

River School Graduation Requirements

There are two ways to graduate from River School -- by credits or by standards. The two methods are briefly outlined below. The student in question, parents/guardians, and advisors together develop a specific individual plan to make sure all requirements are planned for and met.

River School requirements in either case are kept near state minimal standards, in order that students will to the largest extent possible have the chance to shape their own learning, to follow and develop their own interest, talents, and passions. It is expected that students will learn far more than the requirements indicate. College bound students will be helped in planning their goals to meet admission requirements for the type of college they wish to pursue.

By the end of their first semester, entering students and their parents must choose either option, and may change that choice once during their tenure. Whichever method they choose, graduating students must meet the goals of the Maine Department of Education Regulation 131 – the Maine federal, state, and local accountability standards (to learn more, visit <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/05/071/071c131.doc>).

Graduation by credits:

This is the system most people are familiar with, and is used in most Maine high schools. Graduation requires successful passage of a certain number of courses. Presently, River School requirements are:

- 4 credits of English
- 2 credits in science
- 2 credits in mathematics
- 2 credits in social studies (including one credit in US history and government)
- ½ credit in health
- ½ credit in physical education
- 1 credit in fine art
- 2 credits in foreign language
- 6 credits of electives

Total: 20 credits, each credit representing one year, or two semesters in a particular discipline.

Graduation by MLR standards:

In order to graduate from River School in this manner, students must keep a portfolio demonstrating competence in each of the Maine Learning Results as amended at the time of their matriculation. These standards describe the required learning for all students in Maine. The areas covered are career development, health and physical education, English language arts, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, visual and performing arts, and world languages. These standards can be found at <http://www.state.me.us/education/lres/lres.htm>. Competence in these areas will be judged by a committee composed of River School teachers and experienced educators not associated with the school and must be demonstrated at better than the basic level. Students planning to graduate through this option will meet with their advisors soon after entering the school, to plan in detail their studies.

Other graduation requirements, which apply to either of the above methods:

Graduating student must have:

- Participated consistently in All School and advisory meeting during their enrollment at River School.
- Must have fulfilled their share of cleaning and school maintenance responsibilities.
- Must have participated in group travel experiences while a student at River School.
- Must have logged a total number of hours equal to five hours per week of community involvement time for each week they were a student at River School.
- Must have logged a total number of hours equal to five hours per week of follow your passion time for each week they were a student at River School.