

INTRODUCTION

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam
Spring 2010

Rockhurst High School (RHS) serves the greater Kansas City area by educating Ignatian leaders, “men-for-others,” in the Roman Catholic Jesuit College Preparatory tradition.

As a Jesuit school, RHS brings the 450+ years of Jesuit tradition of personal care to bear on every facet of its program. Consequently, we seek to develop in each young man a positive self-image, appreciation of the richness of God’s creation, maturity of faith with commitment to justice and peace, and the ability to critically reflect upon root questions of human existence. Through this development, the school seeks to elicit from students a response beyond the ordinary and commonplace.

Since the school’s founding in 1910, the Jesuits and lay Ignatian educators of Rockhurst have carried on a vision of creating tomorrow’s leaders today. Rockhurst produces gifted young men who are willing to share their faith, friendship, and talent. Rockhurst alumni have advanced to the highest levels of business, industry, sports, art, drama, and community for nearly a century.

This catalogue has been produced to assist students and parents in developing a course of studies for the next school year. The keynote to planning a program of studies is personal responsibility. The student is to take an active role in the planning for his future. Students are encouraged to discuss plans in depth with parents, counselors, teachers, and administrators.

The curriculum at RHS represents a combination of courses fundamental to the Ignatian spirit of education, a rich offering of core and elective college preparatory courses designed to challenge the mind and enliven the spirit of each member of the student body.

When planning a program of studies students must keep in mind the following graduation requirements. These requirements have been selected in a way that meet or exceed the prerequisites and recommended subjects for any selective university in the United States.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

ARTS DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION ARTS – One Semester

FINE OR PERFORMING ARTS – One Semester *

COMPUTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT – One Semester

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT – Eight Semesters

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT – Four Semesters (of same language)

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT Eight semesters

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT – One semester

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT – Six semesters (Three laboratory sciences required)

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT – Six semesters

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT – Eight semesters

COLLEGE PREPARATORY ELECTIVES – Twelve semesters

COMMUNITY SERVICE – 75 hours - (25 each year prior to senior year)

Seniors are required to successfully complete the Senior Service Project.

*University of Missouri requires two semesters of Fine/Performing Arts

A total of twenty-eight credits are required for graduation; each semester course equals one-half credit.

Students are required to enroll in seven classes each semester at RHS. Study or “free” periods are not offered to students.

HONORS, ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP), AND ADVANCED COLLEGE CREDIT (ACCP) PROGRAMS

It is our intention to make the best use of students' God-given talents by ensuring they are presented with the academic challenge and individual attention which has been the hallmark of Jesuit education at RHS.

Students in freshman and sophomore years at RHS may be admitted to the Honors program based upon recommendations and placement examination scores. In junior and senior years, students who meet with academic success in one or more academic areas are encouraged to enroll in Honors and/or Advanced Placement courses.

Given the additional rigor of the Honors and Advanced Placement coursework at RHS, juniors are limited to a total of three and seniors a total of four Advanced Placement courses per year. An exception is available to a student who would like to exceed these limits; however, to do so he must: 1) have a cumulative GPA of 3.850 or higher and 2) receive permission from the Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs, his counselor, and a parent. Under no circumstances will a junior be allowed to exceed a total of four and a senior a total of five Advanced Placement courses per year. There are no restrictions on the number of Honors Courses a student may take if qualified.

Students selected to enroll in the Advanced Placement course work for Advanced Placement credit are expected to take the Advanced Placement Examinations(s) given in May.

The Advanced College Credit Program (ACCP) offers students in specified courses credit from Rockhurst University (RU) and the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). The following courses are available:

RU ~ Honors French III, French IV (AP), Honors Spanish III, Honors Spanish IV, Applied Calculus, Precalculus, Biology (AP).

UMKC ~ Honors Latin III, Latin-Vergil (AP), Honors Greek I, Honors Greek II, Honors Chemistry, Calculus I, Calculus II.

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education requires that students have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average in high school to enroll in dual enrollment courses. Both RU and UMKC offer a special high school tuition rate per credit hour. Many colleges and universities accept dual enrollment credits, however there is no guarantee. Families are encouraged to check with the institutions that they are interested in directly about their policy. Course registration is done on the high school campus. Juniors and seniors only are eligible to enroll in dual enrollment courses through RU and UMKC. RU requires a minimum of five students per section to enroll in the course. If there is not the required minimum to enroll, the course(s) will not be offered for credit through RU; however, the course will not be cancelled at RHS. For further information on RU ACCP, refer to www.rockhurst.edu/accp/.

WEIGHTED COURSE CRITERIA

All courses at RHS are college preparatory courses, have the same weight (except for Honors and Advanced Placement courses offered in the junior and senior years and Honors Biology and AP Modern World History in the Sophomore year), and are awarded equal academic credit.

The Weighted Course Criteria requires a minimum of a 3.3 overall cumulative grade point average (GPA) to apply for admission to Honors courses and a 3.5 overall cumulative grade point average for admission to AP courses. An exemption will be given to students not meeting the overall cumulative requirement **IF:** 1) the student has an overall GPA of 3.0 – 3.29 for admission to Honors or 3.3-3.49 for AP courses **AND** 2) has a cumulative of 3.3 in the subject area to which he is applying for an honors course or a cumulative of 3.5 in the subject area to which he is applying for an AP course. Please note these are **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**. Individual departments may have additional requirements for Honors and Advanced Placement courses as indicated in their respective course descriptions.

CLASS REQUESTS AND SCHEDULES

Students will ordinarily be assigned to the courses requested for an academic year provided that all prerequisites for these courses are met. It is important that students select these courses after giving consideration to future study plans and career and life goals.

ADD/DROP PROCEDURES

Students are allowed to make changes to class schedules during the summer on days assigned by the Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs. Once school begins, however, no change to class schedules is allowed unless initiated by an administrator, teacher, or counselor.