



# High School FAQ

## What is required to enroll in a diploma program?

For students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade:

- ◆ fill out and submit a registration form
- ◆ it is not necessary to have junior high records submitted prior to enrollment

For students entering the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade:

- ◆ with registration form, submit previous school(s) transcript or home school record(s), showing grades and credits earned, for evaluation to determine what courses will be needed to earn a diploma
- ◆ pay a \$15 transcript evaluation fee (will be applied to registration if accepted)

## What if I am a transfer student entering in 12<sup>th</sup> grade seeking a diploma?

- ◆ the 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> grade transcript or home school record MUST be evaluated by a Kolbe Advisor PRIOR to acceptance into the program
- ◆ a separate fee of \$15.00 will be charged for this service
- ◆ once registration has been approved, the student must take a minimum of **five** academic subjects for one full year, at least **two** courses MUST be chosen from Kolbe's core curriculum for grades 9-12
- ◆ other courses may be chosen from an outside source or college

## If I am transferring from a non-Catholic school, do I need to take all the required Theology courses?

No, however, you will be required to take a Theology course for your senior year whether or not you are Catholic. The Theology course may be in your own faith.

## What are the requirements to graduate from Kolbe?

Kolbe offers three different types of diplomas:

- ◆ The Summa Cum Laude Diploma: 320 credits
- ◆ The Magna Cum Laude Diploma: 260 credits
- ◆ The Standard Diploma: 180 credits

Subject requirements are found on the facing page.

## How are credits assigned?

- ◆ **Academic courses** will be assigned 10 credits for one full year and/or 5 credits for one semester
- ◆ **Non-academic elective courses, i.e. art, drama, music, typing, etc.,** will be assigned 5 credits for one full year, 2.5 credits for per semester, and 1.25 credits per quarter
- ◆ **Honors courses** are not weighted and are assigned credit on the same basis as other academic courses
- ◆ **College courses** will receive 10 credits per semester course

## How are college courses handled?

College courses may be taken:

- ◆ for dual enrollment (high school credit and college credit), student should check with 4-year college admissions counselor to be sure credits will be accepted—a college transcript must be submitted, (C) designation on transcript
- ◆ for high school credit only—sample work must be submitted, no designation on transcript
- ◆ for college credit only—nothing needs to be submitted to Kolbe and course will not appear on Kolbe Transcript

## Is there a maximum number of courses I can take?

Yes, Kolbe will record a maximum of 8 academic courses per year on the high school transcript.

## What if I am not seeking a diploma from Kolbe?

If you are enrolling in a single course(s), or just enrolling temporarily, and seeking a diploma from another high school, please check with your high school counselor to make sure Kolbe's courses will be accepted for credit.

## Does Kolbe offer Honors courses?

YES, Kolbe offers honors courses, for students following the Kolbe course plan, in the following subjects:

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| ◆ Theology (all 4 years)   | ◆ Biology              |
| ◆ English (all 4 years)    | ◆ Chemistry            |
| ◆ Literature (all 4 years) | ◆ Physics              |
| ◆ History (all 4 years)    | ◆ Algebra II/Trig      |
| ◆ Geometry                 | ◆ Pre-Calculus (Saxon) |
|                            | ◆ Calculus             |

## How do I pursue Honors credit in a course?

The exact requirements for each Honors course are laid out in the course plan for that subject. In general, a student must:

1. Follow the Kolbe Academy syllabi and course plan exactly as written, read all books, write all required essays, and do all specified projects.
2. Take all Kolbe Academy exams in their entirety.
3. Send in specified sample work as outlined in the syllabi and course plan for the honors subjects with quarterly report.
4. Have parent denote an (H) for each course in which Honors is being sought on quarterly report card.
5. Pursue honors in every quarter to receive honors credit for the year.

## How is an Honors course handled on the transcript?

On the transcript, an (H) will be placed for any course in which Honors has been sought and achieved. PLEASE NOTE: Honors courses are not weighted, i.e. they do not receive extra points when calculating the grade point average.

## What is a Kolbe Core Course?

A Kolbe Core course is one for which a student has used the Kolbe recommended curriculum for fulfilling that course. To receive the (K) designation on the transcript in a course, students are required to use the Kolbe syllabus, course plan and books for that course, follow the course plan as it is outlined for Kolbe Core (K) credit, and submit the required samples each quarter. Students who wish to receive the (K) designation on their report card should refer to the syllabus of each course for specific course and sample requirements.

## Does Kolbe offer Advanced Placement (AP) Courses?

No, the categorization "Advanced Placement" applied to a course of study is a registered trademark belonging to the College Board. They have established guidelines and instructional requirements for such courses and maintain domain over the AP designation. However, if a student does take a certified AP course through another institution and submits an official transcript reflecting it, Kolbe will designate that course as AP.

## Can I take an AP test without taking the course?

A student may apply to NCB and take an AP test without having taken the AP course. The results of the test may be forwarded to colleges for consideration to grant college credit for that course. In other words, it is the results of the AP test that qualifies any decision made by a college regarding college credit for an AP course, not the taking of the AP course itself. For more information about AP subjects and tests, log onto the College Board's web site at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

## Do you offer a diploma program for students with special needs?

Yes, an exceptional education student who is unable to meet the requirements of a Standard High School Diploma may be given a Special Diploma if they have met all the requirements of their Individual Education Plan (IEP). **Special diplomas do not meet college entrance requirements.** Please contact a Kolbe advisor to discuss options.

