

# Frequently Asked Questions

## ***Core (math, science, language arts, social studies) Recommendations:***

**Q: Where can I learn about credits, course requirements, course planning and other helpful registration information?**

A: Online Course Descriptions, AHS Career Pathways Registration Guide, Counseling videos and more are available electronically on the Counseling department webpage. Registration information can be found by going to Austin High School's website, then Menu, Counseling Office and finally Registration.

**Q: How are core (math, science, social studies, and language arts) and elective course recommendations made for my student?**

A: Recommendation conversations are taking place during the month of January in core and elective classes. Students will add course recommendations into their Academic Planner in Infinite Campus during the month of January.

**Q: How can a parent/student change a recommendation?**

A: Starting February 1, the parent/student can complete a "course request change form" which identifies 1. recommended course, 2. requested change in course, and 3. reason for the change. This form is available in the counseling office and on the counseling registration web page, must be signed by student and parent, and turned in to the counseling office. Requests must be completed PRIOR to March 24.

**Q: How can my student request a more/less challenging course?**

A: Starting February 1, the parent/student can complete a "course request change form" which identifies 1. the recommended course, 2. requested change in course, and 3. reason for the change. This form is available in the counseling office and on the counseling registration web page. It must be signed by student and parent, and turned in to the counseling office. Requests must be completed PRIOR to March 24.

## ***Elective classes:***

**Q: How can I assist my student in choosing electives?**

A: Use the Online Course Descriptions, AHS Career Pathways Registration Guide, talk with teachers and parents, as well as review surveys that your student has taken on MCIS can help in determining what career pathway they may want to

pursue and take courses in. MCIS, or Minnesota Career Information System, can be accessed through the high school web site through the “Student Resources” tab, “APS Student Links”, and then scroll down to “MCIS”.

Identifying elective alternatives is important in the registration process. If a student has not identified enough elective options they are wanting to take, elective classes will be assigned based on availability in the master schedule and may not be adjusted at a later date.

**Q: What types of classes may my student take repeatedly?**

A: Most music and physical education classes can be taken repeatedly for additional elective credit throughout all four years of high school.

**Q: How can I review recommendations and my student's elective course requests?**

A: You can access your student's requests for next year by logging into Infinite Campus, “Academic Plan” then click on “Proceed”.

**Q: How can I change my student's elective course requests?**

A: The Academic Planner is open throughout the month of January to make elective course requests. You may complete a Course Request Change form, call, email or meet with your School Counselor until March 24 to request and make changes in your courses for next year.

**Q: What are the deadlines for making course request changes?**

A: Parent portal access to Infinite Campus’ Academic Plan opens January 4 and closes on February 1. Parents may call or email their student’s school counselor or can speak to counselors at spring parent-teacher conferences on March 21 and March 23 to make final course request changes for next year.

***Health/PE options:***

**Q: How can my student meet his/her health and PE requirements when he/she is taking double music and world language (or vice versa)?**

A: Students can take health or PE to meet their graduation requirements any of their years at Austin High School. If a student is unable to fit in their health and/or PE requirement due to other elective choices, they can take health and/or

PE through summer school or if they qualify they can take health and/or PE through PSEO (Post-Secondary Education Options).

***Choir, Band and Orchestra:***

**Q: How are recommendations made for choir, band and orchestra?**

A: Music teachers "roll" the current class roster into next year's registration. Auditions will occur later in the spring and counselors make needed changes per teacher's recommendations. If a student does not qualify for the advanced class from auditions, they will remain in the same year's music class. If a student wants to drop music due to non-advancement, they must speak with their music teacher and then speak with their counselor ASAP plus complete the "course request change form". The class will not be dropped the following school year without this documentation.

**Q: What is the process for my student to discontinue participation in choir, band or orchestra?**

A: Music teachers "roll" their current class roster into next year's registration. If your student does not want to participate in music, that course needs to be dropped from the schedule in the Spring using the "course request change form". Music teachers request that the parent and student meet with the teacher to discuss this change prior to completing the form.

***World Languages:***

**Q: Does my student need a world language (Spanish or French) to graduate from Austin High School.**

A: No, this is not a graduation requirement. However, most 4-year colleges require 2 years of the same world language as an admission requirement. More competitive colleges require 3-4 years of the same world language.

***Visual/Performing Arts Credit:***

**Q: What courses meet the 1 credit of visual and/or performing arts credit requirements?**

A: All Art, Music (excluding History of Rock & Roll), Interior Design, Digital Video Production I & II and Graphic Arts I, II III classes meet the graduation requirement of 1 credit of visual and/or performing arts.

***Study Hall:***

**Q: Can my student take a study hall and still graduate on time?**

A: Study halls can be beneficial to students with heavy academic loads, busy with extra-curricular and /or afterschool commitments. Students have the opportunity to take one (1) study hall period per semester. Students do not earn credit for study halls. Students are not at risk of falling behind in credits, as long as the student has passed and continues to pass the other 6 periods of core and elective classes per semester. (Must earn 3 credits/semester for 6 credits/year). Study halls may or may not be available based on the learning model.

**Schedule changes after registration is complete:**

**Q: Why can't my student change his/her mind over the summer and change their schedule at beginning of school year?**

A: The master schedule is developed based on student's course recommendations and requests made during the registration period. Staffing plans, course and section availability are set based on these registration numbers and become inflexible. Based on this, we reinforce good planning at registration time vs. allowing adjustments/changes the following fall.

Students are repeatedly informed about the importance of making thoughtful choices DURING the registration process. Students need to make accurate selections for courses so that the master schedule reflects the needs and wants of the student body.

***Failing required courses:***

**Q: What happens if my student fails a core class?**

A: Students who fail core classes must attend Summer School or Credit Recovery and pass the failed course to earn the credit.

**Q: What happens if my student fails multiple core classes?**

A: The student must attend Summer School. If there is not enough time in Summer School to regain all failed required classes, the student will have to plan for subsequent years of Summer School. The student may also need to attend Credit Recovery as a junior and/or senior in addition to Summer School.

***Qualifying PSEO Students only:***

**Q: How does my qualifying student sign up for PSEO?**

A: Qualifying students will talk with their School Counselor during the spring registration process, sign up for PSEO in the AHS Counseling Office, and complete the necessary paperwork no later than the May 30 deadline.

***12th grade only:***

**Q: Does my student need a 4th year of math and/or science?**

A: Students need three credits of science and math to graduate from Austin high school. However, there are some colleges that require four years of math and strongly suggest four years of science.

**Q: How does my student become a student aide?**

A: Students interested in being a student aide for their senior year should approach the teacher they are wanting to be a student aide for and obtain the student aide form during registration time. Students will then need to complete the form and return the form to the counseling department for approval. Students must be on-track to graduate to be a student aide and no credit is awarded for student aide positions.

**Q: What is the Work Based Learning Seminar/On the Job Training (OJT)?**

A: Work Based Learning Seminar and Work Based Learning - OJT (On the Job Training) is a 2-period course offered to senior students wishing to receive support and learn about the world of work. To earn credit for the OJT portion, students need to have a job in the community averaging 12-15 hours per week where they will receive a W-2 tax form.

**Q: What is the Pass/Fail Option?**

A: Senior students may take one elective course (not a required class needed for graduation) and apply for the Pass/Fail Option. Pass/Fail Option paperwork is available in the fall of students' senior year and is due at fall conference time for fall classes and spring conference time for spring classes. To receive a P on a student's transcript for the class that was approved on the pass/fail form, a 60% or higher as the final semester grade must be received.