

# College Academy

8th Grade  
Parent  
Presentation



# What is College Academy?

01

## Partnership

Partnership between CFISD and Lone Star College CyFair – offered at all CFISD schools

02

## HS Diploma and Associate Degree

Eligible students may earn HS diploma and Associate Degree during grades 9-12

03

## Dual Credit

College Academy is a Dual Credit program

04

## Guidance

Any CFISD student may pursue the Associate Degree via college credit courses, however, College Academy provides progress tracking and guidance on sequence of courses to achieve an Associate Degree from LSC CyFair

# College Academy: History and Success



Cypress Lakes HS Class of 2021

- Pilot program began at Cypress Lakes in 2017.
- **Fall 2020** launched the freshman cohort at all 12 campuses with all high schools graduating College Academy seniors in **May 2024**.
- Over **2000** GRADUATES CANDIDATES since 2021!

# College Academy Student Experience



# More About College Academy

## Not a “School within a School”

Students take courses at the high school; normal high school experience

## Not a curriculum → A Degree Plan

Curriculum meets both state TEKS and college Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

## Degree Planning/Course Selection

Students have many options of courses and adjust yearly as needed

## Not an “Early College”

Early College is a TEA state designation that would restrict how our program works

# What is Dual Credit?

01

## HS & College Credit

Courses that earn high school credit and college credit based upon successful completion of the course.

02

## Requirements

Students must meet requirements for both LSC and CFISD to enroll in a course.

03

## Availability

Students may enroll in Dual Credit upon meeting CFISD and LSC requirements

04

## College Credit

Credit is awarded by the receiving institution (LSC) upon successful completion of the course.

05

## Cost

Tuition is free, however, students must pay the cost of fees unless qualifying for scholarships.

**Research colleges to which your student applies for admissions information.**

# What is Advanced Placement?

01

## HS & College Credit

Courses that earn high school credit and college credit based upon the exam score.

02

## Requirements

Student must meet requirements for CFISD to enroll in the course.

03

## Availability

Any student may register for an AP exam and do not have to enroll in the course.

04

## Credit

Credit is awarded by the receiving institution based upon acceptance and exam score.

05

## Cost

Courses are free, however, students must pay the cost of the exam unless qualifying for fee waivers.

**Research colleges to which your student applies for admissions information.**

# What is an Associate Degree?

## For Degree and/or Transfer

2 yr college degree that may meet employment requirements or may be used for transfer to apply to an institution that offers baccalaureate degree programs.

## Core Classes

Most courses are core high school classes – such as English, History, Math, Science, etc.

## Options in Coursework

There are some options in coursework needed to complete the degree – not every student will have the same courses for their degree.

# Benefits of an Associate Degree

Cost savings per 1 course

**Texas A&M**

\$1,646.87

**University of  
Houston**

\$1,761

**Lone Star  
College**

**\$333**

**Lone Star  
College  
Dual Credit**

**\$129**

## Cost Information:

- \$204 tuition waived; student/parent pays only the fees of \$129
- Under HB 8, the *Financial Aid for Swift Transfer* (FAST) program was passed to provide funding for **students who are eligible for the national free/reduced lunch program to enroll in dual credit courses at no cost.**
- Please see the [College Academy Timeline and Payment](#) document on the College Academy website for more information about the cost of the program

# Benefits of an Associate Degree



- Students/Parents consider college earlier
- Communication with colleges
- Reviewing admissions criteria
- Researching 4-year degree plans
- Military Promotion

# College Academy: Pathway to Success



**Sara O.**  
Full ride to **Stanford University** with **Dual Credit** courses transferred and applied to her degree.

Majoring in Computer Science with a specialization in AI and Biocomputational Engineering.



**Austin T.**  
Enlisted **US Army**  
Completion of the Associate Degree qualified him for advanced enlistment.

Promoted to the rank of **E3, private first-class** with increase in pay of estimated \$3,000 per month.



**A  
Word  
of  
Caution**

- **Mental Health**  
Socio-emotional awareness  
Academic rigor of Junior level college courses
- **Advanced Degrees consider entire college GPA**  
Example: Medical Program Applicant – college GPA starts now
- **Major Transfer Coursework**  
Some options in the Associate Degree may not have a place in your student's major
- **College Admissions Programs**  
Example: Blinn Team

# **College Academy**

**The High School Diploma  
and  
the College Degree**



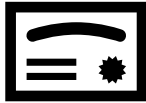
# Foundation + Endorsement



- 26 high school credits
- Any high school endorsement  
Some endorsements will allow **more flexibility** for dual credit courses
- For the **STEM Endorsement**  
Algebra II, Chemistry and Physics are **required**



# The Associate Degree Options



## Associate Degree

42 core credits  
+ 18 elective credits  
= 60 credits



## What is right for your student?



## Associate of Science

STEM, Math,  
Medical,  
Engineering,  
etc.



