



RONDA S. OWENS ACADEMIC HONORS PROGRAM INFORMATION

What is the Academic Honors Program?

A program designed to challenge Skyline Education students to go above and beyond in their education fostering exposure to advanced academics including, but not limited to, increased rigor, independent study, project-based learning, Capstone projects, and participation in the yearly Academic Honors Fair & Breakfast.

Who is eligible to apply to the Academic Honors Program?

Any enrolled AZ Compass Prep School, Skyline Gila River, or Skyline Prep High School student, grades 9 – 12, may submit an application for review. Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to not only look at past performance as an indicator of success in the program (there is a 2.75 GPA minimum requirement) but to consider the following: A student's desire and willingness to put forth their very best effort to grow not only in academics but also in character; a student's willingness to accept and incorporate guidance and feedback from school administration and faculty to aid them in academic and personal growth; a student's willingness and ability to commit to the extra time required for homework, independent study, project completion, and meeting outside of regular class hours with their instructor(s); a parent(s)/guardian(s) willingness and ability to support their student in their efforts to succeed in the program.

When may I apply to the Academic Honors Program?

Academic Honors Program enrollment is perpetual. Applications are accepted according to the application deadline table, for entrance into the program in Blocks 1, 2, 3, or 4 during the 9th, 10th, and 11th grade year. Seniors may enter the program only in Block 1 of their senior year.

Entrance into the program...	Block Start Date	Application Due Date
Block 1	Tuesday, August 1, 2023	Thursday, July 20, 2023
Block 2	Monday, October 9, 2023	Thursday, September 14, 2023
Block 3	Wednesday, January 3, 2024	Thursday, December 7, 2023
Block 4	Monday, March 18, 2024	Thursday, February 29, 2024

How will I receive Academic Honor's Program Instruction?

Academic Honors Program instruction will start within the standard course classroom; honors course and standard course students will be in the classroom together. Academic Honors Program students will work off an enhanced syllabus that will include not only standard classroom instruction but also advanced and independent reading/research/study, additional or advanced homework assignments, a Capstone Project and Academic Honors Fair presentation, and meetings with instructors outside of regular classroom hours.



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How are the Academic Honors Program courses graded?

Our program utilizes a 5.0 weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) scale as our measure of accomplishment. Weighted GPA scales give colleges a better initial sense of the academic potential of students based on the rigor of their coursework; they also lead to greater accuracy in class rankings.

An “A” (5.0) on our weighted scale is worth an extra 1.0 point compared to an “A” (4.0) on a standard scale. Likewise, a “B” (4.0) on our weighted scale is the equivalent of an “A” (4.0) on a standard grading scale.

Letter Grade Earned	Academic Honors Course 5.0 Scale	Standard Course 4.0 Scale
A	5.0	4.0
B	4.0	3.0
C	3.0	2.0
D	1.0	1.0
F	0.0	0.0

Not only are colleges able to identify students who have challenged themselves in high rigor courses by title, they are also able to easily identify success in those courses as well as college readiness by higher GPAs.

Academic recognitions (Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Skyline Scholars, NHS, and NCAA) all rely on GPA as the primary qualifier. Our weighted GPA scale results in higher GPAs for excelling students in addition to a more accurate ranking system where students who take standard courses are not likely to surpass students who take Academic Honors Program courses. This also serves as incentive for students to challenge themselves in honors courses as it won't harm their GPA unless they end up earning significantly poorer grades.

What are the expectations of Academic Honors Students?

Academic Honors Program students are highly encouraged to undertake, individually and collectively, responsibility for their own academic and personal growth while fostering growth in other students through leadership by example, active contribution to a positive classroom environment, consistent completion of assignments with effort and integrity, and respect for and adherence to school/classroom policies and procedures. At minimum, Academic Honors Program students must maintain a 93% attendance rate, a 2.85 GPA in **all** their courses, complete one Capstone project yearly, meet academic Benchmarks on Assessments, and/or meet College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT Aspire/ACT to remain in the program. Honor students are expected to enroll in at least one honors level course per Block. Students falling short of expectations will be placed on a Performance Plan for improvement should they desire to remain in the Academic Honors Program.

How will I know if I'm accepted into the Academic Honors Program?

Applicants will be scheduled to meet with their Academic Dean to discuss either their acceptance into the Program/selection of Honors Courses or their Performance Plan for future acceptance. Performance Plans will outline specific areas of concern that should be improved upon for students to be accepted into and experience success in the Academic Honors Program.



RONDA S. OWENS ACADEMIC HONORS PROGRAM APPLICATION

FOR ENTRANCE IN BLOCK: 1, Due: 07/20/23 2, Due: 09/14/23 3, Due: 12/07/23 4, Due 02/29/24

Applications must be legible, complete, and submitted by the Due Date for consideration.

Once entered in the program, no further application is required unless a student is exited for non-performance.

STUDENT NAME: _____ **GRADE:** _____

PLEASE CHECK WHICH SKYLINE EDUCATION SCHOOL YOU ATTEND:



HONORS PROGRAM APPLICANTS MUST AGREE TO & INITIAL THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

- _____ I understand Academic Honors Program instruction is incorporated into standard course instruction
- _____ I understand Academic Honors Program coursework/expectations will be defined in enhanced syllabi made available to me at the beginning of each course and I am responsible for following the syllabi
- _____ I commit to coursework that is more rigorous in nature including but not limited to: Independent study, additional research, reading & homework, Capstone Project(s), and Honors Fair presentation(s)
- _____ I commit to meeting a standard of performance that is significantly higher than regular academic standards
- _____ I commit to additional meeting hours with Academic Honors Program instructors outside of regular class hours
- _____ I understand Academic Honors Program courses will be weighted on a 5.0 scale
- _____ I understand I must maintain a minimum 93% attendance rate/2.85+ GPA/Benchmark+ performance on school & state assessments, and College Readiness on ACT Aspire/ACT tests to remain in the Academic Honors Program
- _____ I understand I am allowed ONE week after the start of the block to withdraw from an Honors Program course without penalty

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION MUST BE ATTACHED TO THIS APPLICATION:

- Personal Essay (Typed or NEATLY written, double spaced, no more than 500 words) – Please explain why you would like to enter the Ronda S. Owens Academic Honors Program
- Letter of Recommendation – Form attached or may be emailed to the Academic Dean (Academic Teacher, School Administrator, Coach, Employer, or Pastor preferred; family members not allowed)
- Current, Unofficial Transcript – Available from your school’s Registrar Office

I have thoroughly read the Academic Honors Program Information and Application, understand the expectations of Academic Honors Program students, and submit this application in good faith of fulfilling those expectations.

STUDENT PRINTED NAME: _____ **SIGNATURE:** _____ **DATE:** _____

I have thoroughly read the Academic Honors Program Information and Application, understand the expectations of Academic Honors Program students, and agree to support my student in fulfilling those expectations.

PARENT PRINTED NAME: _____ **SIGNATURE:** _____ **DATE:** _____



