



## Grades 10-12 Northern Distance Learning (NDL) - Eligibility Standards

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Northern Distance Learning (NDL) is an online program that supplements local small community high school programming with courses the school cannot offer or offer in single curriculum classrooms. NDL is intended for students who have post-secondary education plans and have demonstrated high academic and attendance standards.

Success in NDL is dependent on the ability to learn independently. Although NDL provides in-person supports through use of In-class Support Persons (ISPs), a student must be capable of completing assignments and staying motivated without consistent access to their teacher.

NDL applicants are vetted according to the following NDL eligibility standards:

- 1. Completed application.** There are separate applications for new and returning students. Both applications include a *Statement of Reasoning, Learner Profile, and Parent/Guardian Consent*. The application is completed with the inclusion of student Validation Statement or Grade 9 report card if the student has not yet started high school. A completed application is one indicator to the vetting committee the student is exercising the ability to be an independent learner.
- 2. High attendance rate.** Students who have succeeded in NDL have come into the program with high attendance records and have missed very few NDL classes. Applicants who are certain they want to work at NDL standards but have attendance records as low as 80% must be recommended by their principal, accepted on a case-by-case basis, depending on course availability. Consideration will be given to the context that impacted a student's attendance.
- 3. Minimum scores of 65%.** Success in NDL is dependent on strong academics. A student should achieve at least 65% in pre-requisite courses. Applicants who score lower must be recommended by their principal, on a case-by-case basis, depending on course availability. In the unique case of Science 10, even if the final score is below 65%, the scores of the related units that lead to the 20-level science course being applied for will be considered (e.g., the physics unit score will be considered if Physics 20 is being applied for).
- 4. Proper pre-requisite courses.** As with all NWT high school students, proper pre-requisites must be completed to be registered in their selected course; -1 courses require the completion of -1 pre-requisites (see Transfer points in Sec 5 of the NWT School Handbook).
- 5. Grade level and Graduation status.** Students in their final year of high school (grade 12) will be prioritized for registry in their selected NDL courses. Applications of students who have not yet graduated will be prioritized.
- 6. Past NDL Experience (if applicable).** NDL programming may no longer be suitable for a student who repeatedly fails NDL courses. When NDL courses are failed, a discussion between the principal, student and parents should clarify the student's future in the program. Understanding the conditions surrounding unsuccessful courses is important to the NDL community.
- 7. Age.** NDL courses are taken by cohorts of peers and may not be taken once a student turns 21 years of age. Students who have graduated from high school and have not yet turned 21 years of age may take NDL courses to meet further post-secondary requirements if these courses are not offered locally by Aurora College. Applications of students who have not yet graduated will be prioritized.