

## FRESHMAN COURSE SELECTION SUMMARY

**NOTE:** This is an abbreviated version of the official MSHS Course Selection Guide. For further details on these topics and full course descriptions, visit [www.MSHScounselors.com](http://www.MSHScounselors.com)

### COUNSELOR/STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

Students with last names A-G: Mr. Lybarger / H-O: Mr. Floress / P-Z: Mr. Garrison

### ACADEMIC CREDIT

- One-half academic credit is issued for each semester of an academic course when the semester grade is 'D-' or higher.
- Driver Education and Physical Education (PE) are not considered academic courses.
- Students must take at least four academic courses and Physical Education each semester. Students are encouraged to take no more than 1 study hall per semester.
- Students are not required to take PE during the semester they are initially enrolled in Health.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Twenty (20) academic credits are required for graduation from MSHS including the course requirements listed below:

- Four years of English, which must include:
  - English 1, 2 and 3
  - Speech Communication
  - One semester of an English elective
- Three years of Math
- Two years of Science, including Biology
- Two years of Social Studies, which must include:
  - One year of US History or AP US History
  - Civics and successful completion of the US and Illinois Constitution tests
  - One semester of Social Studies electives
- Consumer Education – can be met by one of the following classes:
  - Consumer Education (11 or 12)
  - Economics (12)
  - Agribusiness Management (11 or 12)
  - For graduation purposes, Consumer Education and Economics will be considered Social Studies electives.
- One semester of Health
- One year of Career Education (Agriculture, Business, Family and Consumer Science, Technology), or World Language, or Fine Arts (Art, Drama, Music).
- Physical Education, PE is required each semester except:
  - The semester a student takes Health
  - During the 11th and 12th grade for ongoing participation in an interscholastic athletic program or marching band
  - The following rules apply to PE waivers:
    - Students will be exempted at the time their activity starts and remain exempt for the entire semester
    - Failure to return to PE if the sport or band is dropped will result in an 'F' grade for each day missed, and the student could fail PE for the quarter and the semester
    - Juniors and seniors may NOT waive PE if the waiver would give the student a third study hall
    - Students who waive PE do not receive ¼ credit and need to be aware of the graduation credit requirement

## EARLY GRADUATION

Early graduates must:

- meet all state and local graduation requirements.
- have the written permission of a parent or guardian to graduate early.
- complete the early graduation form and turn it in to the guidance office.

## WORK/MILITARY SERVICE/CAREER/TECHNICAL PLANNING

A student who plans to work, enter an apprenticeship program or military service, or attend a career/technical school after graduation should meet with his counselor to discuss opportunities in each of these areas.

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

The majority of four-year colleges and universities in the United States require at least the following high school courses for admission:

- Four years of English
- Three years of social studies
- Three years of mathematics, including Algebra 1 or Algebra 1A and 1B, Algebra 2, and Geometry or Trigonometry
- Three years of laboratory science
- Two years of electives in world language

College admission requirements may change and all programs within a university may not have the same admission standards (required high school courses, class rank, ACT or SAT score). The SAT test is required by most four-year colleges and universities in Illinois and for Parkland College Health Career programs.

**COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS:** It is your responsibility to notify the college you plan to attend and the NCAA Clearinghouse of schedule change(s) during your senior year.

## NCAA ELIGIBILITY

To participate in Division I or Division II sports:

- Students must meet eligibility standards (core courses, GPA, ACT/SAT scores).
- Students must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center (fall of Senior year). Students register online.
- Students must have ACT or SAT test results sent directly to the Eligibility Center by marking code 9999 in the section on college and scholarship code choices in their ACT or SAT registration folder.
- Students who have tested more than once should have all of their ACT or SAT I test scores sent to the Eligibility Center. NCAA regulations permit the Eligibility Center to take the highest score a student has earned on each part of a test to produce an ACT composite or SAT I combined score, which may be higher than the score he or she has earned on any single test date.
- Visit the NCAA website for information concerning core courses, required GPA and ACT scores for eligibility [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

## HONORS/ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Honors and Advanced Placement courses are designed for high-ability, high-achieving students who want to be challenged and to enhance their critical thinking and critical analysis skills. Students will read and write more, analyze materials, synthesize ideas, solve problems and evaluate. The level of performance in these courses will be demanding and much above that of students in a regular course.

**Advanced Placement courses** follow the course content as outlined by the College Board. These courses provide the most ambitious students the challenging opportunity to study college level courses while in high school.

Satisfactory performance on the optional College Board Advanced Placement exam in May could potentially allow students to gain advanced standing and/or credit in college. College credit may vary by college and by college major. Students are encouraged to investigate the Advanced Placement policy of the college of their choice.

## **HONOR POINTS**

Points are used in calculation of GPA and class rank.

