

The
Noah Webster
Center
for Independent Study

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Policy Handbook
2023-2025



Noah Webster Center Policy Handbook

Concept and Background

The Noah Webster Center for Independent Study was established in 2000, by the Corporate Board of Character Corner, Inc., to serve the home school community by offering an accreditation option for home educated high school students. Our purpose is to promote the concept of independent study by providing a support structure for home schooling parents with high school students preparing for college.

The Center relies entirely on an adjunct faculty. Based on the cooperative efforts of the home teachers and approved tutors, the Noah Webster Center provides curriculum counseling and mentoring in home education as the foundation for an evaluation and professional recognition through accreditation for the education earned in independent study. The services of the Noah Webster Center include:

- Annual consultation with the primary home school parent to develop or update the high school education plan based on the requirements for a college preparatory diploma.
- Proctored subject area testing twice each semester and annual progress reports.
- Education record, transcripts and a diploma.

Accreditation

The Noah Webster Center is accredited as a non-traditional educational center, by the Georgia Accrediting Commission. Our accreditation assures that the student's graduation is identified with a professional recognition and the approval of a professional accrediting group. This accreditation is recognized by the Georgia Board of Regents and The Noah Webster Center is included on the Georgia Student Finance Commission's list of HOPE-eligible schools. Graduates of the Center seeking college enrollment, who meet the qualifications are immediately eligible for the HOPE scholarship. Students who participate in dual enrollment programs during their junior and senior years are also eligible for Georgia's Dual Enrollment funding.



Enrollment Policy

The Noah Webster Center accepts students in grades seven through twelve. An annual registration form and tuition payment are required for students enrolling in the center. NWC requires parents of home-school students to submit the declaration of intent to homeschool and to follow the attendance reporting requirements of the Georgia homeschool law. NWC collects a copy of the Declaration of Intent to Home School and the attendance records and maintains documentation of the completion of 180 days of study through the use of Homeschool Compliance, an on-line service for homeschoolers: <https://www.homeschoolcompliance.com/noah-webster/>. NWC requires each student enroll with the on-line service as a part of the registration process.

Transferred Credits

The Center accepts transfer credits from other accredited organizations for courses taken outside of the Center. The center requires a student to complete an academic year of study through the accredited center program before verifying unaccredited independent study coursework completed prior to entering the program. After this provisional period, we will review and evaluate previous coursework and records of grades achieved during prior years and determine the status for accreditation. A Student who applies to transfer into the Center as a senior must have an accredited transcript.

Course Work Completed in Middle School

Course work completed during 7th and 8th grade may be accredited. Generally, *course work in a recognized high-school level math or foreign language course*, completed during the middle school years can be included in the transcript (whether completed in a single academic period or spread over two years). However, high school level language arts and elective course work is generally not included when completed in middle school.

Mandatory Planning Meetings

Information meetings for new families are scheduled at various times. Unfortunately, we don't get to schedule one every year. However, this is an opportunity to introduce the program and answer questions. Dates and times will be posted on the website at www.noahwebstercenter.com.

An annual planning meeting is required for any parent who has a student (or students) enrolled in the Noah Webster Center. This meeting is required; not optional. Planning meetings will be scheduled on an individual basis. These individual meetings will allow time to discuss the overall plan for your student throughout high school and setting the class schedule for the student. The meetings may be in person or over the phone.

Curriculum Review and Approval

The Center conducts a review and evaluation of curriculum materials intended for use in the high school classes through use of online catalogs from curriculum vendors and publisher websites. The purpose of the review and approval is to ensure that courses accredited by the Center are of the appropriate level of study and rigor to qualify for high school credit.

Faculty and Staff

NWC employs no teaching staff, but relies on each home study parent and approved tutor as an adjunct faculty. The Center does not offer classes, but through a system of checks and balances, certifies the education earned in independent study.

