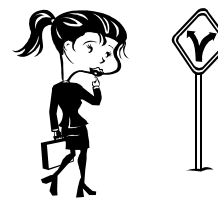


Academic or Applied?

Helping you decide...



(Portions of this document are provided courtesy: OSCA Today and the Toronto District School Board)

This brochure is designed to guide students and parents with the completion of the Grade 9 Student Course Contract. Students generally have a choice between *Academic* and *Applied* (levels of a course) when choosing English, Math, Science, Geography and French courses. We strongly urge students and parents to consider their options carefully and consult with teachers and guidance counsellors before making a final decision regarding course selections. In particular, teachers at your current school have very good insight as to which level would be appropriate for you.

What's the difference?

Academic Courses

- focus on essential concepts and explore related concepts
- emphasis both theory and practical applications
- lead to University-preparation courses in grades 11 and 12

Applied Courses

- focus on the essential concepts
- emphasize practical applications
- lead to College-preparation courses in grades 11 and 12

Our experience shows that the following **Work Habits** help to ensure Success in a Language-based COURSE (English, French, Geography or Science)

Academic Courses	Applied Courses
<p>The student...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has a current mark of at least 70% in the specific subject area • achieved Level 3 or higher in the grade 6 EQAO reading and writing components • is able to work independently in a focused manner • can cover large amounts of material in shorter periods of time • has well-developed synthesis skills; uses prior knowledge and experiences to solve problems without prompting • completes homework independently, consistently and thoroughly • is able to persevere when challenged 	<p>The student...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has a current mark between 50 and 70% in the specific subject area • achieved Level 1 or 2 in the grade 6 EQAO reading and writing components • completes work with teacher direction and instruction in the classroom • works in a focused manner for short periods of time • applies new learning to tasks, although he/she may need review of skills acquired in previous units or years • often completes homework and organization with assistance • seeks or requires assistance or coaching when presented with challenging tasks

www.sirrobertbordenhs.ocdsb.ca → Student Services

Comparing Specific Courses: The following charts allow you to compare Academic and Applied courses for select subject areas. For a complete description of each course, consult the Secondary Course Guide accessed at www.ocdsb.ca

Grade 9 Science

Academic (SNC1D)	Applied (SNC1P)
Students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formulate scientific questions • gather & record qualitative and quantitative data using an appropriate format • plan ways to model and/or simulate an answer to questions asked 	Students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify a current scientific problem or concern • organize and record information gathered • formulate scientific questions about a problem or issue

Grade 9 Geography of Canada

Academic (CGC1D)	Applied (CGC1P)
Students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distinguish between the characteristics of geographic features or theories • make recommendations to solve geographic problems or address issues • analyze different perspectives on a geographic issue 	Students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify characteristics of geographic features or theories • compare geographic problems or issues in Canada to those in other parts of the world • identify and evaluate different perspectives on a geographic issue
French Immersion students may select Academic Geography for Immersion Students (CGC1DF)	

Grade 9 English

Academic (ENG1D)	Applied (ENG1P)
Students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyze information, ideas, and elements to make inferences • participate in a rigorous, demanding program that requires insightful responses & independent inquiry • locate & evaluate information & ideas from sources • select narrative style and appropriate level of language to suit the form, audience and purpose of the work 	Students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe information, ideas, opinions and themes with less emphasis on abstract thought • complete practical, hands-on assignments with less emphasis on independent reading and writing • locate & record information & ideas from sources • identify the specific audience for each piece of writing

Grade 9 French

Academic (FSF1D)	Applied (FSF1O)
Students who choose this course... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have knowledge of basic French grammar (ex. passé composé, présent) • are able to understand basic French conversations • have the option to pursue French beyond grade 9 	Students who choose this course... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have limited command of French vocabulary and grammar • have not developed French conversation skills • do not usually pursue French beyond grade 9
French Immersion students may select Academic French Immersion (FIF1D or FEF1D)	

Grade 9 Mathematics

Academic (MPM1D)	Applied (MFM1P)
Students who are successful in this course... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieved a mark higher than 70% in Grade 8 Math • have achieved Level 3 or 4 in their Grade 6 EQAO • have a strong mathematics vocabulary • have a good mastery of all basic math skills such as multiplication tables, fractions and the ability to manage multi-step problems 	Students who are successful in this course... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieved a mark below 70% in Grade 8 Math • have achieved level 1 or 2 in their Grade 6 EQAO • learn in a practical, hands-on method • usually rely upon a calculator or multiplication chart for basic math facts
Students experiencing math difficulties may select Locally Developed Math MAT1L	

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is it so important to be enrolled in the correct program in grade 9?

