

FIRST BAPTIST ACADEMY



HONORS PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR THE HONORS PROGRAM

"First Baptist Academy Honors Program exists to challenge high achieving students to pursue and achieve advanced levels of scholarship, mission engagement, and Christ-centered leadership."

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Honors Academy Honors Program is:

- To challenge high-achieving students in the classroom so that they are better prepared for post-secondary challenges.
- To retain students attending FBA who desire the challenges of accelerated programs.
- To attract students to FBA who are searching for high-quality educational opportunities.
- To provide advanced academic curriculum studies and enrichment opportunities for existing upper school students.
- To offer these academic opportunities in an environment that views all learning through a Christ-centered approach.
- To teach students how to engage in Classical Model Learning Approaches using Biblical foundations to prepare them to become strong disciples in a secular world.

REQUIREMENTS

To be accepted into the Honors Academy Honors Program if currently enrolled at First Baptist Academy:

- A student must be a rising 9th grade student.
- Must be invited by the Honors Program Selection Committee.
- Must fill out the application and sign the Covenant Agreement form.
- Must agree to be enrolled in at least three Honors level classes for the Freshman year (with math being the exception).

To be considered for the Honors Academy Honors Program if transferring from another school:

- A student must be a rising 9th grade student or enrolled in Honors classes at previous school.
- Must have demonstrated academic preparation to succeed in the Honors Program by:
 - Providing transcripts from previous school.
 - Providing standardized test scores from previous year.
- Must fill out the application and sign the Covenant Agreement form, including the writing sample.
- Must complete an interview with an Honors Academy Committee member.

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To be considered for participating in Honors Academy programs as an upper classman:

- A student must be invited by a member of the Honors Program Committee.
- Commit to fulfill Honors Academy requirements by signing the Covenant Agreement.

All students who apply and seek consideration into the Honors Program must meet the following guidelines before admittance:

- Possess a B (3.0) or higher average, with no more than one C.
- Have standardized test scores reflecting above a 50% or higher in the Math and English sections of a PSAT, ACT Aspire, ACT, or SAT, or a ranking of “exceeding expectations” or “proficient but growing.”
- Have notable ability to excel in the Honors Program which is manifested in a strong work ethic and academic performance
- Students who do not meet minimum requirements on standardized tests may qualify for acceptance on a case-by-case basis based on teacher recommendation and commitment agreement.
- Produce three recommendations from a non-family adult leader (at least one teacher).
- Be without reproach, having no documented record of discipline issues requiring action beyond classroom discipline within the past year.
- Possess a solid record of attendance without excessive tardies/absences (even if excused) to school and/or class.
- Be well-respected and a peacemaker among peers.
- Must be a professing believer in Jesus Christ with visible evidence of having a relationship with Him (a covenant agreement to the Statement of Faith is a prerequisite).
- Must complete an effective essay explaining how his/her participation in the Honors Program would be advantageous for the program and First Baptist Academy. Rubric for evaluation will be provided.
- Must pledge/sign an intent to commit to serve a minimum number of hours in discipleship and mission service.
- Must pledge/sign an intent to attend regular meetings and enrichment opportunities provided in school and outside of school.

REMAINING IN THE FIRST BAPTIST ACADEMY HONORS PROGRAM

Students who are accepted into the Honors Program will be expected to maintain the following requirements to continue in “good standing” with the Honors Program:

- Maintain a 3.5 (B) average with no more than one C.
- Be without reproach, maintaining a discipline record with no recorded issues requiring action beyond classroom correction.
- Maintain a solid record of attendance without excessive tardies/absences (even if excused) to school and/or class.
- Complete and document at least 15 hours of meaningful community service and outreach (hours can overlap with NJHS or NHS hours) according to the following guidelines:
 - 3 hours of service to the school.
 - 2 donation hours.
 - 3 hours of mission or discipleship service.
 - Remaining hours are student choice.

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- Complete at least one of the following to receive an Honors Diploma from the state while in the program:
 - An industry certification.
 - Governor's School.
 - All-State musical competition.
 - Be selected as National Merit Finalist or Semi-Finalist.
 - Attain a composite score of 30 or higher on the ACT or a score in two of the categories of 32 or higher.
 - Attain a score of three or higher on at least two AP Exams.
 - Earn twelve or more semester hours of post-secondary credit through dual enrollment programs.
- Participate in active discipleship.
- Regularly attend academy meetings as scheduled during Enrichment Period.
- Regularly attend enrichment programs during Enrichment Period.
- All students will be required to complete one of the following during High School:
 - Participate in the Science Fair.
 - Participate in the History Day Competition.
 - Participate in an Arts Festival by participating in the visual, musical, or theatrical arts outside of the regular school curriculum and expectations for performance.
 - Complete and present a Capstone Project in the Spring of the senior year.
- Students who fail to maintain Program standards can be placed on probation and/or removed from the Program by the Honors Program Committee.

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

Students who participate in the Honors Program can expect to see the following benefits upon completion their senior year.

