Unity School District - Board of Education
Board Policy 344
ADP - Alternative Diploma Program
Last Revised 11/13/2018

The Unity Alternative Diploma Program (ADP) is designed for students (ages 16-20) who want to earn a diploma, but are at-risk of not doing so through the regular Unity High School program. Those who are 21 or older are not eligible for the program. School Board Policy has established at-risk circumstances: potential drop out, truants, school-age parents, adjudicated delinquents, credit deficiencies, students who may benefit from a non-traditional learning setting, and students who are more than one year behind their age group in the number of credits attained or in the basic skill areas. Enrollment priority is given to 11th and 12th grade students, but 10th grade students may be considered on a case by case basis. Failing a given class the previous semester does not automatically allow a student to be admitted.

Students/Parents must complete an ADP Placement Request form prior to being considered for the program due to there being a limited number of students in the program. Prospective student applications are then reviewed by the members of the ADP faculty committee. If selected, students and parents are required to sign a contract agreeing to the terms and expectations of the Alternative Diploma Program.

Students enrolled in ADP must attend 16 hours per week that are scheduled by the program director. Students under the age of 18 who do not complete their 16 hours weekly will be subject to truancy proceedings. Program participants with continual poor attendance may be removed from the program at the discretion of the high school principal and ADP Director. Program hours will be from 4:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The ADP allows students to work on improving their knowledge and skills in the areas of language arts, math, science, social studies, and study skills. Students must earn a minimum of 21.5 credits in order to receive their Alternative Diploma. Credits are earned through completion of individual tutorial/curriculum packets, direct instruction, courses offered thru the Wisconsin Virtual School, and work experience.

- Credit requirements (totaling 21.5) for ADP graduation include:

- Four credits (4.0) of language arts which incorporate instruction in written communication, oral communication, grammar, and usage of the English language and literature.

- Three credits (3.0) of social studies which incorporates instruction in state and local government.

- Three credits (3.0) of mathematics which incorporate instruction in the properties, processes, and symbols of arithmetic and elements of algebra, geometry, and statistics.

- Three credits (3.0) of science, engineering, or technology with at least two of the credits being traditional science courses.

- One and one-half credits (1.5) of physical education which incorporate instruction in the effects of exercise on the human body, health-related physical fitness, and activities for lifetime use.

- One-half credit (0.5) of health education which incorporates instruction in personal, family, community, and environmental health.

- Six and one-half credits (6.5) of electives in career and technical education, foreign language(s), fine arts, and other courses offered.

The maximum credits that a student can earn for their work experience is one (1.0) credits per trimester. These work experience credits can be applied towards the "electives" requirement. One-half credit (0.5) can be earned for each 90 hours of work during a semester. Transportation to and from work is the responsibility of the student. If a student is unemployed for more than two weeks a quarter, they will not receive credit for that quarter. Work experience grading will be done on a satisfactory (S) / unsatisfactory (U) basis. Regular letter grades will not be given.

The Unity Board of Education authorizes the District Administrator to implement a proficiency pathway for graduation from the Alternative Diploma Program (ADP). In these specific instances a student may be awarded credit or be eligible for graduation if the student is able to meet the proficiency requirements as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the rules as set forth by the District Administrator. At the discretion of the ADP Director, the student may receive credit for the passing of a proficiency exam or displaying proficiency in a project. The combination of displayed proficiency and earned credits may be allowed. The District Administrator shall be authorized to make any final decisions regarding whether a student has met the proficiency requirements for graduation and whether any previously earned credits are to be considered. The District Administrator's decision is final.

Some other information regarding the Alternative Diploma Program includes:

1. Students are required to report to the ADP center unless told otherwise by the ADP Director.

2. ADP students may not participate in the regular UHS graduation ceremony. Instead, they will have a separate ceremony for their program.

3. ADP students must request permission from the high school principal to attend UHS events/activities, such as homecoming and prom. Attendance at school events, including athletic events, during the ADP hours is not permissible.

4. All school district rules apply to ADP students.

5. ADP students who finish their coursework prior to their graduating class exiting may graduate early at the discretion of the District Administrator.

6. Grades will be calculated on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. Regular letter grades (A, B, C, D, and F) will not be given. Grade point averages will not be calculated.

7. Grades will be calculated each trimester and additional ADP progress reports will be sent out periodically.

8. Transportation to & from school will be the responsibility of the student/parent.

The ADP faculty committee consists of:

- High School Teacher

- High School Counselor

- HS Principal

- Special Education Teacher

- ADP Director