

Katy Independent School District
2025 - 2026 GPA EXEMPT COURSE INFORMATION
INFORMATION REGARDING EXEMPT COURSES

Students are encouraged to pursue their areas of special talents and interest to enrich their academic experience. Elective courses may be taken on a GPA-exempt basis as established by Board Local Policy EIC and identified in this brochure. The courses listed below require successful completion of prerequisites specific to a course pathway or in a program of study. Students **must** have a 4.0 or above to be eligible to take GPA exempt courses. Students may take a maximum of three (3) credits on a GPA Exempt basis during their high school career. Students must submit an application in MyKatyCloud and obtain approval from their school counselor. Parents and Teachers will be notified throughout the process. The following courses have been identified as GPA-exempt eligible for this school year:

Career Technical Education Courses

Courses below are the **3rd or 4th** course in a program of study or only offered at Miller. **Completion of prerequisites and/or corequisites required to earn GPA exemption.** Consult the [Course Catalog](#) for prerequisites and course descriptions.

8141	Livestock Production	8510	Business Law
8144	Advanced Animal Science	8622	Business Information Management II
8147V	Veterinary Medical Applications (MCTC)	8632	Entrepreneurship I
8148V	Veterinarian Assisting (MCTC)	8990	Instructional Practices in Education & Training
8125	Practicum in Agriculture Food, and Natural Resources	8990V	Instructional Practices in Education & Training (MCTC)
8232	Horticulture Science	8991	Practicum in Education & Training
8237	Floral Design	8991V	Practicum in Education & Training (MCTC)
8118	Range Ecology Management	8081	Health Science Theory
8122	Agricultural Structures Design & Fabrication	8075V	Dental Assisting I (MCTC)
8136	Agricultural Equipment Design and Fabrication	8087V	Pharmacy I (MCTC)
8048	Civil Engineering and Architecture	8076V	Dental Assisting II (MCTC)
8030	Architectural Design II	8088V	Pharmacy II (MCTC)
8030V	Architectural Design II (MCTC)	8077	Medical Assistant
8001V	Practicum in Architecture (MCTC)	8082V	Clinical Rotations (MCTC)
8192V	Construction Trades I (MCTC)	8085V	Emergency Medical Technician (MCTC)
8196V	Construction Trades II (MCTC)	8097V	Pharmacology (MCTC)
8031	Audio/Video Production I	8371V	Culinary Arts (MCTC)
8033	Audio Video Production II	8364V	Foundations of Restaurant Management (MCTC)
8027V	Digital Audio Technology I (MCTC)	8373V	Practicum in Culinary Arts (MCTC)
8028V	Digital Audio Technology II (MCTC)	8743V	Introduction to Cosmetology (MCTC)
8682V	Practicum in Digital Audio	8751V	Cosmetology Design and Color Theory (MCTC)
8005V	Film I--Advanced Audio/Video Production (MCTC)	8744V	Cosmetology I (MCTC)
8035V	Film II--Practicum in Audio/Video Production (MCTC)	8752V	Cosmetology II (MCTC)
8036	Animation I	8312	Counseling & Mental Health
8026	Animation II	8344	Practicum in Human Services
8009	Commercial Photography I	8664V	Computer Technician Cisco Academy (MCTC)
8320	Fashion Design I	8685V	Cisco Network Engineering I with Lab (MCTC)
8053	Graphic Design I	8686V	Cisco Network Engineering II with Lab (MCTC)
8013	Commercial Photography II	8688	Practicum in Computer Technician
8321	Fashion Design II	8970V	Law Enforcement I (MCTC)
8056	Graphic Design and Illustration II	8984V	Criminal Investigations (MCTC)
8570	Accounting I	8977V	Correctional Services (MCTC)
8580	Accounting II	8976V	Law Enforcement II (MCTC)
8609	Practicum in Business Management 2 credits	8985V	Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security (MCTC)
8611	Practicum in Business Management 3 credits		

8683	Entrepreneurship II	8524	Extended Career Preparation I (3 credits)
8668	Social Media Marketing	8521	Career Preparation II (2 credits)
8629	Fashion Marketing	8525	Extended Career Preparation II (3 credits)
8543	Marketing in America	8972V	Court Systems & Practices (MCTC)
8057V	Manufacturing Engineering Technology I (MCTC)	8987V	Advanced Legal Systems (MCTC)
8058V	Manufacturing Engineering Technology II (MCTC)	8660V	Practicum in STEM (MCTC)
8602	Engineering Design & Presentation I	8678V	Cybersecurity I (MCTC)
8602V	Engineering Design & Presentation I	8679V	Cybersecurity II (MCTC)
8059V	Practicum in Manufacturing (MCTC)	8689	Practicum in Cybersecurity
8040	Diversified Manufacturing I	8707V	Automotive Basics (MCTC)
8047	Diversified Manufacturing II	8700V	Automotive Technology I (MCTC)
8615	Engineering Science	8715V	Automotive Technology II (MCTC)
8654	Engineering Design & Problem Solving	8782	Naval Science II (NJROTC)
8024V	Principles of Construction	8784	Naval Science III (NJROTC)
8520	Career Preparation I (2 credits)	8786	Naval Science IV (NJROTC)

Athletics

Continuous enrollment (year 2, 3, 4) in any designated athletic course regardless of sport; does not include the following PE courses: Lifetime Recreation & Outdoor Pursuits, Skills Based Lifetime Activities, Lifetime Fitness & Wellness Pursuits. Consult the [Course Catalog](#) for prerequisites and course descriptions.

