

Frequently Asked Questions Sophomore Student/Parent Information Session

Q: What are the Endorsements?

- In addition to the requirements of the Foundation High School Program, students must select at least one Endorsement to follow to complete their graduation requirements. There are five Endorsement options for students:
 1. Arts & Humanities
 2. Business & Industry
 3. Multidisciplinary Studies
 4. Public Services
 5. Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)
- A more detailed look at the Endorsement requirements begins on page 12 in the 2017/2018 *Educational Planning Guide*.

Q: What Social Studies classes are required now? Please provide clarification.

- Students are required to take 3.0 credits of Social Studies that must include:
 - World Geography (1.0) or World History (1.0)
 - US History (1.0)
 - Government (.5)
 - Economics (.5)
- Additionally, students who are on the *Multidisciplinary Studies, 4x4* Endorsement must also attain a 4th credit of Social Studies to meet the Endorsement requirement.

Q: Can a student change their Endorsement in their junior year? How can changing an Endorsement impact a student? Will a student have to retake all of their Endorsement classes?

- Careful consideration should be given when changing Endorsements – particularly if the change is made after the sophomore year. The longer a student is in high school, the more difficult meeting the Endorsement requirements may become. While choosing an Endorsement that reflects the students interests/passion is very important, you must also make sure reaching the requirements of that Endorsement don't put the student at risk of not graduating.
- Endorsement classes don't have to be retaken unless the class is failed. But, not all classes fit in every Endorsement. If a student changes Endorsement, they must take the classes that fit into that Endorsement requirement.

Q: In relation to college admissions, what is the purpose of the Endorsement? If the Endorsement doesn't impact the admissions decision, what is the purpose?

- Meeting the requirement of the Endorsement impacts high school graduation. If a student doesn't meet those requirements, he/she will not graduate from high school. That impacts college admission consideration.
- At this point, we are not seeing where a student's selection of a particular Endorsement is having an impact on the college admissions process. Colleges and universities are evaluating the academic record for rigor in the coursework and meeting core curriculum requirements.
- Some Endorsements give flexibility in Math & Science choices. Others don't require a 4th year of Social Studies. It is imperative that students & parents pay particular attention to what core

curriculum is required by the college/university the student is considering – even if the high school Endorsement choice does not require it for graduation.

Q: Where in Naviance is the gpa/rank found?

- Class size is highlighted & listed on the home page when you login to Naviance.
- GPA/Rank are found on the “About Me” tab (tabs across the top)
 - Scroll down & click on “Profile” under “Official Things” (at the bottom)
 - GPA/Rank is listed at the bottom under “Academic Information”
- GPA & Rank are updated at the completion of each semester. It generally takes about 4 weeks for it to be updated in Naviance.

Q: When will recently taken PSAT scores be available?

- If a student provided an email address when he/she took the PSAT, an email will be sent around December 12 to let you know your scores are ready. Once you get the email, follow the instructions to create your CollegBoard account and use the access code to view your scores.
- If the student did **not** provide an email address when he/she took the PSAT, you will receive your score report from CFHS. CollegeBoard will begin sending schools their score reports sometime mid-December. It is very likely we will not hand out individual score reports until sometime in January.

Q: Can a student take the PSAT again after the sophomore year?

- YES! YES! YES! The most important year for a student to take this test is in the Junior/3rd year of high school. This is the year the student’s PSAT enters them in the National Merit Scholarship consideration!

Q: When do students take the SAT and/or ACT?

- Ideally, students begin taking these exams mid-spring of their junior year.

Q: How many times can a student take the SAT and/or ACT?

- As many times as he/she wants! There is no penalty for multiple test sittings.

Q: Is it guaranteed that all dual credit courses are accepted/transferrable by Texas state schools?

- Texas public colleges and universities only:
 - General education credits (those that meet the general education requirements for many degrees) do transfer English, history, science, math.
 - Some elective credits transfer. Depends on the university.
- Private universities in Texas and out of state colleges/universities – their decision. Contact the institution directly.

Q: If my child signs up and we pay the fee for dual credit courses but then decide he/she is not really ready for college like we had anticipated. What is the refund policy/rules (if any)?

- Depends on when student drops the courses.
- Contact College of the Mainland (or San Jacinto) for specific details.

Q: What courses are offered for dual credit?

- Traditional course offerings built into the school day 1st & 2nd periods:
 - JRs: United States History; Psychology for Success/Freshman Seminar (Social Studies elective); General Psychology (Social Studies elective), Sociology (Social Studies elective), Texas Government (Social Studies elective)
 - SRs: English IV; United States Government; Economics
- Other courses are available – see counselor for more details.

Q: Why type of test(s) do dual credit students take?

- TSI Assessment
- CFHS provides at least one opportunity to take this assessment on campus in the spring. Information on dates is provided to students/parents ahead of time.

Q: Can a student take traditional dual credit classes and participate in the Dual Credit Academy?

- If it can all fit into the student's schedule, we will consider it.

Q: How are dual credit classes included into the high school academic record / transcript?

- Any class a student takes for dual credit will be posted on the high school academic record.
- Dual credit classes are NOT calculated in the high school GPA.

Q: What is the difference between dual credit and AP credit?

- Dual Credit : Student takes the actual college course. The course will appear on the student's college transcript and the high school transcript. Grade is posted on both academic records.
- Advanced Placement credit / course: Student takes Advance Placement class on high school campus. Student determines if he/she will register and pay to take the AP exam in May. The score on the exam determines what, if any, college credit is awarded. NOTE: Each university is different in what score they are looking for to determine what, if any, credit will be awarded. If college credit is going to be awarded, it will not be awarded until the student enrolls in that university.

Q: Can a student take dual credit classes and AP classes?

- Yes!

Q: Where can we find information on what credits are awarded by the university for AP courses/exam scores?

- Each specific university.
- www.collegeboard.org

Q: Would colleges/universities rather see AP courses/credits or dual credit courses on a student's high school transcript?

- This question needs to be asked specifically to the university in which the student is interested in attending.
- Note: You must consider what is best for your student – what creates the best balance. Students can do both – dual credit and AP courses. The academic load/rigor decision really should be tailored to what the student is capable of doing.

Q: What does “weighted gpa” mean?

- A weighted GPA is calculated by awarding additional points to classes that are considered more challenging and rigorous than the basic curriculum. Because of the challenging and rigorous curriculum associated with these classes, they carry more ‘weight.’
- In CCISD, we award weighted grade points to any of our Level 1 courses (AP, PreAP, Advanced Academic).

Q: How come sometimes I am told a weighted GPA is not accepted – they want the unweighted GPA. Is there a conversion formula?

- Some colleges/universities want an unweighted GPA reported or a GPA reported on a 4.0 scale. Many universities have their own conversion scale to put everyone on same page for GPA calculations.
- When we send official transcripts to universities, we send with the following calculations:
 - Weighted 5.0 with weighted rank
 - Weighted 4.0
 - Unweighted 4.0
 - 100 point average

Q: Clarify the Top 10% rule in relation to a student graduating with the Distinguished Level of Achievement designation.

- In order for a student in the Top 10% of his/her class to be considered for Automatic Admissions in Texas under this ruling, the student MUST also complete the requirements for Distinguished Level of Achievement.

Q: What is the Top 10% rule? What does that mean?

- Students who are in the Top 10% of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas (exception: University of Texas at Austin; varies between Top 7% & 8%).
- Eligibility requirements are on page 82 in the 17/18 Educational Planning Guide.