students enrolled in a state-approved Career and Technical Education program of studies have the option of opting out of Foreign Language and Art and still fulfill MassCore.

\*\*\*districts may designate students with demonstrated fluency and literacy in language(s) other than English as meeting MassCore recommendations for foreign language

MassCore is a recommended program of study Massachusetts high school students need to excel in college, career, and civic life. Developed by an advisory group from elementary and secondary education, higher education, nonprofits, and the private sector, MassCore maintains flexibility for students while letting districts set additional graduation requirements. Courses included in MassCore should be rigorous, engaging, and based on appropriate learning standards for high school or beyond. Fulfilling MassCore is just a start. Students should also engage in a full range of additional learning opportunities, such as: accelerated/advanced coursework; capstones or senior projects; dual enrollment courses; online courses; service learning; work-based learning; clubs and student organizations; varsity and intramural athletics; and part-time employment.

**Sourced from: [doe.mass.edu/ccte/courses-learning/masscore/](https://doe.mass.edu/ccte/courses-learning/masscore/)**

# Course Plan Organizer

## Courses Needed for Graduation

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## Courses Needed for College Major

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## Courses Needed for MassCore

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