

# **MVHS Counseling Department**

## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### **Q: How do I make an appointment with my counselor?**

**A:** Making an appointment with your counselor is easy. Students can find each counselor's Calendly link on the school website under "Counseling & Student Support" under "Counseling Team". Students can also email their counselor directly or stop by the counseling office in person. Parents/guardians can email their student's counselor to request a meeting.

### **Q: What are the most common issues for 9th graders and how can they get support?**

**A:**

- **Academic transition:** asking questions/help; staying on top of assignments and deadlines; communicating with teachers
- **Social-Emotional transition:** getting involved in clubs and sports; resources to go to when needing support

### **Q: What can I do if I earn a "D" grade in an academic course?**

**A:** A "D" will earn credit toward graduation at MV. However, if the "D" is in a required course for college admission, the student must make up the D through one of the following: retake the course at MV, retake the course through Summer Summer or 8th Block, retake the course through a community college, take an online course through one of the approved online resources (talk to your counselor for more info).

### **Q: How do I make up an "F" grade?**

**A:** Receiving an "F" grade for the semester will not give you credit for the course. If the grade was earned in a course required for graduation students must make up the credit. Students have the following options to make up an "F" grade: retake the course at MV, retake the course through Summer Academy or 8th Block, retake the course through a community college, take an online course through one of the approved online resources (talk to your counselor for more info).

### **Q: What GPA do colleges use to evaluate my application?**

**A:** UC's and CSU's will use all A-G courses starting Summer before 10th grade through Summer after 11th grade. Ninth grade marks will be viewed but not used for calculating GPA (with the exception of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo). Private and out-of-state schools vary on what GPA they use for evaluating purposes. Students are encouraged to do their research when it comes to questions on private and out-of-state universities.

**Q: What is a weighted versus unweighted GPA?**

**A:** Unweighted GPA is based on a 4.0 scale and Weighted GPA is based on a 5.0 scale wherein additional points are given for any AP or Honors course per semester. The FUHSD only calculates unweighted GPA on the transcript.

**Q: What is the difference between Honors and AP courses?**

**A:** Honors courses are courses that are accelerated and go at a fast pace. AP courses stand for Advanced Placement and are considered college-level courses. The purpose of an AP course is to prepare students for the AP exam at the end of the school year. Both types of courses are rigorous and the course load should be taken into consideration when choosing courses. Both types of courses add an additional point per semester to the weighted GPA..

**Q: How many AP/Honors courses should my child take?**

**A:** Colleges do not require students to take AP or honors classes. Only students who have been successful in previous classes should consider taking the corresponding AP class. We believe that students should consider their past performance, overall course load, extracurricular commitments, and mental health when choosing their courses. Students should assess themselves carefully and choose an appropriate schedule based on their skills and motivation. Teacher recommendation is highly recommended for entrance into an AP course. Keep in mind that AP classes are considered college-level coursework and require good study habits and significant time commitments.

**Q: What are Dual Enrollment/Community College Courses?**

**A:** Dual Enrollment courses are classes that FUHSD students are allowed to take through local community colleges. These courses are not required, although students may be interested in this option if they would like to take a class that MVHS does not offer. Although community colleges allow for 9th through 12th grade students to participate in dual enrollment, we strongly advise students to wait until 11th and 12th grade to explore this option. More information can be found

at <https://www.deanza.edu/admissions/dual/>.

**Q: If my child chooses to take a course outside of MVHS (online high school and/or community college), will it and the grade be put on the MVHS transcript?**

**A:** Whether an outside course is taken through a community college or an accredited online school, we **will not** post the outside course to the Monta Vista transcript and these courses will not count toward graduation credits. However, these courses will need to be self-reported on any college applications during senior year.

**Q: Is my child required to take the SAT or ACT?**

**A:** Students are not required to take the SAT or ACT for high school graduation. Some colleges require the SAT or the ACT during the application process, some colleges give the student the option of whether to report an SAT or ACT score during the application process, and some colleges (including UCs and CSUs) will not take the SAT or ACT into consideration during the application process.

**Q: When is a good time for my child to take the SAT or ACT?**

**A:** Students may consider taking the SAT or ACT in the second half of their junior year. Studies show that students perform better on the tests the further along they are in high school, so it is typically not advisable to take the test earlier. Most colleges will not require students to submit their test scores, however, some will request to see all scores. Please keep in mind many colleges remain test optional or test blind. Please confirm testing policies directly with the college(s).

**Q: Are volunteer hours (and/or participating in athletics) required for high school or college admissions?**

**A:** No, volunteer hours of any kind are not required for graduation or for college eligibility.