

DUAL ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

Many students choose to take advantage of dual enrollment options offered by community and four-year colleges. Most of these courses are offered online, allowing students to complete course work on campus. While we want parents to have the option of using this tuition saving program, HCS must ensure that its biblical curriculum and instructional goals are not subverted by secular philosophies. For this reason, we permit students to continue to utilize dual enrollment opportunities, but carefully approve transferred courses on a case-by-case basis. Factors we consider are the college's philosophy (secular or biblical), the philosophical nature of the college course, and whether the course applies toward the college-prep track requirements.

- Permission must be obtained for students to substitute HCS classes for online college classes. Not all courses will be approved.
- Courses may be taken from any accredited college or university.
- Most dual enrollment courses will not count as honors. (They will receive GPA points based on a 4-point scale.) Exceptions may be made for courses taken at 4-year universities that exceed our high school standards.
- Some courses will only count as $\frac{1}{2}$ credit. Students will be notified in advance if they need to take two sections at a college to replace 1 full year at HCS.
- Students are allowed to count 18 credit hours towards their final cumulative GPA. All courses above 18 hours will be counted as electives and will not impact the GPA.
- We cannot guarantee that students will be given time at school to work on any nonsubstitution dual enrollment courses.
- Be aware that dual enrollment courses are not always transferable to other colleges, even if the dual enrollment college is fully accredited. Each college makes its own policies about transferring college credits earned from another institution. Even if HCS accepts your dual enrollment credits, a future college of your choice may not transfer your dual enrollment credits. Certain college majors require that their students take courses from their college rather than accepting transfer credits from another college. Check with the colleges of your choice to learn more about their acceptance policies of dual enrollment credits.
- Not all math and science courses offered through dual enrollment benefit students for college admissions. Consult with someone about college admission requirements before substituting college math for your senior level math courses.
- Dual enrollment classes operate according to each individual college's calendar; they do not conveniently coincide with the HCS calendar. Students need to prepare for busy times of the year when mid-term exams and projects are due. The busyness of these intensive periods may be compounded by school events and extracurricular activities.

Be aware that HCS does not receive updates from colleges about registration on dates, requirements, or courses. While HCS is happy to help advise and facilitate, we do not work directly with the colleges.

Eligibility

Ninth grade students must have earned a 4.0+ GPA in 8th grade; tenth grade students must have earned a 3.75+ GPA in 9th grade. Additionally, both ninth and tenth graders must reach at least the 92nd percentile in English, reading, and math on the Iowa tests.

Eleventh and Twelfth grade students must have a cumulative 3.0+ GPA. No core courses may have earned a grade below a C. To replace a course, students must have earned at least a B in that subject the previous school year.

Students must meet with Mrs. West prior to approval. It is recommended that parents attend this meeting as well.

Course Options and Replacements

Ninth:

No courses may be replaced. Students may only take elective courses. Students may take up to one course per semester.

Tenth:

Students may replace either History or Spanish with comparable courses. Students may take up to two courses per semester.

Eleventh:

Students may replace up to two courses: History, Spanish, or Chemistry with comparable courses. They may also replace the writing portion (fall semester) of English. Students may take up to three courses per semester.

Twelfth:

Students may replace up to two courses: History must be replaced with a comparable course. Math must be replaced with College Algebra or higher. Science may be replaced with an academic class. They may also replace the writing portion (fall semester) of English.

If a student chooses to take only one substituted course (1 semester), they must sign up for a nonsubstituted dual enrollment elective in the second semester.