HCS Scholars Academy

Course Guide

2026 - 2027

HCS Scholars Academy

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Disclaimer: HCS Scholars Academy makes every effort to ensure that the information in this Course Guide is informative and accurate. However, new statutes and regulations may impact, negate, or change the implementation of programs and/or courses described. This Course Guide should in no way be seen as a contract, but as a guideline for students as they move through their high school years.

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South Carolina Graduation Requirements[1]

Subject Area	**Units**
English Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Science	3.0
U.S. History and Constitution	1.0
Economics	0.5
U.S. Government	0.5
Other Social Studies Course(s)	1.0
Physical Education or Junior ROTC	1.0
Computer Science	1.0
World Language	1.0
Personal Finance	0.5
Electives	6.5
TOTAL	**24.0**

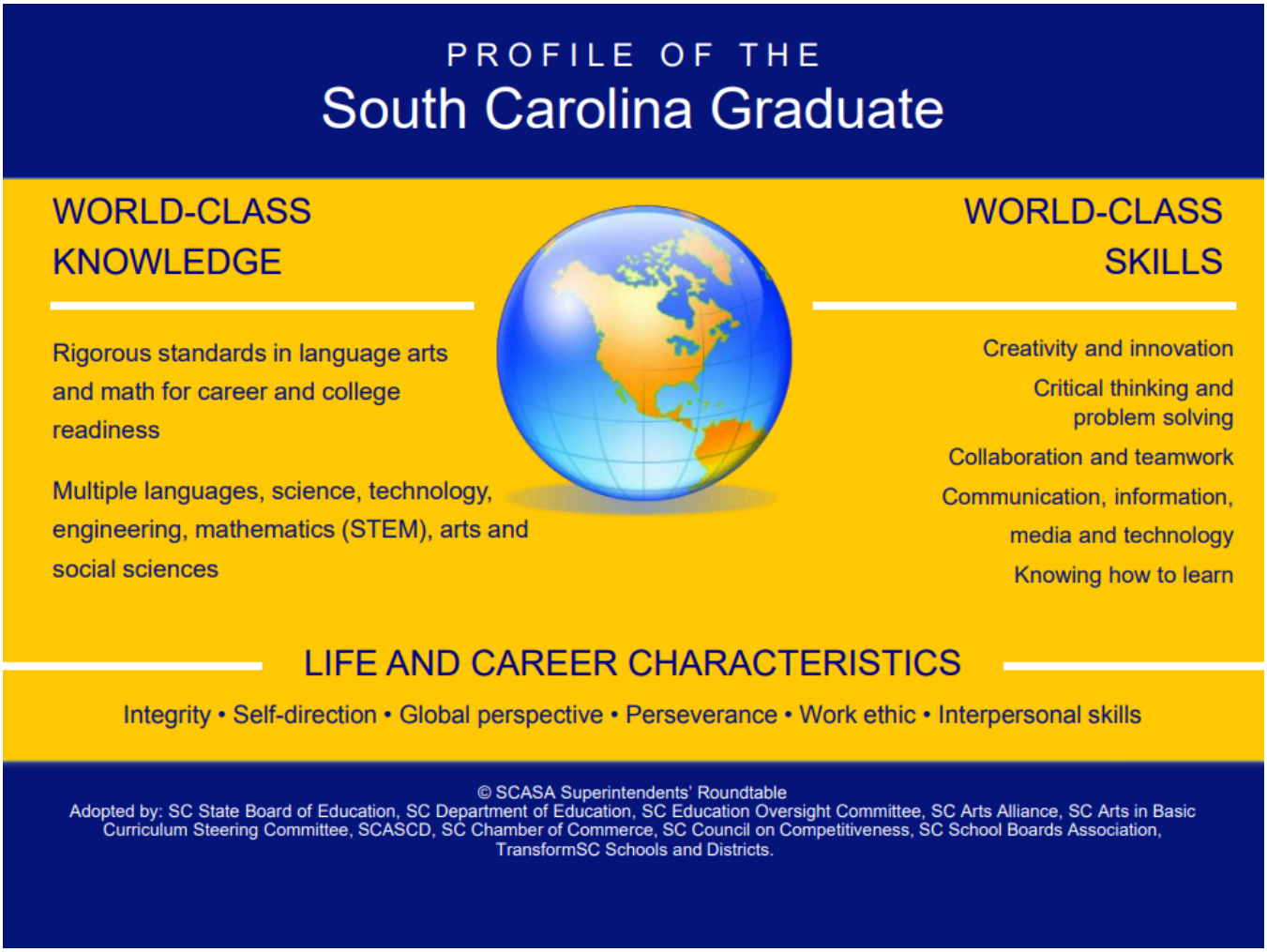
[1] SC Dept of Education. (n.d.). High School Courses and Requirements. Retrieved from https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/state-accountability/high-school-courses-and-requirements/

