



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Virtual Independent Study Educational Program (ISP)
Part 1 - For Parents of Prospective ISP Students
Application Packet - Grades 9-12**

Overview:

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District Independent Study Program (ISP) is a voluntary, alternative instructional model for students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the traditional classroom setting.

SMMUSD offers a Virtual Independent Study Educational Program for Grades 9 through 12 only. The ISP program is not a separate school; it is part of your child's secondary school campus. Independent study for each student is under the general supervision of a district teacher and is coordinated, evaluated, and documented, as prescribed by law and reflected in SMMUSD Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6158.

In general, success in ISP requires motivation and a strong commitment on the part of the student and their parents/guardians. Also, sufficient organizational skills and academic preparation are required in order for students to work successfully in an independent manner. Students are expected to be able to access the curriculum, meet standards, participate in teacher directed activities and experiences, and make appropriate academic progress while participating in the Independent Study Program.

Please note, this is not the form for Independent Study - Physical Education (ISPE). Please contact your school for information on this program. Please complete this application packet only if you are interested in enrolling your child in SMMUSD's Virtual Independent Study Educational Program. Please complete one form per child you are interested in enrolling.

*This application packet (Part 1) is intended for **parents of prospective ISP students**. The application packet includes the application timeline and forms. The packet also includes ISP program information, ISP course information, and Frequently Asked Questions.*



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Required Application Documents and Process:

Step 1: Program Interest and Application

- Attend an Optional Interest Session
 - March 3, 2026, 6:00pm, via Zoom (<https://smmk12.zoom.us/j/87298482292>)
- Read the Application Packet and FAQ's
- Submit the Application Form and Verifying Signatures and Voluntary Statement
 - **Deadline: March 27, 2026**
- School Sites Will Inform Parents/Guardians of Approval/Denial Prior to **April 20, 2026**

Step 2: Program Enrollment (For Students Approved to ISP)

- Attend a Required Enrollment Session
 - **April 28, 2026, 6:00pm, via Zoom** (Link will be emailed)
- Complete and Submit the Written Agreement at an In-Person Meeting with ISP Team
 - Santa Monica High, Room E200: April 29, 2026, 4:00-6:00
 - Malibu High, Room A232: April 30, 2026, 1:00-3:00

Step 3: Program Student Orientation and Onboarding

- First Day of School with ISP teachers via Zoom, August 20, 2026

Application Timeline:

2026-2027 School Year Application Window:
Opens **March 9, 2026**, Closes: **March 27, 2026**

How to Submit Completed Application Forms:

- Email completed fillable PDF application to ISPapplication@smmusd.org by the deadline, March 27, 2026.

The school site will inform parents/guardians of the application approval/denial prior to **April 20, 2026**. The site administrator, or designated committee, will review each application and determine if the student meets the necessary eligibility requirements and will benefit from participation in this alternative educational program.

During the application window, ISP applications are available on all secondary school websites. The school site administrator is responsible for informing new and returning students of the availability of ISP applications. Students must apply every year for the Virtual Independent Study Program.

Applications will only be accepted up until the due date, or within the first three weeks of the school year for students newly enrolled to SMMUSD. Newly enrolled students who begin ISP after the first day of school will be responsible for making up prior coursework during days missed due to late enrollment into ISP.

If there is an exceptional circumstance that requires consideration for enrollment to ISP outside of the application window, parents must contact their school site counselor and school site administrator responsible for ISP. Transitioning to ISP after the start of a semester is disruptive and often not in the best interest of students. Late requests are often denied or deferred to the next semester.



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Eligibility Criteria:

SMMUSD's Virtual ISP Program is an alternative instructional strategy where students work independently offering flexibility to meet individual student's needs, interests, and styles of learning. Students who desire a more personalized educational experience, or whose health or other personal circumstances make classroom attendance difficult, are often most successful.

