

Madison Associates Degree Advising Guide

Madison High School offers an Associate of Arts in General Studies Degree Program in partnership with Idaho State University. Thanks to funding from the Idaho State Board of Education's Advanced Opportunities initiative, high school students can enroll in dual credit college courses at no cost, allowing them to save both time and money on their post-secondary education. Below, you'll find some advantages and disadvantages of earning an Associate Degree while still in high school, along with the Scope and Sequence for the program at MHS.

Advantages of an Associate Degree

- **Cost Savings:** Students can earn nearly half of the credits required for a college degree without any expense to themselves.
- **Increased Opportunities:** Working toward an Associate Degree during high school may open up more options and flexibility after graduation.
- **Preparation for College:** Engaging in these courses help students develop effective study habits, improving their chances of success in college.
- **Working toward their desired degree:** The associates degree can fast track their 4 year degree, cutting it down to 3-2.5 years depending on the college and the major.

Disadvantages of Associate Degree

- **Credit Transfer Issues:** Some higher education institutions may not accept all credits earned, and the pre-packaged curriculum may not align perfectly with a student's intended major. The ISU Associates of Arts may not be the best path to pursue your child's college or major.
- **Time Constraints:** Juggling an Associate Degree may hinder participation in extracurricular activities such as Sports, Orchestra, Choir, and Band.
- **Increased Academic Demands:** The intensity and workload of these courses are generally about double that of standard high school offerings. Grades earned (good or bad) will be permanent on the student's college transcript.
- **Rigidity of Schedule:** To achieve earning the Associates Degree, you must meet certain requirements met by certain courses while also meeting high school graduation requirements. These required courses are limited on which trimester and which period they are offered.

- Decision Making: Students who earn their Associates Degree typically will be advanced enough that they will be forced to enroll in their determined major courses when they enroll in college/university. At times this forfeits a students “decision making” window to ensure their chosen major is right for them. It is **not advised** to have your student earn their associates degree if they are undecided on what they want to major in.
- Financial Aid: Federal Financial aid stops once a student reaches 150% of a typical degree/program. That means if a student changes their major and has more than 180 college credits, they are no longer eligible for federal financial aid.
- Your child is only a child once.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can I take as many college courses as I want if I’m not pursuing the Associate Degree?
 - Yes, all students at MHS are eligible to enroll in college courses, no matter if they are pursuing the Associate Degree or not.
- Can I replace courses with those offered at other universities or online?
 - Yes, you may replace courses with those offered at other universities or online. However, deviating from the Associate Degree pathway requires direct communication with ISU or the institution where you’re pursuing the degree, as the responsibility will fall on both student and parent(s).
- Can I move a course in the Scope and Sequence to a different school year?
 - No, all courses in the MHS ISU Associate Degree Program must follow the order presented in the Scope and Sequence. The scope and sequence guarantees no schedule conflicts with college level courses. Taking them out of sequence will not guarantee this and may result in schedule conflicts with required courses. Exceptions are limited, so please consult your counselor for more information.
- How do I ensure that a Counselor is tracking my students Associate Degree and Progress?
 - A parent must contact their student’s high school counselor so they can document and track their student. This should ideally take place prior to the student entering the 9th grade. It is important to note that the later a counselor is made aware, there is a high

possibility that a student will not be able to catch up and work towards their Associate Degree.

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- The student is also required to follow the Scope and Sequence in order for a Counselor to track their progress.

It is important to note that a representative from the Idaho State University Early College Program will be tracking your students progress and meeting with them one to two times per year. This meeting is held during the school day at MHS. Your student can also request to meet with our ISU Associate's representative at any point by contacting Vicki Bolingbroke in the MHS College and Career Office.

📄 Copy of Associate Degree Scope and Sequence.pdf

Madison Associates Degree/Early College

Students will follow a scope and sequence of courses that provide an opportunity to earn a high school diploma within the typical four years or less, as well as the option to pursue an Associate of Art in General Studies within a 4-year time frame. The actual sequence of courses that students follow varies according to the student's interests and individualized career pathway. Students begin taking core subject area classes at first, but then have the choice to pursue an AA degree.

Courses marked with no * count toward high school graduation.

Courses marked with * carry college credit **and** meet high school graduation requirements.

	7th & 8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English	Common Core English and Language Arts	English 9A & 9B	English 10A & 10B	English 11 AND *ENG 1101	*English ENGL 102 *ENGL 1175 or ENGL 1115 (if not taken earlier)
Math	Common Core accelerated math track	Geometry A,B, & C	Algebra 2 or Honors Alg 2/Trig	College Algebra or Pre-Calc - *MATH 143	*MATH 153 - Intro to Stats or *MATH 170 - Calculus 1
Science		Physical Science A and B (Chemistry/Physics emphasis)	*BIO 105 Human Structures & Function AND *GEOL 104 - Natural Disasters	*BIOLOGY 1101 & 1102 - BIOLOGY I & II	
Social Studies		World History A & B		*HIST 1111 & 1112 - US History I & II	*POLS 101 & 102 - May be taken during Junior Year HIST 1118 - US Hist & Culture
Foreign Language		Spanish 1A & 1B Or French 1A & 1B	Spanish 2A & 2B OR French 2A & 2B	SPAN 101 & 102 OR French 101 & 102	
Health			Health		
Speech		Speech or Intro to Debate (not required just recommended)	*COMM 101 - Fundamentals of Oral Communication		
Arts					
Electives			*PSYC 101 - General Psychology		EDUC 2204 Families, Communities, and Culture (ONLINE) IDLA