

Katy Independent School District

2022- 2023 GPA EXEMPT COURSE INFORMATION

INFORMATION REGARDING EXEMPT COURSES

Students are encouraged to pursue their areas of special talents and interest to enrich their academic experience. Courses may be taken on a GPA-exempt basis as established by Board Local Policy EIC and identified in this brochure. Courses listed below require a prerequisite and an extra/co-curricular component outside the school day throughout the course. The following courses have been identified as GPA-exempt eligible for this school year:

❖ Career Technical Education Courses

(Agricultural Sciences courses require prerequisite courses and participation in FFA: LDE, CDE, or Livestock Show)

- 8085V EMT
- 8120 Professional Standards in Agribusiness
- 8122 AG Structures Design and Fabrications
- 8125 Prac.in Agriculture, Food & Natural Res.
- 8127 Agribusiness Management and Marketing
- 8136 AG Equipment Design and Fabrication
- 8141 Livestock Production
- 8144 Advanced Animal Science
- 8170 Small Animal Management
- 8232 Horticulture
- 8190 Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecology Management
- 8118 Range Ecology
- 8145 Equine Science
- 8148V Vet Assisting (FFA Requirement does not apply. Students meet extracurricular component)
- 8520 Career Prep I *
- 8521 Career Prep II *
- 8524 Career Prep I Extended *
- 8525 Career Prep II Extended *
- 8609 Practicum of Business *
- 8611 Practicum of Business Extended *
- 8571V/8752V Cosmetology Design and Color Theory/Cosmetology II

* The Career Prep/Practicum of Business courses are for paid and un-paid work-based learning experience. Students must work beyond the school day in an approved training station to meet GPA exempt status.

- ❖ Athletics (Continuous enrollment (year 2, 3, 4) in any designated athletic course regardless of sport; **does not include PE**)
- ❖ Band
- ❖ Cheerleading
- ❖ Choir
- ❖ Dance Color guard
- ❖ Dance Team
- ❖ Debate
- ❖ Journalism
- ❖ Oral Interpretation
- ❖ Orchestra
- ❖ ROTC
- ❖ Theatre- (Technical Theatre, Theatre Arts, Theatre Production)

Consult the Course Catalog for prerequisites and course descriptions.

HOW ARE GRADES HANDLED IN A GPA EXEMPT COURSE?

Students who are eligible and choose to take one of these courses for a GPA EXEMPT grade:

- Will receive a numerical grade all year on the report card.
- Will receive the actual numeric grade with a comment or label indicating “GPA exempt” on the Academic Achievement Record (transcript).
- Will receive credit for these courses, but also have these courses excluded from the computation of GPA and class rank.
- Exemptions are granted on a semester basis.

WHAT ARE THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THESE COURSES?

- The numerical grade earned will be reported on the report card.
- Students must complete the extra/co-curricular components of the course.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned work in a GPA-exempt course including tests and semester exams. Students eligible to exempt semester exams may choose to exempt a GPA-exempt course.

HOW WILL GRADES IN A GPA EXEMPT COURSE AFFECT ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

The numerical grades earned in a GPA Exempt course will be used to determine eligibility for participation in all UIL or school-sponsored activities. In addition, numerical grades will also be used to determine honor roll each six-weeks; for qualifying criteria used in selection of students for various positions such as dance team officers, class officers, exam exemptions, etc.; for eligibility for academic awards, including admission to organizations such as National Honor Society; etc.

IF A STUDENT EXEMPTS A COURSE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR BUT DOES NOT ENROLL IN THE COURSE DURING THE NEXT, DO THEY LOSE THE EXEMPT STATUS FOR THE FIRST YEAR?

No. Each year’s exemption stands alone.

WHAT IF A STUDENT DROPS THE EXEMPT COURSE?

If a student completes the course with a B average or better for which a GPA waiver is granted, the course will be GPA exempt. Students are expected to complete a full-year course for which a GPA exemption has been approved. In extenuating circumstances where a student is approved to drop a GPA-exempt course after the first semester is complete, the student received the first semester credit as GPA exempt. However, the remaining 0.5 GPA exemption cannot be applied to another course during second semester or following year. The requested 1.0 GPA exemption is considered to be fully expended. If a student drops a full-year course before the close of the first semester for which a GPA exemption has been approved per established guidelines [see EIA (REGULATION)], the new course the student enters is not eligible for a GPA exemption. In this case, the GPA exemption is available for use the following semester/year, if requested and approved according to established guidelines.

DOES A STUDENT HAVE TO MAINTAIN ENROLLMENT IN A SINGLE ATHLETIC SPORT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN EXEMPTION?

No. Any athletic enrollment can qualify.

CAN A STUDENT TAKE ART OR DANCE COURSES AS GPA EXEMPT COURSES?

Dance Team and Dance Color Guard are the only GPA exempt courses offered. No Art courses are GPA exempt.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO TAKE A GPA EXEMPT COURSE?

- Students **must** have a 4.0 or above.
- Students must have an overall B average in the prerequisite course for elective courses for which they are seeking a waiver.
- Students must maintain a B average in the GPA exempt course to qualify and maintain GPA exempt eligibility.
- Students must obtain approval from their parents and school counselor.
- Students may take a maximum of three (3) credits on a GPA Exempt basis during their high school career.
- Students understand they must be in their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th full year of continuous enrollment in the same program to meet eligibility for GPA-exempt status.

HOW DO STUDENTS ENROLL IN A GPA EXEMPT COURSE?

Students interested in taking one of the GPA Exempt courses must discuss this option with their school counselor at the beginning of the course. If the student meets all the criteria, they must:



1. Complete the online GPA Exempt application located in [MyKaty Cloud](#).
2. Submit the application no later than [September 22, 2022](#). At this time, if all criteria are met, it will be approved, and a schedule change will be made to reflect enrollment in a GPA Exempt course.
3. Once a student makes the decision to take a course as GPA-exempt, the decision is final and cannot be changed.
4. Students enrolled in full-year courses do not need to reapply during the second semester.
5. Students, including move-in students, who miss the [September 22, 2022](#) deadline, may apply for exemption for the second semester if they meet the criteria. The second semester deadline is [February 17, 2023](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE YOUR TEACHER, COACH, DIRECTOR, OR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

It is the policy of Katy ISD not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, religion, color, age, or national origin in its educational programs and/or activities including career and technology programs, nor its employment practices.



2022-2023 GPA Exempt Courses Timeline	
Fall Semester 2022	
Application opens in MyKaty Cloud	August 17, 2022, at 12:00am
Deadline to submit application	September 22, 2022, at 11:59pm
Spring Semester 2023	
Application opens in MyKaty Cloud	January 4, 2023, at 12:00am
Deadline to submit application	February 17, 2023, at 11:59pm