

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Pass/Fail FAQ

Cypress-Fairbanks I.S.D. wants to encourage students to pursue their areas of special talents and aptitudes and to enrich their academic achievement through efforts both in and out of the public school setting. Academically-able and talented students frequently forfeit opportunities to study in their areas of talent and interest. To encourage these students to explore areas of interest in depth while they are in high school, the district is offering the following courses to students in grades 11 and 12 on a pass/fail basis.

Who is eligible to take an advanced course on a pass/fail basis?

This option is available to juniors and seniors who wish to take one (1) or two (2) courses in certain areas of study that are **beyond the requirements for graduation**. These two credits must be in addition to the 26 credits required for graduation on the Foundation+ Endorsement Program or the 22 credits required for graduation on the Foundation High Program. To take the third- or fourth-year courses in the four-year elective programs on a pass/fail basis, the student must have the credit for the first two courses in the elective program sequence. The students should also have an overall B or above average for other courses completed in the field of study. All students must meet the prerequisites of each course and have parent, teacher, and counselor approval.

How many pass/fail courses is a student allowed to take?

Students may take only 1 credit on a pass/fail basis during their junior year and 1 credit during their senior year.

Who really benefits from this option?

The student who will obtain the maximum benefit from this option is the student who

1. is both academically-able and is talented in or has a keen interest in one of the identified courses of study;
2. will have more credits than the twenty-two (foundation program) or twenty-six (foundation+ endorsement program) required for graduation;
3. will have **more K-level academic courses than L-level courses** on the final transcript; and
4. earns mostly grades of A in **ALL** courses of study (has a GPA of 6.0 or higher).

Note: The student described above will achieve a grade point average that is almost identical to the grade point average he/she would obtain if two K-level courses were attempted instead of enrollment in and completion of the pass/fail courses. This option works in this way because the total number of K-level courses is greater than the number of L-level courses. This option does not alter class rank for students with few or no K-level courses; in fact, a pass/fail course may lower a student's GPA if he/she takes all L-level courses and earns any grade lower than an A.

How are grades handled in a pass/fail course?

Students who are eligible and choose to take one of the advanced courses for a pass/fail grade

1. will receive numerical grades all year on the report card; and
2. will receive a P (pass) or F (fail) on the transcript.

These courses will not be included in the computation of grade point averages and class rank.

What are the performance standards for these courses?

- Students must complete all of the assigned work just as if they were enrolled in the course on a non-pass/fail basis.
- Students must take all tests associated with the course unless exempt from the final exam through grades earned and attendance.
- To maintain eligibility to stay in the pass/fail course for the second semester, the student's semester average must be passing. Exception: If the student is in a K-level foreign language course, K-level eligibility standards must be maintained.

Note: Students will receive a numerical grade on the report card for each grading period. Only the transcript will reflect a P (passing) or F (failing).

How will grades in a pass/fail course affect eligibility for extra-curricular activities?

The numerical grades earned in a pass/fail course will be used to determine eligibility for participation in all UIL or school-sponsored activities. In addition, numerical grades will also be used to determine honor roll each grading period; academic awards eligibility, including admission to organizations such as National Honor Society; criteria used in selection of students for various positions such as drill team officers, class officers; exam exemptions; entrance and exit in K-level courses, etc.

How do I enroll in a pass/fail course?

Students interested in taking one of the pass/fail courses must discuss this option with the teacher of the course during the first week the course meets. If the student meets all of the criteria, he/she must complete the appropriate form, have it signed by the parent and teacher, and return it to the counselor, no **later than the end of the third week of the semester**, for approval and a schedule change to reflect enrollment in a pass/fail course. For more information, discuss this option with your teacher or counselor.

What courses are available for pass/fail?

See the counselors' office for a comprehensive list.

Additional Pass/Fail Notes:

1. Students who have exactly 26 credits (Foundation+ Endorsement Program) or 22 credits (Foundation Program) may not pass/fail any course.
2. Students must have credit for the first two courses in the elective program sequence to pass/fail the third course. (Example: Student must have credit for Debate I and II to pass/fail Debate III.)
3. Students may count courses taken on a pass/fail basis towards earning an endorsement.