HCS Scholars Academy Graduation Requirements

SCHOLARS ACADEMY REQUIREMENTS - 4 YEARS OF ATTENDANCE	
At least 1 AP course each school year - Total of 7 AP courses required	
At least 5 courses scheduled per semester - required. Underclassmen must have a balanced schedule (minimum 4 courses MWF/minimum 3 courses TTH) to be considered full time.	
At least 1 Computer Science course - required	
At least 1 Personal Finance course-required	
At least 1 CCU Fine Arts course - required	
3 OR 4 Foreign Language course - required	
3 Foreign Language (**SAME Language**) OR	2 Foreign Language (SAME Language) **AND** 2 Foreign Language (SAME Language)
Honors Credit, **AP Credit** or Dual Enrollment Credit (DE Credit)	
FRESHMAN REQUIREMENTS	
FALL - 1ST SEMESTER	**SPRING - 2ND SEMESTER**
AP Government - Yearlong (**1 AP credit**)	
Economics Honors - Yearlong (0.50 Honors credit)	
English 2 Honors - Yearlong (1 Honors credit)	
Freshman Seminar A - (0.25 credit)	Freshman Seminar B - (0.25 credit)
Algebra 1 (Fall Semester) **OR** Algebra 2 Honors - (1 Honors credit) Yearlong **OR** Algebra 2 Honors - (1 Honors credit) Fall Semester and Precalculus Spring Seme	
Biology Honors - (1 Honors credit)	CCU Course - (1 DE credit)
Physical Education A - (0.50 credit)	Physical Education B - (0.50 credit)
SOPHOMORE REQUIREMENTS	
FALL - 1ST SEMESTER	**SPRING - 2ND SEMESTER**
AP US History - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**)	
AP Language & Comp - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) **OR** Humanities - Yearlong (1 Honors credit)	
Algebra 2 Yearlong **OR** Algebra 2 Honors (1 Honors credit) AND Precalculus (1 Honors credit)* **OR** Precalculus (1 Honors credit) Yearlong **OR** AP Calculus(AB) - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**)	
CCU FIN 110 (Personal Finance) - (1 DE credit)	Chemistry - (1 Honors credit)
CCU Elective - (1 DE credit)	CCU Elective - (1 DE credit)
JUNIOR REQUIREMENTS	
FALL - 1ST SEMESTER	**SPRING - 2ND SEMESTER**
AP Language & Comp or AP Literature & Comp - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR Humanities - Yearlong (1 Honors credit) OR AP Seminar - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**)	
AP Calculus AB (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) **OR** BC - Yearlong Alternative days (**1 AP credit**) **OR** AP Statistics - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) **OR** Pre-Calculus Yearlong	
AP Social Studies - (1 Honors credit/**1 Yearlong AP credit**) OR CCU Social Studies (1 DE credit) w/ admin approval	AP Social Studies -Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Social Studies (1 DE credit) w/ admin approval
AP Science - (**1 AP credit**)	AP Science - Yearlong (**1 AP credit**)
CCU Elective - (1 DE credit)	CCU Elective - (1 DE credit)
SENIOR REQUIREMENTS	
FALL - 1ST SEMESTER	**SPRING - 2ND SEMESTER**
AP Literature - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Literature (1 DE credit)	AP Literature - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Literature (1 DE credit)
AP Mathematics -Yearlong (**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Mathematics - (1 DE credit)	AP Mathematics -Yearlong (**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Mathematics - (1 DE credit)
AP Science - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Science (1 DE credit)	AP Science - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Science (1 DE credit)
AP Social Studies -Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Social Studies (1 DE credit)	AP Social Studies -Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Social Studies (DE credit)
CCU Elective (1 DE credit)	CCU Elective (1 DE credit)

This requirement information is a **guideline only**.

Profile of the SC Graduate[2]



[2] SCASA. (2015). Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Retrieved from https://ed.sc.gov/about/profile-of-sc-graduate/

Academic Expectations for Scholars Academy Students

By enrolling at Scholars Academy, students understand that they join a family of learners committed to academic excellence, a cooperative learning environment, and personal integrity. Students are expected to contribute to Scholars Academy's culture of excellence and caring. Failure to meet these guidelines could result in return to the school of residency. The following details provide expectations for students' academic performance:

AP Courses:

- Students who enter the Scholars Academy are expected to take a minimum of seven (7) Advanced Placement (AP) courses.
- The following AP courses are REQUIRED of all Scholars Academy students: English Language & Composition; English Literature & Composition; US Government & Politics; and US History. Students MUST choose a minimum of one (1) Scholars Academy AP course from Science (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental, or Physics) and Mathematics (Calculus AB, Calculus BC, or Statistics). The other AP course may be in any discipline. **Students are required to take at least one (1) AP course with a Scholars Academy teacher EACH school year. Students must report scores to CCU for transcript purposes.**
- Students must take and have scores reported for every AP course in which they are enrolled, including online courses. National AP examinations will be administered in May of each school year for such courses. Students' AP exam scores may not be canceled.
- Students are expected to take the core courses available through Scholars Academy even if comparable college and/or online courses are available.

Course-Taking Patterns:

- Students are expected to be enrolled in core courses (for all four core areas) each year. Exceptions require administrative approval and must be documented in the student's IGP.
- Once students move into college courses in a core area, course-taking expectations will follow that of a typical college student.
- Students must be enrolled in a minimum of five (5) courses and a maximum of six (6) courses each semester for a total of eight (8) semesters. Students will need principal approval to take six (6) courses.
- Underclassmen must have a balanced schedule (minimum 4 courses MWF/minimum 3 courses TTH) to be considered full time.

College Courses:

- Scholars Academy students taking college courses at Coastal Carolina University (CCU) must follow the HCS Dual-Enrollment Course Guidelines and must receive prior administrative approval.
- Students must complete the sequence of available courses at Scholars Academy prior to taking an CCU (DE) course. Exceptions to this sequence must be approved by the SA Administration.
- Beginning with the second semester of enrollment, students are expected to take a minimum of one (1) college course per semester. Exceptions may be made in cases where students have multiple student behavior violations or are on academic probation.
- First-year Scholars Academy students are limited to only one (1) college course enrollment or a total of 3 credit hours for the second semester of their freshman year.
- Students must meet college prerequisites to be eligible for college courses.
- According to the HCS Dual-Enrollment Course Guidelines, students are expected to earn a grade of C or above in ALL college courses. Should a grade fall below that which is expected, the student will be required to reimburse the school district for the cost of the course and textbook(s).

