

The High School Academic Program

Tracking

- Basic
- Academic
- Honors

Basic

- Non-college preparation
- Minimal expectations
- Not expected to meet state standards

Academic

- Minimum college preparation
- Minimal expectations
- Meets minimum state standards

Honors

- College Preparation
- High expectations
- Exceeds standards

Culture

- Basic Culture: what does it take to graduate?
- Academic Culture: what does it take to get into community college?
- Honors Culture: what does it take to rank?

Graduation Requirements

- Carnegie Unit of credit
- Credit based on time, not performance
- Honors credit

Carnegie Unit

- Minimal expectation
- Grade of “D” earns credit

Credit based on time

- Credit measured by clock time
- Competency measured by individual teacher
- Graduation based on credit accumulation

Honors Credit

- Inflates grade point average
- Focus on rank-in-class
- Focus on college entrance

Program Breadth

- Greatest in academic track
- Limited most in honors track

Program Depth

- Limited in all tracks:
 - Basic: pre-conditional
 - Academic: limited by scope
 - Honors: glass ceiling

The system is the problem

- www.gatesfoundation.org
- www.achieve.org
- www.hga.org
- Outreach.thecollege-track.com