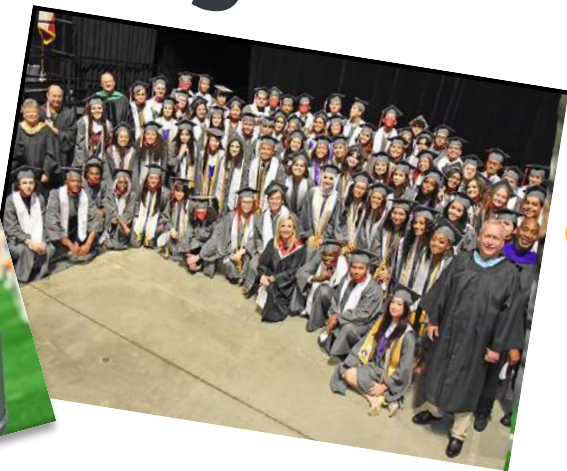


College Academy

8th Grade
Parent
Presentation



College Academy: History and Success



- College Academy began at Cypress Lakes HS in 2017.
- **By Fall 2020**, College Academy is launched at all 12 high school campuses with all high schools now graduating College Academy seniors.
- **Over 2000 DEGREE CANDIDATES** since 2021!

What is College Academy?



Partnership

Partnership between CFISD and Lone Star College CyFair



Dual Credit (DC)

College Academy is a **Dual Credit** program. Students work toward an Associate Degree by enrolling in DC courses.



HS Diploma and Associate Degree

Eligible students work toward earning both a HS diploma and an Associate Degree during grades 9-12



Guidance

While any CFISD student may pursue the Associate Degree by earning college credit while in high school, College Academy utilizes Mentors who provide dedicated progress tracking, advising, and guidance on sequence of courses to participating students.

More About College Academy

Not a “School within a School”

Students take courses at their high school and have a 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 that meet the degree requirements, and they can adjust yearly as needed

Not an “Early College”

“Early College” is a TEA state designation that would restrict how our program works. CFISD’s model allows for flexibility because there is not a prescribed degree plan.

What is Dual Credit?

HS & College Credit

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

Cost

Tuition is free through the partnership between CFISD and LSC, however, students must pay the cost of fees unless they are identified as eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch.

Requirements

Students must meet all requirements for both LSC and CFISD to enroll in a course. For example, a grade-level requirement.

College Admissions Impact

Research colleges your student is interested in applying to. There are considerations that are specific for your student. Do not hesitate to reach out to colleges early and have your questions answered

College Credit

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

What is Advanced Placement (AP)?

HS Credit & Potential College Credit

High school courses that earn high school credit and potential college credit based upon the AP exam score.

Requirements

Student must meet CFISD requirements to enroll in an AP course.

Availability

Any student may register for an AP exam regardless of enrollment in the course.

Credit

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

Cost

There is no cost to enroll in AP Courses. Students must pay the cost of the exam unless qualifying for fee waivers.

College Admissions Impact

Research colleges your student is interested in applying to. There are considerations that are specific for your student. Do not hesitate to reach out to colleges early and have your questions answered.

What is an Associate Degree?

For Degree and/or Transfer

2-year 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 and college classes – such as English, History, Math, Science, etc.

Options in Coursework

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

Benefits of an Associate Degree

- Students/Parents consider college admission earlier.
- Families can potentially avoid two years of potential student loan interest.
- Completing a Bachelor's degree a year or two early allows students to enter the workforce sooner.
- Military Promotion

Benefits of an Associate Degree

Cost savings per 1 college course (In-State)

LSC DUAL CREDIT Cost Information:

A 3-hour class at LSC is \$333

\$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.