AP Capstone Program

AP Capstone™ is a diploma program based on two year long AP courses: AP Capstone Seminar and AP Capstone Research. These courses are designed to complement other AP courses that the AP Capstone student may take. Instead of teaching specific subject knowledge, AP Capstone Seminar and AP Capstone Research use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills students need for college-level work. The College Board developed the AP Capstone Diploma program at the request of higher education professionals, who saw a need for a systematic way for high school students to begin mastering these skills before college.

Students typically take AP Seminar in grade 11, followed by AP Research in Grade 12. Each course is yearlong, and AP Seminar is a prerequisite for AP Research. In both courses, students investigate a variety of topics in multiple disciplines. Students may choose to explore topics related to other AP courses they're taking. Both courses guide students through completing a research project, writing an academic paper, and making a presentation on their project.

Throughout the two-year program, students are required to:

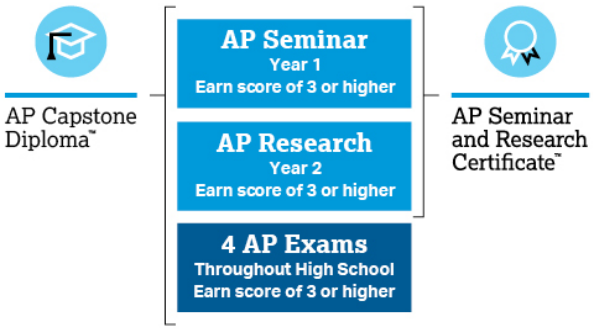
- Analyze topics through multiple lenses to construct meaning or gain understanding.
- Plan and conduct a study or investigation.
- Propose solutions to real-world problems.
- Plan and produce communication in various forms.
- Collaborate to solve a problem.
- Integrate, synthesize, and make cross-curricular connections.

Assessment

AP scores for both courses are based on teacher assessment of student presentation components and College Board scoring of student-written components plus an end-of-course exam (for AP Capstone Seminar only).

Awards

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Capstone Seminar and AP Capstone Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Capstone Seminar and AP Capstone Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.



SC Uniform Grading Policy

Numeric Grade	Letter Grade	CP Weighting	Honors Weighting	AP/IB Weighting
100	A	5	5.5	6
99	A	4.9	5.4	5.9
98	A	4.8	5.3	5.8
97	A	4.7	5.2	5.7
96	A	4.6	5.1	5.6
95	A	4.5	5	5.5
94	A	4.4	4.9	5.4
93	A	4.3	4.8	5.3
92	A	4.2	4.7	5.2
91	A	4.1	4.6	5.1
90	A	4	4.5	5
89	B	3.9	4.4	4.9
88	B	3.8	4.3	4.8
87	B	3.7	4.2	4.7
86	B	3.6	4.1	4.6
85	B	3.5	4	4.5
84	B	3.4	3.9	4.4
83	B	3.3	3.8	4.3
82	B	3.2	3.7	4.2
81	B	3.1	3.6	4.1
80	B	3	3.5	4
79	C	2.9	3.4	3.9
78	C	2.8	3.3	3.8
77	C	2.7	3.2	3.7
76	C	2.6	3.1	3.6
75	C	2.5	3	3.5
74	C	2.4	2.9	3.4
73	C	2.3	2.8	3.3
72	C	2.2	2.7	3.2
71	C	2.1	2.6	3.1
70	C	2	2.5	3
69	D	1.9	2.4	2.9
68	D	1.8	2.3	2.8
67	D	1.7	2.2	2.7
66	D	1.6	2.1	2.6
65	D	1.5	2	2.5
64	D	1.4	1.9	2.4
63	D	1.3	1.8	2.3
62	D	1.2	1.7	2.2
61	D	1.1	1.6	2.1
60	D	1	1.5	2
59	F	0.9	1.4	1.9
58	F	0.8	1.3	1.8
57	F	0.7	1.2	1.7
56	F	0.6	1.1	1.6
55	F	0.5	1	1.5
54	F	0.4	0.9	1.4
53	F	0.3	0.8	1.3
52	F	0.2	0.7	1.2
51	F	0.1	0.6	1.1
0-50	F	0	0	0
50	WF	0	0	0
50	FA	0	0	0

Scheduling Procedure

Freshmen

FRESHMAN REQUIREMENTS	
FALL - 1st SEMESTER	**SPRING - 2nd SEMESTER**
AP Government - Yearlong (**1 AP credit**)	
Economics Honors - Yearlong (0.50 Honors credit)	
English 2 Honors - Yearlong (1 Honors credit)	
Freshman Seminar A - (0.25 credit)	Freshman Seminar B - (0.25 credit)
Algebra 1 (Fall Semester) **OR** Algebra 2 Honors - (1 Honors credit) Yearlong **OR** Algebra 2 Honors - (1 Honors credit) Fall Semester and Precalculus - (1 Honors credit) Spring Semester	
Biology Honors - (1 Honors credit)	CCU Course - (1 DE credit)
Physical Education A - (0.50 credit)	Physical Education B - (0.50 credit)

During the Fall Semester all Freshmen are scheduled to take AP Government and Economics (yearlong 1.5 credit), English 2 Honors (yearlong 1 credit), Freshman Seminar A (yearlong .25 each semester), Algebra 2 Honors (yearlong or semester 1 credit) or Algebra 1, Biology Honors (1 credit), Physical Education A (.5 credit each semester). All Freshmen will be registered for their first Coastal Carolina (CCU) college course to be taken during the Spring Semester. Freshmen may choose a fine arts course or personal finance. The Spring Semester of the freshman year will also include Freshman Seminar B (yearlong .25 each semester); Algebra 2 Honors (yearlong 1 credit), Pre Calc (1 credit) or an additional Scholars Station for those who took Algebra 1 Honors during the fall semester; and Physical Education B (.5 credit).