Tutors

Parents may use tutors, however, we require that all tutors hold a bachelor's degree in order to be included in our list of approved tutors. As a general practice, NWC adopts the teaching and testing methodology of the tutor after approval and agreement of the tutor with the Center's testing guidelines. Tutors are required to provide a grade sheet showing a numeric grade for each semester, identifying the subject and course title, the student, the tutor, and the grading period. Individual tutors are responsible for determining the severity of any cheating situation and the resulting consequence.

Class Schedule

Class Schedules are individually tailored to each student. The Noah Webster Center partners with students engaged in a variety of methods of study. The day-to-day class schedules vary from student to student and may include a two-semester structure, or block scheduling, including college semester classes, or other combination of schedules that allow for completion of the course within a maximum of 12 months. The independent student is responsible for managing his or her time and course work accordingly.

For grade reporting purposes, The Noah Webster Center for Independent Study uses a semester system. Each semester consists of approximately 18 weeks. Calendar events including testing dates, information seminar dates, and other items will be communicated to all Noah Webster Center enrollees through email and will be posted on our web-site at www.noahwebstercenter.com. Semester grades are shown on the transcript as letter grades.

All standards for grades 9 through 12 also apply to summer school programs. Students may only repeat courses that they have failed, and the failing grade will remain on their transcript. Students who enroll in approved online courses during the summer must complete all such work before the first day of the following school year. Work which is not completed by that time will not be accepted for credit.

Graduation Requirements

The curriculum and course selection is individually tailored to each student. The Noah Webster Center partners with students engaged in a variety of academic studies at varying levels of challenge and complexity. Graduation requirements for a College Preparatory Diploma include 23 units of study; including:

4 units in Language Arts:

Language Arts should include grammar, composition, and literature each year, to include a full unit in Ninth Grade Literature and Composition and a full unit in American Literature and Composition.

4 units in Mathematics:

Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra 2 and a 4th unit above Algebra 2

4 units in Science:

Four units of credit in science are required of all students, including one full unit of Biology; one unit of either Physical Science or Physics; one unit of either Chemistry, Earth Systems, or Environmental Science; and one additional science unit. Any AP/IB science course may be substituted for the appropriate courses listed above. The fourth science may be met using identified courses from the DOE list of courses that satisfy the fourth science requirement. ([see Appendix 1](#))

1 unit in Health/Physical Education:

3 units in Social Studies:

World History, American History, and ½ unit in American Government and ½ unit in Economics

2 units in Foreign Language:

2 units in a single language. American Sign Language is an acceptable language.

5 units in Academic Electives.

HOPE Scholarship Rigor requirements

Currently, students desiring to receive the HOPE scholarship must graduate from a HOPE-eligible high school or a HOPE eligible home study program with a 3.0 GPA or higher in order to qualify. Students may qualify for the Zell Miller Scholarship if they graduate from an eligible high school with a minimum 3.7 grade point average combined with a minimum score of 1200 on the math and reading portions of the SAT test or a 26 composite score on the ACT test in a single test administration

In order to qualify for the HOPE Scholarship, students must meet the academic requirements as shown in [Appendix 2](#). In addition to Grade Point Average and other requirements, students graduating after May 1, 2017 must have four full academic credits from courses listed in Appendix 2. In general, courses meeting the rigor requirements include: Advanced Math or higher, Chemistry, Physics, Biology 2, or equivalents, any AP, any Dual enrollment, and Advanced Foreign Language (level II or higher).

Testing Guidelines/Academic Integrity

For purposes of an accredited transcript, tests must represent the retained knowledge of the student. Therefore, while open-book tests might otherwise be used in the course of a study, NWC requires that the basis for grades provided through a tutor must include at least two graded tests during each semester, completed without books or notes. Likewise, testing at home may include open-book testing at times, the proctored tests will be completed without books or notes. **Exception:** In the instance of a test requiring the use of several formulas, a 3x5 note card list of the formulas may be allowed. In Geometry, Algebra 2, Chemistry and Pre-Calculus the use of a calculator or graphing calculator such as the TI-83 is acceptable. No other use of calculators or other helps is allowed. Individual parent/teachers and tutors are responsible for determining the severity of any cheating situation and the resulting consequence.

