**Lesson Plan Title**: ***Credits and Cohorts: What’s the Deal?***

**Unit Topic**: Graduation Requirements

**Grade**: 12th

**Focus Question:** *Will you graduate?*

**Duration of Lesson**: 1 hour

**Materials Necessary**: Pencil/Pen, Pre-Test, Student Credit Sheet, Graduation

Requirements from Student Handbook, Credit Recovery Brochure,

and Post-Test.

**Curriculum Links**:

**NATIONAL (ASCA National Student Standards)**: The student will

* A:A1.1 Articulate feelings of competence and confidence as learners.
* A:A1.2 Display a positive interest in learning.
* A:A1.3 Take pride in work and achievement.
* A:A1.4 Accept mistakes as essential to the learning process.
* A:A1.5 Identify attitudes and behaviors that lead to successful learning.
* A:A3.1 Take responsibility for their actions.
* A:B1.1 Demonstrate the motivation to achieve individual potential.

**STATE (MA CDE Benchmarks)**:

* A4-1: Knowledge of the benefits of education for career and life management.
* PS1-3: Attitudes and skills, personal responsibility and self-determination.

**NATIONAL COMMON CORE STANDARDS**:

* SL.11-12.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions

(one on one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades

11-12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing

their own clearly and persuasively.

* SL.11-12.2 Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and

media (e.g. visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed

decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of

each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.

**SCHOOL LINKS**:

**Guidance Department Activities**:

The Guidance Department helps students to understand individual strengths, weaknesses, needs and attributes that are significant in achieving personal, social, career and academic goals.

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES**:

As a result of the lesson, the student will:

**Cognitive:**

* Identify how many credits they currently have.
* Identify the correct Fitchburg High School definition of “cohort.”

**Affective**

* Realize credits are important for graduation.
* Determine how to regain their lost credit.

**Behavioral**

* Assess how many credits are necessary for them to graduate from Fitchburg High School.
* Perform the necessary actions to regain lost credit.

**COUNSELOR PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES**:

During the lesson, the counselor will:

* Help students define the terms credit, credit recovery, and cohort.
* Ask students how many credits are needed to graduate and determine how many credits they currently have.
* Inform students of the many different ways to regain lost credit in order for them to successfully graduate from high school.

**MODIFICATIONS FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS**:

The lesson will be individualized for a student with special needs. These students will work one-on-one with a counselor to assure that they accurately interpret the lesson. ELL students will receive one-on-one aid from a counselor and school liaison or interpreter.

**PRE-ASSESSMENT**:

Prior to the actual lesson, students will take *Pre-Test* to assess their current knowledge of credit, cohort, and credit recovery.

**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION/STRUCTURE**:

1. Introduce lesson plan topic to students. Distribute pre-test and have students answer questions. (10 minutes)
2. Discussion: What is a cohort? Ask students how many credits they currently have (if they are not sure, refer them to the Student Credit Sheet). (10 minutes)
3. Distribute Graduation Requirement Pages from Student Handbook. Discussion: Why is it important to complete all of the necessary areas for graduation? What do you find the most challenging? (15 minutes)
4. Distribute Credit Recovery Brochure. Discuss at length different options for students to recover their credit. Discussion: What method of credit recovery do you feel will work best for you? (15 minutes)
5. Wrap-up. Ask students if there are any remaining questions. Distribute post-test and have students answer questions. (10 minutes)

**POST ASSESSMENT**:

Students will be given a *Post-Test* to evaluate their learning and gain feedback from them. Students will convene again briefly at the end of the school year to discuss how they believe the lesson impacted their overall achievement throughout the year. The department will track the number of credits recovered throughout the school year to determine if the lesson was effective.

**RESOURCES**:

<http://fhs.fitchburg.k12.ma.us/students/student-handbook>

**ATTACHMENTS**

* **Pre/Post Test Data summaries**
* **Pre Test template**
* **Post Test template**
* **Post Test feedback sheet template**

**Credit Recovery Lesson – Data and Results**

**Pre-Test**

**Pre-Test Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Match the following words with their definitions:
2. Credit The graduating class that you belong to.
3. Credit Recovery What a student gains for successfully completing a class.
4. Cohort An option for students who need to regain lost credit.
5. How many credits do you currently have? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many credits do you need to be in your cohort? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many credits do you need to graduate? \_\_\_\_\_\_
8. List 3 options that are available to you to regain credit:

**Post-Test**

**Post-Test Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Match the following words with their definitions:
2. Credit The graduating class that you belong to.
3. Credit Recovery What a student gains for successfully completing a class.
4. Cohort An option for students who need to regain lost credit.
5. How many credits do you currently have? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many credits do you need to be in your cohort? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many credits do you need to graduate? \_\_\_\_\_\_
8. List 3 options that are available to you to regain credit:
9. If needed, how do you plan to recover your credits?

**Post-Test Feedback** **Name (optional)**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please list two helpful hints about credit recovery that you took away from today’s lesson.

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Did you have questions about credit and credit recovery that were not answered during today’s lesson? If so, what are they?

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What was your favorite part of this lesson? What was your least favorite part of this lesson?

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What do you suggest we change about this lesson when it is taught to future students, if anything?

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