

SPECIAL PROJECTS – HIGH SCHOOL

Background

Student learning can be enhanced by the provision of Special Projects credits for high school students.

Special projects credits are designed to recognize work undertaken by students on an individual or small group basis. They provide opportunities for students to undertake unique assignments tailored to their specific interests but not available in the regular Program of Studies.

Definition

“Special Project Credits” are designed to recognize work undertaken by students on an individual or small group basis and should not be used as a means of offering credits for unapproved courses (Alberta Education: Special Projects 10-20-30 (Senior High)).

Procedures

1. The opportunity to earn Special Projects credits shall be available to all students, including those attending an authorized summer program.
2. Special Projects must be structured so that they allow students to:
 - 2.1. Become involved with the selection, design, planning and organization of the project; and
 - 2.2. Pursue activities in which they have considerable interest or ability but which are beyond the scope of the regular curriculum or programs offered in the school.
3. Students may enrol in Special Projects 10, 20 or 30. Special projects do not have prerequisites.
4. Each project shall be carried out under the supervision of a teacher.
5. Special Project credits shall not be awarded for student activities that would be considered a normal part of extracurricular or co-curricular activities generally offered by a school (e.g. school team sports, school newspaper, yearbook).
6. The content of the Special Project need not be related to a specific school subject.

7. If a Special Project is related to a specific school subject, the content of the project shall be distinct from, and in addition to, regular course requirements.
8. In instances where a student enrolls in more than one (1) Special Project, credits shall not be approved unless the projects vary substantially from year to year or demonstrate increased levels of proficiency.
9. Students are required to submit a clearly planned proposal to the Principal for approval on the Special Projects Course Application. The proposal is to include:
 - 9.1. A description or outline of the project;
 - 9.2. The number of hours of work expected to complete the project;
 - 9.3. Method by which the project would be carried out;
 - 9.4. A description of the expected results;
 - 9.5. Evaluation procedures as outlined by a teacher;
 - 9.6. An expected completion date; and
 - 9.7. Name of the supervising teacher.
10. The Principal shall retain a copy of each Special Project proposal until the project is completed.
11. Projects shall be completed and a report tabled with the Principal prior to the conclusion of the semester or full term.
12. Where a project takes a student into the workplace, the provisions of Administrative Procedure 215 - Work Experience Program shall apply.
13. Students who successfully complete projects are granted three (3) credits for seventy-five (75) hours of work or five (5) credits for one hundred twenty five (125) hours of work in any one (1) semester, or full term on the approval of the Principal.

Reference: *Education Act*, SA 2012, c E-0.3, ss. 18, 33, 52, 53, 196, 197, 222
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12