



QUEST  
ENRICHMENT  
CENTER



# EMPHASIS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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## Appropriate for:

Students pursuing a career in the area or fields of language or in fields where a second language is necessary, including interpreting, teaching, politics, business, and ministry.

**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.*



# FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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## COURSE REQUIREMENT

- Completion of 4 years of a single foreign language during high school.
- **OPTIONAL:** Complete an AP exam with a 4 or 5 (before senior year) in substitution for one of the 4 classes.
- **OR** Completion of 3 years of a single foreign language with 1 additional year of Latin.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGES

- Chinese/Mandarin I
- Mandarin Advances
- Spanish I
- Spanish II
- ASL (Sign Language)
- Latin
- German
- French
- Japanese

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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)

- Interview two different interpreters. Compile a paper discussing the job's pros and cons. (What problems have they faced? Career longevity?).
- Interview a student who is deaf or speaks a second language. Compile a paper discussing their story, challenges, and successes.
- Complete an interview conducted by the advisor/teacher in the target language.
- Attend an event in your target language and write a reflection paper about it.
- Travel to the country of your target language and complete a detailed scrapbook/photo album of what you saw and learned about the culture.
- Serve as a TA in a middle or high school foreign language course for an entire year



# HONORS MEDALLION REQUIREMENTS

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

## ELIGIBILITY

- Students must be pursuing the foreign language 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 and submit on this 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 30 hours of tutoring in a foreign language.
- Completion of written literature or drama in Spanish.
- Five publications submitted to Quest or outside organization in your chosen language including but not limited to: blog, newsletter, yearbook, letter to the editor, and paper.
- Literature or Culture portfolio: Including an essay analyzing a foreign language literature, either poetry, drama, fiction, or non-fiction; essay speaking to culture of the chosen language; and a list of articles or books read in high school to be verified by teacher, parent, mentors, tutor, or instructor.
- Language-related service project within your community (tutoring, hosting a workshop, or poetry slam).
- Hosting a display during Quest's culture week.
- Working or volunteering with an organization in which your language skills would be the basis of your job function and learning experience for at least one semester.
- Participate in one or more events at a World Language Fair or a language competition.

*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 online free courses include: *Miracles of Human Language: An Introduction to Linguistics*, *Italian Language and Culture*.

## 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, signature from teacher or advisor, or review of content.

# 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!**

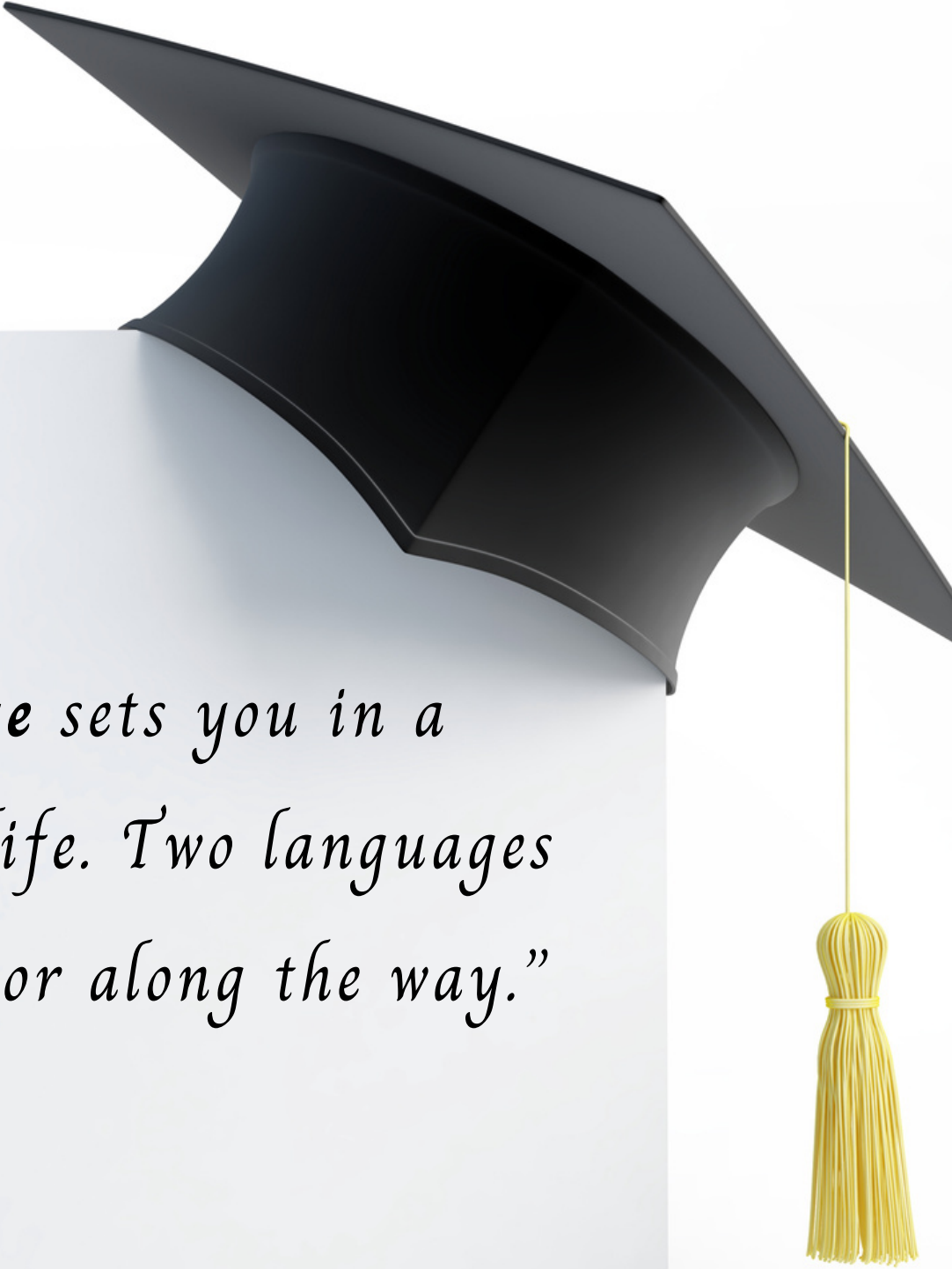
**A** If you are applying to collages in your junior year and want these honors on your transcript before graduation, please work with our Student & Parent Life Coordinator. Coursework can be completed and reviewed anytime during your high school year.

**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.



*“One language sets you in a  
corridor for life. Two languages  
open every door along the way.”*

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*Frank Smith*