Sophomores

SOPHOMORE REQUIREMENTS	
FALL - 1st SEMESTER	**SPRING - 2nd SEMESTER**
AP US History - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**)	
AP Language & Comp - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR Humanities - Yearlong (1 Honors Credit)	
Algebra 2 Yearlong (1 honors credit) OR Algebra 2 Semester (1 honors credit) and Precalculus (1 honor credit) OR Precalculus - Yearlong (1 Honors credit) OR AP Calculus(AB) - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**)	
CCU FIN 110 (Personal Finance) or Fine Arts (1 DE credit)	Chemistry - (1 Honors Credit)
CCU Elective - (1 DE credit)	CCU Elective - (1 DE credit)

Scheduling Procedure, continued

Juniors & Seniors

JUNIOR REQUIREMENTS	
FALL - 1st SEMESTER	**SPRING - 2nd SEMESTER**
AP Language & Comp or AP Literature & Comp - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) **OR** Humanities Yearlong (1 Honors Credit) **OR** AP Capstone Seminar (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**)	
Pre-Calculus - Yearlong (1 Honors credit) **OR** AP Calculus (AB or BC) - (**1 AP Credit**) **OR** AP Statistics - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**)	
AP Social Studies - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) **OR** CCU Social Studies (1 DE credit)*	AP Social Studies - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) **OR** CCU Social Studies (1 DE credit)*
AP Science - Yearlong (**1 AP credit**)	AP Science - Yearlong (**1 AP credit**)
CCU Elective - (1 DE credit)	CCU Elective - (1 DE credit)
SENIOR REQUIREMENTS	
FALL - 1st SEMESTER	**SPRING - 2nd SEMESTER**
AP Literature - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Literature (1 DE Credit)	AP Literature - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Literature (1 DE Credit)
AP Mathematics - Yearlong (**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Mathematics - (1 DE credit)	AP Mathematics - Yearlong (**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Mathematics - (1 DE credit)
AP Science - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Science - (1 DE credit)	AP Science - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Science - (1 DE credit)
AP Social Studies - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Social Studies - (1 DE credit)	AP Social Studies - Yearlong (1 Honors credit/**1 AP credit**) OR CCU Social Studies - (1 DE credit)
CCU Elective - (1 DE credit)	CCU Elective - (1 DE credit)

*Juniors must take their third Scholars Academy social studies course. Students in AP Capstone Seminar may take a CCU Social Studies course if needed to make their schedule work; however, they must take a Scholars Academy social studies course during their senior year.

Schedule Changes

After schedules are finalized, any course requests must go through SA Administration. SC Uniform Grading Policy states, "With the first day of enrollment in the course as the baseline, students who withdraw from a course within three days in a 45-day course, five days in a 90-day course, or ten days in a 180-day course will do so without penalty."

Individual Graduation Plan (IGP)

All students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) will have the opportunity to meet with the School Counselor **each school year** to review the student's Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) and map out the courses that will best prepare the student for his or her future goals. CCU dual-enrollment course requests will be due to SA Administration before CCU registration each semester.

Scholars Academy Course Descriptions

English/Language Arts

The English Department at the Scholars Academy is focused on preparing our students to be effective communicators, offering an advanced curriculum for all its students. During their years here, students have a multitude of opportunities to read great writers of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and prose; to exchange ideas with other insightful learners through engaging discussions and presentations; and to share their ideas in a variety of forms. Our goals are for them to become efficient researchers, analytical readers, effective writers, and engaging speakers, as well as to be fully prepared to enter the next phase of their education. The students in this specialized secondary setting take a combination of high school and college courses at an accelerated pace.

English 2 Honors

EOC Course - This course has a state-mandated end-of-course test (EOC).

English II Honors is a yearlong survey of British, American, and world literature that focuses on critical reading, writing, research, speaking, and listening skills, as well as advanced vocabulary, grammar review, media literacy, and analytical writing practice. Satisfactory completion of research projects is required.

AP English Language and Composition

This yearlong advanced English course is designed to provide multiple opportunities for students to study rhetorical strategies, author's purpose, intended audience, subject, and tone in a variety of texts. Students will also be expected to analyze visual media and compose essays in the various modes of writing. Additionally, students are expected to read a variety of complex texts in order to create a base for analysis. Students will confer with peers and the teacher regularly in order to refine their use of language and develop their authentic voice in writing. Students will practice research and documentation skills including MLA guidelines. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Exam in May.

AP English Literature and Composition

This yearlong advanced English course and seminar is structured around world literature. Instruction is designed to strengthen critical reading skills, support writing as a way to communicate individual interpretations of varied literature, identify historical implications, and advance insightful concepts and theories. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam given in May.

