

# GLE3OR Unit 3: Exploration of Opportunities

## Activity 2: The Ontario Secondary School Diploma

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### Overview

In this activity, you will explore the OSSD graduation requirements. This activity will help you plan your high school course choices, making you better prepared to achieve your post-secondary goals.

### Lesson

#### *Get Schooled*



Not only do we see the need to earn a secondary school diploma, even famous performers, athletes, and artists often take the necessary steps to stay in school. They realize the importance of furthering their education.

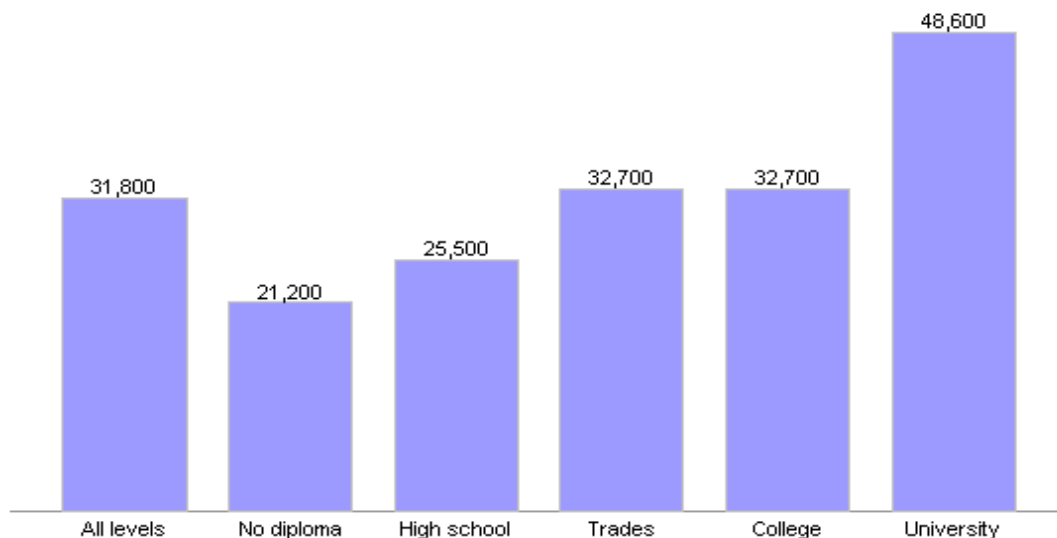
**Higher education is also associated with higher earnings.**

In 2000, those who completed their education with a high school diploma earned on average \$4,300 more than those without a high school diploma.

Achieving education beyond high school offered an even greater earnings benefit. On average:

- a trades or college graduate earned \$7,200 more than a high school graduate;
- a university graduate had earnings nearly double that of a high school graduate (\$23,000 more).

**Earnings, by education level, Canadian dollars, 2000  
(population 15 years and over with employment income)**



### **Think About It**

In order to ensure that you make the best decisions about your high school career and your plans for the future, it is important to understand how our school system currently functions. Read the information below to learn about the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

### **OSSD Requirements**

Students must earn the following **18 compulsory credits** to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)\*
- 3 credits in mathematics (1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 credits in science
- 1 credit in Canadian history
- 1 credit in Canadian geography
- 1 credit in the arts
- 1 credit in health and physical education
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 0.5 credit in career studies
- 0.5 credit in civics

Plus one credit from each of the following groups:

- New **1 additional credit** (group 1): additional credit in English, **or French as a second language, or a Native language, or a classical or an international language**, or social sciences and the humanities, or Canadian and world studies, **or guidance and career education, or cooperative education**
- New **1 additional credit** (group 2): additional credit in health and physical education, or the arts, or business studies, **or French as a second language, or cooperative education**
- New **1 additional credit** (group 3): additional credit in science (Grade 11 or 12), or technological education, **or French as a second language, or computer studies, or cooperative education**

In addition to the compulsory credits, students must complete:

- **12 optional credits**
- **40 hours of community involvement activities**
- **the provincial literacy requirement (Ontario literacy test or course)**

## Assignment

1. Many young entertainers, actors, and professional athletes hire a tutor who travels with them, to help them keep up with their studies while working. Why do you think these people do this?
2. Professional athletes often leave school early to pursue their sports careers. But many of them express a desire to continue their education, and actively promote the importance of staying in school. After a lucrative career in sports, why do you think these sports stars feel this way about school?
3. Fill in the blanks below:

1. In order to earn your Ontario Secondary Diploma OSSD, you need:  
\_\_\_\_\_ credits (\_\_\_\_\_ compulsory, \_\_\_\_\_ optional).
2. How many English credits do you need to graduate? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many Math credits do you need? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many Health & Physical Education credits do you need? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are the two courses in which you earn just 0.5 credits? \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.
6. In addition to earning 30 credits, you need to complete and pass the \_\_\_\_\_ (test).
7. Also, you need to complete \_\_\_\_\_ hours of community involvement.

4. Based on the information you learned in this lesson, create a flyer that encourages Ontario teens to stay in school. Make sure to include a title, a slogan, some graphics or pictures and a brief summary of the OSSD graduation requirements.