Cost of 60 College Credits

Institution Type	Cost Per Credit Hour	Cost for 60 Credits (2 Years)
Lone Star College (Dual Credit Prices)	\$43.00 (\$129 per 3-credit course, student pays fees only)	\$2,580
Lone Star College (resident, non-Dual Credit)	\$111.00 (\$333 per course)	\$6,660
Texas Public 4-Year University (ex: UH / TAMU)	\$300-\$450+ once general university and departmental fees are included	\$18,000 - \$27,000+
Your Savings		Greater than \$15,000

Based on average resident undergraduate tuition and required fees reported to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)

College Academy: A Pathway to Success



Sara O.

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

Dual Credit **DOES** transfer out of state and even to private schools.

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.



**Let's
Pause**

- **Mental Health**
Be true to yourself: Academic rigor of 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
- **Pathway Admissions Programs**
Example: CAP at University of Texas

College Academy

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



Foundation + Endorsement



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



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.

FLEXIBILITY!



- Associate Degree Plan available on the College Academy website (QR code above)
- Courses cover the 42-hour Texas General Education Core (English, History, Math, Science) which transfer to both public and private universities. Accepted by public colleges in Texas & many colleges nationwide.
- There is much to consider as your student's plans may change, but our dedicated College Academy Mentors work one-on-one with students to customize their 4-year plan based on their goals.

Let's look at the courses!

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

Lone Star College

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

CFISD

- DC United States History
- .5 HS Credits

Recommendations prior to 9th grade:

