Pass / Fail Courses
2025-2026

Cypress-Fairbanks I.S.D. wants to encourage students to pursue their areas of special talents and aptitudes and to enrich their academic achievement through efforts both in and out of the public school setting. Academically-able and talented students frequently forfeit opportunities to study in their areas of talent and interest. To encourage these students to explore areas of interest in depth while they are in high school, the district is offering the following courses to students in grades 11 and 12 on a pass/fail basis. To qualify to take a course for pass/fail, the student must have completed two L-level credits in the defined sequence/program of study.

Courses Allowed on a Pass/Fail Basis

- Athletics III-IV
- Off-Campus PE III-IV
- Band III-IV
- Orchestra III-IV
- Choir III-IV
- Dance III-IV
- Art III-IV
- Debate III- IV
- Independent Study in Speech (Level IV)
- Literature and the Bible
- Tech Theatre III-IV
- Theatre Production III-IV
- Theatre Arts III-IV
- Advanced Journalism/Newspaper II*-IV
- Advanced Journalism/Yearbook II*-IV
- Air Force JROTC III-IV
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Special Topics in Social Studies (History in Film, Holocaust, Vietnam and Street Law)
- Western Civilization and the Bible
- Spanish III-VI
- French III-VI
- German III-VI
- Latin III-IV
- American Sign Language III-IV

CTE courses

(3rd course or more in a program of study*/defined sequence)

- Advanced Culinary Arts (spring only)
- Advanced Floral Design
- Advanced Marketing (spring only)
- Ag Equipment
- Animation II (spring only)
- Architectural Design II (spring only)
- Audio/Video Production II (spring only)
- Automotive Technology II (spring only)
- Business Management

(3rd course or more in a program of study*-continued)

- Construction Technology II (spring only)
- Digital Audio Technology II
- Diversified Manufacturing II
- Early Learning I (spring only)
- Early Learning II (spring only)
- Engineering Design and Presentation II (spring only)
- Fashion Design II (spring only)
- Health Science Theory/Clinicals (spring only)
- Internetworking Technologies II
- Mill & Cabinetmaking Technology (spring only)
- Practicum in Ag, Food & Natural Resources (spring only)
- Practicum in Animation (spring only)
- Practicum in Architectural Design (spring only)
- Practicum in Architectural Design Workforce I (spring only)
- Practicum in Architectural Design Workforce II (spring only)
- Practicum in Audio/Visual Production (spring only)
- Practicum in Business Management (spring only)
- Practicum in Construction Technology (spring only)
- Practicum in Culinary Arts (spring only)
- Practicum in Health Science (spring only)
- Practicum in Information Technology (spring only)
- Practicum in Manufacturing (spring only)
- Practicum in Marketing (spring only)
- Practicum in STEM (spring only)
- Precision Metal Manufacturing I (spring only)
- Precision Metal Manufacturing II (spring only)
- Project-based Capstone in Ag
- Project-based Capstone in Architecture
- Project-based Capstone in Cybersecurity
- Project-based Capstone in Engineering and Robotics
- Project-based Research in Fashion Design
- Project-based Capstone in Interior Design
- Project-based Capstone in Web Development
- Range Ecology Management
- Securities and Investments
- Teacher Prep I (spring only)
- Teacher Prep II (spring only)
- Veterinary Medical Applications
- Web Game Development
- Welding II (spring only)

* *For juniors/seniors who have already completed two credits in journalism*

Who is eligible to take an advanced course on a pass/fail basis?

This option is available to juniors and seniors who wish to take one (1) or two (2) courses in certain areas of study that are **beyond the requirements for graduation**. These two credits must be in addition to the 26 credits required for graduation on the Foundation+ Endorsement Program or the 22 credits required for graduation on the Foundation High Program. To take the third- or fourth-year courses in the four-year elective programs on a pass/fail basis, the student must have the credit for the first two courses in the elective program sequence. The students should also have an overall B or above average for other courses completed in the field of study. All students must meet the prerequisites of each course and have parent, teacher, and counselor approval.

How many pass/fail courses is a student allowed to take?

Students may take only 1 credit on a pass/fail basis during their junior year and 1 credit during their senior year. Seniors may take two credits pass/fail, if one is not taken during the junior year.

Who really benefits from this option?

The student who will obtain the maximum benefit from this option is the student who

1. is both academically-able and is talented in or has a keen interest in one of the identified courses of study;
2. will have more credits than the twenty-two (foundation program) or twenty-six (foundation+ endorsement program) required for graduation;
3. will have **more K-level academic courses than L-level courses** on the final transcript; and
4. earns mostly grades of A in **ALL** courses of study (has a GPA of 6.0 or higher).

Note: The student described above will achieve a grade point average that is almost identical to the grade point average he/she would obtain if two K-level courses were attempted instead of enrollment in and completion of the pass/fail courses. This option works in this way because the total number of K-level courses is greater than the number of L-level courses. This option does not alter class rank for students with few or no K-level courses; in fact, a pass/fail course may lower a student's GPA if he/she takes all L-level courses and earns any grade lower than an A.

How are grades handled in a pass/fail course?

Students who are eligible and choose to take one of the advanced courses for a pass/fail grade

1. will receive numerical grades all year on the report card; and
2. will receive a P (pass) **or** F (fail) on the transcript.

These courses will not be included in the computation of grade point averages and class rank.

What are the performance standards for these courses?

Students must complete all of the assigned work just as if they were enrolled in the course on a non-pass/fail basis.

Students must take all tests associated with the course unless exempt from the final exam through grades earned and attendance.

To maintain eligibility to stay in the pass/fail course for the second semester, the student's semester average must be passing. Exception: If the student is in a K-level foreign language course, K-level eligibility standards must be maintained.

Note: Students will receive a numerical grade on the report card for each grading period. Only the transcript will reflect a P (passing) or F (failing).

How will grades in a pass/fail course affect eligibility for extra-curricular activities?

The numerical grades earned in a pass/fail 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 grading period; academic awards eligibility, including admission to organizations such as National Honor Society; criteria used in selection of students for various positions such as drill team officers, class officers; exam exemptions; entrance and exit in K-level courses, etc.

How do I enroll in a pass/fail course?

Students interested in taking one of the pass/fail courses must discuss this option with the teacher of the course during the first week of each semester. If the student meets all of the criteria, he/she must complete the appropriate form, have it signed by the parent and teacher, and return it to the counselor, no **later than the end of the second week of the fall and spring semester**, for approval and a schedule change to reflect enrollment in a pass/fail course. For more information, discuss this option with your teacher or counselor.

What courses are available for pass/fail?

See the counselors' office for a comprehensive list.

Additional Pass/Fail Notes:

1. Students who have exactly 26 credits (Foundation+ Endorsement Program) or 22 credits (Foundation Program) may not pass/fail any course.

2. Students must have credit for the first two courses in the elective program sequence to pass/fail the third course. (Example: Student must have credit for Debate I and II to pass/fail Debate III.)

3. Students may count courses taken on a pass/fail basis towards earning an endorsement.