



QUEST  
ENRICHMENT  
CENTER

# EMPHASIS IN DRAMA

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**Appropriate for:**

Students who desire to pursue a career in acting, directing, producing, writing, stage managing, set design, teaching, and more.

**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.

## 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.*



# DRAMA CORD REQUIREMENTS

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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS (1)

- Completion of four years in Quest's drama classes **OR** completion of 12 credits in drama.
- Successful preparation of a professional actor's portfolio, reviewed by drama teacher.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTORS PORTFOLIO

- Include the following items in the order below:
  - Headshot: Black & White 8X10 photograph, or 8X10 Color photograph, printed on high quality photo paper
  - Resume: A professionally typed resume in the correct format for Actors that does not exceed one page.
  - Reflection Essay: a typed essay which includes reflection on your journey as an actor or actress in high school. This paper should address the following:
    - How you got started in acting.
    - How you've grown from your beginning to this point in your career.
    - Who and what has impacted your growth as an actor? List roles or experiences and friends, directors, teachers who have guided you. Be detailed with your explanations.
    - How will you use your acting experiences and knowledge after you leave QUEST.
    - What advice you have for future students who choose to pursue Honors in Theatre.



# DRAMA CORD REQUIREMENTS

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2

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS (2)

- Completion of one supplemental performance arts class for a total of one year.

### PERFORMANCE ARTS

- Improv
- Speech
- Interactive Shakespeare
- Vocal Lessons
- Chorale
- Dance Theater
- Music Theater

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## CREDIBILITY REQUIREMENT

- Demonstrate good standing in theater department ie; respectful, focused, good attitude, dedicated, helpful, and a team player with a signature from a theater instructor.
- 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)

- Participate in 4 auditioned productions with at least one consisting of a monologue.
- **OR** Audition for at least 1 production outside of Quest during high school.
- **OR** Serve as a TA in a middle or high school performance course for an entire year.

# 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 drama emphasis cord and must maintain a 3.5 GPA average.
- 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)

- Excelling students who serve as student instructors for drama production or classes prior to graduation. Must complete a designated number of hours of instruction as predetermined by the student and instructor.
- Students who are in charge of and help construct sets or scripts for a drama production.
- Serve as a drama club president for one or more years.
- Complete a semester long apprenticeship with a drama or performance related organization. Letter of recommendation from mentor required upon completion.
- Successful completion of at least 30 hours of one-on-one drama coaching.
- Participation in State Competitions, or other higher-level competition during high school term.
- Organization and execution of drama related community event as an outreach project for the surrounding community.

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: *LMU: Theatre and Globalization* or *FedericaX: Theatre and set design*.

## 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 ACCOLADES APPLY TO MY FUTURE?**

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

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

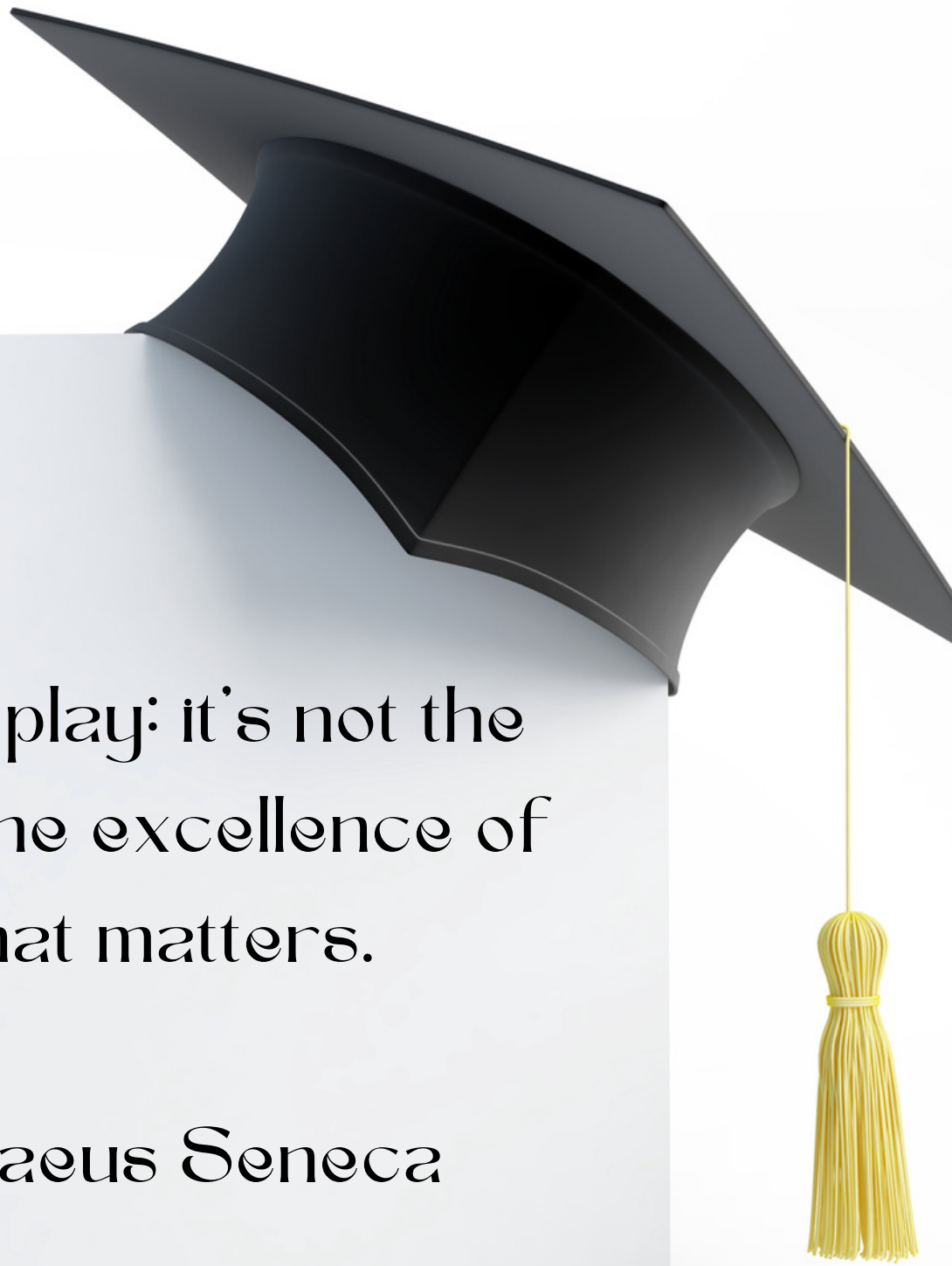
**A** If you are applying to colleges in your junior year and want these honors on your transcript before graduation, please work with our Student & Parent Life Coordinator. Coursework can be completed and reviewed anytime during your high school year.

## **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.



Life's like a play: it's not the length, but the excellence of the acting that matters.

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Lucius Annaeus Seneca