

MHSA/Montana Digital Academy FAQs

MHSA Executive Director Mark Beckman and MTDA Director Bob Currie have developed this document to answer questions related to the impact of MTDA coursework on student eligibility in MHSA programs. The following questions and answers regarding MHSA student eligibility in relationship to MTDA courses were developed as a combined communication effort by the directors of both the MHSA and the Montana Digital Academy. **Recent changes adopted by the MHSA membership are reflected in the following questions and take effect on July 1, 2011.**

Q: What is the current rule regarding student attendance and MHSA eligibility?

A: Current MHSA By-Laws require that a student must be enrolled in twenty hours per week and in regular attendance ten hours per week at the school where the student participates. Regular attendance is defined as actual physical presence in the building (bricks and mortar).

Q: How many courses can a student take online from MTDA and be eligible for student extracurricular activities and does it matter where the online course is taken?

A: The number of online courses a student takes is not the issue when it comes to eligibility but the location where the student takes the course is important. During the school year, students can take digital academy classes at the school (in the computer lab, at the back of a classroom, etc.) and still be eligible meeting the bricks and mortar requirement. **The important thing to note is that students still must be attending school (in the bricks and mortar) for ten hours per week (two half-credit classes per day) and be enrolled in twenty hours per week at the school for which the student participates (four half-credit classes per day).**

Q: Can courses taken online from the MTDA be used for credit recovery in regard to restoring MHSA activity eligibility?

A: No. MDTA credit recovery courses would be viewed in the same manner as other methods that are used to "make up" credit under the current MHSA By-Laws states the following:

The scholastic record at the end of the semester shall be final and deficiencies may not be made up in any manner. Deficiencies, including incompletes, conditions and failures for the previous semester may not be made up during a subsequent semester, summer session, night school, correspondence, or tutoring for the purpose of establishing or maintaining MHSA eligibility.