

# **HIGH SCHOOL HONORS COURSES AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES**

*Policy Code: 3105*

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It is the goal of Montgomery County Schools to provide the most rigorous academic courses possible. Honors and Advanced Placement courses provide a pathway through which students can expand the breadth and depth of learning. These courses offer students opportunities to engage in course work which enhances their capacity to gain acceptance to college and university programs.

## **HONORS COURSES**

The following will apply to all honors courses taken by students in Montgomery County high schools:

- Courses taken in conjunction with the memorandum of agreement between the University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Community College System, pursuant to G.S. 116-11 (10-a) dated January 16, 2004, will be exempt from the 135 contact hours required for high school level courses except for courses that are specified by the North Carolina State Board of Education. Community College courses taken by high school students will count as one high school credit. The courses will provide the student with up to weighted five (5) quality points of honors credit toward the student's final grade point average (GPA).
- All stipulations articulated in the memorandum of agreement will apply to this policy.
- Students taking the courses must complete the course work and provide the high school guidance office an official grade within five (5) days of class completion.
- If a student drops the course within the first ten (10) days of the high school semester, the student must notify the high school guidance office so that an alternative schedule may be developed. Any student failing to do so will receive a failing grade for the course. Should the student feel the course is too difficult or overwhelming, he or she should see the guidance counselor immediately for alternative scheduling.
- Honors courses offered at the school must have a curriculum developed by Montgomery County Schools and approved by the board of education. The honors standards provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction will be used as the guiding document for these courses. All courses must have adequate rigor and be aligned with the North Carolina Standard

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Course of Study and the Curriculum and Instruction and Assessment Standards of North Carolina.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES**

Advanced Placement Courses are available in limited number in Montgomery County Schools. If they are not offered at the local high school a student may take an approved course on-line from an accredited North Carolina high school which uses the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for that subject area. Students must request the online course during the class registration session at their local high school.

Advanced Placement Courses carry up to a six (6) quality point weight toward the student's final grade point average (GPA). College credit is given at the discretion of the individual college or university.

If an Advanced Placement Course is taken, students are encouraged to take the designated College Board Exam for that course. If the course has a North Carolina End-of-Course test, the student is required to take the North Carolina End-of-Course test.

If a student takes an on-line Advanced Placement Course and chooses to withdraw, the student must inform the guidance office for alternative scheduling.

If the student withdraws from any Advanced Placement Course, the student will be assigned to a regular honors course with the same end-of-course test. The assignment to a class will depend upon the availability of seats for the classes available.

Legal References: G.S. 116-11(10a) 115C-81, N. C. HSP-M-001, N. C. HSP L-004

Cross References: Memorandum of Agreement, State Honors Guidelines

Adopted: November 7, 2005

Updated: July 9, 2012