



QUEST  
ENRICHMENT  
CENTER

# EMPHASIS IN VISUAL ARTS

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**Appropriate for:**

Students who desire to pursue a career in the arts. These areas include Professional artist, Illustrator, Photographer, Animator, Baker, Graphic designer, Decorator, Curator, Printmaker, or Art teacher.

**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 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 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.*



# VISUAL ARTS CORD REQUIREMENTS

1

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of 3 ARTcetera classes.
- Completion of 3 other art classes in the any of the categories below through the 4 years of high school.
- OPTIONAL: Complete an AP exam with a 4 or 5 (before senior year) in substitution for one of the 6 art classes.

### MIXED MEDIA

- Mosaics
- Pottery
- 3D Art
- Sculpting

### DRAWING

- Drawing 1.0
- Drawing 2.0
- True to Life Drawing
- Illuminated Art and Calligraphy

### PAINTING

- Acrylics
- Oil Painting
- Watercolor
- Medieval Painting

### ELECTIVE

- Drama costume making or set design
- Bake & Decorate (Cake Decorating)
- Sewing and Quilting

### DIGITAL ARTS/PHOTOGRAPHY

- Photoshop (webucator)
- Animate (webucator)
- Intro to Photography and Videography
- Design- Color Theory
- Graphic Design
- Advanced Digital Arts
- Advanced Phtography
- Film Making

2

## PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

- Demonstrate proficiency in at least 2 areas of visual arts categories by receiving a critique from a Quest faculty member or an outside professional artist.

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## ONE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT (CHOOSE 1)

- Serve as a TA in a middle or high school art course for an entire year.
- **OR** Creation of an art piece to be given to a charitable organization for their use or to assist them through auction.



# 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 athletic 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 as the emphasis cords.

## MEDALLION OPTIONS (MINIMUM OF 2)

- Involvement in the National Art Honor Society for 2 years.
- Receive the Arizona State Seal of Arts Proficiency of work completed. <https://www.azed.gov/artseducation/arizona-state-seal-of-arts-proficiency/>
- Production of a formal art show displaying 20 finished artworks in a variety of media that shows mastery of elements and principles of art and artist creativity once during high school. This can be displayed as a portion of the senior spotlight during the baccalaureate.
- Completion of a semester-long apprenticeship or internship in the field. Letter of recommendation from a mentor is required upon completion.
- Participate in an art competition.
- Publish a piece of art on the campus newsletter or outside publishing sites (e.g. Scholastic, LaunchPad, Teen Ink)
- Do additional charitable artwork for organizations amounting to at least 30 hours.
- Serve as a student instructor for art classes prior to graduation. Must complete a designated number of hours of instruction as predetermined by the student and instructor.
- Create an art-based lesson plans and/or give instruction for an art workshop or give a demonstration of artwork in which the student is proficient.

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

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 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 outside programs, such as Parks & Recs, JTED, and Pima College, may also apply to the requirements.

## 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!**

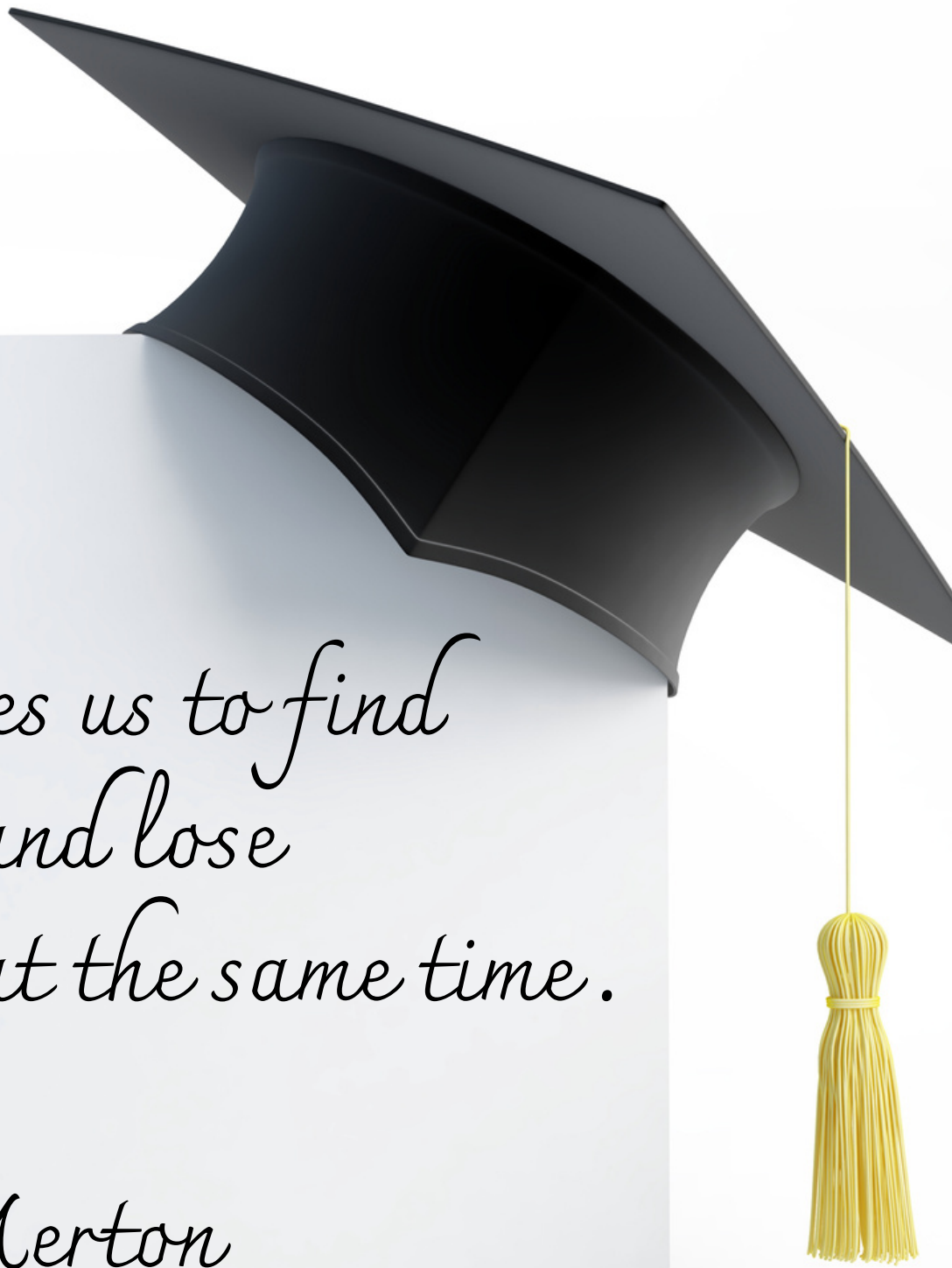
**A** If you are applying to collages in your junior year and want these honors on your transcript before graduation, please work with our Student & Parent Life Coordinator. Coursework can be completed and reviewed anytime during your high school year.

**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.



*Art enables us to find  
ourselves and lose  
ourselves at the same time.*

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*Thomas Merton*