Tutors will provide a report of the student's progress once each semester, showing a numeric grade based on two objective based tests for each semester, identifying the student, the tutor, and the grading period. Home-teachers will provide a report of the student's progress every nine weeks, at the time of the scheduled proctored testing, including the at-home grades (averaged as a single score) and the proctored test score.

Standardized Achievement Testing

Georgia law requires standardized achievement testing for home school students at least once every three years. The Georgia Accrediting Commission requires the Center to administer a nationally standardized testing program for students. Accordingly, the Noah Webster Center requires that each student take a nationally standardized test each year of high school. This requirement can be met by either the IOWA or Stanford Basic Skills tests or by taking the PSAT, SAT or ACT college entrance exams. Testing must be reported to the Noah Webster Center. The testing organization will provide the Center with a copy of your scores through the use of

the Center's ETS school code: 111994. The Center will maintain SAT/ACT reports for each graduating senior.

Grading and Ranking

Source of Grading:

1. Tutors – NWC only accepts grades provided by registered tutors. Registered tutors have agreed to the terms of our registration policy, have agreed to follow our testing guidelines, and understand that in order for a course to earn an academic credit, a minimum of 150 hours of study per full unit, or 75 hours per semester is required. Tutors for courses of study lasting less than 15 weeks per semester should ensure that sufficient hours are spent in outside study. In addition, registered tutors have agreed to follow our testing guidelines. (see below)
2. Proctored Testing – Home Study – The Georgia Accrediting Commission requires that home study classes be graded based on a content test at the end of each course. However, we believe that a single test is not a reliable measure of the student's progress. We prefer to base grades on at least two tests each semester. We also believe the effort expended by the home-teacher is worthy of recognition; therefore, we include grades earned in home study along with separate proctored tests. NWC accepts the grades provided by home study parents through a verification process based on proctored quarterly tests administered once each nine weeks. Grades are composed of a combination of the at-home grades and a proctored test, weighting the proctored exams to represent 50% of the grade reported during the period.

Grading is determined in consideration of the following items:

- Test scores received during testing at home.
- Projects completed during the semester relating to the specific subject. (grade provided by the home-teacher and included in the home-grade average.)
- Test scores from proctored testing under the supervision of an approved proctor.

The grading scale since August 2005 is as follows:

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
below 70	F

Report Cards/Progress Reports

A final report card and unofficial cumulative transcript will be sent by the Noah Webster Center for Independent Study to the parent or student at the end of each year.

Transcripts

When an official transcript is needed for college admission purposes, you must request it from the Center Manager in writing (email is acceptable). The Noah Webster Center will send five (5) transcripts to prospective colleges and one final transcript to the college of your choice. Additional transcript copies may be ordered at \$5 per certified copy.

Grade Point Average and Weighting

Honors classes and Advanced Placement program courses are not weighted in the calculation of the student's Grade Point Average. College classes taken before graduating from high school in a Dual Enrollment program are weighted with one additional quality point. A grade of "P" (Pass) is not considered in grade point average computation. Due to the individualized nature of independent study, and the resulting irrelevance of comparing GPAs, The Noah Webster Center does not rank its students and we do not provide any comparative GPA data for a given class of students.

School Calendar

Please review the calendar as shown on our website, www.noahwebstercenter.com and put the testing dates in your personal calendar. You may want to post these dates on your refrigerator! Please note that if your student cannot come to the specific testing dates listed, make-up dates can be arranged for a fee.

Determination of Class Standings

Determination of the status of graduating seniors for the purpose of identifying a valedictorian will be handled in the following manner. The students' GPAs will be compared to identify the highest GPA. Any weighting due to Dual Enrollment will be removed for this purpose. (Actual GPA figures will take precedence over weighted GPAs). All grades must be submitted prior to graduation, incomplete grades will not be considered. In the event of a tie for the highest GPA, the following factors will be considered in the following order:

- rigor of the course load completed by the students
- numerical grade average

Tuition Policy

- There is a one-time \$25 registration fee for all students.
- Tuition includes an initial consultation, testing supervision, progress reports, transcript, and a diploma at graduation.
- Middle Grade Tuition
 - Tuition for students in the 7th & 8th grades completing high school subjects (Algebra I, Spanish, etc.) is \$100 per subject, paid in full at the beginning of the school year.
- High School Tuition
 - Tuition for 9th – 12th grade students is \$400 for the year.

Our Program Offerings

The program of the Noah Webster Center includes:

- Annual consultation with the primary home school parent to develop or update the high school education plan based on the requirements for a college preparatory diploma. This consultation is for the purpose of developing an academic program that meets the student's individual needs as it relates to graduation requirements.
- Consultation involving approval of the curriculum materials and books to be used in the student's independent study program
- Proctored subject area testing, twice each semester and annual progress reports.
- A transcript of the student's academic credits. This includes maintenance of the student's academic record and includes, but is not limited to the student's grades, monthly attendance records, and standardized testing results. These documents will remain private and unavailable for any use outside of the Noah Webster Center unless requested by the student or parents.
- Diploma
- If needed, assistance with the student's transfer to other schools and help in the evaluation for the grade placement of your student.

Commitment

It is important that the parents of the Noah Webster Center students maintain active involvement in their student's education throughout the high school years, and therefore, there are several commitments to which the parents, as a vital part of our adjunct faculty, must adhere:

- Parent must attend one New Parent Consultation, and each following year, the parent must attend an Annual Parent Planning Meeting.
- Parent will review Graduation Requirements and in coordination with the Center Manager or staff, determine the appropriate course of study. Parent and student will sign the Program Commitment/Requirements document showing agreement to the terms.
- Parents commit to participate in HomeschoolCompliance.com for submission of the Declaration of Intent to Homeschool and attendance records for a cumulative total of 180 school days. The Declaration is due in August and the monthly attendance records will be submitted each month throughout the school year.
- Parent commits to requirements for proctored testing and the use of tutors as discussed in the New Parent Consultation, including the submission of quarterly grade sheets or semester grades given by tutors. The grade sheet should show a numeric grade for each test and an average for the at-home work as well as the proctored exam as a separate grade.
- Parent understands that legally the student is still viewed as a "homeschooler" and must complete requirements as outlined by the State of Georgia and the county in which they reside.
- Parent agrees to use curriculum approved by the Noah Webster Center for course work to be transcribed.
- Parent commits for standardized testing each year. During the freshmen year, the student must take the IOWA or Stanford Basic Skills Standardized Test and must take the PSAT, SAT or ACT in each of the other high school years.

We prefer that all teachers, whether the home teacher or tutor, hold a bachelor's degree although not required by our accrediting agency. The Center does not accept grades provided by tutors without college degrees; however, the use of tutors who do not have a degree is acceptable if the requirements for proctored testing are met.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can a student who graduates from an accredited center be assured of admission to a college?

A. No accrediting agency can assure the student that he/she will be admitted to college; however, your student will be able to follow the path of a “private school student” in their admissions processes instead of a “homeschooler”.

Q. What if my student is in 10th grade or higher?

A. If your student has not previously been in an accredited program and is enrolling for the first time in the 10th or 11th grade, we can accredit past years’ work, but only after the student has completed one complete academic period under the Center’s supervision. After this provisional period, we will review and evaluate previous coursework and records of grades achieved during prior years and determine the status for accreditation. Tuition for inclusion of past years’ work is the same as the current year tuition. We do not accept students entering the 12th grade unless they are transferring from another accredited institution.