Humanities

Humanities (Advanced Composition Honors) is an elective English course offered to tenth and eleventh graders who opt to delay taking one of the required Advanced Placement English courses until the next year. While Humanities does not count as one of the four English courses required for high school graduation, it allows its students to fulfill the Scholars Academy requirement that all students take English every year. This course is taken yearlong, earns one credit, and meets on alternating days. The course stresses critical reading, writing, research, speaking, listening skills, and standardized test preparation.

English/Language Arts, continued

AP Capstone Seminar

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Students learn to investigate a problem or issue, analyze arguments, compare different perspectives, synthesize information from multiple sources, and work alone and in a group to communicate their ideas. This course culminates in two major performance tasks, each with its own written and presentation-based components, as well as a handwritten AP Exam that each contributes to the student's overall AP score. While Seminar does not count as one of the four English courses required for high school graduation, it allows its students to fulfill the Scholars Academy requirement that all students take English every year. This course is also listed under Electives.

Mathematics

In grades 9 - 12, students extend their understanding and proficiency in a variety of areas of mathematics including Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Statistics, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus. All courses are approached through a VNAG approach: Numerical, Analytical, and Graphical with additional emphasis on Verbal and Writing communication skills. Technology is an integral part of the mathematics curriculum. Students are immersed in a wide range of mathematical concepts and processes in preparation for college-level mathematics. Assessment is based on student understanding of mathematics concepts over problem-solving. All mathematics courses offered at Scholars Academy are designated as Honors or Advanced Placement. Scholars Academy offers AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, as well as AP Statistics. All students in AP courses must take an exam administered by the College Board. High performance on AP exams may result in college credit or advanced placement.

Geometry Honors (Online)

This course is the mathematical study of shapes, their properties, and their relationships. The course competencies meet the state geometry standards. Emphasis is placed on student exploration and on formulating and defending conjectures. At the honors level, students are also expected to construct formal proofs of geometric principles. This course is designed to prepare students for further mathematical study.

Algebra 1 Honors

Algebra 1 is a foundational high school math course. This course introduces students to algebraic thinking through the study of equations, functions, and real-world relationships. Students explore linear, quadratic, exponential, and absolute value functions using equations, tables, and graphs. Topics include solving and graphing equations and inequalities, working with polynomials and radicals, performing exponent operations, and interpreting patterns and rates of change. Students also use data and graphs to model and analyze real-world situations. This course provides the foundation for continued study in Algebra 2 and higher-level mathematics.

Algebra 2 Honors (semester or year long)

Algebra II Honors contains an in-depth study of functions, patterns, relationships, and concepts of number systems. The purpose of this course is to investigate the characteristics of functions in order to be able to calculate solutions to real-world problems. Types of functions studied include polynomial, rational, exponential, absolute value, radical, and piecewise functions. This honors-level course also includes a study of probability. A graphing calculator is required for instruction and assessment. This course prepares students for further mathematical study in Pre-Calculus Honors.

Pre-Calculus Honors

This course focuses on the development of students' abilities to understand and apply the study of functions and advanced mathematical concepts to solve problems. Topics include polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. In addition students explore topics such as matrices, limits, complex numbers, vectors and conic sections. Emphasis is on activities, participation through modeling, group activities, and communication in mathematics. Students are expected to use technology, including graphing calculators throughout the course. This course is designed to prepare students for further mathematical study in AP Calculus.

AP Calculus AB

This course follows the curriculum prescribed by the College Board and is intended for students who have a sophisticated knowledge of mathematics. It is designed to be the equivalent of a first-semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus. This course requires students to use definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions. Students are required to take the AP Calculus Examination in May. Placement and/or credit may be awarded at the college level if a qualifying score is obtained. Topics covered include functions, limits, derivatives, integration, and their applications. Topics will be addressed through the use of technology as well as analytically, numerically, verbally, and graphically. Students are required to have a graphing calculator.

AP Calculus BC

This course provides a study of elementary functions and is equivalent to the second semester of college calculus. Course content corresponds to the syllabus established by the College Board Advanced Placement Program. Students are required to take the AP Calculus Examination in May. Placement and/or credit may be awarded at the college level if a qualifying score is obtained. Students will receive a BC score and an AB subscore. Topics included in the curriculum are limits and their properties, differentiation, and their applications, including related rates, optimization, and curve sketching, integration, and their applications, including area, volume, and arc length, integration by parts, partial fractions, improper integrals, particle motion, differential equations, sequences, and series including Taylor polynomials and power series, and polar curves. Students are required to have a graphing calculator.

AP Statistics

This college-level Advanced Placement course in Statistics will introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. students' study four broad conceptual themes: exploring data (observing patterns and departures from patterns), planning a study (deciding what and how to measure), anticipating patterns (producing models using probability and simulation), and statistical inference (confirming models). Students are required to take the AP Statistics Examination in May. Placement and/or credit may be awarded at the college level if a qualifying score is obtained. The content of this college-level course corresponds to the syllabus of the College Board Advanced Placement Program.

Science

Biology Honors

EOC Course - This course has a state-mandated end-of-course test (EOC).

This semester-long honors high school course engages students in the study of life and living organisms, and examines biology and biochemistry in the real world. Students in Honors Biology study units on Ecology, Cells, Genetics, and Evolution through the lens of sustainability practices that allow them to answer relevant questions like, "What are challenges to human health in a changing world?" "How can we live in a way that addresses these challenges?" This course is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, which were developed by states to improve science education for all students. The goals of these standards are to develop a thorough understanding of content as well as improve key skills like communication, collaboration, inquiry, problem solving, and critical thinking.

Chemistry Honors

This course is intended to provide both theoretical and practical knowledge of chemistry while developing the basic laboratory skills necessary to complete a college-level chemistry course. The student will be able to comprehend and utilize terminology associated with chemistry, maintain a safe laboratory environment, understand the basic concepts concerning the structure of elements and compounds along with the properties and relationships of each and relate the importance of chemistry to his/her everyday life. Topics covered in this course will include but are not limited to the organization of matter, the language of chemistry, phases of matter, solutions and their behavior, chemical reactions, and organic and nuclear chemistry.

Physics Honors/AP Physics 1

This full-year course is equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics. The course covers Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum); work, energy, and power. The course includes hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations that provide students with opportunities to apply the science practices. Topics covered in this course will lay the foundations needed to continue into the AP Physics C curriculum.

AP Biology

AP Biology is designed to offer students a solid foundation in introductory college-level biology. By structuring the course around the big ideas, enduring understandings, and science practices established by College Board students develop an appreciation for the study of life and begin to identify and understand unifying principles within a diversified biological world. This course is divided into units that span all levels of biological organization, from atoms and molecules, through cells and organs and into interactions among and between organisms. At the end of the course, students will have an awareness of the integration of other sciences in the study of biology, understand how the species to which we belong is similar to, yet different from, other species, and be knowledgeable and responsible citizens in understanding biological issues that could potentially impact their lives.

AP Chemistry

This course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year with an emphasis on mathematical models. Students should attain a depth of understanding of fundamental concepts of chemistry including structure and states of matter, intermolecular forces, and reactions. Students will do hands-on lab investigations and use chemical calculations to solve problems. The course should contribute to the development of the students' abilities to think clearly and to express their ideas, orally and in writing, with clarity and logic.

AP Environmental Science

The APES course is a full-year course designed to offer students a solid foundation in the introductory college-level understanding of environmental concepts. The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, and to evaluate the risks associated with these problems and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

AP Physics C Mechanics and Electricity/Magnetism

Physics Honors/AP Physics 1 are prerequisites to this course unless a student is approved specifically by the instructor.

This yearlong course will offer two AP credits and students will take two AP exams in May. In the first half of this course, Mechanics, you will explore concepts such as kinematics; Newton's laws of motion, work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; rotation; oscillations; and gravitation. In the second half of this course. Electricity/Magnetism, you will explore concepts such as electrostatics, conductors, capacitors and dielectrics, electric circuits, magnetic fields, and electromagnetism. Students will do hands-on laboratory work and in-class activities to investigate phenomena and use calculus to solve problems. Physics class aims to produce critical thinkers who can demonstrate proficiency with the following concepts: mechanics, energy & waves, electromagnetism, and fluids. Proficiency must include an understanding of these concepts, the ability to communicate these concepts, and the ability to use these concepts in the laboratory setting as well as the everyday world. Students are encouraged to have completed AP Calculus (AB) before beginning this course in addition to having completed, or to be taking, AP Calculus (BC) concurrently.

Social Studies

Social Studies

The goal of the social studies department is to foster political and historical understanding, analytical and evaluative thought processes, and enhanced civic participation. Students are encouraged to actively engage in debate and in a group exploration of the events that have shaped our society. Reading, writing, and thinking analytically are required on a daily basis. Classes employ a variety of methods to stimulate student interest and understanding. Some of these techniques include Paideia seminars, fishbowls, structured debates, projects, and district and national competitions.

Students cannot earn duplicate college credit. When an AP course is offered, students must take the AP course rather than the equivalent CCU dual-enrollment course. This policy applies to the following AP-CCU course equivalents and any additional courses that may be identified as equivalent in the future: AP World/European History (HIST 106), AP Human Geography (GEOG 121), AP Comparative Government (POLI 101), and AP U.S. Government & Politics (POLI 201). See CCU's AP course-credit chart for additional information.

AP Government and Politics

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty, and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing for policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis. Students at the Scholars Academy enroll in Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics during their 9th-grade year. The course is provided each day for the entire school year. Students take the Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics exam in May of each school year, and students receive one Advanced Placement credit for successful completion of the course.

AP US History

EOC Course - This course has a state-mandated end-of-course test (EOC).

APUSH examines the social, political, and economic forces that have shaped our nation. Students read many different perspectives of those forces and learn to analyze and evaluate the relative importance of many events and movements in our history. The class is intensive, rigorous, and challenging. While the course outline is similar to other US History classes, it differs in its depth of coverage, its reading expectations and levels, and its methods of assessment. Students will earn an Honors credit in the fall semester for AP US History Seminar, and they will earn an AP credit in the spring semester for AP US History. Students in this course will take the South Carolina End-of-Course test in May.

AP World History - paired with AP European History

AP World History is a year-long course that will offer two AP credits and students will take two AP exams in May. The course will begin with a global tapestry of political, social, and economic developments while outlining world religions and state-building throughout the world. Networks of exchange will follow as all areas of the world connect through global trading routes by land and sea. Once the Age of Exploration is covered, the course will delve deeply into the European history that shaped all areas of the modern world.

Social Studies, continued

AP European History - paired with AP World History

AP European History is an introductory college-level European history course. Students cultivate their understanding of European history through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like interaction of Europe and the world; economic and commercial developments; cultural and intellectual developments; states and other institutions of power; social organization and development; national and European identity; and technological and scientific innovation.