To initially participate in ISP:

1. Student must currently be enrolled in an SMMUSD school and maintain residency within SMMUSD boundaries.
2. Student must be in grades 9-12 during the upcoming school year.
3. Student must demonstrate the motivation, commitment, organizational skills, and academic skills necessary to work independently.
4. Student's academic performance must be at grade level.
5. Student's classroom attendance is difficult due to a particular challenge, such as a health issue (this not referring to temporary disabilities where students are unable to attend school for 10 or more days; this would be considered Home Hospital Instruction), lack of strong connections, or a need to work (i.e. child actors). Or, the student would benefit from a higher degree of flexibility and individualization (i.e students with a special interest or aspiring Olympic athletes).
6. If applicable, the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) program must specifically provide for participation in ISP. The IEP meeting to discuss the request for ISP, and determine if FAPE can be provided in ISP, must occur prior to completing the written agreement conference.

To maintain participation in ISP (Grades 9-12):

1. Student must complete the assigned courses utilizing a program delivered online (Subject.com) via synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
2. Student must earn "attendance credit" for 90% of equivalent days over a 4-week period, based on work completion and attendance at live sessions. Students are expected to spend as much time on their schooling in the Independent Study Program as they would for in-person learning.
3. Student must attend a minimum of 2 live sessions (via zoom or in-person) weekly, minimum of 60 minutes. Missing more than 4 out of 8 sessions a month may result in removal from the program.
4. May not fall below the level of satisfactory progress, D or F grades, as determined by the teacher.
5. May not miss more than 6 assignments per course, over a two week period.
6. Must take mid-term and final exams each semester, in-person.
7. Must maintain academic honesty. Each student's course grade must reflect their own work and knowledge.
8. Must meet all additional terms of the written agreement.



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-2027
ISP Application Form:

To be completed by the parent/guardian

Student Last Name:	Student First Name:	Student ID:
Current School:	Current Grade Level:	Next Year's Grade Level:
Parent/Guardian Name:	Parent Phone:	Parent Email:
Home Address:	Home State:	Home Zipcode:
Does your child receive Special Education Services?: ☐ Yes ☐ No		Student's Advisor/Counselor:
Describe your child's current academic performance and explain the at-home supports your child will have while in ISP:		
ISP requires students devote a substantial amount of time daily (just as in-person students do) to their learning. Describe your child's organizational skills and the plans for your child's daily independent study schedule:		
Why is your family interested in the Independent Study Program? Is classroom attendance difficult due to a particular challenge or will your student benefit from a higher degree of flexibility for a particular reason? Why do you believe ISP will be the right fit for your student?		
Is your child interested in taking one or two in-person classes on campus? If your child is interested, which courses are they? (May list up to two courses)		



**2026-2027 ISP Verifying Signatures
Expectations of the Independent Study Program**

Student's Responsibility
To be Completed by the Student

If accepted to the ISP program, I understand that it is my responsibility to:

- Engage daily with the curriculum and schoolwork at least as much time as I would in the regular classroom setting
- Create a distraction-free learning environment for myself
- Complete all assignments and submit them on time according to due dates
- Participate in all required statewide and local SMMUSD assessment programs
- Hold myself to high standards of academic integrity
- Monitor school platforms daily including SMMK12 Gmail, Subject, APEX, and Google Classroom
- Track daily and long-term assignments through the use of a list or agenda
- Communicate with teachers and staff to seek clarification and support
- Be respectful in my communication and collaboration with peers
- Engage in remote learning with the same commitment as in the in-person setting
- Engage in physical activity consistently and maintain healthy social interactions

Signature of Student:

Date:

Parent's/Guardian's Acknowledgement
To be Completed by the Parent/Guardian

If my student is accepted to the ISP program, I understand that it is my responsibility to:

- Actively monitor my student's courses including assignments, grades, and attendance
- Communicate consistently with teachers and staff, checking for email messages from the teachers regularly
- Support the student's distraction-free learning environment
- Establish a structured daily routine for completing work
- Participate in meetings with program staff, if requested
- Ensure student's daily monitoring of all school platforms
- Encourage student to engage in communication with the teachers and school staff
- Maintain an active role in my student's education and provide assistance as needed
- Ensure my student is available and attends necessary in-person sessions including all midterm and final exam sessions
- Provide student opportunities for physical activity and healthy social interactions

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Date:



Additional Acknowledgement:

To be Completed by Both the Student and the Parent/Guardian

ISP Academic Integrity Statement:

Each student's grade must reflect their own work and knowledge. ISP believes personal integrity is basic to all solid achievement and students will reach their full potential only by being honest with themselves and others. ISP expects all students to respect the educational purposes underlying all school activities and understands that administration, faculty, and staff provide an environment that encourages honesty.

Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is prohibited. If a student's work has been flagged for AI, or there is evidence of work not being their own original thought, they will not receive any credit for the appropriate assignment or test, be asked to re-do the assignment, or be required to re-do the assignment in-person to receive any credit. If this happens repeatedly, the tiered reengagement strategy outlined in the Written Agreement and school consequences defined in each school site's handbook will be implemented.

ISP Voluntary Statement:

A student's participation in the Virtual Independent Study program shall be voluntary, and no student shall be required to participate.

In order to minimize the disruption to the student's educational program and ensure continuity of learning, we strongly encourage families to commit to one semester. However, SMMUSD will facilitate the required transition plan for students to return to in-person instruction. Transitioning to in-person schooling after the start of a semester will require a change in teacher, curriculum for students, and may also necessitate a change in courses.

I am committed to making the ISP Program work for the duration of the semester.

Frequently Asked Questions:

I have read the FAQ's. I understand the independence required to complete coursework successfully. I understand the commitment needed to meet the expectations of the program.

If enrollment is accepted, I will agree to abide by all ISP rules and conditions described in the written agreement. I understand that failure to do so will result in my student returning to a classroom-based school program. I wish to enroll my child in the Independent Study Program.

Signature of Student:

Date:

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Date:



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is SMMUSD's Independent Study Program?

The Independent Study Program is a voluntary, alternative instructional model for students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the traditional classroom setting. There will continue to be a mandatory in-person component of ISP where students will need to meet with their ISP teacher in-person for assessments or other activities. This information is not about the Independent Student Physical Education (ISPE). Please contact your middle or high school for information regarding ISPE.

Who is eligible to apply for enrollment in the Independent Study Program?

Any student who has and maintains residency within the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District boundaries. Students must be enrolled in their high school of residence in order to participate in ISP.

Does my child need to be a resident within Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District boundaries to enroll in the Independent Study Program?

Yes, students must maintain residency during the duration of the school year and will be asked to pick up supplies, attend live instruction, and complete exams in-person on campus. Parents and students may also be asked to attend in-person meetings. If you have relocated, the student is required to enroll in a school program where they are now residing.

My student is already in ISP, do I need to submit an application?

Yes, all students must apply every year for the Virtual Independent Study Program and complete a new written agreement, if approved for the program. No ISP agreement is valid for any period longer than one school year.

What curriculum is used for the Independent Study Program?

APEX online learning and Subject.com online learning are the primary platforms used for students in grades 9-12. APEX Learning and Subject.com provide independent study courses that are standards-based and meet A-G requirements in all content areas. The platform utilized will be determined by the district.

How much time will students spend completing independent study coursework?

It is important to make sure that ISP students and parents/guardians understand the time commitment they are making when they sign the Independent Study Written Agreement. Students should expect to spend as much time on ISP assignments as they would in the regular classroom setting.

Is the Independent Study Program for my child?

In general, success in ISP requires motivation and a strong commitment on the part of the student and their parents/guardians. Also, sufficient organizational skills and academic preparation are required in order for students to work successfully in an independent manner. Students are expected to be able to access the curriculum, meet standards, participate in teacher directed activities and experiences, and make appropriate academic progress while participating in ISP.

Can my child return to in-person schooling at any time?

In order to minimize the disruption to the student's educational program and ensure continuity of learning, we strongly encourage families to commit to one semester. However, if there is a need



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

to transfer sooner, please communicate with the Independent Study Program site administrator and your child's teacher to schedule a meeting. Please Note: Transitioning to in-person schooling after the start of a semester will require a change in teacher, curriculum for students, and may also necessitate a change in course schedules.

Can my child enter the Independent Study Program at any time?

No, parents of prospective students must complete and submit the ISP program application before the due date listed below for the following school year. If there is an exceptional circumstance that requires consideration for enrollment to ISP outside of the application window, parents must contact their school site counselor and school site administrator. Requests for special circumstances after the first six weeks are deferred to the following semester.

