



QUEST
ENRICHMENT
CENTER

EMPHASIS IN LANGUAGE ARTS


Appropriate for:

Students who desire to pursue a career as a teacher, writer/author, journalist, publisher, lawyer, therapist, translator, interpreter, librarian, administration, or other careers in which understanding prose will be of benefit.

UPDATED

EDITION





EMPHASIS & HONORS OVERVIEW

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. Customizable options are available. Both can open doors to opportunities with employers and universities!

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 any time 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.

LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1 COURSE REQUIREMENT

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

LITERATURE

- Characters in Crisis
- Heroic Journeys
- When Worlds Collide

HUMAN BEHAVIOR

- Psychology
- Humanities
- Speech

COMPOSITION

- IEW Bible-Based Writing
- Writing Fiction
- Composition I
- Composition II
- The Science of Language

ELECTIVE OF CHOICE

- Team Policy Debate
- Journalism
- Apologetics
- Foreign Language

2 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).

3 ONE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT (CHOOSE 1)

- Compile an English portfolio with 10 examples of your English-related work (poems, short stories, essays) and a short critique of each.
- **OR** Serve as Secretary in the Student Council or Honor Society, evidenced by the student's written record of meeting minutes.
- **OR** Serve as a TA in a middle or high school language arts course for an entire year. Must have experienced grading.



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 language arts 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)

- Successful completion of at least 30 hours of tutoring in language arts or literature.
- Submission of 5 publications for Quest or an outside organization, including, but not limited to, a blog post, the newsletter, the yearbook, a letter to the editor, a magazine, or a newspaper.
- completion of a literature portfolio. It must include essays analyzing at least 6 works of literature such as poetry, drama, fiction, and non-fiction; an essay comparing two different literary periods; and a list of novels read in high school to be verified by the teacher, parent, mentors, tutor, or an instructor.
- English-related service project within your community. For instance, tutoring for at least 30 hours, hosting a workshop, hosting a poetry slam, or creating a program focused on increasing literacy within a population or group.
- Working or volunteering with an organization in which your writing skills would be the basis of your job function. Students could work for a newspaper, do office work, or work for a publishing or advertising firm, for example.
- Completion of a semester-long apprenticeship with Quest or outside a business in an area of greatest interest. A letter of recommendation from a mentor is required upon completion.

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 read all instructions on [the documentation 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 which you should work towards. Then, begin documenting all your current high school progress on [the online form](#). You will receive feedback after submitting it 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 *UPENN Modern & Contemporary American Poetry and Creative Writing: The Craft of Plot*.

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](#). The credibility of your scores must be provided in some way. This may be through a report card, proof of completion email, or signature from a 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!

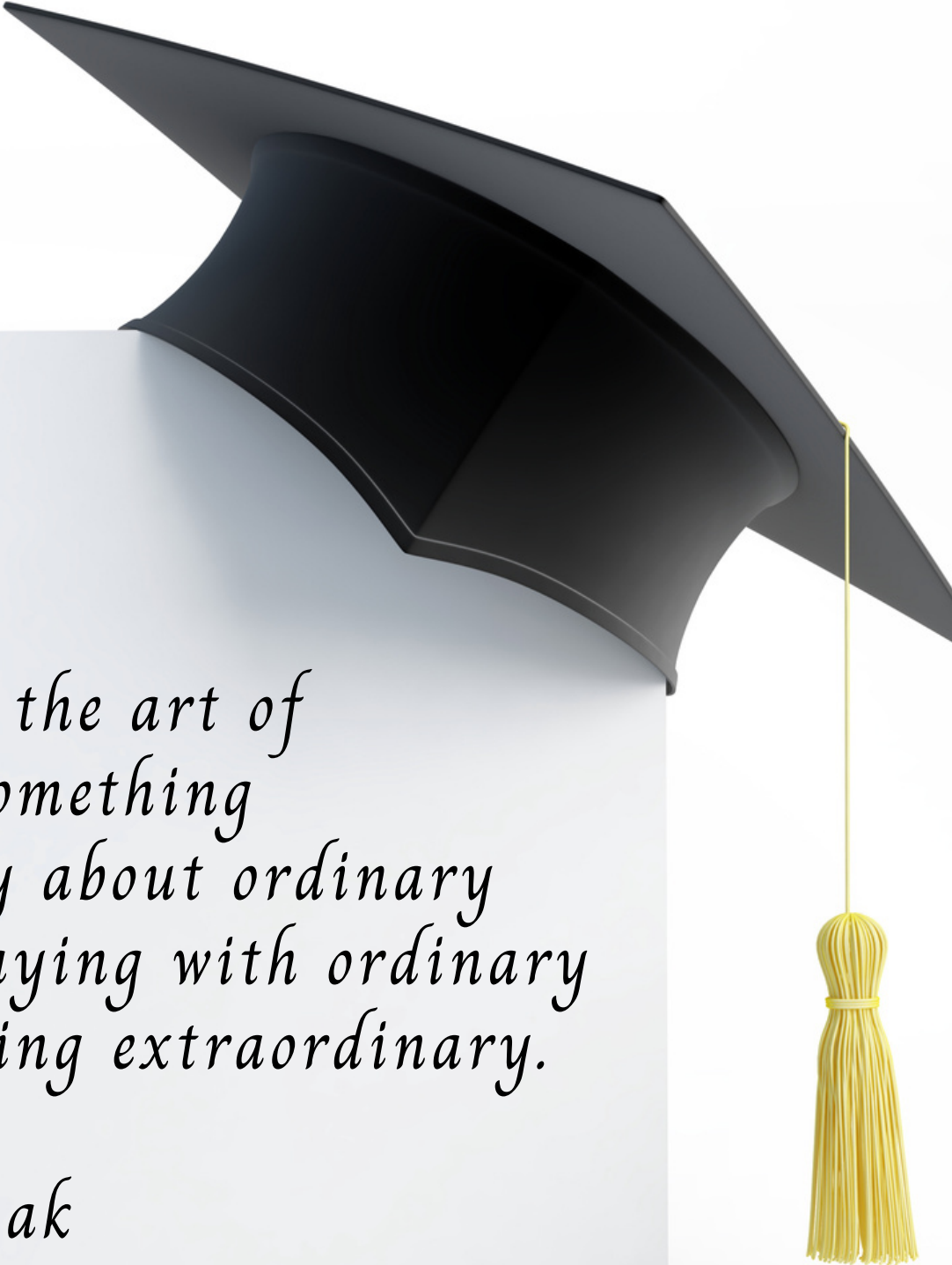
A If you are applying to collages in your junior year and want these honors on your transcript before graduation, please work with our Student & Parent Life Coordinator. Coursework can be completed and reviewed anytime during your high school year.

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.



*Literature is the art of
discovering something
extraordinary about ordinary
people, and saying with ordinary
words something extraordinary.*

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Boris Pasternak