



QUEST
ENRICHMENT
CENTER

EMPHASIS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE

Appropriate for:

Students who desire to pursue a career in politics, government, education, law, or any career in which it is important to understand human behavior and the social world.

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

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 Cord.

SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1 COURSE REQUIREMENT

- Completion of 6 social science classes through all 4 years of high school with at least one class in each of the categories listed below.
- 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 6 science classes.

POLITICAL SCIENCES

- Economics
- Civics
- Government
- Legal Studies

HUMAN BEHAVIOR

- Psychology
- Humanities
- Sociology
- Anthropology

HISTORY

- US History
- History ALIVE
- World History
- Geography
- Archaeology

ELECTIVE OF CHOICE

- History of Music
- Journalism
- Apologetics
- Foreign Language
- Criminology

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)

- One year of a campus club (student council or honor society)
- **OR** Serve as a TA in a middle or high school course relating to the social science categories, for an entire year
- **OR** Shadow Quest's Student Life Coordinator or another professional in the social science field for two days, helping in areas that are needed and writing a summary of experience.



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 social science 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 them on this online form ([click here](#)) to be approved.
2. After receiving approval, document progress on the same form used for the emphasis cords.

MEDALLION OPTIONS (MINIMUM OF 2)

- Completion of at least 30 hours of tutoring in social sciences. Records must be kept and submitted upon completion, with the signature of an advisor.
- Complete a one-year internship at Quest working closely with one of the staff in some part of social science work.
- Participation for two years in science fairs with an ongoing project specific to human or social behavior, politics, polling, psychology, or progressing at minimum to the regional level.
- Completion of a semester-long apprenticeship in the service industry related to politics, government, education, or law with a letter of recommendation from a mentor.
- Completion of a community improvement project or serving as a volunteer in a political campaign or for a political organization.
- Taking a leadership role in class including instructing other students and contributing to the curriculum under the guidance of the instructor.
- Completion of a shadowing experience in a related field.

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 your current high school progress on [the online form](#). You'll receive feedback by 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 free online courses include *JTED Public Safety, and Security; Principles of Archeology; Princeton: Global History Lab*.

Q HOW DO I DOCUMENT WORK COMPLETED OUTSIDE QUEST?

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

Frequently Asked Questions

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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!

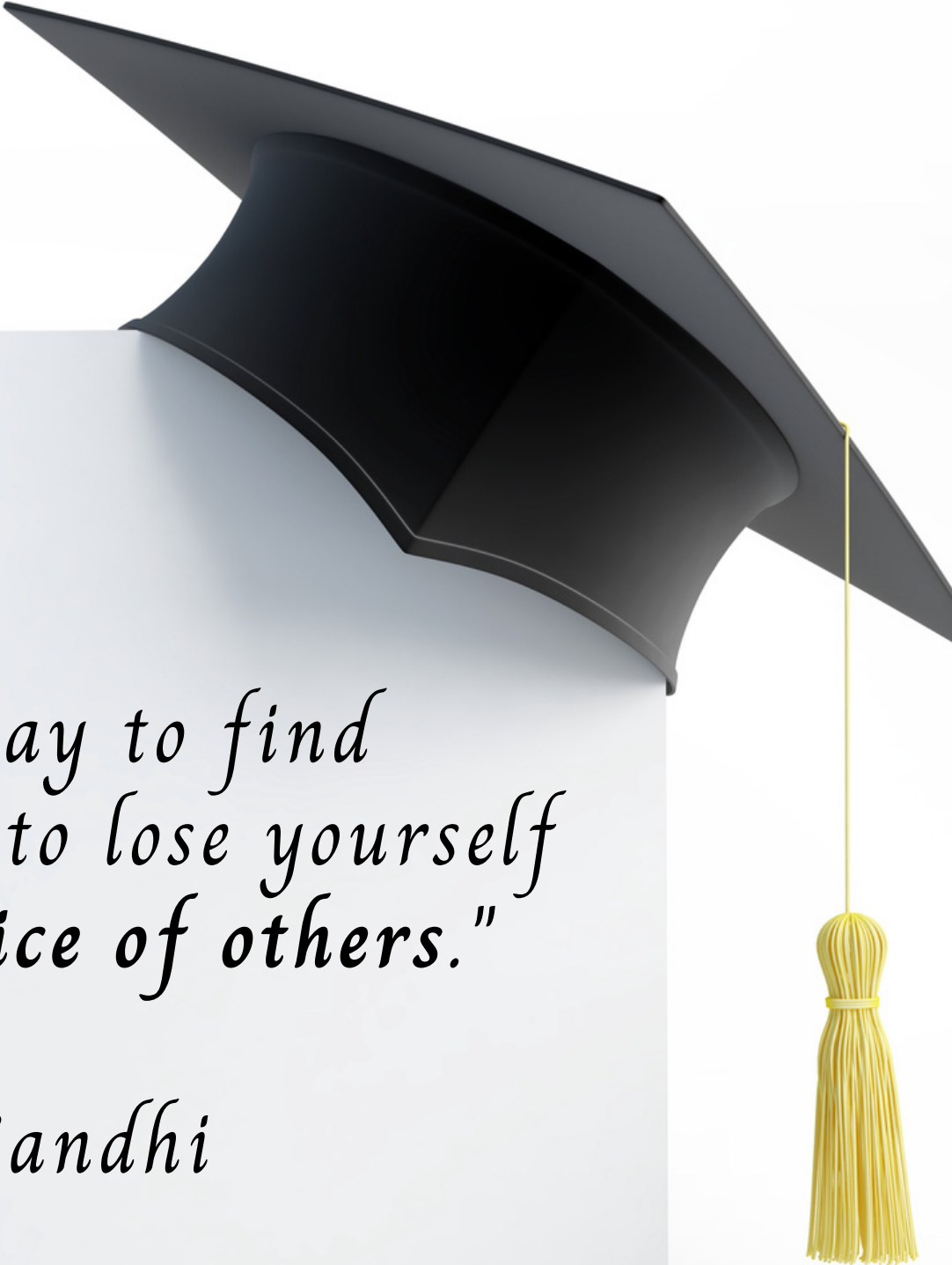
A If you are applying to collages in your junior year and want these honors on your transcript before graduation, please work with our Student & Parent Life Coordinator. Coursework can be completed and reviewed anytime during your high school year.

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.



*"The best way to find
yourself is to lose yourself
in the service of others."*

-
Mahatma Gandhi