



MHS College Preparatory Academy

Frequently Asked Questions

When are applications due?

Applications should be addressed to Jeffrey Wandel and arrive at Manatee High School before May 1, 2025. Students attending public schools can submit the application at any time prior to the deadline and need not submit any additional paperwork. Late applications are accepted but some classes may close, limiting late acceptance.

How soon will we know if we have been accepted?

A letter detailing the initial evaluation of your application will be sent within two weeks which identifies the courses in which the student should register for the 2025-26 school year. Acceptance is not determined until final grades and standardized scores are reviewed in the summer. A letter will be mailed informing students and parents of the final decision.

When is a student able to apply for the College Preparatory Academy?

Students may enter the program as freshmen or sophomores. During both 9th and 10th grades, students will be involved in four Honors, AP or Dual Enrollment classes.

If I live out of the Manatee High district, will I be granted school choice?

The Manatee County School District accepts and responds to school choice applications. They are only accepted by the district between December 2 and December 31, 2024. Acceptance into the CPA does not ensure you will be granted school choice.

Is any transportation available if an applicant lives out of MHS district?

Out-of-district students are responsible for their own transportation.

Are there ways to get help with college applications and scholarships?

Mrs. Norris in our College and Career Center is eager to help students. She plans meetings for each class to provide information related to the college application process. She also coordinates all college recruiter visits to Manatee High School. Only 9th and 10th graders in the College Preparatory Academy are offered the opportunity to meet with college recruiters on campus if there is space. Information regarding the college visits is available on the school website. MHS also hosts a college fair each fall with approximately 50 colleges participating. Information about financial aid and scholarships is available in the College and Career Center and on the website.

Is it possible for a student to participate in other academies?

Many students are succeeding in other academies while participating in ours. We encourage any student interested in the other programs to apply to, and participate in, both programs. Separate applications **MUST** be submitted.

Can I pick which academic courses I want to take each year?

During the 9th and 10th grades, College Preparatory Academy students must take the required core classes, but will be allowed to choose elective courses. In 11th and 12th grades there are more course options to meet both graduation and College Preparatory Academy requirements.

Is it possible for a student to drop out of the College Preparatory Academy, if accepted?

During the freshman and sophomore years, students must stay in the FOUR courses for the ENTIRE year. Both a parent and the student sign a commitment on the application for those two years. This commitment allows the team of teachers to work together to assist and support students. Students who do not meet the grade requirements will be dropped from the program at the end of each semester.

At the end of each year or before the school year starts, a student may opt out. A notice from the parent is requested. Students not maintaining a B average in the four Honors, AP and Dual Enrollment classes, not displaying proficiency on state assessments, and/or inappropriate behavior will not be allowed to continue in the College Preparatory Academy.

What are the differences between the MHS College Preparatory Academy and other pre-college programs in the county?

The College Preparatory Academy:

- Allows more flexibility in the selection of courses for students in their junior and senior years. Manatee High offers more AP courses.
- Allows students to potentially earn college credit during each year of high school and, in some cases, more college credit than offered in other programs.
- Encourages students to take courses here at Manatee High instead of going to the college setting.
- Ensures students are taking necessary steps to prepare for college/scholarship applications and college admission requirements.
- Gives students the opportunity to complete the AP Capstone courses, which can earn them the AP Capstone Diploma or AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

How are College Preparatory Academy students recognized?

After their junior year, College Preparatory Academy students can apply for the THREE free parking spots denoting their achievement in the academy. Potential completers are announced at the Senior Awards Assembly. After the final grades are posted, completers are given the red, white, and blue double honors cords to wear at graduation, and their names are marked in the program.

What happened to the AP+ program?

AP is a registered trademark of the College Board, and they requested that any program using that acronym change their name. The College Preparatory Academy has increased completion criteria to include Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and AP Capstone requirements. We have also added more non-academic college readiness tools to help prepare students for the college application process.

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