

Frequently Ask Questions about the CHS Senior Transition to College Program

Students are required to take the equivalent of 4 fully weighted courses each semester from the list of approved courses. If they only take those 4 courses, what do they do during the other periods?

Students will be free to structure and use the time during the school day when they are not required to be in class in whatever way best meets their needs. Time may be spent off campus or here at school studying, completing course assignments, collaborating with other students, researching in the library, meeting with instructors, working on school-related extra-curricular activities, and/or participating in an outside-of-school internship or work experience.

One of the requirements for being eligible for the program is “standardized test scores at or above benchmarks for College Readiness.” What are those benchmarks?

The College Board and ACT have set the following benchmarks for college and career readiness:

Grade 10 PSAT scores: Evidence-Based Reading & Writing ≥ 430 and Math ≥ 480

Grade 11 PSAT scores: Evidence-Based Reading & Writing ≥ 460 and Math ≥ 510

SAT scores: Evidence-Based Reading & Writing ≥ 480 and Math ≥ 530

ACT scores: English ≥ 18 , Math ≥ 22 , Reading ≥ 22 , and Science ≥ 23

Students may use either Grade 10 or Grade 11 PSAT scores, SAT scores or ACT scores to meet the benchmark eligibility requirement.

My student wants to have all classes scheduled in the afternoon (or morning) or only on Blue days. Will students be able to adjust their schedules so that free periods will fall during the periods when the student wants free time?

No. Student schedules will not be adjusted to accommodate specific requests for free periods. Counselors will not consolidate free periods to allow for late arrival or early dismissal, nor will they move a class from first semester to second semester.

My student wants to take more than the 4-class minimum (like Advanced Physical Conditioning, Accounting or Ed Professions). Is that OK? Do the extra courses also have to be on the list of approved courses?

Students may take up to seven classes each semester. Only four of those classes must be from the list of approved courses. Some examples: a student-athlete would be able to take APC as a fifth class; a student interested in beginning another world language could add first-year Spanish or French to the schedule; a student would be able to take Baking as a fifth class during the spring semester; or a student could take five or six courses from the approved list. However, if a student takes seven classes first semester, s/he will be required to attend the Senior Symposium during SRT.

My student plans to take AP Government or AP Macroeconomics during summer school. Will either of those count as one of the required courses?

No. Although both of these courses are approved courses for the program, courses taken during the summer do not meet the requirements of the program.

My student is on IHSAA school-sponsored teams. If he/she is only taking 4 courses each semester, will this negatively impact IHSAA eligibility requirements for participation?

No, as long as students are meeting the grade requirements set by the IHSAA. Students participating in this program who are taking four classes will be considered full-time students (they are fully enrolled in the requirements of the program) and must be passing a minimum of three credits. Students who are in the program who take more than the four required courses, must be passing a minimum of five credits to be eligible.

Do students have to participate in the Senior Symposium?

Yes. Students will be assigned a time to participate in the Senior Symposium during a release period. If a student signs up for 7 courses, or has a class that conflicts when Symposium is offered, students will be assigned an SRT session. Students who fail to participate in the Senior Symposium will not be able to continue in the TCP program.

What are the expectations of the Senior Symposium? Will it be another rigorous course requiring a lot of work and time outside of class?

The Symposium is a seminar-like course that requires student participation without any outside assignments or coursework and will not add to the student's workload. The course is based on The 16 Habits of Mind and allows students to explore real-life topics that are important to consider before they enroll in college such as: social relationships and diversity, persistence, impulsivity, empathy, flexibility, thinking independently, remaining open to life-long learning, etc. The Senior Symposium is a not-for-credit course and students will not be graded, they will be required to attend and participate.

If the Senior Symposium will meet during SRT, does that mean my student can't be in another special SRT like GKOMs or Student Senate?

The Senior Symposium could be scheduled during a class period depending on the students course selections or may be scheduled during SRT time, but not during every SRT or class period. Seniors must attend the Symposium when it is scheduled to meet, but are free (and encouraged) to be a part of special SRTs on all other days.

How will this program impact my student's college applications?

Research indicates that students who maintain rigorous academic work during the last year of high school are more likely to be prepared academically for college-level work and to complete their degree on time. Feedback about the program from admissions personnel from IU, Purdue, Ball State, and Butler has been positive and supportive. Counselors will be reviewing your student's course selections with them for senior year and will be able to provide feedback and advice on how course choices align with admission requirements. Generally, colleges want to see core academic and rigorous courses represented in a student's senior-year. Before making a final decision for your student, it may be helpful to check with admissions offices of other schools your student is considering.

My student really wants to participate in this program, but he or she has only taken one AP course and I'm concerned that enrolling in four of the courses on the list might be more than he or she can handle. What happens if a student starts in the program and then struggles and is unable to handle the workload?

Student success in the program will, of course, be dependent on individual student's work ethic and determination. We anticipate that any student who meets the criteria for participation should be able to handle the four-course requirement. (They'll be in college the following year taking this level of coursework without the supports available here!) Any request for program changes will be addressed by procedures outlined in our student handbook, *Pathways*.

Is an application required for students to become a part of the program?

Yes. Students must complete an application, which includes parental consent, before a student will be scheduled for the program.