## Associate of Arts

English, History,  
Business, etc.

**Students are NOT limited in applying to colleges based on their degree.**

Example: Students do not need to have an Associate of Science to apply for an Engineering program. Students will benefit from either degree.

# The Associate Degree Options

## Core Curriculum

**42 credits**

**Communication** – 2 courses

**Math** – 1 course

**Science** – 2 courses

**Arts** – 1 course

**History** – 2 courses

**Lang, Phil, Culture** – 1  
course

**Social Behavioral** – 1 course

**Government** – 2 courses

**CAO** – 2 courses

## Associate of Science

**18 credits**

Math / Science– 4 courses

Electives– 2 to 3 courses

## Associate of Arts

**18 credits**

Extra courses in any subject  
may be used

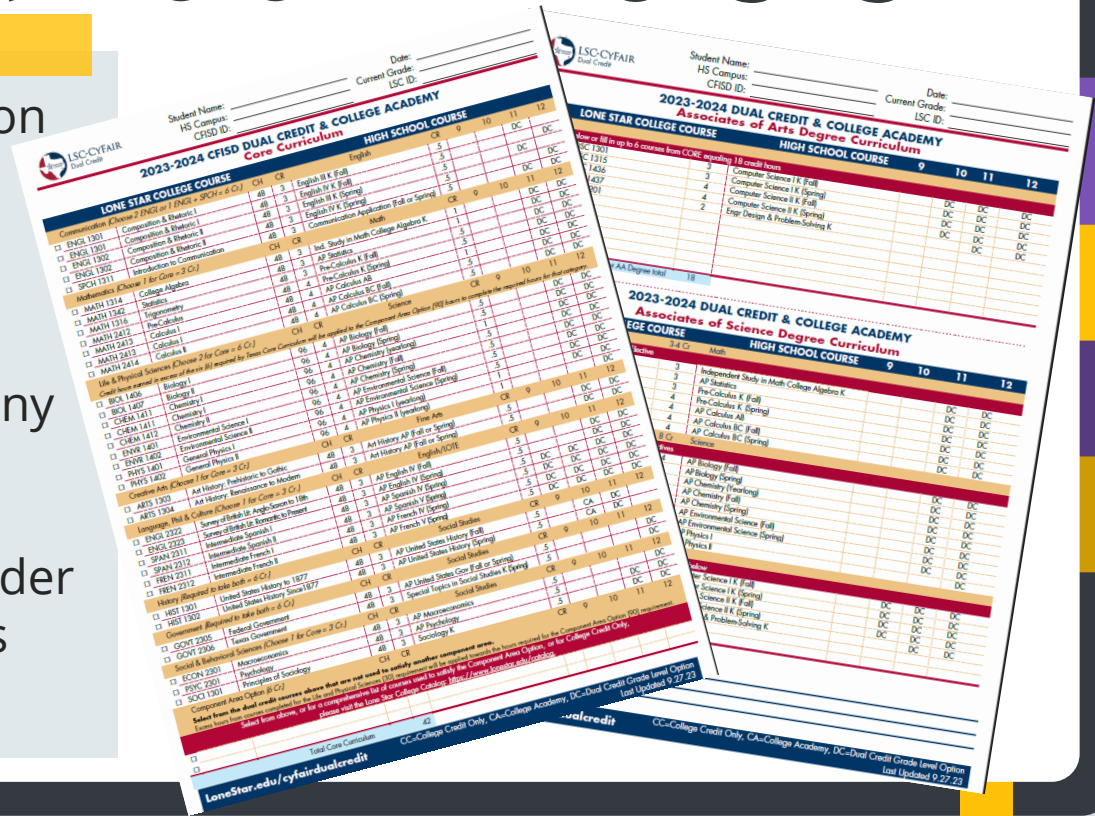
Including math and science

# Let's look at the courses!

Degree Plan available on the College Academy website

Accepted by public colleges in Texas & many colleges nationwide

There is much to consider as your student's plans may change



# Let's look at the courses!

LONE STAR COLLEGE COURSE				HIGH SCHOOL COURSE					
History (Required to take both = 6 Cr.)		CH	CR	Social Studies	CR	9	10	11	12
<input type="checkbox"/> HIST 1301	United States History to 1877	48	3	AP United States History (Fall)	.5		CA	DC	
<input type="checkbox"/> HIST 1302	United States History Since 1877	48	3	AP United States History (Spring)	.5		CA	DC	