May students with active Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) enroll?

Yes. However, state law requires that an IEP meeting be held prior to enrollment into the ISP program as educational placement is determined by the IEP team. Parents of students with IEPs wishing to enroll into the ISP program must contact their child's case manager and advisor/counselor prior to completing the ISP enrollment form.

What is the parent's/guardian's role in the Independent Study Program?

Parents/guardians act as a learning coach and assist their child with assignment completion and progress monitoring. As the learning coach, parents should help ensure their child is on task and keeping up with their daily work. If your child neglects to make appropriate academic progress, an evaluation will be conducted to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in ISP or re-enroll in in-person learning.

Are students required to complete assignments within a specific timeframe?

Yes. In order to earn credit and continue participating in ISP, a student must complete assignments within the guidelines on the Independent Study Written Agreement. If a student does not complete an established number of assignments within the required time period, the student will be evaluated to determine if the Independent Study Program is the correct option for the student. If the school team determines that ISP is not the appropriate placement for the student, a parent conference will be held and the student will be removed from the program.

How much live, on-line interaction will occur in the Independent Study Program?

ISP students will participate in "live interaction" and "synchronous instruction." Live interaction may be between the student and SMMUSD classified or certificated staff, may include peers, and is provided for the purpose of progress monitoring and wellness checks. This interaction may take the form of video conferencing. Synchronous instruction will be delivered in the form of video conferencing involving live, two-way communication between the supervising teacher and student. The minimum standards for live interaction and synchronous instruction (EC sections 51747(e) and 51749.5(a)(4)(C) are:

- Grades 9 to 12: Weekly synchronous instruction

In our program design, students in grades 9-12 should expect a minimum of 60 minutes per week of synchronous instruction. All students have the opportunity to participate in live sessions and synchronous instruction, both via video conferencing or in-person, beyond these minimum requirements.

If I choose to enroll in the Independent Study Program, do I lose my home school of residence spot in a transfer agreement?



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

No. The Independent Study Program (ISP) is not a separate school; it is part of your child's high school campus. Students enrolled in ISP will remain assigned at their home school or school of approved permit. However, space availability will be taken into consideration.

Can students take part-time independent study courses and part-time in-person courses?

ISP students who are interested in an in-person experience, may take up to two classes and participate in extracurricular activities on their home campus. To participate in ISP, the majority of the students' courses must be in the Independent Study Program. A student's schedule will be developed in consultation and collaboration with the site administrator, site counselor/advisor, ISP teacher, student, and parent/guardian to ensure school success.

Are students able to participate in music, band, performing arts, extracurricular, clubs or athletics?

Yes, ISP students are allowed to participate in up to two courses in-person as well as clubs, social activities, extracurricular and co-curricular activities. A student's schedule will be developed in consultation and collaboration with the site administrator, site counselor/advisor, ISP teacher, student, and parent/guardian to ensure school success.

Will students be able to participate in counseling services?

Yes, SMMUSD school counseling services will be available to Independent Study Program students through their home school.

My child is eligible for free and reduced lunch. Can they still receive a meal daily?

All students in ISP will have access to the free and reduced lunch program at their home school.

Will my child receive school support services as an ISP student?

ISP students can continue to access appropriate existing non-classroom based services and resources at their home school site. If a student begins struggling while participating in the program, a meeting will be scheduled with the teacher, the parent/guardian, and an administrator or administrative designee. The team will make a determination regarding next steps which could include the potential return to in-person instruction. If your student has an IEP, the IEP team will meet to discuss and determine next steps.

Are students in the dual immersion or project based learning (PBL) programs eligible for enrollment in the Independent Study Program?

Dual immersion and PBL families may select to enroll in ISP. However, students will have to disenroll from their current program as dual immersion curriculum and the PBL curriculum is not available in the Independent Study Program. These students will remain enrolled at Samohi while participating in Samohi's ISP program.

Who assigns the grades in the Independent Study Program?

The SMMUSD credentialed, supervising teacher for the Independent Study Program will assign the grades.

How will attendance be taken and monitored?

Students in an independent study agreement are participating in an educational alternative that does not recognize the concept of 'present' or 'absent.' Instead, they earn a day of attendance credit, based on the teacher's determination of the combined time value of the work and the student's participation in synchronous instruction. Attendance credit, based on student



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

participation, will be monitored daily, and staff will follow up with students and families as necessary. Tiered re-engagement strategies will be initiated to promote student attendance and participation for students in violation of their student written agreement. Students who do not adhere to the agreed upon tiered re-engagement strategies will be required to enroll in in-person learning.

Do I need to contact the school office if my child is ill or travelling?

Students in an independent study agreement are participating in an educational alternative that does not recognize the concept of 'excused' or 'unexcused' absences. Regardless of circumstances, students are expected to engage in their school work daily to earn attendance credit by completing assignments. If they are unable to, attendance credit will not be granted.

Do Santa Monica High School, Malibu High School, and Olympic High School students who enroll in the virtual Independent Study Program receive their diploma from their home school?

High school seniors enrolled in ISP will receive a diploma from their home school (Santa Monica High, Malibu High, or Olympic High School) through successful completion of all graduation requirements. ISP students participate in their school's graduation ceremony and other end of year events as well as all other school activities.

How do I enroll my child in the Independent Study Program?

Prospective parents may attend an information session on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 6:00, via Zoom. Parents of prospective students, and students wanting to continue in ISP, must complete and submit the ISP program application. **Deadline to submit the application is Friday, March 27 at 6 p.m.** Email completed fillable PDF application to ISPapplication@smmusd.org by the deadline, March 27, 2026.

What happens after I complete the Independent Study Program application form?

Parents/guardians will be informed of approval/denial prior to April 20, 2026 by the school site. If the student is determined eligible for the Independent Study Program, parents will be contacted for next steps in the enrollment process which will include a required onboarding meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 6:00, via zoom, and an in-person meeting to review and sign the Independent Study Program Written Agreement that week.



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ISP Course Sequence (9-12):

Content Area	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English	English 9 A and B (10)	English 10 A and B (10)	a) English 11 A and B (10) b) English 11 AP A and B - Language and Composition (10)	a) English 12 A and B (10) b) ERWC A and B - College Writing (10)
Math	a) Algebra A and B (10) b) Geometry A and B (10) c) Algebra 2 A and B (10)	a) Geometry A and B (10) b) Algebra 2 A and B (10) c) Pre-Calc/Trig A and B (10)	a) Algebra 2 A and B (10) b) Pre-Calc/Trig A and B (10) c) Financial Algebra A and B (10) d) Statistics AP A and B (10)	<i>Three years required Four years recommended</i> a) Pre-Calc/Trig A and B (10) b) Financial Algebra A and B (10) c) Statistics AP A and B (10)
Social Studies		World History A and B (10)	US History A and B (10)	a) United States Government A (5) and Economics A (5) b) US Government AP (5) and Economics A (5)
Science	a) Biology LE A and B (10) b) Physics Univ A and B (10)	a) Biology LE A and B (10) b) Chemistry ES A and B (10) c) Physics Univ A and B (10)	<i>Two years required Three years recommended</i> a) Chemistry ES A and B (10) b) Biology LE A and B (10) c) Physics Univ A and B (10) d) Life Science A and B (10) e) Environmental Science A and B (10) f) Earth Science A and B (10) g) Physical Science A and B (10)	<i>Two years required Three years recommended</i> a) Chemistry ES A and B (10) b) Biology LE A and B (10) c) Physics Univ A and B (10) d) Life Science A and B (10) e) Environmental Science A and B (10) f) Earth Science A and B (10) g) Physical Science A and B (10)
World Language	a) French 1 A and B (10) b) Spanish 1 A and B (10) c) French 2 A and B (10) d) Spanish 2 A and B (10)	a) French 2 A and B (10) b) Spanish 2 A and B (10) c) Spanish 3 A and B (10)	a) Spanish 3 A and B (10)	



