

Frequently Asked Questions for GHS Course Selection

How do I select my courses?

All newly registered students take placement tests in reading, writing, math, and world language. These placement tests will allow the Program Administrators to make course recommendations. Students and parents will meet with their school counselor to discuss final course requests.

If I don't take Honors courses in my first year at GHS, can I take Honors courses later?

Yes. While students may begin with college preparatory level courses, many students successfully take honors and AP courses in subsequent years. Most course sequences are flexible. Speak to your counselor about your ideas.

Is it true I won't be able to get into college unless I take honors and AP courses?

No. While highly selective colleges expect their applicants to take the most challenging courses available at their high school, a traditional college preparatory program provides students with a foundation to apply and be accepted to the majority of bachelor's degree programs.

How do my transfer courses affect my GPA?

The GPA is your grade point average. At GHS, marking period grades are averaged each quarter for a GPA to determine honor roll (3.6+ = honors, 4.0+ = high honors). GHS Final grades are also calculated each year for a Cum GPA. GHS courses designated Honors or AP are given additional 1.0 weight in the quarterly and cumulative GPA calculation. Transfer credits earned are added to the GHS transcript, but they do not include grades or contribute to the GHS Cum GPA. Colleges and universities require official transcripts from all high schools the student has attended and will calculate each student's GPA accordingly.

How many credits to I need to graduate?

The number of credits and the type of courses required for graduation depend on your year of graduation. Please see the graduation credit requirements in the *GHS Course Of Study Guide* on the GHS website:

<https://www.greenwickschools.org/greenwich-high-school/academics/guidance/course-selection-and-academic-planning>

How many hours of community service do I need to graduate?

The only requirement for service hours is contained within a community service project in the required Civics/Government course (5 hours). However, all juniors who have a 3.6 cumulative GPA will be invited to apply for membership to the National Honor Society, which has a service hour requirement of 60 hours by the beginning of senior year. (Please see the GHS Student Activities website for detailed information on requirements for membership in the NHS.)

What does a typical student schedule look like?

The GHS rotating block schedule was designed for students to have time during the school day to access learning centers or work with their teachers or counselors. We recommend that students have between three and six "opens" or learning centers (unscheduled blocks) so they can complete homework, study for tests and get support as needed. All freshmen are assigned to learning centers during unscheduled blocks. Students in grades 9, 10 and 11 typically register for 6.5 credits which include English, Social Studies, Math, Science, World Language, Elective and PE/Wellness.

What if I can't get all my courses because of conflicts?

The master schedule is created to have the fewest conflicts possible, but not every combination of classes will fit together. The priority is to schedule all core academic courses first and every effort will be made to schedule first and second choice elective courses.

What if I change my mind about the courses I requested?

Our course selection process provides you with the opportunity for expert advice and the responsibility to carefully consider your courses. We expect students to commit to their original course requests. If you need to change a course, you may request this by communicating with your school counselor. Late changes to requests may not be possible, but we will do our best to meet your needs. All new classes must be added within the first 8 days (one cycle) of school. The ability to revise your schedule may be limited, as we cannot overload classes nor exceed teacher contract max.

When do I get my class schedule?

Class schedules are distributed to all students immediately before the first day of school each fall.