



Guidebook 2020-2021

Brian Nation, Principal

nationb@hsisd.net

Jana Scharnberg, Counselor

scharnbergj@hsisd.net

Brittany Thomasson, Academy Facilitator

thomassonb@hsisd.net

College Academy Application deadline is May 31st

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 44 hours of college coursework before graduation
- Save on tuition and housing
- Priority in Course Selection while in high school

Academy scholars will begin taking college courses the fall semester of the sophomore year. Students will have the opportunity to complete forty-four hours of core courses prior to graduation, although students may choose to take fewer hours. Time will be built into the high school schedule for students to complete online college coursework, and a Math, Science, and English in-house teaching assistant will be 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 and 10 will participate in an Academy Seminar that focuses on developing college-readiness skills and exploring career options. (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).

HSHS students and eligible new ninth and tenth grade students who enroll before the first day of school 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

In spring of 8th/9th grade year or upon enrollment at Hughes Springs:

- Complete Admission Application found online at www.hsisd.net/page/College_Academy.

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 with mastery in at least one area
- Completed Application by Deadline*
- Completed Acceptance Letter by Deadline*

**no acceptance letters will be considered after the deadlines*

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

- Follow the Foundation + Distinguished graduation plan
- Complete the Academy Seminar course with a grade of 95 or higher
- Have a 3.0 weighted GPA from high school work completed
- Demonstrate college readiness by meeting the Reading and Writing Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exam 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 who are not selected to begin the Academy in their freshmen year may apply again to begin in the sophomore year as space becomes available. However, applicants will be required to enroll in the Academy Seminar during the sophomore year in order to prepare for college coursework as well as meet all other eligibility requirements (as listed above).

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

Admissions Application

Applications may only be accessed online at www.hsisd.net/page/College_Academy. The following information will be required to complete the application:

- Most current GPA
- Well-developed paragraph(s) over given prompt

Expectations & Commitments

Academy Seminar

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (the governing body of higher education in Texas) does not typically allow students to take college courses prior to the junior year of high school. However, an exception may be made if students have demonstrated preparation for college coursework. Therefore, students accepted to Hughes Springs High School College Academy prior to the beginning of the junior year are **required** to take the **Academy Seminar** course. This allows students to meet the requirements of the THECB by ensuring college-readiness. 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

Expectations and Policies for Academy Scholars

- 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. 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.

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.

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
- Presentations to community partners

CORE COMPLETE 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 colleges, please contact the institution directly.
- Students and families bear **100% of the responsibility for determining 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 last school day of the prior year, is granted by the principal 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.

Recommended Course Sequence

Financial assistance for one course a semester may be granted based on financial need and application process under the College Academy Program. NTCC also offers scholarship opportunity for one course a semester.

The courses in bold are eligible for reimbursement under the College Academy Program. Other courses may be available for reimbursement based on funding and eligibility.

Year	College Course	High School Course Credit
Freshman Year	Advanced studies still things?	Academy Seminar <i>Reading and Writing TSI Assessments</i>
	<i>Fall (3 hours)</i>	
Sophomore Year	American History-US HIST 1301	Social Studies (Advanced) Topics
	<i>Spring (6 hours)</i>	
	American History-US HIST 1302	Social Studies (Advanced) Topics
	Creative Arts-ARTS 1301	Art, Theatre, or Music (.5)
Junior Year	<i>Fall (9 hours)</i>	
	Government-GOVT 2305	US Government (.5)
	Government-GOVT 2306	US Government (.5)
	Component Area Elective*	Varies Upon Course
	<i>Spring (9 hours)</i>	
	Communication-SPCH 1315	Communication Applications (.5)
	Social & Behavioral Science	Economics, Psychology, or Sociology (.5)
	Language Philosophy & Culture	Philosophy or Ethics
	<i>Math TSI Assessment</i>	
Senior Year	<i>Fall (10 hours)</i>	
	Science (Lab Optional)	Scientific Research and Design (.5)
	Communication-ENGL 1301	English 4 (.5)
	Mathematics	Independent Study in Mathematics (.5)
	<i>Spring (10 hours)</i>	
	Component Area-ENGL 1302	English 4 (.5)
	Science (Lab Optional)	Scientific Research and Design (.5)