Pass / Fail Courses 2018-2019

Cypress-Fairbanks I.S.D. wants to encourage students to pursue their areas of special talents and aptitudes and to enrich their academic achievement through efforts both in and out of the public school setting. Academically-able and talented students frequently forfeit opportunities to study in their areas of talent and interest. To encourage these students to explore areas of interest in depth while they are in high school, the district is offering the following courses to students in grades 11 and 12 on a pass/fail basis.

Courses Allowed on a Pass/Fail Basis	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics III-IV • Off- Campus PE III-IV • Band III-IV • Orchestra III-IV • Choir III-IV • Dance III-IV • Art III-IV • Debate III, IV • Independent Study in Speech (Level IV) • Tech Theatre III-IV • Theatre Production III-IV • Theatre Arts III-IV • Advanced Journalism/Newspaper II*-IV • Advanced Journalism/Yearbook II*-IV • Air Force JROTC III-IV • Sociology • Psychology • Street Law • Social Studies Research • Special Projects in Social Studies (History in Film, Holocaust, Vietnam) • Spanish III-VI • French III-VI • German III-VI • Latin III-IV • American Sign Language III-IV • CTE courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ (Workforce dual credit courses) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money Matters Dual Credit • Internetworking Technologies II Dual Credit (spring only) ➤ (3rd credit or more in a defined sequence) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting I • Accounting II • Advanced Culinary Arts (spring only) • Aerospace Engineering • Ag Equipment • Animation II (spring only) • Architectural Design II (spring only) • Audio/Video Production II (spring only) • Automotive Technology II (spring only) • Business Information Management II (BIM II) • Child Guidance (spring only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ (3rd credit or more in a defined sequence-continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Technology II (spring only) • Color Theory (must be blocked with COS II) • Culinary Arts (spring only) • Digital Audio Technology II • Diversified Manufacturing II • Engineering Design and Presentation II (spring only) • Fashion Design II (spring only) • Financial Analysis • Health Science Theory/Clinicals (spring only) • Internetworking Technologies I - (not dual credit) • Internetworking Technologies II- (not dual credit) • Mill & Cabinetmaking Technology (spring only) • Practicum in Ag, Food & Natural Resources (spring only) • Practicum in Architectural Design (spring only) • Practicum in Audio/Visual Production (spring only) • Practicum in Construction Technology (spring only) • Practicum in Culinary Arts (spring only) • Practicum in Education/Training (spring only) • Practicum in Health Science (spring only) • Practicum in Human Services (spring only) • Practicum in Manufacturing (spring only) • Practicum in STEM (spring only) • Practicum in Transportation Systems (spring only) • Precision Metal Manufacturing (spring only) • Project-based Research I in Ag • Project-based Research in Drafting • Project-based Research in Fashion Design • Project-based Research in Multimedia • Project-based Research in STEM • Project-based Research in Tech Ed • Robotics II • Veterinary Medical Applications • Web Technologies II • Welding II (spring only) • World Health Research <p>* <i>For juniors/seniors who have already completed two credits in journalism</i></p> <p>*** <i>These courses may be taken P/F if the student did not skip a prerequisite.</i></p>

PASS / FAIL COURSE WORKSHEET

Packet must be returned to the
Counseling Office **NO LATER THAN**
Sept. 14th for FALL courses, and
Jan. 25th for Spring courses.

Student Name _____ **ID#** _____ **Grade Level** 11th or 12th
(circle one)

Directions: During the junior and senior years, students may take up to two credits of pass/fail coursework, one as a junior and one as a senior, if eligibility requirements are met. Seniors may take two credits pass/fail if one was not taken during the junior year. Identify the course(s) the student requests and the eligibility requirements by checking the appropriate boxes. **Complete this worksheet before signing Application and Approval to Enroll in a Pass/Fail Course.**

Section I: Third and Fourth Year Foreign Language Courses

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish III-VI | <input type="checkbox"/> French III-VI | <input type="checkbox"/> German III-IV | <input type="checkbox"/> Latin III-IV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ASL III-IV | | | |

Eligibility Requirements

- Junior or senior standing
- Full credit earned for Level I and II of the same course
- More K than L-Level courses on transcript (a GPA of 6.0 +)
- Mostly grades of "A" in all courses
- An overall "B" average in other courses in the field of study
- Meets all prerequisites of course requested
- Parent, teacher, counselor approval

Section II: Four Year Electives

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics III-IV | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Study in Speech (Level IV) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off-Campus PE II-IV | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre III-IV (Arts, Production, Tech) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra III - IV | <input type="checkbox"/> Art III – IV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choir III – IV | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force JROTC III-IV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dance III – IV | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Journalism II* – III
-Yearbook (Level III-IV) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debate III-IV | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Journalism II* – III
-Newspaper (Level III-IV) |

Eligibility Requirements

- Junior or senior standing
- Full credit earned for Level I and II of the same course
- More K than L-Level courses on transcript (a GPA of 6.0 +)
- Mostly grades of "A" in all courses
- An overall "B" average in other courses in the field of study
- Meets all prerequisites of course requested
- Parent, teacher, counselor approval

Section III: Other Electives

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Projects in Social Studies
(History in Film, Holocaust, Vietnam) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street Law | |

Eligibility Requirements

- Junior or senior standing
- An overall "C" average
- Parent, teacher, and counselor approval

Section IV: CTE Courses

Work Force Courses

- Money Matters Workforce Dual Credit
- Internetworking Technologies II Workforce Dual Credit (spring only)
- Practicum in Health Science (EMT) (spring only)

Eligibility Requirements

- Junior or senior standing
- Successfully completed 1st and 2nd courses in sequence
- More K than L-Level courses on transcript (a GPA of 6.0 +)
- Meets all prerequisites of course requested
- Parent, teacher, counselor approval

3rd credit or more in a defined sequence

- Accounting I
- Accounting II
- Advanced Culinary Arts (spring only)
- Aerospace Engineering
- Ag Equipment
- Animation II (spring only)
- Architectural Design II (spring only)
- Audio/Video Production II (spring only)
- Automotive Technology II (spring only)
- Business Information Management II (BIM II)
- Child Guidance (spring only)
- Construction Technology II (spring only)
- Color Theory (must be blocked with COS II)
- Culinary Arts (spring only)
- Digital Audio Technology II
- Diversified Manufacturing II
- Engineering Design and Presentation II (spring only)
- Fashion Design II (spring only)
- Financial Analysis
- Health Science Theory/Clinicals (spring only)
- Internetworking Technologies I (not dual credit)
- Internetworking Technologies II (not dual credit)
- Mill & Cabinetmaking Technology (spring only)
- Practicum in Ag, Food & Natural Resources (spring only)
- Practicum in Architectural Design (spring only)
- Practicum in Audio/Video Production (spring only)
- Practicum in Construction Technology (spring only)
- Practicum in Culinary Arts (spring only)
- Practicum in Education/Training (RST II) (spring only)
- Practicum in Health Science (spring only)
- Practicum in Human Services (ECP II) (spring only)
- Practicum in Manufacturing (spring only)
- Practicum in STEM (spring only)
- Practicum in Transportation Systems (spring only)
- Precision Metal Manufacturing (spring only)
- Project-based Research in Ag
- Project-based Research in Drafting
- Project-based Research in Fashion Design
- Project-based Research in Multi Media
- Project-based Research in STEM
- Project-based Research in Tech Ed
- Robotics II
- Veterinary Medical Applications
- Web Technologies II
- Welding II (spring only)
- World Health Research

Eligibility Requirements

- Junior or senior standing
- Successfully completed 1st and 2nd courses in sequence
- Meets all prerequisites of course requested
- An overall "C" average in all courses
- Parent, teacher, counselor approval

Packet must be returned to the Counseling Office **NO LATER THAN** Sept. 14th for FALL courses, and Jan. 25th for Spring courses.

Application and Approval to Enroll in a Pass/Fail Course

Student Name _____

Date _____

ID# _____

Grade Level 11th or 12th
(circle one)

I am requesting enrollment in the following pass/fail course(s):

1) _____ Class Period _____

I have spoken to my counselor to determine eligibility, and I understand how a pass/fail course will affect my eligibility for honor roll, class rank, UIL participation and other school- approved activities which have a grade requirement. I further understand that failing to earn the additional credits, 23rd and 24th credits for the Foundation Program or 27th and 28th credits for the Foundation+ Endorsement Program will cause this course to be calculated in my grade point average (GPA).

Student's Name- Please Print

Date

Student's Signature

Date

Teacher or Department Chair's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

Counselor's Signature

Date