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visual and Performing Arts	a) Drawing A (5) b) Photography A (5) c) Music Production and Digital Media A (5)	a) Drawing A (5) b) Photography A (5) c) Music Production and Digital Media A (5)	a) Drawing A (5) b) Photography A (5) c) Music Production and Digital Media A (5) d) Music Theory AP A and B (10) e) Art History AP A and B (10)	a) Drawing A (5) b) Photography A (5) c) Music Production and Digital Media A (5) d) Music Theory AP A and B (10) e) Art History AP A and B (10)
Physical Education	9th Grade PE A and B (10)	General PE A and B (10)		
Other Requirements	<i>Freshman Seminar</i> Health A (5) Ethnic Studies A (ACES)(5)		<i>ACES Requirement:</i> Sociology (ACES) (Apex)(5) Ethnic Studies A (ACES)(5)	<i>ACES Requirement:</i> Sociology (ACES) (Apex)(5) Ethnic Studies A (ACES)(5)
Electives (Need 60 Elective Credits)	Elective Options - Year Long American Sign Language 1 A and B (10) Financial Literacy A and B (10) Introduction to Engineering A and B (10) Philosophy A and B (10) Psychology A and B (10)			
	Elective Options - Fall Cryptocurrency A (5) Introduction to Computer Science A (5) Sociology (ACES) (Apex)(5)	Elective Options - Spring Introduction to NFT A (5) Introduction to Computer Science A (5) Senior Seminar A (5) Ethnic Studies A (ACES)(5)		

- All courses listed above occur on the Subject.com digital platform. Refer to Malibu High, Samohi, and Olympic A-G and NCAA course lists, or consult with the counselor/advisor, for approved courses.
- An A and B course total a 10 credit year long course. Courses with just an A course are single semester courses.
- Students course selection will mirror course sequencing in the traditional setting at Samohi/MHS as closely as possible
- ISP through Subject/APEX will not replicate the in-person learning experience and course selections at the high school. If an AP course, or other course, is requested and not on the above list, please enroll in in-person courses. ISP students may take up to two classes and participate in activities on their home campus. The schedule will be developed in consultation and collaboration with the site counselor/advisor to ensure school success.



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Graduation Requirements (9-12):

Content Area	SMMUSD Graduation Requirements	University of California and Cal State University	NCAA Division I Academic Requirements
Social Studies UC requirement "A"	10 credits World History 10 credits US History (ACES) 5 credits US Government 5 credits Economics	Two years required: •One year World History •One year of US History or One semester of US History and One semester of Civics or American Government	Two years required
English UC requirement "B"	10 credits English 9 10 credits English 10 10 credits English 11 10 credits English 12 (elective)	Four years required: •College Prep English	Four years required
Mathematics UC requirement "C"	30 credits	Three years required Four years recommended: • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II OR Higher Math	Three years required
Science UC requirement "D"	10 credits Physical Science 10 credits Life Science	Two years required Three years recommended: • One year of laboratory Biological Science • One year of laboratory Physical Science	Two years required, including one year of lab
Foreign Language UC requirement "E"	10 credits in a foreign language or 10 credits in a fine art.	Two years required Three years recommended: •Must be in the same language	Counts as an additional course
Fine Arts UC requirement "F"	10 credits in a visual or performing art OR foreign language (see foreign language)	One year required: • Visual or Performing Art. Must be in same subject area	—
Physical Education	20 credits	No requirement	—
Electives UC requirement "G"	60 credits	One year required: •In addition to those required in the "A-F" categories •Must be chosen from the UC/CSU approved courses	4 yearlong additional courses in: • Foreign Language • Social Studies • English • Math, and/or Science. 1 additional yearlong course • English • Math • Science
Other	10 credits Freshman Seminar OR 5 credits of Health Students who do not pass Freshman Seminar or are new to SMMUSD after 9th grade, must complete a semester of Health. 10 credits of American Cultures Ethnic Studies (ACES) per Board Policy	Check College websites for testing requirements UC: SAT Reasoning or ACT + Writing Section and Two SAT Subject Tests CSU: SAT Reasoning or ACT	•Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.0 •Earn the ACT/SAT score matching the core-course GPA on the D1 sliding scale •Graduate HS
Total	220 credits Including all subject requirements	Completion of required courses with a "C" or better	Complete 16 core courses. •10 of the 16 cores must be completed by the 7th semester (senior year) of high school. •7 of the 10 cores must be in English, Math or Science.



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For Administrative Use Only (Program Application)

Student Last Name:		Student First Name:	Student ID:
Yes	No	Eligibility Criteria	Notes
☐	☐	Student is currently enrolled in an SMMUSD school and maintains residency within SMMUSD boundaries.	
☐	☐	Student will be enrolled in grades 9-12, next school year.	
☐	☐	Student's academic performance is at grade level, based on review of existing data which may include: Prior Course Grades, Star Renaissance Performance, CAASPP Performance, Current Teacher Input	
☐	☐	Student demonstrates the motivation, commitment, and organizational skills necessary to work independently based on review of existing data which may include: Attendance Records, Prior Course Grades, Staff Observation and Input	
☐	☐	<i>Select the student need/s that may be better met through study outside of the traditional classroom setting:</i> ☐ Classroom attendance is difficult as a result of a <u>health</u> issue (this not referring to temporary disabilities where students are unable to attend school for 10 or more days; this would be considered Home Hospital Instruction). ☐ Classroom attendance is difficult as a result of a need to <u>work</u> (i.e. child actors). ☐ Classroom attendance is difficult as a result of <u>lack of strong connections</u> . ☐ Classroom attendance is difficult as a result of another <u>particular challenge</u> . ☐ Student would benefit from a higher degree of <u>flexibility and individualization</u> (i.e students with a special interest or aspiring Olympic athletes).	
☐	☐	If applicable, a student previously enrolled in ISP, fulfilled all requirements of the written agreement and program satisfactorily, during the previous semester.	
☐	☐	If applicable, a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) program must specifically provide for participation in ISP. The IEP meeting to discuss the request for ISP, and determine if FAPE can be provided in ISP, should occur prior to completing the written agreement conference.	
☐	☐	All application information is complete and submitted on time.	

Approval for Enrollment to the Virtual Independent Study Program (ISP):

- ☐ Yes, the student is approved for ISP. Based on a review of existing data, the student is likely to succeed as well as or better in ISP than in the regular classroom setting.
- ☐ No, the student application is denied for the following reason: _____. Based on a review of existing data, the student is not likely to succeed as well as or better in ISP than in the regular classroom setting.



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For Administrative Use Only (Program Application Decision Templates)

Site administrators may communicate their decision to approve or deny a student's application, or late request, to enroll in the Independent Study Program using the form above or by sending a summary written communication to the parents/guardian/caregiver. The language below can be edited to reflect the individual situation of each request, as appropriate.

Approval:

Thank you for your interest in the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District Independent Study Program (ISP), a voluntary, alternative instructional model for students. Per Education Code 51746(b) and SMMUSD Board Policy 6158, students are assessed for their potential to succeed as well as or better in ISP than the student would in the regular classroom setting. This assessment includes reviewing the achievement, abilities, interests, aptitudes, and needs of participating students through the application process and existing data. Additional factors are considered including the number of students in the program and staffing constraints, the nature of the request, and the timing of the request within the school year.

Based on that review, your application, or request, for enrollment in the Independent Study Program has been **approved**. To increase the likelihood of success with this transition, enrollment in ISP is scheduled to begin (***Enter Date***). An important and necessary next step is the completion of a written independent study agreement prior to your student starting independent study. Information regarding required enrollment sessions and the written agreement conference will be sent to you by email. If your student is no longer interested in the Independent Study Program, please contact me at the contact information below.

Denial:

Thank you for your interest in the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District Independent Study Program (ISP), a voluntary, alternative instructional model for students. Per Education Code 51746(b) and SMMUSD Board Policy 6158, students are assessed for their potential to succeed as well as or better in ISP than the student would in the regular classroom setting. This assessment includes reviewing the achievement, abilities, interests, aptitudes, and needs of participating students through the application process and existing data. Additional factors are considered including the number of students in the program and staffing constraints, the nature of the request, and the timing of the request within the school year. Requests received outside of the application window are limited to students with special circumstances that make in-person attendance difficult.

Based on that review, your application, or request, for enrollment in the Independent Study Program has been **denied**. Therefore, your student will remain enrolled in the traditional in-person setting, and is expected to maintain consistent attendance. Applications for the following school year will be available in the spring. You are welcome to submit an application for consideration for next school year, at that time.