- Students who are planning to attend post-secondary institutions will be more prepared for the rigorous studies and pace that will be expected of them in the future.
- Students and teachers will work together in the classroom to foster exploration, collaboration, and innovation – all skills necessary to be successful in college and careers.
- Students will receive weighted GPAs for Honors and AP courses. Honors courses will be ranked using a 4.5 weighted scale, and AP classes will be ranked using a 5.0 scale, if the AP exam is taken (ranking will be on a 4.5 scale if a student chooses not to take the culminating exam). The exam will require an extra personal cost to take.
- Students will receive additional graduation accolades, and if students complete the State of Tennessee Requirements for an Honors Diploma, they may receive this as well.
- Students will be able to participate in enrichment programs that include, but are not limited to:
 - Skills preparation – math, writing, critical thinking, and computer skills.
 - Technology integration – research skills, document preparation and integration, web-based studies.
 - Working with computer software programs – Office, Keynote, Movie Maker, Excel, etc.
 - Service work – mission work, tutoring of younger students.
 - Leadership building workshops.
 - ACT/SAT preparation, AP Exam preparation.

- By the end of the senior year, students will also gain the following skills to prepare them for future endeavors:
 - Portfolio development.
 - Resume writing.
 - Public speaking and presenting.
 - Writing for an intended purpose.
 - Collaborating with peers.
 - Assessing community and business resources.
 - Obtaining community and business resources.
- Students will have the opportunity to attend regularly scheduled Academy meetings (required). These meetings will give students an opportunity to act in a school leadership capacity by:
 - Discussing school and personal issues with teachers and administrators.
 - Engaging with community leaders.
 - Being spiritually enriched by school and church leaders.
 - Participating in activities that include cross-curricular studies, effective learning methods, etc.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

- All students will complete a Capstone Project by the end of their senior year which they will present to the teachers and student body.
- A Capstone Project is a culminating project that focuses on student interests, strengths, and accomplishments. It is completed with the assistance of a mentor, either inside or outside the school.
- This project has a research, writing, and presentation component to showcase strengths, learning, and growth.
- Outcomes from the Capstone Project include:
 - The receiving of positive feedback from people in the school and community.
 - Engaging in self-reflection.
 - Tying a student's interests to real-world relevance.
 - Using an interdisciplinary approach to learning.
 - Gaining a sense of compassion for others as Christ exemplifies.
 - Feeling of Godly satisfaction for completing a job.
- Examples of Capstone Projects include, but are not limited to:
 - Self-Development/Curriculum Based Research Project
 - Participate in the Siemens or Intel Science Research Expositions
 - Write and produce a play and present to a community group like a senior citizen home or after school program
 - Create art/photography with a similar theme and host a showing
 - Research a specific aspect of academic interest and create a display at a local library
 - Research and develop a solution to a real-world problem and present to an interested community group
 - Keep a log of at least 20 hours describing your project's development

- Presentation to the community
- Internship/Externship
 - Job-shadowing in a career of interest
 - Journal log of at least 20 hours minimum
 - Career exploration – what does it take to get into this field?
 - Service component
 - Presentation to the community
- Service learning
 - Design a project the involves the community in raising awareness, providing solutions to a community issue, engaging in discipleship or mission work
 - Working in a community service environment for an extended period of time
 - Organize drives, collections, fundraisers, and clean ups
 - Advocate for a community issue including lobbying, finding causes, and taking those findings to government leaders requesting, and offering solutions
 - Must keep a log of 20 hours of service/project development
 - Research component: studying the issue and organization
 - Presentation to the community
- Core components of the Capstone Project
 - An approved proposal containing what is intended to be learned
 - Documented research and contact hours with a mentor
 - A short, written paper, using MLA or APA citation
 - An oral presentation that demonstrates the research and knowledge learned
 - A review panel that evaluates the project
 - Participation in “A Celebration of Excellence” with a display of your project
- Students are expected to spend at least 20-40 hours of work on their Capstone Project

REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM

Participation in an Honors Program is not to be considered easy. It requires a commitment to academic excellence and perseverance. Dropping from the Program, switching of classes from an Honors to a CCP level, and Administrative removal is not to be considered lightly. However, if it is found that a student has been misplaced in leveling, all attempts will be made to meet student needs. This would result in removal from the entire program in most cases. As a result, the Honors Committee would not make this decision haphazardly. All level changes and removal from the program will be at the discretion of the Honors Committee. Parents are allowed input into any changes and will be required to participate in a conference with their student and the committee before such a decision would be made. In addition, students can be removed from the program if they fail to meet the Service Requirements associated with the Honors Program. This decision will be made by the committee after meeting with the student and his/her parents. All changes in scheduling, removals, and additions are made at the sole discretion of the Honors Committee.

Students will not be allowed to drop in level during a school year because they wish to no longer put in the time it takes to perform at expectations. Students will also have to demonstrate that they have sought assistance from their teachers and have made a concerted effort to be successful, and yet, are

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not performing in a manner that ensures academic success. Please be aware that the earning of a grade of less than a B does not mean that students will be considered for removal during the school year.

Students (with parent agreement) can choose not to participate in the Honors Program for the following year. In addition, any student who drops from the Honors Program or is removed from the Program will forfeit his/her opportunity to enroll in the Honors Program in the future. Students who are not originally invited into the program their Freshmen year, may apply their Sophomore year if they meet all requirements set forth in the Handbook. Juniors and Seniors will have the opportunity to participate at various levels of commitment as well.