5202	Volleyball 2	5222	Girls Track 2
5203	Volleyball 3	5223	Girls Track 3
5204	Volleyball 4	5224	Girls Track 4
5102	Football 2	5122	Boys Track 2
5103	Football 3	5123	Boys Track 3
5104	Football 4	5124	Boys Track 4
5262	Girls Cross Country 2	5182	Swim 2
5263	Girls Cross Country 3	5183	Swim 3
5264	Girls Cross Country 4	5184	Swim 4
5162	Boys Cross Country 2	5272	Diving 2
5163	Boys Cross Country 3	5273	Diving 3
5164	Boys Cross Country 4	5274	Diving 4
5212	Girls Basketball 2	5305	Cheerleading 2 (Sub athletics)
5213	Girls Basketball 3	5306	Cheerleading 3 (Sub athletics)
5214	Girls Basketball 4	5307	Cheerleading 4 (Sub athletics)
5112	Boys Basketball 2	5452	Wrestling 2
5113	Boys Basketball 3	5453	Wrestling 3
5114	Boys Basketball 4	5454	Wrestling 4
5252	Girls Soccer 2	5172	Golf 2
5253	Girls Soccer 3	5173	Golf 3
5254	Girls Soccer 4	5174	Golf 4
5152	Boys Soccer 2	5192	Tennis 2
5153	Boys Soccer 3	5193	Tennis 3
5154	Boys Soccer 4	5194	Tennis 4
5232	Softball 2	5429	Athletic Training 2
5232	Softball 3	5439	Athletic Training 3
5232	Softball 4	5449	Athletic Training 4
5132	Baseball 2	5472	Off-Campus PE 2 (2028)
5133	Baseball 3	5473	Off-Campus PE 3 (2028)
5134	Baseball 4	5474	Off-Campus PE 4 (2028)

Fine Arts

Continuous enrollment (year 2, 3, 4) in any designated fine arts course. Consult the [Course Catalog](#) for prerequisites and course descriptions.

7012*	Band 2	7751	Dance Composition 2
7013	Band 3	7802*	Dance Color Guard 2
7014	Band 4	7803	Dance Color Guard 3
7111	Jazz Band 1	7804	Dance Color Guard 4
7112	Jazz Band 2	7581	Sculpture 1 (ART)
7113	Jazz Band 3	7582	Sculpture 2 (ART)
7114	Jazz Band 4	7583	Sculpture 3 (ART)
7912	Orchestra 2	7551	Drawing 1 (ART)
7913	Orchestra 3	7552	Drawing 2 (ART)
7914	Orchestra 4	7553	Drawing 3 (ART)
7212	Choir 2	7561	Painting 1 (ART)
7213	Choir 3	7562	Painting 2 (ART)
7214	Choir 4	7563	Painting 3 (ART)
7251	Vocal Ensemble 1	7571	Ceramic 1 (ART)
7252	Vocal Ensemble 2	7572	Ceramic 2 (ART)
7253	Vocal Ensemble 3	7573	Ceramic 3 (ART)
7254	Vocal Ensemble 4	7412	Theatre Arts 2
7255	Instrumental Ensemble 1	7413	Theatre Arts 3
7256	Instrumental Ensemble 2	7414	Theatre Arts 4
7257	Instrumental Ensemble 3	7521	Theatre Production 2
7258	Instrumental Ensemble 4	7522	Theatre Production 3
7712	Dance Team 2	7523	Theatre Production 4
7713	Dance Team 3	7452	Technical Theatre 2
7714	Dance Team 4	7453	Technical Theatre 3
7750	Dance Composition 1	7454	Technical Theatre 4

* Students are eligible to GPA-exempt Band 2 or Dance Color Guard 2 if a full credit (1.0) of Fine Arts credit has been earned.

* If a student chooses to combine Band 1&2 or Dance Color Guard 1&2 to earn a full credit (1.0) of Fine Arts and a full PE substitution credit (1.0), they are eligible to GPA-exempt Band 3&4 or Dance Color Guard 3&4.

Other Electives

Continuous enrollment (year 2, 3, 4) in the following courses. Consult the [Course Catalog](#) for prerequisites and course descriptions.

1621	Advanced Journalism Yearbook 1	1532	Debate 2
1622	Advanced Journalism Yearbook 2	1533	Debate 3
1623	Advanced Journalism Yearbook 3	1534	Independent Study in Speech (Debate 4)
1631	Advanced Journalism Newspaper 1	1522	Oral Interpretation 2
1632	Advanced Journalism Newspaper 2	1523	Oral Interpretation 3
1633	Advanced Journalism Newspaper 3	0081	Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL) 2
1651	Independent Study in Journalism (YB/NP 4)		

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO TAKE A GPA EXEMPT COURSE?

