OUR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL

Ryken Studies Program

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Ryken Studies is named for the founder of the Xaverian Brothers and is a college preparatory program designed for highly motivated students diagnosed with mild learning differences. We accept **40 students per year and prepare them for success in college —** assisting them in their core courses using varied teaching styles and strategies that focus on skill development in smaller group settings.

How do I apply?

Applications for the Ryken Program are accepted beginning in the fall semester for the following fall semester. To be considered for acceptance to the Ryken Studies Program, the following steps are required:

- Complete the Our Lady of Good Counsel High School online application. Be sure to indicate that you are applying for the Ryken Program.
- Submit all of the following components to the Admissions Office (electronic or paper copy) by December 11, 2026:
  - *Official transcripts for seventh grade and the first quarter of eighth grade*
  - *For non-Archdiocese students, we require letters of recommendation from Math and English teachers using the recommendation form requests in the Veracross application portal.*
    We receive a recommendation packet for Archdiocese students who indicate GC to their current school, which includes the required core teacher recommendations.
  - *A written report for all psycho-educational testing conducted on the applicant: The assessment must have been conducted no earlier than the summer prior to the student's seventh grade school year. Testing must include at least an intelligence test (WISC or similar), achievement test (Woodcock-Johnson or similar), diagnosis, summary, recommendations and suggested accommodations. It is also helpful to have data on accommodations for standardized tests and the student's ability to meet foreign language requirements.*

40

students accepted into the Ryken Program each year

Contact

Loren Bass
Ryken Studies Director & Counselor
lbass@olgchs.org

Please note: Incomplete application packets will not be considered for admission.

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Once a complete application and supporting documents have been received and have been determined to meet ALL of the preceding requirements, the information will be reviewed. Then the applicant and parent(s) will be contacted to schedule an interview with the Ryken Director or Counselor.

Are students required to take Ryken classes in all basic subject areas?
No. Students can mix Ryken classes with College Prep, Xaverian Honors, AP, IB and STEM classes as appropriate to meet their individual needs. The Ryken Program is designed so that students will be able to phase out of Ryken classes as they progress at Good Counsel.

How do I know if the Ryken Program is appropriate for me?
If a student has been diagnosed with a mild learning difference, we suggest they apply for the Ryken Program.

If Good Counsel determines that the Ryken Program is not the best fit for me, what happens to my application?
If it is determined that the Ryken Program is not the best fit for a student, the application will be reviewed by the Admissions Office to consider general acceptance to Good Counsel.

Is there any additional charge for the Ryken Program?
The standard tuition applies for students in the Ryken Program. The Ryken Summer Program has an $825 fee.

What is the Ryken Summer Program?
All students selected for the Ryken Program must successfully complete our four-week Ryken Summer Program. This required part of the Ryken Program takes place during the summer prior to the student's first year. The Ryken Summer Program consists of Math and/or English classes, as determined by the Ryken Director/Counselor, and includes acclimation activities to prepare students for their high school experience.

How will teachers be advised of my needs?
Before the fall semester, the Ryken Director/Counselor prepares an individual Official Accommodations Profile for each student in the Ryken Program. At the beginning of the school year, each faculty member who teaches any Ryken Program student receives a copy of the student's Profile.

How do Ryken students fare in earning college scholarships?
The Class of 2026 were offered $5.5 million in college scholarships.

> *I wasn't a great student grade-wise. My GPA has gone up every year. I don't think I'd be the same person if I went to a different school. If you saw the photo I took of myself day one of my Freshman year compared to who I am today, you'd see a big change — you'd think it was a different person.*
>
> Aiden Potter, '25
> Attending the University of Maryland