## Lone Star College

- HIST 1301 – United States History to 1877
- 48 Contact Hours
- 3 Credit Hours

## CFISD

- AP United States History
- .5 HS Credits



**What  
happens in  
9th grade?**




Students have their **typical Freshman schedule**


There is **NO Dual Credit** coursework in 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Students will receive assistance with adjusting 4 Year plans


Students will complete a Lone Star College CyFair Application



**What  
happens in  
9th grade?  
(cont'd)**



A student who meets the following criteria is eligible to apply for the opportunity to earn high school credit through college courses:

- Earn an overall average for **all courses** of at least **80** or an average of at least **80** in the **last course taken in the general subject area.**
  - **Successfully complete prerequisite courses** as identified by district guidelines.
  - **Complete an application** and receive approval for college admissions.
  - **Register for US History DC in 10<sup>th</sup> grade** as part of a College Academy cohort.
- 

# Recommendations prior to 9th grade

If you will be applying to College Academy, it is recommended to **schedule a history class Freshman year.**

**World History (on level, Advanced, or AP); World Geography (on level or Advanced) or Human Geography (AP)**

- Will **better prepare students** for US History DC in 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- Students **will not have to double up** on history in 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- Speak to your **8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor** before the course verification deadline

Students who score a 3+ on the World History AP exam may earn college credit that will help them achieve the degree with less classes Junior and Senior year.

# What other things do I need to know and consider?



- **Summer school**  
(between 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)
- **Course enrollment at the college**
- **Support along the way**
- **Schoology Course with information and resources**
- **College Academy Mentor**

# What will my student give up?

Nothing!

Students will have **elective options**.

They may still engage in their areas of interest including **extra-curriculars such as sports and fine arts, clubs, and competitions**.

Students should be mindful of the **need to balance electives, extracurriculars, and academics**.

Let's hear from a College Academy student that was able to balance the **Associate Degree, and an additional certification!**



# College Academy Student Experience

## Maria



# **College Academy**

**Application Windows**

**Timeline**

**More Information**



# Qualifications to Apply

01

**Currently enrolled  
8th grade student**

Must complete application via  
Google Form on the College  
Academy Website

02

**Algebra I**

Must earn Algebra I  
credit with 80+  
end of year average\*

03

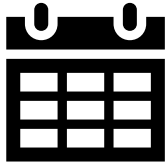
**English K/H**

Must pass English  
Language Arts with 80+  
end of year average;  
8th grade ESL ADV  
included

*\*8th grade students enrolled in Geometry or higher will also meet qualifications to apply.*

*Meets/Masters on STAAR/EOC Scores may be used in lieu of 80+  
Students must still pass Algebra I and English K/H or ESL ADV*

# Invitation to Apply



## When?

After the  
**3rd grading period**  
(1 week after Spring  
Break)



## Communication

Communication from  
Middle Schools to parents  
of students who are in  
**Algebra I or Geometry**  
and  
**English 8 K/H or  
ESL 8 ADV**



## Follow-up

District will follow up with  
parents of students who  
have not yet applied in May

***Note: An invitation does  
NOT guarantee acceptance  
into College Academy.***

# Application Window:

## March 23 – May 29, 2026



### Application

Apply on the College  
Academy Website –  
Google Form  
Submission



### Essay

Students must answer essay prompts:

- 1. What are your career goals?** (Be specific about your post-high school plans)
- 2. Why do you want to be in this program? What do you hope to gain from this program both personally and academically?**
- 3. What other information do you want to offer about yourself as to why you should be given preference for a slot if space is limited?**

# After Completing the Application

01

## Recommendation

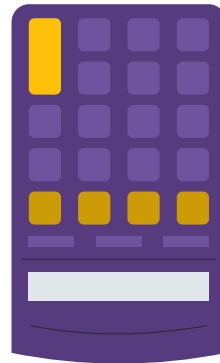
**Add World History** (*on level, Advanced, or AP*);  
**World Geography** (*on level or Advanced*) **or**  
**Human Geography** (*AP*)  
for 9th grade before end of the school year – see 8th grade counselor



02

## Decision Letters

Decision letters will be e-mailed home late June to mid-July (e-mail on Google Application)



# Where can I find more information?

[CFISD College Academy page](#)

You will find:

- Parent Presentation PDF
- FAQ Document
- College Academy Timeline of Events and Payments
- Associate Degree Plan
- Application



# What if I have more questions?



Email questions to  
[collegeacademy@cfisd.net](mailto:collegeacademy@cfisd.net)

Include a contact phone number with  
questions should a phone  
conversation be more expedient.

**Thank  
you!**



**CHOOSE** *the path*   
**TO AMAZING!**

CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD