



# Egg Harbor Township High School

## Option II Guidelines

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**General Information:** Option II establishes alternate pathways for students to satisfy graduation requirements and meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code {N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 (a) I ii}. Option II alternative experiences are voluntary. Students may fulfill the requirements for graduation by pursuing credits earned through the traditional classroom environments, alternative learning experiences availed through Option II or through a combination of both programs. Option II permits students to engage in a variety of alternative learning experiences which are stimulating and intellectually challenging, enabling them to fulfill or exceed expectations set forth by the academic department's Core Curriculum Content Standards. Students may take part in Option II alternatives by participating in the following: student exchange programs, theme-based programs, accredited college coursework, concurrent enrollment at colleges and universities, on-line and distance learning opportunities.

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### **Egg Harbor Twp. H. S. participates in NJ Option II through the following pathways:**

- 1. Credit Recovery:** EHTHS Students receiving a *final* grade of 59 or below do not receive credit for that course. It is recommended that students take the course in the summer following the school year in which they failed.
  - Students may recover credit at any accredited NJ High School offering a certified remedial program or through an EHTHS approved online provider or through tutoring by a NJ certified instructor (separate application required for tutoring).
  - Students planning to take online courses over the summer must register by July 15<sup>th</sup> and grades are due to the Guidance Office by August 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - The name of the course and (P) pass or (F) fail will be recorded on the student's transcript and will not factor into a student's cumulative GPA. The original course and final grade will be retained on the student's transcript.
  - Any senior needing credit recovery to graduate must register by Sept 1<sup>st</sup> and complete their course work no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Students may also opt to take the failed course during the following school year. Students who fail multiple courses (and do not remediate over the summer) will be in danger of not completing NJ graduation requirements in 4 years.
- 2. Independent Study:** Students interested in pursuing coursework not offered in the EHTHS curriculum or those who have exhausted all EHTHS course in a particular area may apply for Independent Study.
  - A separate Independent Study application is required (in addition to the Option II application) and due by May 1st. Students can see their counselor for all applications.
  - The Independent Study must be coordinated with a certified staff member in the appropriate content area.
  - The Independent Study must take place during the regular school day and will be included as one of the student's regularly scheduled courses. Total credits, including the IS, must not exceed 40 credits.
  - Grades for Independent Study are Pass/Fail. Students will be awarded 5.0 credits for a full year independent study and will be documented on their transcript. Independent Study grades are not calculated in a student's cumulative GPA.
- 3. Accelerated Credit:** Students may apply for Option II courses for the purpose of advancing to the next level in a specific content area. The most common example is a student who takes an additional math course (to fill a pre-requisite) to advance to the next sequential math course.

- Complete Option II applications must be submitted by May 1st.
- Students taking an *online* course may be required to take the EHTHS final assessment in order to move on to the next level. Results of the assessment will provide critical information regarding the student's ability to succeed in the next level. The final assessment will be administered by the department supervisor during the third full week of August.
- A variety of factors including previous course levels/grades, new credit course grades, and teacher recommendations will determine the student's subsequent course level (CP, HN, or AP). Final determination will be made by the Department Supervisor.
- Students may NOT register for courses in which they do not already meet the pre-requisites. For example, a student plans to take Algebra II over the summer in order to fulfill the pre-requisite and enroll in Pre-Calculus for the next school year. That student must enroll in Algebra II until their course is completed. Only then will the student be permitted to enroll in Pre-Calculus, *space permitting*. Scheduling priority will be given to those students who registered for the course during the original course selection period.
- Most HN and AP courses require the completion of summer assignments prior to September. Students taking approved new credit courses during the summer are also responsible for completing all summer assignments for the course(s) they wish to enter in September.
- Upon receipt of final grades, the course will be recorded on the student's transcript as a Pass/Fail grade and it will NOT be calculated into the student's cumulative GPA. The course can be used to fulfill other course pre-requisites and the student will be awarded 5.0 credits. These credits will not count towards specific NJ State graduation requirements.