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

World Geography Advanced or Human Geography AP

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

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

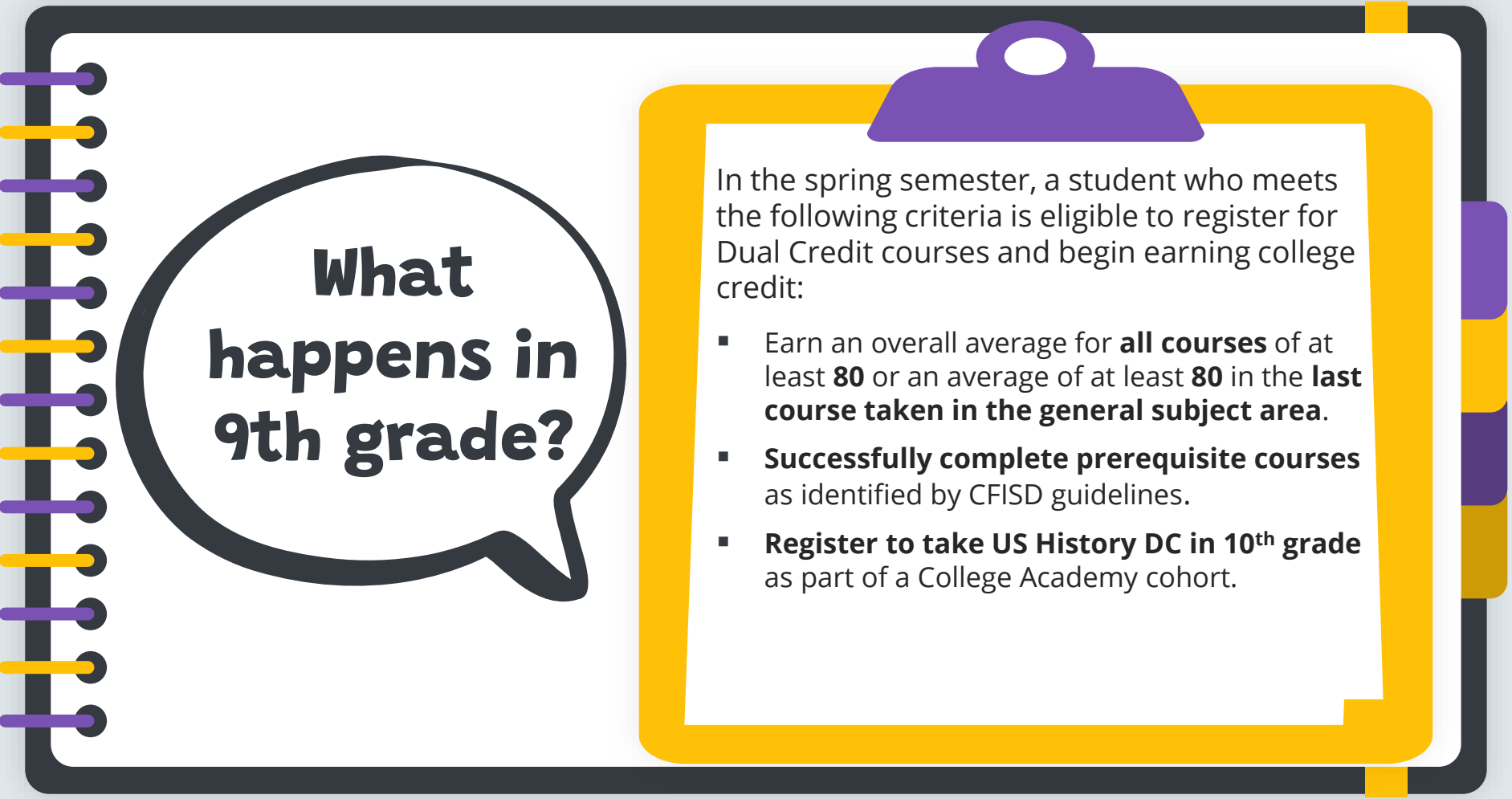
**What
happens in
9th grade?**

Students have a **typical Freshman schedule.**

There is **NO Dual Credit coursework** in 9th grade.

Students will receive assistance from the College Academy Team to adjust their 4 Year plans to meet the LSC requirements along with high school requirements.

Students will complete a Lone Star College CyFair Application to obtain an LSC ID Number.

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a dark grey cover and a white page. The spiral binding is on the left, with purple and yellow rings. On the right side of the page, there is a yellow rectangular area with rounded corners, outlined in yellow, containing a purple clipboard icon at the top. Inside this yellow area is a white box with a yellow border containing a list of criteria. To the left of the yellow area is a large speech bubble with a dark grey outline and a white interior, containing the text 'What happens in 9th grade?'.

What happens in 9th grade?

In the spring semester, a student who meets the following criteria is eligible to register for Dual Credit courses and begin earning college credit:

- 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 CFISD guidelines.
- **Register to take US History DC in 10th grade** as part of a College Academy cohort.

What other things do I need to know and consider?



- Summer school is an option but NOT required.
(between 10th – 11th and 11th – 12th)
- Dedicated support along the way from College Academy Mentor, PACE cohort and US History cohort.
- Campus College Academy Schoology Course with information and resources.

What will my student give up?

Nothing!

Students will still 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 do need to be mindful of the **need to balance electives, extracurriculars, and academics**.

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

College Academy

**Application Timeline
More Information**



Qualifications to Apply

01

**Currently enrolled
CFISD 8th grade
student**

Must complete an application via
Google Form on the College
Academy Website

02

Algebra I

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

03

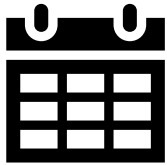
English K/H

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

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

*Meets/Masters on STAAR/EOC Scores may be used in lieu of 80+
Students must still pass Algebra I and Language Arts 8 ADV 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
Lang Arts 8 ADV 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 22 – May 27, 2027



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. 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

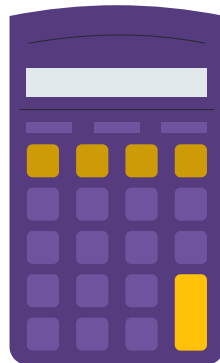
Add World Geography or Human Geography AP class for 9th grade before end of the school year – see 8th grade counselor



02

Decision Letters

Decision letters will be e-mailed late June to mid-July to the e-mail address you provided on the Google Application.



