

# Honors: Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Honor Graduates

## Honors: Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The students with the highest and second highest grade averages shall be designated as valedictorian and salutatorian respectively, provided they meet the residency requirements.

To be eligible for the honor of valedictorian and salutatorian, a student must be enrolled continuously in the District beginning no later than the first Friday following Labor Day of the sophomore year.

Students who graduate in fewer than or more than four years shall not be eligible for the State of Texas Honor Graduate Certificate for the highest ranking graduate, valedictorian or salutatorian.

In the event that two or more students in contention for valedictorian or salutatorian have the same grade point average, the student who has taken the most advanced placement courses will be named.

For graduation honors (Valedictorian and Salutatorian), a student's scholastic rank will be determined by dividing the total number of semester grade points by the number of grades accumulated for all eligible courses, during grades 9-12.

See Board Policy EIC Local

## Top 10% Honor Graduates

Honor graduates will be the top 10% of the senior class by rank in grade point average. A student's top ten percent scholastic rank in his/her graduating class shall be determined by the numerical average based on the total eligible coursework during the grades 9,10, and 11 and shall include the first three grading periods of the grade 12 year.

Students who have earned graduation honors (Valedictorian and Salutatorian) must have completed all course work required by Friendswood High School for graduation and the grade received by the school by the last teacher the day before graduation.

## Other Scholastic Awards

Other scholastic awards, including Academic and Athletic Letter Jackets is set up by the principal and staff approved by the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum.



## Course Selection and Schedule Changes

Every year students register for classes that they will need the following year. It is important for students to plan their choices carefully because class size and staffing decisions will be determined from their choices. Choose your courses with this in mind because there will be no schedule changes other than errors in scheduling. Every effort will be made to schedule requested courses.

### TEKS Based Instruction

Friendswood High School courses are guided by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Class changes that result in gaps in the TEKS will not be approved. Semester credit cannot be gained unless the opportunity to meet all TEKS for a specific course is present.

### Schedule Changes

All elective changes must be requested and processed before the first day of school. Once school starts, schedule changes will only be considered for the following reasons and must take place within the first 10 days of school:

1. Student is a senior and not scheduled in a course needed for graduation.
2. Student has already earned credit for a course in which he/she is currently scheduled.
3. Student does not have the prerequisite(s) for a class listed on schedule.
4. There is a data entry error (class entered twice, free period, etc.)

### Level Changes – Pre-AP & AP

There will be NO schedule changes out of Pre-AP or AP until the end of the first nine-week grading period. When there is no appropriate level to move down to, students in AP or Pre-AP classes must stay until the end of the semester. The grade earned in the Pre-AP or AP course will be transferred to the regular course. Changes must be made within a 10-day window after the end of any grading period. This includes courses not required for graduation.

# Top 10 Percent Rule for College Admissions

Students who are in the top 10 percent of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas\*.

To be eligible for automatic admission, a student must:

- Graduate in the top 10 percent of his or her class at a public or private high school in Texas, or
- Graduate in the top 10 percent of his or her class from a high school operated by the U.S. Department of Defense and be a Texas resident or eligible to pay resident tuition;
- Enroll in college no more than two years after graduating from high school; and
- Submit an application to a Texas public university for admission before the institution's application deadline (check with the university regarding specific deadlines).
- Students admitted through this route may still be required to provide SAT or ACT scores, although these scores are not used for admissions purposes. Students must also take the TSI assessment, unless exempted from the test requirement. Check with the admissions office regarding the TSI assessment, SAT, and ACT requirements);
- Students graduating under Foundation High School Program must earn an Endorsement and the Distinguished Level of Achievement in order to be eligible for the top 10% designation.

After a student is admitted, the university may review the student's high school records to determine if the student is prepared for college-level work. A student who needs additional preparation may be required to take a developmental, enrichment, or orientation course during the semester prior to the first semester of college.

Admission to a university does not guarantee acceptance into a particular college of study or department. Regardless of class ranking, all students are encouraged to apply to the college of their choice.

\* SB 175, passed by the 81st Legislature, modifies the top 10 percent admissions program for The University of Texas at Austin. Automatic admit criteria will vary year-by-year, with remaining spaces to be filled through holistic review.