



General Frequently Asked Questions

Can I take less than 7 periods and request a late arrival/early dismissal?

District Policy outlines that...

As part of their four-year program of study, all students are expected to register for and take 7 credit bearing courses each semester. A Senior who is on track to satisfy all credit requirements for graduation may complete an application for Early Dismissal or Late Arrival. Requests for a class schedule with less than 7 credit bearing courses will be reviewed with extenuating considerations in mind, which may include but are not limited to the following:

Employment

Medical need with documentation

Educational opportunities outside the school/district consistent with the student's High School and Beyond Plan.

A class schedule with less than 7 credit bearing courses will only allow for a late arrival or early dismissal. It is necessary to gain approval from the student's counselor and parents for late arrival or early dismissal at the start of the semester in request.

What if I don't submit my course requests by the deadline?

Your classes will be selected for you by your counselor based on what you need for graduation. It is very important for you to submit your course requests by the deadline!

If I want to take an Honors or AP class, are there things I need to do in addition to adding the class to my course requests?

AP and Honors classes are rigorous classes and are a commitment. Please know that if you are placed in an Honors/AP class, you will be expected to remain in the class for the year. We always recommend that students consult with current teachers about course progression.

What can I list for "course alternates"? Do I really need 6?

Yes! Alternate course listings should only include courses not already listed on your worksheet. Alternate courses should not be listed for the main curriculum areas (English, Social Studies, Science or Math) unless you are electing to take an additional elective course in those areas. Be sure to list alternative classes that you would be okay with taking. Often students are placed into their alternate due to scheduling conflicts. You should be sure to select six alternates. It is always best to have more alternates to choose from than have your counselor have to pick for you.

What are electives and how do I get 4.0 credits of them?

Electives can be any class. Let's say you have taken your 3 required PE classes and have met your PE graduation requirement of 1.5 credits. Any additional PE classes you take will count in to the "elective" column. The same with World Language, math or any other subject. For example, let's say you decide to take Spanish to meet your World Language requirement. After you've met the 2.0 credits of World Language by passing Spanish 1 and Spanish 2, if you go on to take Spanish 3, it would count in the elective column. Most students have no trouble meeting the elective requirement. Think of the elective "bucket" as a catch all.

How do I know what my remaining graduation requirements are?

All students have access to their graduation requirements through Skyward Access under "Graduation Requirements."

Do I have to take a World Language to meet graduation requirements?

Yes, 2.0 credits from consecutive courses in the same language is a part of your high school graduation requirement. Most 4-year colleges require students to have completed 2 or more years of the same World Language. Many colleges recommend 3 or more years of the same World Language.

Since there is a difference between graduation requirements and college entrance requirements and I want to go to college, how do I know what I should take for college admission?

In the JHS Course Catalog you will find information in multiple locations about the recommendations for what to take for college admission. In addition, students can reference individual college admission websites. A good general response is that a student should sign up for as rigorous a program that he or she is capable of successfully completing. However, most important, college admission representatives want to know that students are realistic about their abilities, yet know how to "stretch". If you need help in evaluating how rigorous a schedule you should sign up for, please be sure to have a conversation with your Parent/Guardian, teacher, or counselor..

Is it better to take Honors/AP classes and earn a "C" or to take a general curriculum class and earn an "A"?

Colleges want to see you take the most rigor you can reasonably handle while still maintaining a strong GPA. Schools will frequently look more favorably on a B in an Honors or AP class than a B in a general level class, but remember to evaluate how taking an AP or Honors class will fit into any other obligations you may have and how that will affect your overall school performance.

I don't think I am going to have enough credits to graduate. How can I earn more credits?

Attending summer school is an option for students who are off-track for graduation. You should also set up an appointment to work with your counselor on how you will obtain additional credits.

Can I repeat a class and receive credit for the same class twice?

Students can take the same class twice and earn credit for it both times. Students may also wish to repeat a class to improve their grade. The Lake Washington School District is in the process of reviewing this policy and their interpretation of state law surrounding this. If you have further questions about this topic you must make an appointment with your counselor.

How do I know my total number of credits earned and my overall grade point average (GPA)?

On your transcript, look at the end of the Academic Record posting of classes/credits/grades where it says "Report Period and Cumulative Summary." Go to the last line of this area where it says "Cum." The cumulative credits earned to date are listed in the first column "Cred Earn." The cumulative GPA is in the last column "GPA."

Why didn't I get credit for Washington State History?

The Washington State History requirement is completed during 8th grade social studies classes in the Lake Washington School District. The fulfillment of this requirement is documented by posting to your transcript under ADDITIONAL STATE REQUIREMENTS WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY as MET.

I didn't go to middle school in this district. I didn't even live in Washington then. What do I need to do for the WA State History requirement?

Washington State History is a graduation requirement. Students who attended middle school or junior high in this state will need to work with their counselor on a plan for completing this requirement prior to graduation. Students who attended school in another state will be required to complete Washington State History if they moved here before the 12th grade. Students who are in 11th or 12th grade and just moved here will work with their counselor to complete a request to be excused from this requirement.

Is it true when I apply to college that I won't compete well with students from other schools who "weight" honors or AP classes when calculating the grade point average?

Washington State law prohibits posting a "weighted" GPA to your high school Transcript. Colleges are aware of this and make appropriate considerations for this fact. Some colleges will even recalculate your GPA by selecting only the core classes and place weight on the honors/AP classes.

What do college admissions officers see when I apply to college and send my transcript?

They will see your grades and GPA through the end of 11th grade. Most colleges will ask for another transcript after 1st semester of 12th grade to see how you are performing. All 4-year colleges will require a final transcript of your high school grades. Colleges have been known to rescind an offer of admission if the student changed their schedule or earned poor grades during their senior year.