Q. What if I enroll my student during the semester?

A. We accept students until October 15th for a complete academic period. We will accept new students from January 1st until March 1st for the second semester. After these dates, we cannot accept new students until the following semester.

Q. Does the Noah Webster Center have a “School number”?

A. Yes, the Noah Webster Center’s Educational Testing Services (ETS) number is 111994. You may also see this number referred to as the CEEB number. The ETS or CEEB number is a unique six digit school code assigned to a school, identifying it as an approved site to receive publications, and receive students' exam grades. This number is shared by all three College Board Programs: AP, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT. Students should use the ETS number when registering for a PSAT or SAT program test in order for the school to receive a copy of the grades.



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Fourth Science Options
2023-2024
 Updated 2.8.23

The following courses count towards satisfying the fourth science requirement and a CTAE pathway completion requirement and **have been approved** by the Board of Regents as a fourth science. (Only high school CTAE courses listed below are approved.)*

Course Number	Course Name	CTAE Pathway
21.45700	Appropriate and Alternative Energy Technologies	Energy
21.45100	Energy and Power Technology	Energy
25.56900	Applications of Biotechnology	Health Science
25.57000	Essentials of Biotechnology	Health Science
25.44000	Essentials of Healthcare <i>A Student who earns 1 unit of credit for this course shall also receive 1 unit of credit for Human Anatomy and Physiology (course number 26.07300).</i>	Health Science
25.44600	Sports Medicine	Health Science
20.41400	Food for Life	Human Services
20.41810	Food Science	Human Services
03.45100	Forest Science	Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
01.46100	General Horticulture and Plant Science	Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
03.41100	Natural Resources Management	Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
02.42100	Animal Science Technology/Biotechnology	Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
02.44100	Plant Science and Biotechnology	Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
02.46200	Poultry Science	Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
21.45300	Advanced AC and DC Circuits	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
11.01600	Advanced Placement Computer Science	Information Technology
11.01700	International Baccalaureate Computer Science, Year One	Information Technology
11.01710	International Baccalaureate Computer Science, Year Two	Information Technology
11.01900	Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles	Information Technology
11.47100	Computer Science Principles	Information Technology
11.47200	Programming, Games, Apps and Society	Information Technology
11.42500	Web Development	Information Technology
11.42700	Embedded Computing	Information Technology
11.42900	Game Design: Animation and Simulation	Information Technology
28.01910	Aerospace Science: Science of Flight	Government and Public Administration
43.45200	Forensic Science and Criminal Investigations	Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security



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The following courses count towards satisfying the fourth science requirement for graduation and admission to a Georgia four-year college or university. All these courses **have been approved** by the Board of Regents as a fourth science.

Course Number	Course Name
26.01200	Biology I
26.01210	Pre-Advanced Placement Biology
26.01300	Biology II
26.01400	Advanced Placement Biology
26.01500	Genetics
26.01800	International Baccalaureate Biology, Year One
26.01900	International Baccalaureate Biology, Year Two
26.02000	International Baccalaureate Sports, Exercise & Health Year One
26.02100	International Baccalaureate Sports, Exercise & Health Year Two
26.03100	Botany
26.05100	Microbiology
26.06100	Ecology
26.06110	Environmental Science
26.06200	Advanced Placement Environmental Science
26.06300	International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems, Year One
26.06310	International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems, Year Two
26.06320	Cambridge Advanced Environmental Management (AS Level) 8291
26.06400	Advanced Genetics/DNA Research
26.06500	Epidemiology
26.07100	Zoology
26.07200	Entomology
26.07300	Human Anatomy and Physiology
40.01100	Physical Science
40.02100	Astronomy
40.04100	Meteorology
40.05000	Pre-Advanced Placement Chemistry
40.05100	Chemistry I
40.05200	Chemistry II
40.05300	Advanced Placement Chemistry
40.05500	International Baccalaureate Chemistry, Year One
40.05600	International Baccalaureate Chemistry, Year Two
40.05610	Cambridge Advanced Chemistry (AS Level) 9701
40.05620	Cambridge Advanced Chemistry (A Level) 9701
40.05700	Organic Chemistry (<i>Post AP Chemistry only</i>)
40.05800	Biochemistry (<i>Post AP Chemistry or Biology only</i>)
40.05900	Materials Chemistry (<i>Post AP Chemistry only</i>)
40.06300	Geology
40.06400	Earth Systems
40.07100	Oceanography