- Honor points are given for Honors or AP classes where a grade of 'C-' or higher is earned.
- Numerical values are assigned to grades (including pluses and minuses).
- The regular GPA and the honor points are combined using a multiplier based on the number of semesters completed.
- Visit the GPA section of the guidance website for more detailed information.
- Transfer students will receive honor points only in classes that are similarly offered at MSHS.

## **ACADEMIC LETTERS**

Mahomet-Seymour Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence and the MSHS PTO sponsor the academic letters to promote, encourage and honor academic excellence. Academic letters are awarded on a yearly basis to students who meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled in a minimum of five academic courses each semester (does NOT include summer school) (does not include PE, Action Ed, Driver Ed or Junior SAT Prep Class in the five courses)
- GPA: 3.6 (4.0 scale) for freshmen/sophomores 3.8 (4.0 scale) for juniors/seniors for the entire academic school year
- No D's or F's for the entire academic school year (includes PE, Driver Ed and Junior SAT Prep Class)
- Seniors who graduate at the end of first semester are not eligible.
- Transfer students must complete one semester at MSHS and meet all other criteria.

## **FRESHMAN MENTORING PROGRAM (FMP)**

All Freshmen participate in a special program designed to aid in a successful transition to high school both academically and socially. The freshman advisory program involves junior and senior mentors who guide various activities.

## **ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY**

In order to be eligible to participate in any high school sponsored or high school supported athletic sport or extra-curricular activity, students must satisfy the Mahomet-Seymour School District's scholastic standing requirements. PE counts as an academic class for IHSA and eligibility purposes. The standards are:

- Students must have passed 5 academic classes the previous semester.
- Students must be passing 5 academic classes.
- Students receiving two D's and an 'F' in another class will be ineligible.
- Students receiving two F's will be ineligible.
- Grades, for eligibility purposes, are cumulative for a semester.

Any student participant failing to meet these academic criteria shall be ineligible to participate for seven calendar days or until the specific academic criteria are met, whichever is longer.

## **DRIVER EDUCATION**

- Driver Education is scheduled according to each student's birth date and class schedule.
- A student must pass 8 academic classes the previous 2 semesters to be eligible (this is a state law).
- A student will attend nine weeks of Driver Education classroom and nine weeks of PE the semester he is scheduled for Driver Education.
- State law requires the student to drive for nine months with a permit before getting a driver's license.
- Cost: \$250, payable at the time students start Behind-the-Wheel instruction.
- Behind-the-Wheel instruction is given outside of normal school day hours and may be given during the summer depending on the student's birth date.

## FOUR-YEAR PLAN

\* One semester of Speech, the Consumer Ed equivalent, and one semester of Civics is required 9-12.

### FRESHMAN (9)

	SEM 1	SEM 2
1	English 1	English 1
2	Math: _____	Math: _____
3	Biology	Biology
4	Health or PE	Health or PE
5	_____	_____
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____

### SOPHOMORE (10)

	SEM 1	SEM 2
1	English 2	English 2
2	Math: _____	Math: _____
3	PE	PE
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____

### JUNIOR (11)

	SEM 1	SEM 2
1	English 3	English 3
2	US History	US History
3	Math: _____	Math: _____
4	PE	PE
5	_____	_____
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____

### SENIOR (12)

	SEM 1	SEM 2
1	English: _____	_____
2	PE	PE
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____

#### ENGLISH

- 1 English 1
- 1 English 1 (Honors)
- ½ Speech Communications
- 1 Reading

#### MATHEMATICS

- 1 Algebra 1A
- 1 Algebra 1
- 1 Geometry (Honors)

#### SCIENCE

- 1 Biology

#### SOCIAL STUDIES

- ½ Civics
- ½ Human Geography

#### WORLD LANGUAGES

- 1 Spanish 1 or 2
- 1 French 1 or 2

#### FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

- ½ Child Development
- ½ Adult Living

#### DRAMA

- ½ Drama 1
- ½ Drama 2

#### BUSINESS

- ½ Word Processing 1
- ½ Orientation to Business

#### FINE ARTS

- ½ Basic Design
- ½ Sculpture
- ½ History of Rock & Roll

#### AGRICULTURE

- ½ Agricultural Leadership
- 1 Intro to Agriculture

#### TECHNOLOGY

- 1 Intro to Industrial Eng.

#### PERFORMANCE ARTS

- 1 Symphonic Band
- 1 Wind Ensemble
- 1 Concert Choir
- 1 Chamber Choir
- 1 Treble Choir
- 1 Con. Band/Con. Choir
- 1 Wind Ens./Ch. Choir

#### ADDITIONAL COURSES

- ½ Health
- ¼ Physical Education
- ¼ Conditioning PE
- 0 Driver Education