

Early Graduation and Credit Reciprocity Policy

Purpose: The American Academy of Innovation takes great pride in providing individualized pathways, educational programs, and integrated systems designed to allow students to approach education and graduation in their own way. As such, the American Academy of Innovation developed practices and procedures supporting individualization, innovation, and growth. Thus, any student who completes all of the high school graduation requirements, or who demonstrates mastery of required skills and competencies to graduate from high school early. The purpose of this policy is to outline designated early graduation pathways and to specify the standards and procedures for those pathways.

Policy: Any currently enrolled AAI student who has completed and earned credit in all required courses *or* has demonstrated mastery of required skills and competencies may, with the approval of the student, the student's parent or guardian, and an administrator, graduate at any time provided:

- The student satisfies the existing graduation requirements of the American Academy of Innovation or demonstrates through coursework, portfolio, project, assessment, or activity mastery of the existing American Academy of Innovation required competencies.
- The student, in consultation with a student's parent/guardian and school counselor, indicates to his or her school principal the intent to graduate.
- The parent or guardian approves of the intent to graduate early.

Commencement Ceremony: Participation in a commencement (graduation) ceremony is a privilege and not a protected right. Participation may be denied as a part of AAI disciplinary practices or if a student refuses to comply with graduation ceremony standards established and developed at the American Academy of Innovation. To participate in graduation ceremonies, students must complete the applicable graduation requirements by the end of the last term of their senior year. Students participating in a commencement ceremony must have been enrolled in the school during the final semester of his/her senior year unless said student has adhered to early graduation policy (outlined above). Students who complete the graduation requirements any time after the end of the regular academic year, may participate in the next graduation ceremony. Students who graduate will receive a high school diploma and assume the status of alumni.

Alternative Pathways and Credits: AAI recognizes several alternative options that satisfy early graduation requirements; including college courses from fully accredited institutions, AAI approved summer school courses, AAI approved Immersions, AAI approved Workshops, AAI approved correspondence/extension courses, AAI reviewed and approved portfolios, AAI reviewed and approved assessments, AAI reviewed and approved projects, AAI approved Internships (On-campus and Off-campus, AAI reviewed and approved work experience, AAI approved extracurricular activities.

Reciprocity of Credits: A unit of credit or fraction thereof shall be given upon satisfactory completion of a course, or an alternative learning experience outlined in the Alternative Pathways and Credits clause. Credit can be awarded only once for a specific required course with the same content during the secondary school experience. In addition, American Academy of Innovation shall accept transfer credits from accredited institutions. The high school shall employ a review process to ensure that the demonstration of competency, the acceptance, and reciprocity of transfer credits earned by students are consistent with state law and Utah State Office of Education (USOE) Administrative Rule (R277-705-3). All graduation credits earned/granted to meet core graduation requirements shall be aligned to the standards and objectives of the Utah State Core Curriculum. Transfer graduation credits accepted by American Academy of Innovation shall be deemed as original credit.

Statutory Reference: R277-705-3