*MUSI 1306-Art, Theatre, Music (.5) or SOCI 1301 or any core complete course

CORE COMPLETE Checklist

Sophomore	
Fall:	Spring:
Junior	
Fall:	Spring:
Senior	
Fall:	Spring:

Communication - 6 hours
 ENGL 1301 English Comp I and
 SPCH 1315 Public Speaking
 or SPCH 1321

Mathematics - 3 hours
(one from the following):
 MATH 1314 College Algebra
 MATH 1316 College Trig
 MATH 1324 Finite Math
 MATH 1325 Business Calculus
 MATH 1332 Quantitative Reasoning
 MATH 1342 Intro Statistics
 MATH 2412 Pre-Calculus
 MATH 2413 Calculus I

Life and Physical Sciences –
6 hours
(two from the following)
 AGRI 1307 Agronomy
 AGRI 1315 Horticulture
 AGRI 1319 Intro Animal Science
 BIOL 1308 Bio for Non-Sci Majors I
 BIOL 1309 Bio for Non-Sci Majors II
 BIOL 1322 Nutrition
 BIOL 1406 General Bio I
 BIOL 1407 General Bio II
 BIOL 2401 Anatomy & Phys I
 BIOL 2402 Anatomy & Phys II
 BIOL 2404 Survey of A&P

CHEM 1405 Intro Chem I
 CHEM 1406 Intro Chem I – Health
 CHEM 1407 Intro Chem II
 CHEM 1411 General Chem I
 CHEM 1412 General Chem II

GEOL 1301 Earth Sci for Non Maj I
 GEOL 1302 Earth Sci for Non Maj I
 PHYS 1303 Stars and Galaxies
 PHYS 1304 Solar System
 PHYS 1315 Intro Phys Sci I
 PHYS 1401 General Physics I
 PHYS 1402 General Physics II
 PHYS 2425 Advanced Phys I
 PHYS 2426 Advanced Phys II

Language Philosophy and Culture
- 3 hours
(one from the following)
 ENGL 2322 British Lit I
 ENGL 2323 British Lit II
 ENGL 2327 American Lit I
 ENGL 2328 American Lit II
 ENGL 2332 World Lit I
 ENGL 2333 World Lit II
 HIST 2321 World Civ I
 HIST 2322 World Civ II
 HUMA 1301 Hum - Pre Classical
 HUMA 1302 Humanities - Mod

PHIL 1301 Intro to Philosophy
 PHIL 2306 Intro to Ethics
 SPAN 2311 Intermediate Span I

Creative Arts - 3 hours
(one from the following)
 ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation
 ARTS 1303 Art History I
 ARTS 1304 Art History II
 DRAM 1310 Intro to Theatre
 DRAM 2361 Theatre History I
 MUSI 1306 Music Appreciation

American History –
6 hours
(two from the following)
 HIST 1301 US History I
 HIST 1302 US History II
 HIST 2301 Texas History

Government/Political Science - 6
hours
 GOVT 2305 Federal Government
 GOVT 2306 Texas Government

Social and Behavioral Sciences - 3
hours
(one from the following)
 ANTH 2351 Cultural Anthropology
 COMM 1307 Intro to Mass Comm
 ECON 2301 Macroeconomics

ECON 2302 Microeconomics
GEOG 1301 Physical Geography
GEOG 1303 World Regional Geog
PSYC 2301 Intro to Psychology
PSYC 2314 Human Growth and Dev
SOC1 1301 Introductory Sociology

**Component Area Option (CAO) -
6 hours**

ENGL 1302 English Comp II or
ENGL 2311 Tech & Bus Writing
and
Any other 3 hours core course from
the lists above

**TOTAL: 42 semester credit
hours (2 additional hours may be
added with Labs) *updated May 2019***

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 limited number of need-based institutional scholarship awards.** This scholarship will pay \$210 per semester during the fall and spring semesters. This scholarship can be used to assist with tuition for any college course. The NTCC Dual Credit Scholarship application can be found at ntcc.edu or in the HSHS Counseling Office.

○ **HSHS provides a limited number of need-based scholarship awards.** The HSHS College Academy Scholarship will pay \$210 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 \$12 an hour in a 16-hour a week pay period. Four dollars of that \$12 goes into the student’s pocket, which equals \$64 per week, leaving the other \$8 an hour going into an account set aside for the student’s future tuition and fees. 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.