- Students **must** maintain a 4.0 or above grade point average (GPA).
- Students must have an overall B average in the prerequisite course for elective courses for which they are seeking a waiver.
- Successful completion of prerequisite courses specific to a pathway or a program of study.
- Students must maintain a B average in the GPA exempt course to qualify and maintain GPA exempt eligibility.
- Students must obtain approval from their school counselor. Parents and Teachers will be notified during the approval process.
- Students may take a maximum of three (3) credits on a GPA Exempt basis during their high school career.
- Students must be in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.
- Students understand they must be in their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th full year of *continuous enrollment* in the same program to meet eligibility for GPA-exempt status. Completion of prerequisites and/or corequisites required.
- For more information, see your counselor, teachers, director, or coach.

HOW ARE GRADES HANDLED IN A GPA EXEMPT COURSE?

Students who are eligible and choose to take one of these courses for a GPA EXEMPT grade:

- Will receive a numerical grade all year on the report card.
- Will receive the actual numeric grade with a comment or label indicating “GPA exempt” on the Academic Achievement Record (transcript).
- Will receive credit for these courses, but also have these courses excluded from the computation of GPA and class rank.
- Exemptions are granted on a semester basis.

WHAT ARE THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THESE COURSES?

- The numerical grade earned will be reported on the report card.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned work in a GPA-exempt course including tests and semester exams.
- Students eligible to exempt semester exams may choose to exempt a GPA-exempt course.

HOW WILL GRADES IN A GPA EXEMPT COURSE AFFECT ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

The numerical grades earned in a GPA Exempt course will be used to determine eligibility for participation in all UIL or school-sponsored activities. In addition, numerical grades will also be used to determine honor roll each six-weeks; for qualifying criteria used in selection of students for various positions such as dance team officers, class officers, exam exemptions, etc.; for eligibility for academic awards, including admission to organizations such as National Honor Society; etc.

IF A STUDENT COMPLETES A LEVEL ONE COURSE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR BUT DOES NOT ENROLL IN THE LEVEL TWO COURSE DURING THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR, THEN ENROLLS IN A LEVEL TWO COURSE DURING THE FOLLOWING YEAR. ARE THEY ELIGIBLE TO EXEMPT THE LEVEL TWO COURSE?

Yes. Each year’s exemption stands alone. This qualifies as continuous enrollment in a coherent sequence.

IF A STUDENT EXEMPTS A COURSE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR BUT DOES NOT ENROLL IN THE COURSE DURING THE FOLLOWING YEAR. DO THEY LOSE THE EXEMPT STATUS FOR THE FIRST YEAR?

No. Each year's exemption stands alone.

CAN A STUDENT DROP A FULL YEAR GPA EXEMPTION COURSE AFTER THE FIRST SEMESTER IS COMPLETED?

If a student completes the course with a B average or better for which a GPA waiver is granted, the course will be GPA exempt. Students are expected to complete a full-year course for which a GPA exemption has been approved. In extenuating circumstances where a student is approved to drop a GPA-exempt course after the first semester is complete, the student will receive the first semester credit as GPA exempt. However, the remaining 0.5 GPA exemption cannot be applied to another course during the second semester or following year. The requested 1.0 GPA exemption is considered to be fully expended. If a student drops a full-year course before the close of the first semester for which a GPA exemption has been approved per established district guidelines. The new course the student enters is not eligible for a GPA exemption. In this case, the GPA exemption is available for use the following semester/year, if requested and approved according to established guidelines.

DOES A STUDENT HAVE TO MAINTAIN ENROLLMENT IN A SINGLE ATHLETIC SPORT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN EXEMPTION?

No. Any athletic enrollment can qualify.

HOW DO STUDENTS ENROLL IN A GPA EXEMPT COURSE?

Students interested in taking one of the GPA Exempt courses must discuss this option with their school counselor at the beginning of the course. If the student meets all the criteria, they must:

1. Complete the online GPA Exempt application located in [MyKaty Cloud](#).
2. Submit the application no later than **September 22, 2025**. At this time, if all criteria are met, it will be approved, and a schedule change will be made to reflect enrollment in a GPA Exempt course.
3. Once a student makes the decision to take a course as GPA-exempt, the decision is final and cannot be changed.
4. Students enrolled in full-year courses do not need to reapply during the second semester, they must maintain a B average in the GPA exempt course to remain qualified for their GPA exempt eligibility.



Students, including move-in students, who miss the **September 22, 2025** deadline, may apply for exemption for the second semester if they meet the criteria. The second semester deadline is **February 13, 2026**.

2025-2026 GPA Exempt Course Timeline	
Fall Semester 2025	
Application opens in MyKaty Cloud	August 13, 2025, at 12:00am
Deadline to submit application	September 22, 2025, at 11:59pm
Spring Semester 2026	
Application opens in MyKaty Cloud	January 6, 2026, at 12:00am
Deadline to submit application	February 13, 2026, at 11:59pm

It is the policy of Katy ISD not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, color, religion, disability, or national origin in its educational programs and/or activities including career and technology programs, nor its employment practices.