

Are Advanced or Accelerated courses right for me?

Do you desire academic challenge?

Advanced courses add depth and complexity to the already rigorous grade level curriculum. These courses will take a **commitment of strong effort to see success**. Students who want challenge are strongly encouraged to take at least one Advanced or Accelerated Course.

Do you have time to commit to Advanced Academics?

Advanced courses are **demanding of time**. Reading and writing assignments, as well as projects and regular homework can be expected. If you already have commitments on your time from extracurricular activities or other outside of school responsibilities, you will need to make sure you are able to create a balance and make time for your academic work.

At what pace do you learn new material?

The **pacing of some Advanced courses may be fast**. If you generally pick up new learning quickly, Advanced and Accelerated courses may be a good fit. Think about how many repetitions you need to learn new concepts and ideas in each subject area to determine where a faster pace may suit your learning style.

Do you want to take AP or Dual Credit in high school?

Advanced Academic courses are designed to prepare students for AP and Dual Credit courses offered in PfISD. If you **desire coursework that prepares you to take an Advanced Placement or Dual Credit subject in High School where you can potentially earn college credit, then Advanced Academic courses are right for you**.

Would your current teacher recommend Advanced or Accelerated courses for you?

Your current teacher knows you and your learning style. You may want to have a conversation with him/her to see what his/her recommendation is for your learning path.

Your **current skill set** and your **motivation** are both important considerations!

What grades have you earned in courses you are considering the Advanced option?

If your **grades in the subject for which you are considering Advanced or Accelerated have consistently been very strong**, then you are thinking in the right direction. Students who have lower grade averages in a content area may want to consider why they have had lower grades in the past and how they can take advantage of our content supports to correct this.

What are your STAAR scores?

Students considering Advanced for ELA or SS should look at their Reading and Writing STAAR scores. Students considering Accelerated Math or Advanced Science should look at their Math STAAR scores. Strong performance on these exams indicate a need for higher challenge. Don't forget your **current ability** and your **motivation** are also both important considerations!

The State of Texas has set high standards for all students through the vertically aligned curriculum for all courses K-12. All courses follow the state curriculum, are rigorous and can be very challenging. Advanced and Accelerated courses add another level of depth to the state curriculum. Both non-Advanced/Accelerated and Advanced Accelerated courses may lead to college level work before high school graduation.