- Studies indicate that students who fail a credit in grade 9 are at a higher risk of dropping out of high school. This risk increases with the number of grade 9 courses failed.
- Students who are inappropriately placed are sometimes unable to switch to a more appropriate level because the course may not be offered in the same time slot or during the same semester or the course may be full.
- In order for a student to qualify to take a summer school course he/she must have obtained a minimum mark of 35%, so a student may not be able to make up a missed credit in the summer. Not all courses are offered at summer school.



2. Do all the courses I take have to be the same type?

- No. For each subject you should consider your strengths and skills. For example, you can do math and science at one level and English or Geography at another based on your abilities in each subject.

3. If I choose Applied courses does that end any chances of going to university?

- Everyone needs **ENG4U (grade 12 course)** to enter university directly from high school. The path to this course starts with grade 9 academic English ENG1D(E)
- **However**, you do not need Academic math or Academic science to get into many university programs (for example: English, Law, History).
- Colleges and universities have articulation agreements that grant credits and admission into a related university program, after completion of some of the 2 or 3 year college diplomas.

4. How important is the grade 8 teacher's recommendation?

- Consistently, grade 8 teacher recommendations have been accurate and allow students to have a good start in high school. The grade 8 teachers have spent a significant amount of time working with the student and have a good grasp of his/her ability at this point in the student's life.

5. What if I have questions or concerns about the course contract?

- You may contact the teachers, Guidance Counsellors and Student Success Teachers at your school.
- SRB High School – 613-829-5320 (ask for Student Services)

www.sirrobertborden.ocdsb.ca

→ Student Services



What do you need to get your Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)?

→ Students must earn the following compulsory credits:

- 4credits in English (1 credit per grade)*
- 3credits in Mathematics (1 credit in Gr 11 or 12)
- 2credits in Science
- 1credit in Canadian History
- 1credit in Canadian Geography
- 1credit in the Arts
- 1credit in Health & Physical Education
- 1credit in French as a Second Language
- 0.5 ...credit in Career Studies
- 0.5 ...credit in Civics



→ Plus one credit from each of the following Groups:

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| <p>one of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional credit in English; or • additional credit in French as a Second Language; ** or • a credit in a Native Language; or • a credit in a Classical or International Language; or • a credit in Social Sciences & the Humanities; or • a credit in Canadian & World Studies; or • a credit in Guidance & Career Studies; or • a credit in Cooperative Education. *** | } | referred to as
"Group 1" |
| <p>one of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an additional credit in Health & Physical Education; or • an additional credit in the Arts; or • a credit in Business Studies; or • a credit in French as a second language; ** or • a credit in Cooperative Education. *** | } | referred to as
"Group 2" |
| <p>one of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an additional credit in Science (Gr 11 or 12); or • a credit in Technological Education; or • a credit in French as a second language; ** or • a credit in Computer Studies; or • a credit in Cooperative Education. *** | } | referred to as
"Group 3" |

→ In addition to the compulsory credits, students must complete:

- 12optional credits****
- 40hours of community involvement
- ✓the provincial literacy requirement

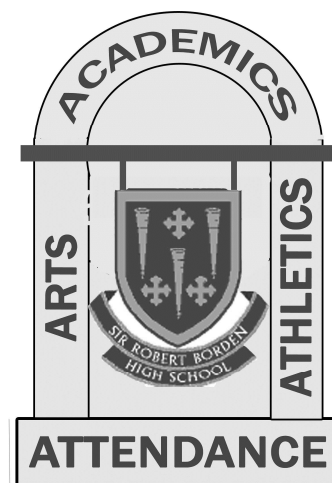
* A maximum of 3 credits in English as a Second Language (ESL) or English Literacy Development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.

** In groups 1,2 or 3, a maximum of 2 credits in French as a second language can count as compulsory credits, one from group 1 and one from either group 2 or 3.

*** A maximum of 2 credits in Cooperative Education can count as compulsory credits.

**** The 12 optional credits may include up to 4 credits earned through approved Dual Credit courses.

We, at **SRB High School**, foster excellence in the four A's: attendance, academics, athletics, and the arts. We support individuals of all abilities, backgrounds, and cultures in a supportive, respectful, and nurturing environment.



Academic vs. Applied