

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING THE LCA ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM

1. What is meant by the Endorsement Program?

A few years ago, the state of Texas changed graduation requirements for high schools. The overall requirements in core courses were reduced, and schools were asked to create additional course requirements for special diploma tracks called “endorsements.” LCA has elected to follow this model by creating two “endorsements” as part of its high school graduation requirement tracks. Our two programs will be “Arts & Humanities” and “STEM.” STEM is the educational acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

2. Why such specialization?

Just as careers are becoming more specialized than ever before, education professionals and government leaders in our state realized that our educational programs need specialization to give students more options.

3. I thought specialization was a matter of choosing a college major. Why create specialization at the high school level since many students are undecided on a career choice at that stage of life?

It can be very expensive for students to choose the wrong college or major. The goal of the endorsements program is to allow students to explore various options for the types of educational courses that will best meet *their* interests and abilities, before choosing a college or college program.

4. My student is already well into his high school program. Does this mean that he must now take additional courses?

Not necessarily. The requirements for the new high school diploma endorsements will begin with the Class of 2020. However, any student may choose to transfer to an endorsement plan now, as they have different graduation requirements. See page 7 of the Academic Planning Guide, found on the school’s website www.lakelandchristianacademy.org under Academics and then Secondary tabs, for a comparison with the current LCA graduation requirements.

5. Once a student chooses a track, is she obligated to stay in that track?

No, students may change tracks at any time.

6. Will high school students in different endorsement tracks be separated in all their classes?

No, most classes that students need for graduation will have a mixture of students from both programs. The difference of the endorsements lies primarily with which courses students will need to fulfil their graduation requirements.

7. The STEM program mentions a Speech-test out. What is that?

The state of Texas once required Speech as a high school graduation requirement. The state now allows districts to have a test out option. LCA will use a state-sanctioned system that will allow STEM students to show proficiency without taking Speech as a class.

8. How does the Honors program work?

Both endorsements allow students to earn an Honors designation on their high school transcript by taking certain additional electives. However, students in the Honors program still only need a total of 26 credits.

9. Will endorsements affect college admissions decisions?

Since the state of Texas has moved all public schools to the endorsement/tracking system, this change in our diploma program will allow for a smoother transition for all LCA college-bound students.

10. Will dual credit (college courses counted for both high school and college credit) still be an option?

Yes, juniors and seniors who qualify for the dual credit program will still be allowed to substitute certain college courses for high school courses. For more details, see page 5 of the Academic Planning Guide, found on the school’s website www.lakelandchristianacademy.org under Academics and then Secondary tabs.

11. Will students still be allowed to take online courses?

Yes, students will still be allowed to take online courses. However, students must meet the enrollment status requirements laid out in the LCA Academic Planning Guide. For details, see pages 5 and 6 of the Academic Planning Guide, found on the school's website www.lakelandchristianacademy.org under Academics and then Secondary tabs. Online courses are available using the SevenStar platform.

12. Why are electives and Bible listed together as a requirement?

The number of electives required for any diploma endorsement program depend on how many required courses there are for that specific endorsement and the number of Bible credits required for a specific student. (Students at LCA must take and pass a Bible class for each semester they attend LCA. Transfer students are not required to make up missed Bible credits. However, those students will need additional electives to reach the needed 26 credits.) All LCA diploma programs require 26 credits for graduation.

13. Will there be technology courses offered on campus for the STEM endorsement?

Research has shown that most technology is best learned in the setting of other academic courses. Technology will be implemented in several LCA courses, especially in STEM courses. Potential future courses are reviewed on an annual basis.

14. Will students still be allowed to fulfil their PE requirement with an off-campus alternative program?

Yes, students receiving administrative permission will have their alternative physical education program count as a PE course, not a waiver.

15. Why are there two numbers (e.g., 5-6) under the elective column for each endorsement?

The actual number of electives required for a specific student is determined by whether a student receives a PE waiver through sports participation. Waivers do **not** reduce the overall number of credits required for graduation, so a student receiving a PE waiver may need six elective credits, rather than five, in the example given.

16. Will the new endorsement program affect who is allowed into National Honor Society?

Academics count as only one part of the criteria for admission into NHS. The specific endorsement program of a student will have no bearing on qualifying for NHS.

17. With regards to the LOTE (Languages other than English) requirement, what computer alternative exists at LCA to meet the LOTE requirement?

Coding I and Coding II are accepted as alternatives to meet the LOTE requirement, except for the Honors endorsement. Honors endorsements require three credits of the same foreign language, without exception.

18. Will students be allowed to miss a regular class to attend a dual credit course off campus?

No, this practice will cease, since there is a minimum attendance requirement for LCA classes.

19. Will there be an opportunity to meet with someone about my questions to help my child choose/develop their plan?

Yes, the LCA guidance counselor will meet with each student individually. Specific questions may be sent to either the principal or the guidance counselor.

20. When will students sign up for courses?

Students will sign up for courses in April. However, a student will not be given priority scheduling unless they are enrolled, including payment of the enrollment fee, for the following year.