



Academic Catalog

2020-2021

This online version is the official version of the catalog.

CMCSS Academic Catalog 2020-2021

Section 1:	
School Counseling Program	iii
Graduation Requirements	iv
Testing Requirements	v
ACT Readiness Benchmark Scores	v
Diploma Types	vi
State Honors and Distinctions	vi
Grading Scale and Credit Policy.....	vii
Classification of Students	vii
Athletic Eligibility	vii
Special Transfer Applications.....	viii
Weighting of AP, Honors, & College Courses	viii
Class Ranking	viii
Graduation Participation.....	viii
Early Post-Secondary Opportunities.....	ix
CMCSS Career Academies.....	ix
CMCSS Early Technical College at Tennessee College of Applied Technology	ix
CMCSS Pathways at Nashville State Community College	ix
Middle College at Austin Peay State University	ix
Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program	x
Course Information and Opportunities	x
Section 2:	
Course Descriptions for Your High School.....	1

SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM

High school counselors have compiled this information to assist you on your path to high school graduation and beyond. The CMCSS School Counseling program follows the TN School Counseling guidelines.
<https://www.tn.gov/education/student-support/school-counseling.html>

CMCSS Mission

Our mission is to educate and empower students to reach their potential.

School Counseling Mission

The mission of the CMCSS School Counseling program is to provide the academic, emotional, and career support that will allow our students to reach their potential.

Vision

Our vision is that each student is a successful and productive citizen in our ever-changing society. Students will have the necessary skills to reach their highest potential and make a difference in their local community and the global community.

Beliefs

All students are individuals with unique qualities that should be celebrated and developed.
All students can be successful if given the correct support and resources.
All students have the right to a safe, nurturing environment that supports their needs.
All students have the ability to achieve success.
All counselors will advocate for every student.
All counselors will follow the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors

School Counseling Office Services

Each high school has professional school counselors who provide the following services:

- Individual and group counseling to help students with educational planning, social development, and school or personal concerns
- Information on colleges, careers, scholarships, and financial aid opportunities
- Registration, orientation, and placement of students
- Career and vocational counseling
- Assistance to students, parents, teachers, and agencies concerning students and programs
- Provide information about community agencies and programs
- Additional community services may be provided at some schools (i.e. - Centerstone, Military Family Life Consultants, AdviseTN College Advisors, and Behavior Intervention Specialists)

TENNESSEE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to complete a minimum of 22 specified credits.

The state of Tennessee allows four years and a summer for students to complete their high school graduation requirements.

Core Course Requirements

Courses	Credits	Minimum Requirements
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •English I •English II •English III •English IV •CMCSS students are required to be enrolled in an English course each year of high school.
Math	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II •At least one additional math course beyond Algebra II •Tennessee students are required to be enrolled in a math course each year of high school.
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Biology •Chemistry or Physics •One additional lab science credit
Social Studies	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •World History and Geography •US History and Geography •Economics (.5 credit) •US Government and Civics (.5 credit) •Personal Finance (.5 credit)
Wellness/PE	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Lifetime Wellness •Physical Education (May substitute 66 hours of documented participation in a CMCSS school-sponsored, after-school physical activity for this requirement.)

Additional Requirements

Courses	Credits	Minimum Requirements
Foreign Language	2	2 years of the same language
Fine Art	1	From Art, Music, or Theater selections
Focused Electives	3	From CMCSS approved list – See Chart in section 2

Assessments	Requirement
ACT	Completion by graduation
Citizenship Test	Must pass, completed in US Government & Civics or JROTC II

NOTES:

Credited core courses taken prior to 9th grade will count toward graduation requirements and the grade will be included in the cumulative GPA. Only courses that are approved for audit prior to the beginning of class are not included.

Career Focused Curriculum

The **Fine Art and Foreign Language Requirements** may be waived for students who are sure they are not attending a four year university immediately after graduation. These credits will be replaced with 3 additional career focused courses (6 total) to prepare the student for his/her career choice. Parents and students will meet with the counselor to develop and sign the career focused curriculum waiver **before** those requirements will be waived.

JROTC Course Substitutions (for students not choosing JROTC as their Focused Elective Group)

JROTC (2 years) = Lifetime Wellness (1 credit) and PE (.5 credit)

JROTC (3 years) = US Government and Civics (.5 credit) and Personal Finance (.5 credit)

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Final School Examinations

Examinations shall be administered at the end of each semester and shall be required of all students with one exception: A student will be exempt from a second semester course examination provided the student has a 93% or higher for each 9 week grading period during the second semester and the course is a full year class. NO students completing the second semester of a course for new credit will be exempt from state end-of-course exams. All students enrolled in a one-semester course must take a final examination. Exams will be administered on scheduled days only. NO early exams will be given. Please note that in compliance with the Military Interstate Compact, military families who have current PCS orders that conflict with the exam schedule may request an exception from the principal. Valid military orders must be presented.

TN Ready Examinations

TN Ready (EOC) examinations are currently administered in English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, U.S. History, and Biology. Further, the results of these examinations will be factored into the student's second semester grade at 15% as determined by the State Board of Education in accordance with T.C.A. 49-1-302 (2).

The student is not required to pass any single examination, but instead the student would need to achieve a passing score for the final course average in accordance with the State Board of Education's uniform grading policy.

Course without a TN Ready exam:

- Count each 9-week grade 40% and the school exam 20%
- When student is exempt from 2nd semester exam, count each 9-week grade 50%. Students are exempt if they earned an A for N3 and an A for N4 in a year long course.

Course with a state TN Ready exam:

- 1st semester - each 9-week grade 40% and the school exam 20%
- 2nd semester - each 9 week grade 35%, TN Ready exam 15%, the school exam 15%
- When student is exempt from 2nd semester exam, count each 9 weeks 42.5% and TN Ready exam 15%

ACT College and Workforce Readiness Benchmarks

ACT Benchmarks are the minimum scores that indicate college and workforce readiness. Students meeting these minimum scores have a 50 percent chance of earning a B or better and a 75 percent chance of earning a C or better in the corresponding entry-level college course. Research also indicates that students meeting or exceeding the benchmarks are better prepared for success in the workforce. Students are encouraged to complete a **strong academic program** that will enable them to meet or exceed the ACT benchmark scores. While all students may not enter post-secondary education immediately following high school, they must be prepared for post-secondary training and lifelong learning.

ACT READINESS BENCHMARK SCORES

Subject Test	Score
English	18
Mathematics	22
Reading	22
Science	23

NOTES:

Students are required to meet all of the ACT readiness benchmark scores to graduate with an Honors or Highest Honors diploma, per state policy. ACT may periodically adjust benchmark scores to reflect changes in college and career readiness requirements.

Citizenship Assessment

All high school students are required to complete and pass the United States civics test per T.C.A. § 49-6-408. A student shall pass the test if the student correctly answers at least seventy percent (70%) of the questions.

DIPLOMA TYPES

Regular – Students who earn the specified 22 units of credit, assessment requirements, and have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct will receive a regular diploma.

Honors – All requirements for a Regular Diploma must be fulfilled plus an 85% cumulative percent average with no semester grade lower than a 75% and score at or above **ALL** of the subject area readiness benchmarks on the ACT or equivalent score on the SAT. (SAT score requirements are 1070 total with Evidence-Based Reading and Writing subtest minimum of 480 and Math subtest minimum of 530. Students cannot mix and match college placement scores. They must use one test or the other to meet all benchmarks.)

Highest Honors – All requirements for an Honors Diploma must be fulfilled plus a 90% cumulative percent average with no semester grade lower than a 75 and complete the courses below:

- Four English to include honors, dual enrollment or Advanced Placement levels in 10th, 11th, and 12th.
- One of the math credits must be earned in a course above the Algebra II/Geometry level. This does not include Bridge Mathematics
- Three high school science courses to include Biology I and two of the following: Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy & Physiology, or any AP Science course.
- Two years of the same foreign language
- Two Advanced Placement classes* (one must be from core - English, math, science, social studies)

*A technical licensing course that meets honors criteria may substitute for a non-core AP course.

NOTE: For the purposes of senior ranking and diploma types for Honors or Highest Honors qualified students, ACT benchmark scores must be received by the school prior to the end of Semester 1 for the ranking process and prior to the final day of regularly scheduled classes for the final diploma type. Students should plan accordingly to take the ACT well in advance so the school receives scores in a timely manner.

Special Education Diploma – After the 4th year of high school students with an individual education plan (IEP) who have met the requirements of their IEP but have not completed the specified 22 credits required to earn a regular diploma will receive a special education diploma.

Occupational Diploma – Students with an individual education plan (IEP) who have met the requirements of the SKEMA (Skills, Knowledge, and Experience Mastery Assessment), completed the English, Biology and Algebra alternate assessments and completed 2 years of work experience will earn an occupational diploma.

Alternate Assessment Diploma – Students with an individual education plan (IEP) who have completed the required 22 credits, the high school alternate assessments, and a transition assessment will earn an alternate assessment diploma.

STATE HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

Ready Graduate

As proposed in Tennessee's ESSA plan, the Ready Graduate indicator is calculated as follows:

- Graduation rate multiplied by the percentage of students who meet at least one of the following criteria
 - earn a composite score of 21 or higher on the ACT; OR
 - complete four early postsecondary opportunities (EPSOs); OR
 - complete two EPSOs *plus* earn an industry certification; OR
 - complete two EPSOs *plus* earn a score of military readiness on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT)

Graduating with Distinction

CMCSS students may apply for graduation with distinction. Students earning diplomas will be recognized on the graduation program as graduating with distinction by attaining an 85% cumulative average and completing at least one of the following:

- Earn a nationally recognized industry certification
- Participate in at least one of the Governor's Schools
- Participate in one of the state's All State musical organizations
- Be selected as a National Merit Finalist or Semi-Finalist
- Attain a score of 31 or higher composite score on the ACT
- Attain a score of 3 or higher on at least two Advanced Placement exams (Students who have taken a minimum of 2 AP courses but who have not received final scores yet will be indicated as "pending.")
- Earn 12 or more semester hours of transcribed postsecondary credit

Volunteer Recognition Policy

Students completing 10 hours of volunteer service each semester beginning in 9th grade will be recognized at graduation by receiving a pin for their service. The hours must be compiled and turned into the school counseling office each semester of high school.

<https://portal.cmcss.net/iso.aspx?doc=INS-A078.pdf>

GRADING SCALE AND CREDIT POLICIES

CMCSS adheres to the State's Uniform grading policy as per State Board of Education.

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/policies/3000/3.301%20Uniform%20Grading%20Policy%209-21-18.pdf>

Tennessee Uniform Grading Scale

Letter	Percent	Points
A	93-100	4
B	85-92	3
C	75-84	2
D	70-74	1
F	69 and below	0

Transfer Grade Conversion

It is the intent of the district to attain the numerical grade from a transfer school or post secondary institution. When the numerical grade is not provided, the following scale will be used to convert the letter grade that is provided:

A+ = 98 B+ = 91 C+ = 83 D+ = 74 F = 65
A = 95 B = 88 C = 80 D = 72
A- = 93 B- = 85 C- = 76 D- = 70

NOTES:

In order to receive credit for a course, a student must receive a minimum grade of 70.

Transfer percentage grades from out-of-district schools will be converted to the Tennessee Uniform Grading Scale for grade points as listed above.

All grades earned for high school credit are a permanent part of the high school transcript. Grades are never removed from transcripts. For purposes of the HOPE Scholarship Eligibility Grade Point Average, a student may repeat any failed course, and the failing grade for the first attempt will be exempt in the HOPE Scholarship Eligibility Grade Point Average calculation. The credit can be made up by retaking the class in the daily schedule, completing the course in summer school or completing the course in credit recovery.

<https://portal.cmcss.net/iso.aspx?doc=INS-P035.PDF>

Credits earned in Credit Recovery, Virtual High School (VHS), or Summer School

Credit Recovery, VHS, or Summer School courses are designed to assist credit deficient students at risk of not graduating in their four years of eligibility in high school. VHS participation is determined by school level administration. Honors and AP courses are **not** available in remedial programs. Students working toward a Highest Honors diploma should plan accordingly. Credits earned in these remedial programs are not recognized for NCAA eligibility.

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

Students are promoted at the end of each school year based on the following:

- One year attendance and 5 credits earned – classified as 10th grade
- Two years attendance and 10 credits earned – classified as 11th grade
- Three years attendance and 15 credits earned – classified as 12th grade
- Four years attendance and 22 required credits earned – classified as a graduate

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

High School Eligibility – Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association (TSSAA) <http://tssaa.org/>

To be eligible to participate in high school athletics during any school year, the student must earn **five** credits the preceding school year. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year. Credits completed after school begins do **NOT** count toward that year's eligibility. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the number of credits required at the school the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year. Students that are ineligible at the beginning of first semester may become eligible on the first day of the second semester if a minimum of **five** credits is earned during first semester. Please visit their website for guidelines.

College Eligibility - National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) www.eligibilitycenter.org

In order to practice and participate in intercollegiate athletic competition and/or receive an athletic scholarship the first year of college attendance, all athletes must be cleared through the NCAA. NCAA, not high school coaches, athletic directors, or counselors, determines a student's eligibility for college sports. Please note:

- The list of NCAA approved courses for each high school may be found on the NCAA website.
- Students must have their ACT or SAT scores sent directly from ACT/SAT to the NCAA. Use code 9999 when registering.
- Credits earned in an online setting may **NOT** be recognized by NCAA for eligibility. Future college athletes should plan to earn all credits in a regular classroom setting.

SPECIAL TRANSFER APPLICATIONS

Several CTE programs are offered only at specific schools. Students may request to attend another high school if their desired Program of Study (POS) is not offered in the zoned school. The student/parent must complete a *Special Transfer Application* to be considered. Special Transfer Applications may be obtained in the spring from the CMCSS Student Services Office, 430 Greenwood Avenue, and (931) 542-5065. These forms must be turned in to the Office of Student Services between March 1 and April 30. Students granted a special transfer will be assigned to the new school and are responsible for providing their own transportation. In the event a program is full, the students zoned for the school where that program is offered will be given priority. Students whose Special Transfer Applications are approved are expected to maintain acceptable attendance, discipline, and academic progress. Special transfer approvals can be revoked for failing to maintain these expectations. **Additionally, students with an athletic record that transfer schools but do not have a change in their physical address are not eligible to play TSSAA sports for 12 months. For more details visit <http://tssaa.org/>.**

WEIGHTING AP, HONORS, AND COLLEGE COURSES

Weighting for Advanced Placement Courses

Five percentage points will be added to nine weeks grades (70 or above) in AP courses in which students complete the AP assessment and which follow the national AP guidelines.

Weighting for Honors Courses and National Industry Certification

Three percentage points will be added to nine weeks and semester exam grades (70 or above) in honors courses and national industry certification preparation classes that extend the state-mandated curriculum with rigor and meet five of the nine state recommended components of honors classes.

Weighting for Dual Enrollment and State Dual Credit Courses

Four percentage points will be added to nine weeks and semester exam grades (70 or above) in Post Secondary Dual Enrollment and State Sponsored Dual Credit courses in which the student takes the State Dual Credit Challenge Exam.

CLASS RANKING

Class rank is based on the student's cumulative percent average. In the interest of encouraging and recognizing outstanding academic achievement, ranking is based on the type of diploma earned with highest honors ranked first, honors second, and regular third. Class ranking is determined in January of the student's 12th grade year. This will be the student's official and final class rank.

Selection of Valedictorian

The selection of valedictorian shall be according to the following procedure:

1. The valedictorian shall be selected from the Highest Honors program and shall have the highest cumulative percent average. The numerical average shall be calculated at the end of the 1st semester of 12th grade. In case of a tie for valedictorian, co-valedictorians will be honored.
2. To be eligible for valedictorian, a student must transfer from an accredited school and be enrolled in CMCSS prior to and continuously following the tenth day of the student's senior year.

GRADUATION PARTICIPATION

Students must meet **ALL** graduation requirements and be in good standing to participate in the graduation ceremony. Participation is not mandatory. Only CMCSS graduates may participate.

EARLY POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

Early Postsecondary Opportunities (EPSOs) provide students with the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school, develop the confidence and skills necessary for success in postsecondary, make informed postsecondary and career decisions, and decrease the time and cost of completing a certificate or degree. CMCSS opportunities include: Advanced Placement, joint or dual enrollment, capstone industry certifications, and statewide dual credit. Each high school offers a variety of opportunities. Juniors and Seniors who meet the college admissions requirements have the opportunity to begin post-secondary education. Please note that a three credit hour course of college is equal to one semester of high school credit.

CMCSS CAREER ACADEMIES

CMCSS offers Career Academies at each CMCSS high school. After careful study of student interests as well as local, regional, and national job trends, the following Academies were developed:

Clarksville High – Academy of Business and Finance

Kenwood High – STEM Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

Montgomery Central High – Academy of Plant and Animal Systems

Northeast High – Academy of Computer and Information Technology

Northwest High – Academy of Health Science

Rossvie High – Academy of Media Arts and Technology

West Creek High – Academy of Criminal Justice and Homeland Security and Academy of Teaching and Learning

In the spring, as part of the high school registration process, CMCSS 8th graders will have the opportunity to apply for enrollment in one of the above Academies. If a student is enrolled in an Academy, the student will be on the roster of the Academy school and will be enrolled at that school through all 4 years of high school. Students will be able to participate in all activities at that high school to include band, JROTC, athletics, clubs, etc. Students enrolled in an Academy will enjoy the advantage of curriculum integration between the academy focus and their academic courses making this small learning community an excellent educational opportunity. Students transferring before completing the semester are at risk of losing credits earned at the Academy that may not be available at the zoned school. <https://www.cmcss.net/academies/>

CMCSS EARLY TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY (TCAT)

The CMCSS Early Technical College at TCAT offers junior and senior high school students a more independent learning environment in which students can earn credits toward industry certifications or TCAT diplomas while simultaneously completing credits toward their high school diploma. Students will spend their entire school day on the TCAT campus, taking HS classes through an online platform and TCAT classes in hands-on labs. The TCAT offers a variety of programs and serves as the premier supplier of workforce development throughout the State of Tennessee. Potential students will complete an application in the winter of their 10th or 11th grade year. For more details about the programs offered to CMCSS students at TCAT, visit <https://www.cmcss.net/tcat/>

CMCSS PATHWAYS AT NASHVILLE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (NSCC)

CMCSS Pathways at NSCC provide opportunities for juniors and seniors in high school to earn certifications not currently offered in traditional CMCSS high schools. Students attend core classes at their zoned high school in the morning, and then attend pathway classes on the campus of NSCC in the afternoon. NSCC offers a variety of programs that prepare students to go right to work or transfer credits to other universities after graduation. Potential students will complete an application in the winter of their 10th grade year. For more details about the pathways offered to CMCSS students at NSCC, visit <https://www.cmcss.net/nscc/>

MIDDLE COLLEGE AT AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY (APSU)

The CMCSS Middle College at APSU enables junior and senior high school students the option to obtain a high school education while concurrently receiving direct and invaluable access to college courses on the campus of APSU. Students who attend the Middle College may have the option to complete either the transitional Middle College pathway or the associate degree pathway. Potential students will complete an application in the winter of their 10th grade year. For more details about the pathways offered to CMCSS students at APSU, visit <https://middlecollege.cmcss.net/>

TENNESSEE EDUCATION LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HOPE

Currently, the HOPE scholarship requires either a minimum 21 composite ACT (980 SAT math and critical reasoning score) or 3.0 final cumulative GPA. Information regarding additional scholarships available through the lottery scholarship program is available at www.tn.gov/collegepays. Please visit the Tennessee state website for the most current information concerning the available scholarships and requirements.

Tennessee Promise

Tennessee Promise is both a scholarship and mentoring program focused on increasing the number of students that pursue post secondary education in our state. Students must apply online by the November 1st deadline of their senior year and meet the other TN Promise requirements. Full information including a list of eligible institutions is available at www.TNPromise.gov.

COURSE INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

Registration takes place each spring and the school's master schedule is built to fulfill all student requests. Please ensure that you complete your registration form thoroughly and thoughtfully.

Only schedule corrections to fix errors will be honored after registration is complete.

High School Course Descriptions

Part two of the catalog provides the course descriptions for courses available at your school. Some of the courses listed are honors, dual enrollment and AP courses. Please refer to the information below for details about how these courses differ from the regular course counterpart.

Honors Courses

Honors courses in English, math, science, and social studies are available in each high school. Individual schools determine enrollment in honors courses. Honors course descriptions are listed within the content areas in this document. Each student with a passing average at the end of the nine weeks will be awarded a three percentage point increase in the nine weeks and semester exam for that honors course.

Dual Enrollment

CMCSS allows juniors and seniors to enroll in college classes with state institutions governed by the University of Tennessee or Tennessee Board of Regents. Private and non-Tennessee institutions will be approved on a case-by-case basis. Students are responsible for dual enrollment tuition. Dual enrollment students can apply for the TN Dual Enrollment Grant for help with the cost of tuition. <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs/dual-enrollment-grant.html>.

Local Dual Credit

Local dual credit is a high school course aligned to a local postsecondary institution's course and exam. Students who pass the exam earn credits that are accepted and/or recognized by the local postsecondary institution. Courses are taught by licensed high school teachers or certified college instructors approved by the school system and NSCC. https://s3.amazonaws.com/nscc.edu/PDFs/admissions/Dual-Credit_Application.pdf

State Dual Credit

Statewide dual credit classes are college-level courses taught at the high-school level by trained high-school teachers. Course learning objectives are developed by Tennessee high school and college faculty in order to ensure alignment with post-secondary standards. All students enrolled in a statewide dual credit course take the online challenge exam, which is used to assess mastery of the postsecondary-level learning objectives. Students which meet or exceed the exam 'cut score' receive college credit that can be applied to any Tennessee public postsecondary institution. Exam scores are reported on the high school transcript to ensure postsecondary credit is accurately awarded but are not used in any state accountability measures.

Advanced Placement [AP] Courses

Individual schools determine enrollment in AP courses. Students entering the AP program must be highly motivated, committed to the course, and understand the higher level of expectations. AP Exams are a required part of the AP experience, enabling students to demonstrate their mastery of college-level course work. Individual colleges determine if course credit is granted for the AP exam score. Each student with a passing average at the end of each nine weeks will be awarded a five percentage point increase for the quarter for that AP course when the student takes the required culminating exam per state policy.

As an incentive for CMCSS students, those earning a score of 3 or above on a scale of 1 – 5 will be reimbursed the amount they paid for their test. Reimbursements should be received no later than **November 1** of the following school year. NOTE: AP Exams are administered in May according to a national schedule established by the College Board. CMCSS reimburses students who earn a score of 3 or higher on any AP exam if they are in the class or if the class is not offered or available. Additional information concerning the national Advanced Placement program including the assessment cost may be found at www.collegeboard.org.