AP Comparative Government and Politics

AP Comparative Government and Politics introduces students to fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings. The course aims to illustrate the rich diversity of political life, to show available institutional alternatives, to explain differences in processes and policy outcomes, and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic changes. In addition to covering the major concepts that are used to organize and interpret what we know about political phenomena and relationships, the course will cover specific countries and their governments. Six countries that form the core of the AP Comparative Government and Politics course: China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia. (Adapted from the AP Comparative Government description at the College Board's site, AP Central.) Offered on alternating days as a yearlong course and one AP credit.

AP Human Geography

AP Human Geography is an introductory college-level human geography course. Students cultivate their understanding of human geography through data and geographic analyses as they explore topics like patterns and spatial organization, human impacts and interactions with their environment, and spatial processes and societal changes. Offered on alternating days as a yearlong course and one AP credit.

Electives/Other

Physical Education

Physical Education 1 (A & B) is designed to promote proficiency in some team/individual sports and personal fitness. Students will learn the basic components of physical fitness and be able to implement those in personalized fitness programs, demonstrate sport skills, and achieve gender and age group fitness standards. This course also includes the State required health unit.

Freshman Seminar

Freshman Seminar is a course specifically designed for ninth grade students at Scholars Academy. This course walks the students through the transition from middle school to the rigorous environment of the Scholars Academy program. In this course, students are given both the academic and emotional tools they need to embark on and be successful on their new academic journey.

Yearbook Journalism

This course focuses on all aspects of creating a high school yearbook, from developing a theme, creating a budget, selling advertisements, designing the cover and layouts, writing copy, and taking photos.

AP Capstone Seminar

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Students learn to investigate a problem or issue, analyze arguments, compare different perspectives, synthesize information from multiple sources, and work alone and in a group to communicate their ideas. This course culminates in two major performance tasks, each with its own written and presentation-based components, as well as a handwritten AP Exam that each contributes to the student's overall AP score. While Seminar does not count as one of the four English courses required for high school graduation, it allows its students to fulfill the Scholars Academy requirement that all students take English every year.

AP Capstone Research

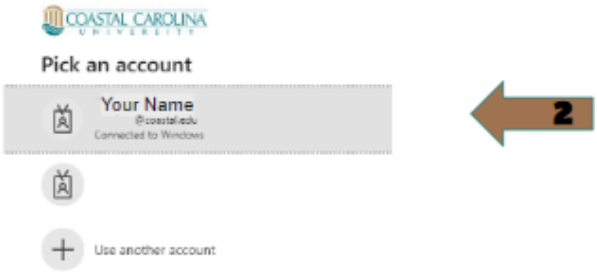
AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. students design, plan and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000 -5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense that each contributes to the student's overall AP score.

CCU Dual Enrollment Courses

To view a listing of CURRENTLY APPROVED Coastal Carolina University (CCU) Dual Enrollment course numbers and course titles access your CCU Self Service account using the directions below.

Coastal Carolina University Course Sign Up

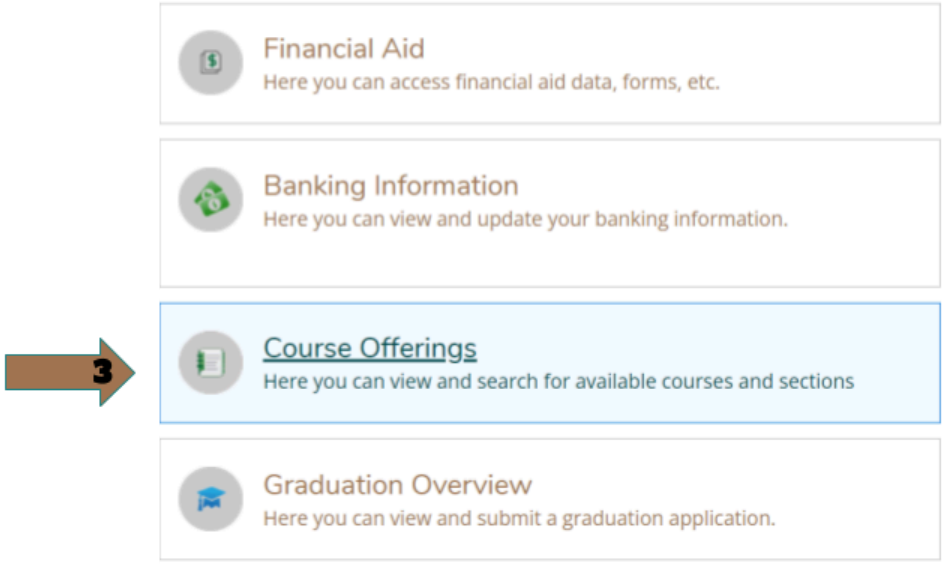
1. Go to CCU Self Service: https://sservice.coastal.edu/
2. Select your CCU account, or log in using your CCU email address & password



Complete all steps no later than March, 26 2026 by the end of school day (i.e., 2:15 pm).

