

Frequently Asked Questions - High School Scheduling

Q. As a parent, how can I guide my child toward making the best decision when determining whether to take Honors Classes vs. Academic Classes?

- A. Consider your child's activities outside the school day (sports, extracurricular activities, family commitments, etc.) and the amount of time they have to devote to honors level work after the regular school day. Honors coursework requires students to prepare or study even when homework has not been assigned in order to be successful. Creating a "balance" with school work and extracurricular activities is a personal decision. As a parent, you must consider your child's interests and aptitude when selecting honors level courses. Once a schedule has been created with honors coursework, the student has committed to that schedule for the school year.

Q: How much homework or study time is required every day for an honors level course?

- A. There is no one answer to this question as it varies depending on the course and the student's strengths and interests. Generally speaking, a student should expect to spend more time on work outside of the classroom in an honors level course vs. an academic course.

Q. What are the expectations regarding honors summer work?

- A. All honors courses require summer work to be completed by a date designated by the assigning teacher. Usually summer work is due the first day of the school year. The summer work is graded and does impact the student's first quarter grade. It is imperative that students take the assignments seriously and dedicate the appropriate time and attention needed.

Q. What impact does "not selecting" honors level coursework for my child's freshman year have on future scheduling options?

- A. To progress from an academic level course to an honors course, students must earn an 85% or higher in the course and have the teacher's recommendation.
- B. To progress from an academic level course to an Advanced Placement course, students must earn a 93% or higher in the course and the teacher's recommendation.
- C. To determine the most advanced high school course that your child could theoretically achieve (based on their freshman course selections) please reference the sequence of courses in the Program of Studies, which can be located on the South Fayette High School website.

Q. Can the number of honors courses taken in high school influence college acceptance? If so, is there a place where this type of information can be obtained?

- A. Acceptance to a post-secondary institution is based on many factors including cumulative GPA, SAT/ACT scores, and final grades in all completed courses. Additionally, extracurricular activities, leadership experiences, volunteerism, and work experiences are taken into consideration. Generally speaking, top tier, highly competitive universities expect to see that students have taken, and been successful in, the most demanding courses offered at their high school. For specific admissions criteria and requirements, please contact the admissions offices of the universities of interest.

Q. Are different weights given to academic, honors, and AP level courses?

- A. Yes. Please refer to the grading scales in the Program of Studies or Parent/Student Handbook, which can be located on the South Fayette High School website.

Q. What is the global language requirement for graduation?

- A. Students must complete a level II global language with at least a 65% to meet the graduation requirement. Students who earn at least a 75% in a global language level I in middle school may proceed to level II in their freshman year.

Q. What are the qualities of a successful high school student?

- A. Students need to be organized, plan ahead, effectively manage their time, review class notes on a regular basis, ask teachers for help when struggling and may need to make arrangements to come early or stay after school for tutoring. Earning “A” grades in middle school does not necessarily translate to “A” grades in high school courses. Often extra time and attention to material is needed to earn “A” grades in high school.

Q. Will my child get the electives they request in their freshman year?

- A. Requested electives are “requests” and they are not guaranteed.
- B. Given the required courses freshman must take, they will only have space in their schedule for one year-long elective (band, orchestra, or chorus), or two, semester-long electives. It is likely that freshman may get scheduled for an elective that was not their first choice. However, over the course of high school, students do get to take the majority of their preferred electives.

Q: Can my child request to change an elective on their schedule?

- A. Your child can request to change an elective if they are interested in another elective that is offered during the same period. Core classes and lunch periods will not be moved to accommodate elective requests. Students should complete the Google Form for Course Scheduling Requests by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/sfhsrequest2021>

Q: How do I request a schedule change?

- A. Your child should use the Google Form for Course Scheduling Requests. This is designed for students who want to take an Honors course(s) now that they qualify (earned the required grade and have the teacher recommendation), or if they find errors on the printed schedule they receive from the High School on Move Up Day. Google Form: <https://tinyurl.com/sfhsrequest2021>

Q. Is it true that all freshmen are scheduled for period 4 lunch?

- A. No. Freshmen can be scheduled for lunch period 4, 6, or 8.

Q. My child plans to attend Parkway West Career and Technical Center next year. What courses will my child take in the afternoon at South Fayette High School?

- A. All students in grade nine who attend Parkway West CTC will take Civics as their academic course at Parkway. In the afternoon, the three core courses scheduled at South Fayette will be English 9, Biology, and math (Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II). Global language, Writing and Public Speaking, PE, and Presentation Applications are waived for Parkway students.