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Course Number	Course Name
40.08100	Physics I
40.08200	Physics II
40.08310	Advanced Placement Physics 1
40.08320	Advanced Placement Physics 2
40.08410	Advanced Placement Physics C: Mechanics
40.08420	Advanced Placement Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
40.08500	International Baccalaureate Physics, Year One
40.08600	International Baccalaureate Physics, Year Two
40.08610	Cambridge Advanced Physics (A Level) 9702
40.08620	Cambridge Advanced Physics (AS Level) 9702
40.08700	Environmental Physics (<i>Post AP Physics only</i>)
40.08800	Special Topics in Modern Physics (<i>Post AP Physics only</i>)
40.08900	Advanced Physics Principles/Robotics (<i>Post AP Physics only</i>)
40.09100	Advanced Scientific Internship (<i>Post AP Science</i>)
40.09230	Scientific Research III
40.09240	Scientific Research IV
40.09300	Forensic Science
40.09400	Chemical & Material Science Engineering (<i>Post AP Chemistry only</i>)
40.09500	International Baccalaureate Design Technology, Year One
40.09600	International Baccalaureate Design Technology, Year Two
40.09700	International Baccalaureate Marine Science, Year One
40.09710	International Baccalaureate Marine Science, Year Two



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The following courses count towards satisfying the fourth science requirement but **are not** recognized as a fourth science by the Board of Regents. (Only the high school CTAE courses listed below are approved.*)

Course Number	Course Name
02.45100	Commercial Fishing, Management and Fisheries Science <i>A Student who earns 1 unit of credit for this course shall also receive 1 unit of credit for Oceanography (course number 40.07100).</i>
02.47500	Biotechnology (AG-BT)
21.45400	Digital Electronics
25.56400	Emergency & Disaster Preparedness
26.06600	Advanced Placement Research, Life Sciences
26.06700	Advanced Placement Seminar, Life Sciences
26.06800	International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge, Life Sciences, Year One
26.06900	International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge, Life Sciences, Year Two
40.06500	Fundamentals of Geospatial Technology
40.06600	Applications of Geospatial Technology
40.07110	Advanced Placement Research, Physical Science
40.07120	Advanced Placement Seminar, Physical Science
40.07130	International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge, Physical Science, Year One
40.07140	International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge, Physical Science, Year Two
40.09210	Scientific Research I
40.09220	Scientific Research II
47.46610	Aviation Meteorology



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*Dual Enrollment (DE)

For degree level dual enrollment courses, remember that you must search the Gafutures site found here: [Dual Enrollment Course Directory \(gafutures.org\)](http://gafutures.org).

Degree level course numbers beginning with 26 and 40 that contain a letter, are also approved as fourth science options.

CTAE dual enrollment courses aligned to one of the high school CTAE courses approved to count as the 4th science credit **CANNOT** be used to meet the 4th science high school graduation requirement. Only high school CTAE courses have been approved as 4th sciences except for one course. See the exception below.

The **ONLY EXCEPTION** to this is the dual enrollment course ALHS1011 identified in the Gafutures site as 25.0A024 and 25.44000. It is approved to meet the 4th science requirement. This course has the following language along with the course title in Gafutures, "This course meets 4th science requirements for high school."

For additional guidance on dual enrollment, visit [Dual Enrollment Program - GaDOE](#).