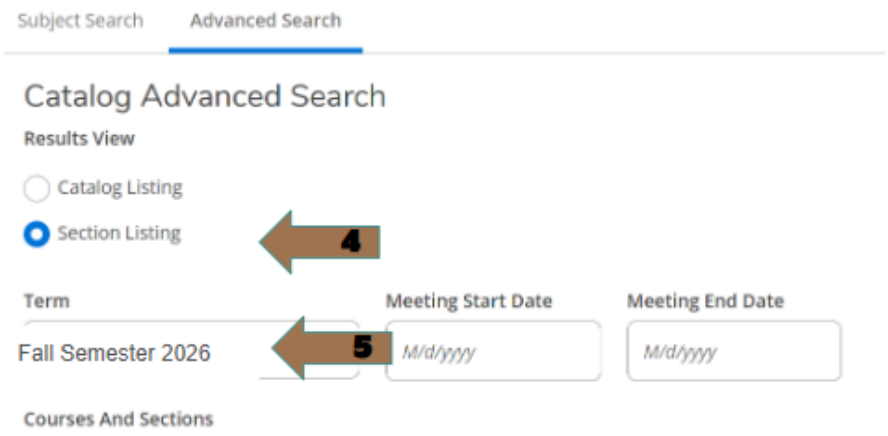
Coastal Carolina University Course Sign Up

3. Select **Course Offerings**



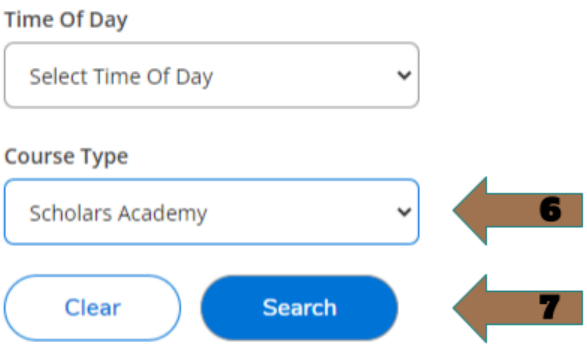
Coastal Carolina University Course Sign Up

4. Select "Section Listing"
5. Change **Term** to "Fall Semester 2026"



Coastal Carolina University Course Sign Up

6. Scroll down to **Course Type**, and select "Scholars Academy."
7. Click **Search**.



Scholars Academy Honor Code

The Scholars Academy Honor Code has been agreed upon by the faculty, administrators, and student body representatives. The purpose of this honor code is to encourage students to achieve at the highest level of their abilities while demonstrating academic honesty and personal integrity; it represents an effort to establish a common understanding among staff, students, and parents as to what constitutes cheating. Students must understand that they are never to present any words or ideas not their own without proper citation.

Some Examples of Cheating

- The use of Spark notes or any other student summary aids without the specific permission of the instructor
- Plagiarism: the act of using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to that person (Miriam-Webster.com online Dictionary)
- Submitting as your own work AI generated or AI modified work without teacher permission
- The giving of an individual assignment to another student to assist the student without the permission of the teacher or professor

Homework

- Copying or paraphrasing all or a part of another's work, including work produced by a digital paraphrasing tool or AI
- Submitting as your own work AI generated or AI modified work without teacher permission
- Allowing another to copy or paraphrase your work, including notes related to assigned reading
- Receiving help on assignments that have been identified as work to be done solely by you

Tests

- Obtaining help or giving help prior to or during a test or quiz
- Passing test questions or answers to students in your class or another class, including verbal discussion or electronic means
- Receiving test questions or answers from students in your class or another class
- Copying someone else's answers
- Allowing someone to copy your answers
- Possessing or using "crib" or cheat sheets
- Obtaining a copy of the test or quiz before it is administered
- Attempting to gain an unfair advantage before or during a test, such as looking at another student's work; turning around, leaving books or notes open; signaling
- Deliberately and repeatedly choosing to miss classes through unexcused absences, lateness to school, or early dismissal to avoid taking a test or handing in an assignment
- Using additional websites, online dictionaries, or other assistance while taking an online test or quiz

Scholars Academy Honor Code, continued

Lab Reports

• Attempting to corrupt another student's data
• Presenting another student's work (computations, graphs, diagrams, answers to conclusion questions) as your own work
• Misrepresenting laboratory data

Research Papers and Essays

- Copying phrases, sentences, or paragraphs without using quotation marks and giving proper MLA/APA documentation of the source
- Paraphrasing or summarizing ideas without giving proper MLA/APA documentation of the source
- Submitting another student's research paper as your own
- Downloading from the Internet a research paper or article in its entirety or in part to submit as your work
- Submitting a paper that was in part or in its entirety drafted by a digital paraphrasing tool or AI
- Asking or paying someone to write a research or other paper for you
- Selling or giving someone a research paper to submit as his/her Lab Reports
- Attempting to corrupt another student's data
- Presenting another student's work (computations, graphs, diagrams, answers to conclusion questions) as your work
- Misrepresenting laboratory data

Use of Calculators/Electronic Devices - Calculators/Electronic devices may be used in a class only with the permission of the instructor

- Using any calculator or other electronic device in class not approved by the teacher
- Using any electronic device (including phone or smartwatch) during an assessment without the specific consent of the teacher
- Using programs in programmable calculators without the knowledge and consent of the teacher
- Using programmable calculators as "electronic cheat sheets"
- Storing information in a calculator about a test or quiz
- Sharing information on the calculator/electronic device pertinent to a test or quiz
- Failing to clear the calculator of all displayed or stored information when the calculator is shared with another student during a test or quiz

Penalties may include but are not limited to the following: no credit or a zero; notification of parent/guardian, guidance counselor, Principal, and National Honor Society (NHS) advisor; loss of membership in NHS; out-of-school suspension (OSS); and/or a disciplinary hearing for further action. See the Academic Expectations for Scholars Academy Students included in this document for additional information.

Scholars Academy Honor Code, continued

Scholars Academy - Honor Code Pledge

As a student who has chosen to attend Scholars Academy, I understand that I belong to a community of learners dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence and personal integrity. I accept my responsibility to promote academic honesty and pledge all materials submitted under my name are my work. I promise to uphold the Scholars Academy Honor Code and I will foster an atmosphere of integrity. As a member of the Scholars Academy community, I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty.