



QUEST  
ENRICHMENT  
CENTER

# EMPHASIS IN COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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*Appropriate for:*

Students interested in personal and interpersonal skills and in building strong and sustainable relationships. The emphasis is on human behavior, human relations, and communication. Interested students may be entering fields such as counseling, business, education, and social work.

**UPDATED**

EDITION





# EMPHASIS & HONORS OVERVIEW

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Graduating with an Emphasis Cord shows a dedication to a specific subject matter; receiving an Honors Medallion shows application and experience of the gained knowledge. Both can open doors to opportunities with employers and universities! Customizable options are available upon request.

## APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Plan high school classes with criteria of desired cord.
2. Document completed coursework on Quest's online application form, ([click here](#)), then save progress to be updated year after year. Planning and documentation can begin anytime during high school, but students are encouraged to begin in their freshman year.
3. Once a student has documented and included all necessary information, the form is to be submitted by the announced deadline to be reviewed.

## GENERAL CRITERIA:

- Students must maintain a 3.5 GPA in classes qualifying for the particular emphasis cord.
- Students must maintain a 3.5 GPA overall in all high school classes for the honors medallion.
- The student must display honorable character and a clean disciplinary record.

*Application does not guarantee that the student will receive the cord, but students are likely to be eligible for multiple cords and may apply for up to three. This number does not include any Social Cords they may receive for Honor Society, Student Council, or the Community Connection Chord.*



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION CORD REQUIREMENTS

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## COURSE REQUIREMENT

- Completion of one class in each of the four categories through all 4 years of high school
- Two must be honors classes or dual credit courses. **IMPORTANT:** Quest offers Honors Contracts to elevate any high school course to an honors class.
- **OPTIONAL:** Complete an AP exam with a 4 or 5 (before senior year) in substitution for one of the 4 classes.

### HUMAN BEHAVIOR

- Psychology
- Humanities

### PERSONAL

### COMMUNICATION

- High School Composition
- High School Writing Fiction

### PROFESSIONAL

### COMMUNICATION

- Journalism
- Speech & Debate
- Clear Communications
- Public Speaking

### ELECTIVES

- Discipleship/ Apologetics
- Proverbs

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## CREDIBILITY REQUIREMENT

- Provide a transcript & Schoology grade report (instructions to download this are on the form).
- If coursework has been done outside of Quest, provide proof for class completion/grades (report card, scores email, teacher's signature).

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## ONE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT (CHOOSE 1)

- Serve as a TA in two middle school or high school courses for an entire year in each class.
- **OR** Serve on campus club (Student Council, Honor Society) for two years.
- **OR** Contribute 60 hours towards any of Quest's on or off campus events over the course of high school, with a signature from an advisor.
- **OR** Shadow Quest's Student Life Coordinator or another professional in community work for two days, helping in areas that are needed and writing a summary of experience.





# HONORS MEDALLION REQUIREMENTS

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Honors Medallions are earned through practical application and experience. **Customizable options are available for students who need accommodations.**

## ELIGIBILITY

- Students must be pursuing the Community Connection emphasis cord and must maintain a 3.5 GPA average in high school.
- Unlike the emphasis cord, a medallion requires prior approval of the student's plan for this honor. Approval must be received prior to starting any apprenticeship, internship, practicum, or senior project.
- Students must complete the approved plan before graduation.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Choose a minimum of 2 medallion options below and enter them in the online form ([click here](#)) to be approved.
2. After receiving approval, document your progress on the emphasis cord application form.

## MEDALLION OPTIONS (MINIMUM OF 2)

- Completion of a semester long (30 hours) apprenticeship with Community Specialist or Security Team in area of greatest interest. Letter of recommendation from mentor required upon completion.
- Completion of a semester long (30 hours) apprenticeship including one major event with Quest Events Coordinator in area of greatest interest. Letter of recommendation from mentor required upon completion.
- Successful completion of at least 30 hours of tutoring in language arts or communications.
- Completion of apprenticeship of 30 hours with outside business or corporation. Letter of recommendation from mentor required upon completion.
- Participation on Student Council, Student Ambassador Team, or Senior Ambassador Leadership Team for a minimum of one year during high school term.
- Submission of a creative solution for community issue.
- Submission of a creative and viable idea to promote community in the Quest organization.

*The options listed are not all inclusive. If you wish to apply yourself in other ways, include those when you submit your proposed plan.*



## Q WHERE AND WHEN DO I BEGIN?

A Begin preparation *before your freshman year* or as early as possible. Your first step is to make an Aspire appointment, then to read all instructions on [the online form](#).

## Q I HAVE BEGUN LATE IN THE GAME. HOW SHOULD I PROCEED?

A Set up an [Aspire appointment](#) to see what cords you qualify for or should work towards. Then, begin documenting all your current high school progress on [the online form](#) and receive feedback by submitting for review.

## Q WHERE CAN I FIND COURSES TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS?

A Quest courses or private lessons are the best way to fulfill this academic journey! Other programs may also apply, such as: [JTED](#), [Pima College](#), [Coursera](#), [edX](#), [Modern States](#), [KHAN Academy](#). Some free online courses include: UPENN: *Improving Communication Skills*, *Social Psychology*, Yale: *Introduction to Negotiation*.

## Q HOW DO I DOCUMENT WORK COMPLETED OUTSIDE QUEST?

A Since outside programs offer courses that could qualify towards emphasis cords or medallions, students can ask for approval for outside classes by describing and submitting their past or current progress for review on [the online form](#). Credibility of scores must be provided in some way; this may be a report card, proof of completion email, or signature from teacher or advisor.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q HOW DO THESE ACALADES APPLY TO MY FUTURE?**

**A** Emphasis Cords and Medallions are helpful in applying for scholarships and getting into honors collages and groups. They also help you to excel in particular fields.

**Q I NEED THESE HONORS BEFORE I APPLY TO COLLEGE AS A JUNIOR!**

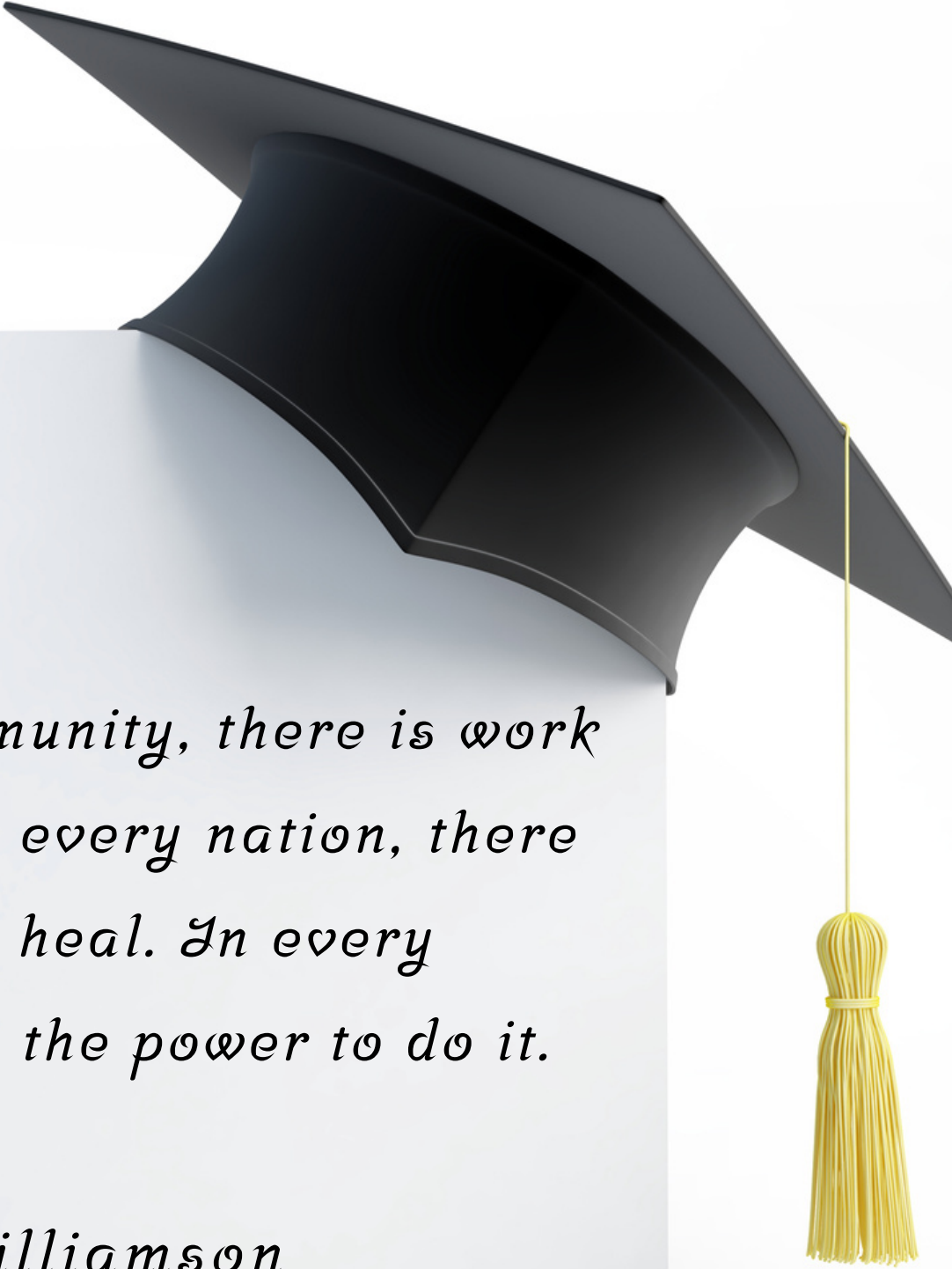
**A** If you are applying to collages in your junior year and want these honors on your transcript before graduation, please work with our Student & Parent Life Coordinator. Coursework can be completed and reviewed anytime during your high school year.

**Q WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT CUSTOMIZABLE OPTIONS?**

**A** Set up an advising meeting with our Student & Parent Life Coordinator. She will walk you through options we offer all our students and the best path to your individual success.

**Q WHAT ARE HONORS CONTRACTS AND HOW DO I GET AND USE ONE?**

**A** Individual Honors Contracts are available to all students to elevate any of Quest's high school courses to an honors class. Emphasis Cords require two honors (or dual credit) courses to be completed. Honors Contracts allow students to meet these requirements if a class is not already listed as AP/honors.

A black graduation cap with a gold tassel is positioned on the right side of the page. The cap is tilted, and the tassel hangs down. The background is a light gray gradient.

*In every community, there is work  
to be done. In every nation, there  
are wounds to heal. In every  
heart, there is the power to do it.*

—

*Marianne Williamson*