

Honors Diploma Program Overview

Students who meet the following requirements will receive an “Honors” diploma identified by a special sticker on their diploma, gold honor stole to wear for graduation, and a notation on their transcript (a description of the requirements would be included so that colleges/scholarships would understand the significance of the “honors” notation).

Rigorous High School Experience	Total Credits	Student will have a minimum of 27 credits (minimum to graduate is now 24)
	Cumulative GPA	Student will have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
	Emphasis in one area: STEM Arts Languages Literature Career Tech	Credit minimums: STEM – 10 credits from all science, math, technology Arts – 5 credits from all arts offerings Languages – 4 credits from all language offerings Literature – 5 credits from all English offerings Career Tech – Two full years (6 credits) in the same program
	Extra-Curricular Activities	Student will have completed full-season (or full-year) involvement in a minimum of 8 activities that come from at least 3 different categories: athletics, music, drama, student government, science, or other clubs/activities
College/Career Preparation	College Level Coursework	Student will have taken and passed at least 3 courses that are designated as AP or dual-enrollment (Student pursuing the Career Tech option will take and pass at least 1 course designated as AP or dual-enrollment)
	Career Exploration	Student will complete a minimum of two job-shadow experiences and submit a verification form for each.
	Internship	Student will complete a minimum of 40 hours in an unpaid internship (or combination of internships) and submit a verification form.
	Community Involvement	Student will demonstrate involvement in a significant community activity that requires more than a one-time participation (minimum of 40 hours of involvement). Examples might be: playing in a community orchestra, volunteering at a hospital, scouting, big brother/sister program, etc.

1. The objective of the honors diploma is to encourage a student to stretch or challenge themselves with broad preparation for college/career and expanded experiences.
2. Students who graduate with an honors diploma will receive a sticker on their diploma, an explanation of the program sent with their transcript, and a gold honor stole to wear at graduation.
3. The GPA goal is slightly lower than for other programs so that more students have the opportunity to earn the honors diploma with the extra time and work. Higher GPA's are rewarded in other ways (top 10 seniors, valedictorian/salutatorian, graduating with honors like summa cum laude, NHS).
4. Students receive a chart/packet that identifies all the requirements. They would use the chart/packet to keep track of each requirement's completion. Students would submit the packet by February 1st of their senior year for an “audit” to verify that they will be meeting all of their requirements by graduation. Then they resubmit the packet at the end of their senior year, prior to graduation.
5. The internship and community involvement requirements would require pre-approval. A form for the employer or community activity director is supplied for verification of involvement.