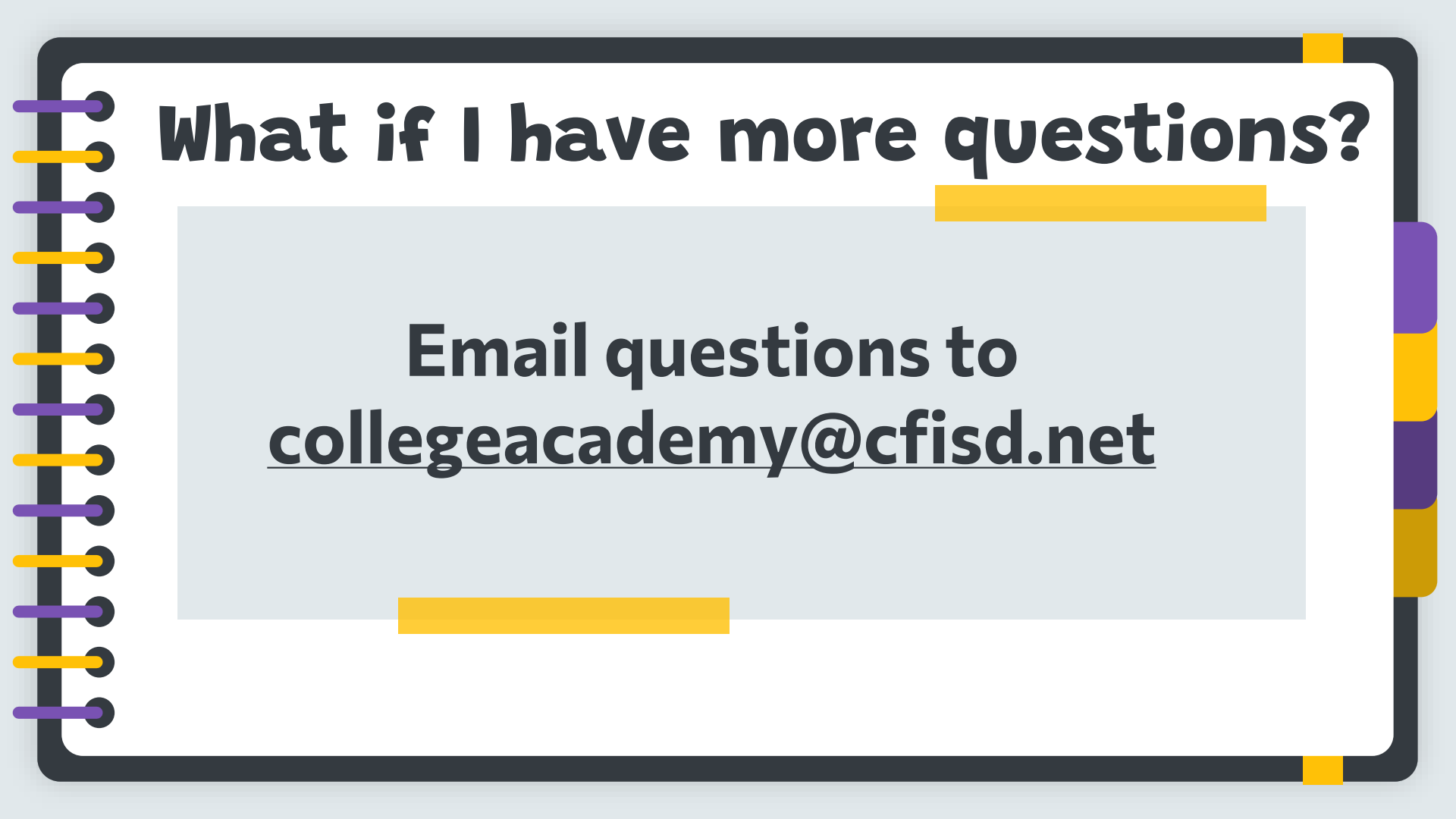
Where can I find more information?

[CFISD College Academy page](#)

You will find:

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



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What if I have more questions?

**Email questions to
collegeacademy@cfisd.net**

**Thank
you!**



CHOOSE *the path* 
TO AMAZING!
CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD