

HSHS COLLEGE ACADEMY



Guidebook 2024-2025

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Overview of Program

Why Choose the College Academy at HSHS?

The HSHS College Academy is a unique program for Mustang families. For students, it serves as a springboard to college success by providing college-going skills and a supported college experience that saves families money by reducing university tuition as well as housing and living expenses. Benefits may include:

- Earn high school and college credit at the same time
- Earn Core Complete Certificate by completing 42+ hours of college coursework before graduation
- Save on tuition and housing
- Priority in Course Selection while in high school

Academy scholars will have an opportunity to begin taking college courses in the spring semester of their freshman year. Online college class periods can be built into the high school schedule for students to complete online college coursework with an in-house teaching assistant available. Other delivery formats may be available as well. Although students are ultimately responsible for managing their personal Academy experience, an Academy Facilitator will support and assist students in their management of online college coursework.

In addition, selected applicants in grades 9 or 10 will participate in an Academy Seminar that focuses on developing college-readiness skills and test prep for passing the TSIA ELAR/Writing. (see also Expectations and Commitments)

Candidate Eligibility

The Academy is best suited for high-achieving students who have a college and career plan. Only students with evidence of commitment to high achievement will be eligible to apply for admission (see also Admission Criteria).

Incoming HSHS students and eligible new ninth grade students may apply for the Academy prior to entering the freshmen/sophomore year. Approximately twenty students will be accepted based on pre-determined criteria. Other students may continue to take college coursework through dual credit as eligible and desired.

College Academy Admissions Process

Admission Criteria

Approximately, twenty scholars will be selected to begin the Academy by enrolling in the Academy Seminar course using the following criteria:

- 8th or 9th grade GPA, with a minimum weighted GPA of 3.0
- most recent STAAR scores-met all standards
- must qualify for at least two high school honor courses

Students who complete the Academy Seminar during freshman or sophomore year must meet the following requirements to enroll in college coursework:

- Suggested 3.0 weighted GPA from high school work completed
- Demonstrate college readiness by meeting the ELAR and Writing Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) minimum score requirements or meeting minimum score requirements on ACT or SAT
- Complete the Dual Credit application for Northeast Texas Community College
- Complete Dual Credit Registration by Deadline

Current high school students:

Students not selected to begin the Academy in their freshman year may apply again in the sophomore year as space becomes available. However, applicants must enroll in the Academy Seminar during the sophomore year to prepare for college coursework and meet all other eligibility requirements (as listed above).

Students in grades 11 and 12, not selected for the College Academy, may enroll in dual credit courses under the academic handbook guidelines.

Expectations and Policies for Academy Scholars

Requirements to Continue in Program

- Academy Scholars will follow the Foundation + Distinguished graduation plan.
- Complete the Academy Seminar course with a grade of 95 or higher.
- Scholars are enrolled in college courses, and for the purposes of dual credit coursework will be treated as college students. **Students receive no special privileges or exceptions because they are also high school students.**
- Any scholar earning a final grade of C in a college course will be placed on Academic Probation by the College Academy Program. After earning an additional C or lower grade, the student will no longer be eligible to participate in the College Academy. *(A senior may appeal if a grade of C is earned in a higher level class.)*
- Any scholar who earns a D or lower in a college course will no longer be eligible to participate in the College Academy. *(If the course is retaken with a course grade of B or better, at the student's expense, the student may be re-instated to College Academy.)*
- Students who drop a course after the twelfth class day will be placed on Academic Probation. Any future dropped courses or final grades of C or lower will result in removal from the College Academy. If a dropped course is funded by a scholarship, the student is responsible for repaying any portion of the tuition not refunded by the college.
- Any instances of academic dishonesty, including collusion and plagiarism, will result in immediate dismissal from the College Academy. Students will be ineligible for all associated benefits including scholarships and reimbursements.
- Scholars who are a continual disruption to learning will no longer be eligible to participate in the College Academy.
- Expressed deadlines are not arbitrary and are expected to be met. Missing a deadline may mean loss of eligibility in the Academy.
- While not required, internet access at home is highly recommended since most courses are taken online. This allows students to access the course after school hours.

Other Commitments

Academy scholars will be expected to participate in programs and activities designed to sustain the program as well as build character and leadership. Some of these activities include but are not limited to participation in scholarship fundraisers and presentations to community partners.

Exam Proctoring

Some college exams are required to be proctored by the College Academy facilitator or other designated HSHS staff. Proctoring procedures are as follows:

- Exams for which the course instructor requires proctoring may be proctored at HSHS upon instructor approval. The student is responsible for contacting the instructor to request permission and for making proctoring arrangements with the Academy facilitator.
- Proctoring may also be required by HSHS even if the course instructor does not require it. In these circumstances, arrangements will be made for the students to test during school hours.
- Proctoring software required by professors may need special approval from HSISD Tech to download on a school device. Scholars should plan accordingly.

Academy Seminar

The objectives of the Academy Seminar are to

- ☑ Set goals regarding academic, career, social, and personal success
- ☑ Make healthy decisions and adjustments while transitioning to high school
- ☑ Identify strengths/weaknesses in terms of note-taking and study habits, time management, and test taking skills and make adjustments
- ☑ Learn how to conduct scholarly research and create proper citations
- ☑ Provide scholars with the knowledge to become ethical academic achievers
- ☑ Provide scholars with test taking strategies and material for scoring college ready on the TSIA-ELAR and Writing.

CORE COMPLETE/Dual Credit Program

Completing all NTCC's required core courses earns a certification as "Core Complete", which transfers as a core block to any Texas public college. However, the receiving college may have additional requirements that students must meet in order to complete their required Core. See the [Transferring Tips](#) at THECB's site, College for All Texans, for more information regarding the Core Curriculum and transferring.

Course Selection and Grading Policies

- Students and families bear **100% of the responsibility for determining transferability** of coursework. *It is not advisable to rely on hearsay from others.* Instead,
 - For Texas colleges, consult the Common Course Matrix for transferability between Texas colleges: <https://tccns.org/> or email/contact the institution directly.
 - For out-of-state and private colleges, please contact the institution directly.
- Students and families bear **100% of the responsibility for determining the need of coursework** for a specific degree plan. *It is not advisable to rely on hearsay from others.* Degree plans can be found on college websites or by contacting the institution directly.
- **Grades and attendance are determined by the college.** HSHS only represents the location at which students are taking college courses. The ownership of all college courses belongs to the college.
- **Numeric grades** will be posted to the high school transcript when made available by the college. For college courses that receive additional grade points for GPA calculation, numeric grades will be posted on the transcript.
- College courses will only count in the **calculation of GPA** for courses satisfying high school requirements if pre-approval, given by the registration deadline, is granted by the principal, counselor, or College Academy facilitator, and the credit is not already satisfied by a high school course. Special considerations may be made for students seeking to enroll in higher-level college coursework. *(Courses not pre-approved by the appropriate school personnel by the stated deadline will not be counted as dual credit nor awarded online class period(s) or early release. The student is responsible for obtaining approval by the deadline.)*

Recommended Course Sequence for Core Complete

Below is one option for completing NTCC's core by taking 6 hours extra each semester.

Year		
Freshman Year	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring (6 hours)</i>
	Academy Seminar <i>Reading and Writing TSI Assessments</i>	Academy Seminar Communication-SPCH 1315
Sophomore Year	<i>Fall (6 hours)</i>	<i>Spring (6 hours)</i>
	American History-US HIST 1301 ARTS 1301	American History-US HIST 1302 Language Philosophy & Culture <i>Math TSI Assessment Met</i>
Junior Year	<i>Fall (9 hours)</i>	<i>Spring (6 hours)</i>
	Government-GOVT 2305 Government-GOVT 2306 Component Area B-Core Complete	Social & Behavioral Science Mathematics
Senior Year	<i>Fall (6+ hours)</i>	<i>Spring (6+ hours)</i>
	Communication-ENGL 1301 Science (Lab Optional)	Component Area A-ENGL 1302 Science (Lab Optional)

Scholars wanting to complete an associate degree should work closely with NTCC advisors and the advisors of the entering college or university to make sure the degree will transfer. At least 60 hours must be completed to achieve an associate degree, which will include extra hours per semester and typically summer classes on top of the above-mentioned core plan.

NTCC Core Curriculum Requirements (42 Credit Hours Minimum)

Mathematics-3 Hours

Choose one course from the following:

MATH 1314 - College Algebra
MATH 1316 - College Trigonometry
MATH 1324 - Finite Mathematics
MATH 1332 - Quantitative Reasoning
MATH 1342 - Introductory Statistics
MATH 2412 - Pre-calculus 4 credit hours.
MATH 2413 - Calculus I 4 credit hours.

Life and Physical Sciences-6 Hours

Choose two courses from the following:

AGRI 1307 - Agronomy
AGRI 1315 - Horticulture
AGRI 1319 - Introductory Animal Science
BIOL 1322 - Nutrition
BIOL 1406 - General Biology I 4 credit hours.
BIOL 1407 - General Biology II 4 credit hours.
BIOL 1408 - Biology for Non-Science Majors I 4 credit hours.
BIOL 1409 - Biology for Non-Science Majors II 4 credit hours.
BIOL 2401 - Anatomy & Physiology I 4 credit hours.
BIOL 2402 - Anatomy & Physiology II 4 credit hours.
BIOL 2404 - Survey of Anatomy and Physiology 4 credit hours.
CHEM 1406 - Introductory Chemistry
(Allied Health Emphasis) 4 credit hours.
CHEM 1411 - General Chemistry I 4 credit hours.
CHEM 1412 - General Chemistry II 4 credit hours.
GEOL 1301 - Earth Sciences for Non-Science Majors I
GEOL 1302 - Earth Sciences for Non-Science Majors II
PHYS 1303 - Stars and Galaxies
PHYS 1304 - Solar System
PHYS 1401 - General Physics I 4 credit hours.
PHYS 1402 - General Physics II 4 credit hours.
PHYS 1415 - Introduction to Physical Science 4 credit hours.
PHYS 2425 - Advanced Physics I 4 credit hours.
PHYS 2426 - Advanced Physics II 4 credit hours.

Language, Philosophy and Culture-3 Hours

Choose one course from the following:

ENGL 2322 - British Literature I
ENGL 2323 - British Literature II
ENGL 2327 - American Literature I
ENGL 2328 - American Literature II
ENGL 2332 - World Literature I
ENGL 2333 - World Literature II
HIST 2321 - World Civilizations I
HIST 2322 - World Civilizations II
HUMA 1301 - Appreciation of the Humanities:
Pre-Classical through Renaissance
HUMA 1302 - Appreciation of the Humanities in Modern Times
PHIL 1301 - Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 2306 - Introduction to Ethics
SPAN 2311 - Intermediate Spanish I

Creative Arts-3 hours

Choose one course from the following:

ARTS 1301 - Introduction to Art Appreciation
DRAM 1310 - Theatre Appreciation
DRAM 2361 - History of the Theatre I
MUSI 1306 - Music Appreciation

American History-6 Hours

Choose two courses from the following:

HIST 1301 - United States History I
HIST 1302 - United States History II
HIST 2301 - Texas History

Government/Political Science-6 Hours

The following two courses:

GOVT 2305 - Federal Government
GOVT 2306 - Texas Government

Social and Behavioral Sciences-3 Hours

Choose one course from the following:

ANTH 2351 - Cultural Anthropology
COMM 1307 - Introduction to Mass Communications
ECON 2301 - Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 2302 - Principles of Microeconomics
GEOG 1301 - Physical Geography
GEOG 1303 - World Regional Geography
PSYC 2301 - Introduction to Psychology
PSYC 2314 - Lifespan Growth and Development
SOC 1301 - Introductory Sociology

Communication-6 Hours

ENGL 1301 - English Composition I
and

Choose one from the following:

SPCH 1315 - Public Speaking
SPCH 1321 - Business and Professional Communication

Component Area Option (CAO) A-3 Hours

Choose one course from the following:

ENGL 1302 - English Composition II
ENGL 2311 - Technical and Business Writing

Component Area Option (CAO) B-3 Hours

Any approved Core Curriculum Required Courses not also being used to satisfy another core requirement.

Scholarships & Reimbursements

Tuition assistance is available from HSISD and NTCC through need-based scholarships and reimbursements. HSISD also provides need-based scholarships for textbook/resources for eligible students. There are five opportunities to receive assistance:

○ **NTCC provides a FAST Scholarship for students whose family income qualify for free or reduced lunch.** This scholarship is automatically applied by the Texas government and can be used to assist with tuition for any college course.

○ **HSHS provides a limited number of need-based scholarship awards.** The HSHS College Academy Scholarship will pay \$165 per semester during the fall and spring semesters. This scholarship can be used to assist with tuition for any college course; however, priority will be given to the students who are completing courses that are weighted for the calculation of GPA. The HSHS College Academy Scholarship application is available on the school website.

○ **HSHS offers reimbursement for courses that are included for GPA calculation and not funded by scholarships.** For current HSHS juniors and seniors, one reimbursement per semester can apply for PRE-APPROVED required courses which are included in calculation of GPA and taken during the junior or senior year. Reimbursements are considered by the counselor and principal and are limited to funding available. An “A” in the course will result in a 100% reimbursement. A “B” in the course will result in a 50% reimbursement. A grade lower than a “B” will result in no reimbursement. The tuition reimbursement application is available on the school website and should be submitted the semester the course is completed.

○ **The NTCC Work Scholarship Program** provides students a way to earn tuition money by working for the college in advance of taking courses. The program allows a student to earn money instantly and for future tuition costs. If interested in working for tuition, please contact NTCC for more information.

○ **HSHS offers assistance with textbooks** for students who are unable to purchase textbooks due to financial need. Requests for help may be made by contacting the College Academy facilitator *prior to the beginning of a course*. Limited scholarships for this purpose are available on a first-come, first served basis. No scholarships are available after the course has begun.