**Can I get high school credit for coursework completed before I begin high school?**

Yes, but only coursework completed in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the subject areas of Math, Science, and Foreign Language will be accepted for high school credit. Students must be registered with Kolbe Academy in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and must pursue a Kolbe Core (K) or Honors (H) course unless a transcript from another institution can be provided reflecting high school credit. **Parents must request that high school credit to be applied to an 8<sup>th</sup> grade course. Up to 3 courses maximum from 8<sup>th</sup> grade may be counted on the high school transcript.**

**How will coursework done in 8th grade be reflected on the transcript?**

The course will be listed on the transcript as follows: "(8<sup>th</sup>) Algebra I"; (8<sup>th</sup>) Latin I, etc., the grade earned will be listed and it will be assigned the appropriate amount of credit.

**Will this grade be reflected in the GPA?**

No, courses done in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will not be reflected in the high school GPA (grade point average).

**Is it really necessary to report 8th grade coursework for high school credit?**

No, it is not really necessary unless your state requires certain subjects, i.e. Algebra I, Biology, be listed on the high school transcript in order to be admitted to a state university or college. In fact, most higher level coursework already assumes satisfactory completion of a lower level course, i.e. Algebra II listed in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade assumes Algebra I was taken and completed successfully.

**If I complete a lower level course in 8th grade, do I need to continue my studies in that area?**

Although high school coursework completed in 8th grade in the areas of math, science, and foreign language can count toward the diploma requirements of any of the Kolbe Academy diplomas, it is highly recommended that the student still continue their studies in these subject areas throughout high school. Some colleges will not accept 8<sup>th</sup> grade coursework towards their admission requirements or may frown upon students who have discontinued their education in higher level science, math, and foreign language coursework. For instance, if a college requires 3 years of math done in high school, they may not accept Algebra I done in 8<sup>th</sup> and then just 2 more years of math in high school.

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is highly recommended to contact the high school and university systems in your own state to inquire about the requirements for graduation and admission, in particular, the academic and examination requirements. If the student knows the college or university to which he will apply, make contact with its admissions office to ask for the admission standards.

**Standard High School Diploma**

*Exceeds State of California High School Graduation Requirements as outlined in the California Education Code.*

This diploma is one which certifies the completion of a high school course of study and is recommended for the student whose post-graduate goals might include attending a community college, seeking immediate employment or apprenticeship opportunities, enlisting for military service, but do not include applying to a four year college or university upon graduation from high school. **Students may follow any, all, or none of Kolbe's core curriculum as outlined in the following pages, so long as the minimum subject requirements are met. PLEASE NOTE: This may not meet the admission requirements of four year colleges.**

**Subject Areas:**

- Theology **30 credits**
- English/Literature **30 credits**
- History including 10 cr. U.S. and 10 cr. World **30 credits**
- Math including 10 cr. Algebra I **20 credits**
- Science including Biological and Physical **20 credits**
- Visual & Performing Arts or Foreign Language **10 credits**
- Physical Education **20 credits**

**Electives:**

- May include, but not limited to: Music, Art, Economics, Logic, Work Experience, Vocational Education, Typing, etc. **20 credits**

**Total Credits: 180**

**Magna Cum Laude Diploma**

*Exceeds University of California academic admission requirements.*

This diploma is granted to students who have completed at least the minimum requirements as outlined below, earning a C- or better, and is recommended for students whose post-graduate goals include attending a four year college or university. **Students may follow the Kolbe curriculum for grades 9-12 as outlined in the following pages or make any changes or substitutions they wish, so long as subject requirements are met.**

**Subject Areas:**

- Theology **40 credits**
- English/Literature (minimum 20 credits of Literature required starting with class of '12) **50 credits**
- History including 10 cr. U.S. and 10 cr. World **30 credits (40 recommended)**
- Math including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II **30 credits (40 recommended)**
- Science including Biology, Chemistry, & Physical (lab required for 20 credits). **30 credits (40 recommended)**
- Foreign Language (20 credits in same language required) **30 credits**
- Visual & Performing Arts chosen from: dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art. **10 credits**
- Academic Electives chosen from: history, English, advanced math, lab science, foreign language, history or fine arts. **20 credits**
- Physical Education **20 credits**

**Total Credits: 260**

**Summa Cum Laude Diploma**

*Based on Kolbe Academy's Day School Graduation Requirements.*

This diploma is granted to students who have completed the four year program of study with Kolbe Academy Home School with few, if any, pre-approved changes or substitutions in the prescribed course of study as outlined below, earning a C- or better, and is recommended for students preparing to attend a liberal arts/classics college. **This diploma is an honorary diploma to reward the student who has followed Kolbe's challenging curriculum as outlined.**

*As laid out in the Kolbe Syllabus:*

- Theology **40 credits**
- English **40 credits**
- Literature **40 credits**
- History including **40 credits**
- Math **40 credits**
- Science **40 credits**
- Foreign Language **40 credits**
- 2 years Latin, 2 years Modern **40 credits**
- Visual & Performing Arts chosen from: dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art. **20 credits**
- Physical Education **20 credits**

**Total Credits: 320**