4. **Original Credit:** Students may opt to enroll in Option II courses to earn graduation credits in the area of Financial Literacy, Fine/Performing Arts, or Practical Arts.

- Complete an Option II application by May 1<sup>st</sup> (summer session), Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> (fall session) or Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> (spring session).
- Students can opt to take approved courses through the following options: (1) College courses at ACCC, (2) College courses at Stockton (3) Online courses through Educere, NJVS or Penn Foster Virtual High School or (4) 120 hours of private tutoring (separate application required for tutoring).
- Students taking original credit courses *online* may be required to take, and pass, the corresponding EHTHS final assessment in order to be awarded final credit. The purpose of the district assessment is to ensure that the student has met the Core Curriculum Content Standards as required by the State of New Jersey Department of Education.
- Upon receipt of final grades, the course will be recorded on the student's transcript as a Pass/Fail grade and it will NOT be calculated into the student's cumulative GPA.
- Once credit is awarded in an approved Option II course, students will not be permitted to enroll in the equivalent EHTHS course.
- Students taking original credit courses to fulfill graduation requirements must complete their coursework prior to the start of senior year.

5. **Dual Credit:** EHTHS offers the option of acquiring both high school and college credits through articulation agreements with Richard Stockton College of NJ and Atlantic Cape Community College.

- Richard Stockton College of NJ offers dual credit in the following courses: AP Environmental Science, HN Oceanography, HN/CP Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, and AP Biology, AP Physics
- ACCC offers dual credit in the following courses: HN Psychology, HN Education & Training III
- Dual credit courses are offered at the high school and are taught by EHTHS faculty.

- Each dual credit program varies in its criteria, application procedures, requirements, fees, and grades. Please read additional dual credit information in the EHTHS Program of Studies (online).

### **Application & Deadlines:**

- All students wishing to obtain credit through Option II must complete the Option II Application and any other applications, if necessary (Independent Study, Tutoring, etc.).
- Accelerated Credit course applications are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Original Credit course applications are due by May 1<sup>st</sup> for summer session, Aug, 1<sup>st</sup> for fall session and Jan.15<sup>th</sup> for spring session.
- All Original Credit and Accelerated Credit courses must be approved by the content area supervisor and guidance director PRIOR to enrolling in the course. Credit will not be granted without necessary approvals.
- Students must also provide a course syllabus or course description along with the Option II application
- Enrollment in an approved ACCC course requires guidance counselor permission/letter, ACCC application plus application fee, and the student must make arrangements with ACCC to take the ACUPLACER placement test.

### **Providers**

- Students can opt to take approved courses through the following options: (1) College Courses at Atlantic Cape Community College or Richard Stockton College of NJ, (2) Online courses through Educere, New Jersey Virtual School or Penn Foster Virtual High School or (3) private tutoring with a NJ certified teacher (separate application required for tutoring).

### **Cost**

- The student and/or student's parent/guardian is responsible for all arrangements related to participation in Option II credit experiences including but not limited to, payment of tuition and fees, books and other required materials, transportation, safety, and knowledge of all relevant information pertaining to the experience.

### **Proficiency Assessment**

- All Option II courses must meet or exceed Common Core/NJ Core Content Standards
- For original credit *online* courses, an EHTHS final assessment may be required prior to the awarding of final course credit.
- Administration of assessments will take place during the third full week of August or at the Supervisor's discretion.
- For sequenced courses, a variety of factors including previous course levels/grades, new credit course grades, and teacher recommendations will determine the student's subsequent course level (CP, HN, or AP). Final determination will be made by the Department Supervisor.

### **NCAA Athletics**

- NCAA Clearinghouse rules have changed with regards to software based credit recovery, virtual learning, online courses, independent study and correspondence courses. These types of courses, identified by NCAA as *non-traditional courses*, may not meet guidelines to be included in a student's core GPA calculation. Please check [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) for additional information.

