



Middle College Program

Information Night for Students, Parents, and Guardians
Thursday, February 16, 2023

Middle College Application Essay

Essay Prompt (please address all three):

- Why is Middle College a good fit for you?
- What about your current high school experience hasn't been working for you?
Be specific.
- How will you contribute to the Middle College community?

**Please remember to put your name, school, and current grade at the top of your paper.*



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Middle College Staff

- **Alison Coy**, Director of Educational Options, FUHSD
- **Brian Dong**, Assistant Principal of Educational Options, FUHSD
- **Crystal Dagleish**, 11th Grade Advisor & English/Social Science Instructor
- **Sean Morrison**, 12th Grade Advisor & Social Science Instructor
- **Dena Zlotziver**, 12th Grade Advisor & English Instructor
- **Lisa Freitas**, School Counselor

What is Middle College?

Middle College is a **dual enrollment program**—fully housed on the De Anza College campus—that provides FUHSD students **with an alternative to the traditional high school setting**. The program allows students to take both high school and college courses in order to fulfill high school graduation requirements.

Most notably, **Middle College provides a more relational approach to your high school education**. The program is built on a foundation of connection and community. Middle College provides students with an opportunity for a smaller learning program and more individualized support.

Why Middle College?

It depends...

- You need a **new environment** for “success”—academically and/or socially
- You have a **desire to actively engage with and contribute to a small community**
- You have a **passion for learning** (not necessarily reflected in your grades) and **intellectual curiosity**
- You are **independent** and **self-motivated**, with the ability to thrive in **college-level coursework**
 - Only students permitted to contact De Anza College instructors & personnel (per FERPA requirements)
- You are willing to **self-advocate and seek out/utilize a variety of De Anza and Middle College resources for support**

Middle College vs. Dual Enrollment at your high school

Middle College

- Offers a new environment—academically or socially
- Looking to engage with a small, tight-knit community
- Must take high school and college classes *in person* on the De Anza College campus
- Teacher and Advisor support

Dual Enrollment + Home Site

- Interested in taking one or more community college classes online, in conjunction with your home high school courses
- Actively involved in activities on the home school campus (e.g., Leadership)
- Want the freedom/flexibility to take asynchronous classes

Program Prerequisites

- Residency within FUHSD, registered student
 - Private school students must register with district and establish residency **before** scheduling an interview
 - Must remain in FUHSD boundaries
 - No automatic Senior Privilege
- Have **PASSED** Algebra 1 and Geometry by June

Program Requirements

- Takes three **high school classes** with us (English, Social Science, and Elective) on the De Anza College campus between 12:30–3:30pm
- At least two academic **college classes (3+ units** each) per quarter
 - Must maintain grade of C or higher in all courses
- Commitment to Full School Year
 - **Early September** until **end of June** – De Anza College calendar

A Typical Day at Middle College

Students take a minimum of two academic college courses (3+ units) per quarter, in addition to their three high school Middle College courses. Students will build their college schedule around their Middle College (high school) classes.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:30 - 10:30 Math 1A	9:30 - 10:30 Math 1A	9:30 - 10:30 Math 1A	9:30 - 10:30 Math 1A	
12:30 - 3:30 Middle College classes	12:30 - 3:30 Middle College classes	12:30 - 3:30 Middle College classes	12:30 - 3:30 Middle College classes	12:30 - 3:30 Middle College classes
	3:30 - 5:00 Psyc 1		3:30 - 5:00 Psyc 1	

A Typical Year at Middle College

Students take a minimum of two academic college courses (3+ units) *per quarter*, in addition to their three high school Middle College courses.

Note that a one quarter college course is worth the same as an entire year long course in high school; one De Anza College unit = two high school credits.

For example, a De Anza College class worth 5 units equates to 10 high school credits on the high school transcript

Fall Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter
High School Classes: English: American Literature (11th) or Contemporary Literature (12th) Social Science: US History (11th) or Government/Economics (12th) Elective: Advisory (11th & 12th)		
MATH 1A Calculus A	PHYS 4A Physics	ESCI 1 Environmental Studies
PSYC 1 Intro to Psychology	ANTH 1 Intro to Anthropology	ARTS 4A Beginning Drawing

Middle College Guidance and Support

Academic Advisors (~1 to 30 ratio):

- Daily interaction with FUHSD teachers
- De Anza course selection and registration
- Tutoring and academic support
- Liaison to De Anza instructors

School Counselor (~1 to 100 ratio):

- Four-year college & transfer planning
- College application process support
- Financial aid application support
- Career planning
- Social/emotional counseling

De Anza Course Selection

1. FUHSD High School Graduation Requirements
2. UC/CSU Eligibility Requirements
3. Transfer Eligibility Requirements
4. Other Courses of Interest
 - Each quarter students take two “academic” De Anza College courses worth a minimum of 3 units each
 - Students are **not allowed** to enroll in ESL, Nursing, Real Estate, Massage Therapy, or any 200 or 300 numbered (non-college-level) courses
 - Course availability is subject to De Anza College quarterly schedule and enrollment limits

How Universities View Middle College

- Students should attend Middle College for a *new learning experience*, not because they think it will help them get into a “good” college
 - Middle College is one of *many* ways to get to a university!
- Students will be taking college-level courses as part of the Middle College program (like AP courses at the high school)

Applicable FUHSD Policies

- Zero Tolerance/No Smoking
- Attendance & Truancy
- Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
- Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement

Financial Responsibilities

FUHSD will pay for:

- Tuition and De Anza fees (up to 11 units)
- Per-unit fees (unless student is a “non-resident”)
- Middle College class textbooks
- *Financial assistance may be available for De Anza textbooks, if demonstrated need*

Student & Families will pay for:

- Health Center fee (\$17/quarter)
- Transportation (optional)
 - Parking permit, VTA SmartPass
- De Anza textbooks
- Other De Anza consumable materials and lab fees
- **All** per-unit fees (**if** student enrolls in more than 11 units with Middle College advisor’s approval)

Student Panel + Q&A

Edana Corona Hernandez, 1st Year at Middle College (11th grade; MVHS)

Zoe Handelsman, 1st year at Middle College (11th grade; MVHS)

Rohan Malla, 1st Year at Middle College (11th grade; CHS)

Isabella Fichtenholtz, 2nd year at Middle College (12th grade; HHS)

Sanjana Gadaginmath, 2nd year at Middle College (12th grade; LHS)

Abdullah Memon, 2nd year at Middle College (12th grade; MVHS)

Application Process

1. Complete Middle College Online Application (ASAP, if not already completed)
2. Request two Applicant Evaluations from FUHSD staff members
3. Day of interview:
 - a. Applicant and parent will receive an email with interview date, time, and location after the Middle College application window has closed (March 3)
 - b. Interviews will be held at home school sites or Educational Options (March 20–31)
 - c. Interviews will be roughly 20 minutes; parent or guardian **must** accompany student
4. Notification (sent by email, by April 19); confirmation (due by email, by April 26)