



# iAccelerate Academy at Ashbrook High Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What is the purpose of the *iAccelerate Academy*?

The *iAccelerate Academy* affords students a rigorous academic framework that culminates in a high school diploma and an Associate Degree in four years while having a full high school experience.

## 2. Will my child have to attend Ashbrook High School for longer than four years?

Students in the *iAccelerate Academy* will meet the NC High School Graduation requirements as well as the requirements for an Associate Degree in four years.

## 3. What are the requirements for admission to the *iAccelerate Academy*?

### Rising 9th Grade Entry:

- a. Parent/legal guardian must reside in Gaston County.
- b. 7th grade Reading and Math EOG scores at Level III/IV/V.
- c. 8th grade overall “B” or 80 minimum average based upon first-semester performance only.
- d. AIG qualified in both reading and math **or** the willingness to be tested prior to the start of the school year.
- e. 8th-grade iReady Diagnostic Assessments (Beginning-of-Year AND Middle-of-Year Tests) in Reading and Math must be at an “Early Grade Level” or higher score.
- f. The student must also be in good standing, including attendance, behavior, and academics.
- g. **\*\*Non-Gaston County Schools applicants must submit the following:**
  - i. 7th-grade final report card and 7th-grade standardized test scores administered at the applicant’s school.
  - ii. 8th grade first semester report card and attendance records.
  - iii. For acceptance into the lottery, applicants must also complete an 8th-grade iReady Diagnostic Assessment (Middle-of-Year Tests) in Reading and Math and be proficient at an “Early Grade Level” or higher score (*this assessment will be given at the Gaston County Schools Office of Student Assignment*)
  - iv. AIG qualified in both reading and math on a GCS accepted assessment **or** the willingness to be tested prior to the school year.
  - v. Complete and return the [Discipline Information Request](http://bit.ly/AHSDIR) at <http://bit.ly/AHSDIR> to Ashbrook High School prior to the close of the choice window.



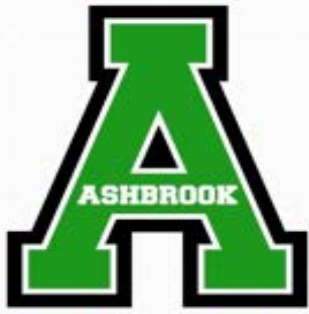
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## Rising 10th Grade Entry:

- a. Parent/legal guardian must reside in Gaston County.
- b. Middle School Reading and Math EOG scores at Level III/IV/V.
- c. High School Math 1 EOC score at a III/IV/V Level.
- d. 3.0 or above unweighted GPA.
- e. AIG qualified in both reading and math **or** is willing to be tested in the summer.
- f. Must be in good standing - including attendance, behavior, and academics.
- g. **\*\*Non-Gaston County Schools applicants must submit the following:**
  - i. Middle School Reading and Math EOG scores at Level III/IV/V.
  - ii. High School Math 1 EOC score at a III/IV/V Level.
  - iii. 3.0 or above unweighted GPA.
  - iv. AIG qualified in both reading and math **or** is willing to be tested in the summer.
  - v. Must be in good standing - including attendance, behavior, and academics.
  - vi. Complete and return the Discipline Information Request at <http://bit.ly/AHSDIR> to Ashbrook High School prior to the close of the choice window.

## **4. What qualities does a successful iAccelerate student possess?**

- a. Maturity - Since this program tasks students to perform well above their grade level students in this program must have the emotional maturity to handle the pressure and tasks assigned to them.
- b. Self-motivated - we have found that this is the number one characteristic of a successful iAccelerate student. While this is hard to determine, a quality teacher recommendation goes far to determine what students would be good candidates. Parent desire alone does not always make for the best indicator of successful completion of the program.
- c. A supportive environment outside the classroom - While parents are used to students of this caliber performing well, it is important that they help us take into consideration the whole child, not just the academic opportunity.
- d. High School Grades - Students need to be able to successfully perform in the classroom environment with an understanding of how to prioritize and juggle multiple assignments.
- e. End of Course Scores - successful completion of grade level performance - III, IV, V on state tests and B or above on teacher-made exams.



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- f. Academically and Intellectually Gifted in Reading AND Math - those who are identified in both areas have an easier transition into the program due to CCP legislation.

**5. Who can apply to the *iAccelerate Academy* and how are students selected?**

Incoming ninth-grade and tenth-grade students who meet entrance requirements may apply. (See #3)

**6. What are the requirements for continued enrollment in the *iAccelerate Academy*?**

Parent/legal guardian must maintain residency in Gaston County. The student must be in good standing including appropriate attendance, behavior, and academics. The student must remain in good standing with Gaston College.

**7. Why can high school students take college classes?**

Success in today's global economy may require a two-or four-year degree. Through Career & College Promise (CCP), qualified high-school-age students in North Carolina have the opportunity to pursue this option - **tuition-free** - while they are in high school, allowing them to get a jumpstart on their college preparation.

**8. Which pathway will the *Academy* students follow?**

Students in the *iAccelerate Academy* will follow the College Transfer Pathway. The College Transfer Pathway provides tuition-free course credits toward an Associate in Arts Degree or Associate in Science Degree that will transfer seamlessly to any public college or university or participating private college or university.

**9. Why is it important for a student to complete an Associate Degree rather than just complete a college pathway?**

Students who complete an Associate Degree will satisfy all of the general education requirements for all sixteen of the North Carolina Public Universities, over thirty North Carolina Independent Institutions, and many out-of-state colleges or universities. This means all of the credits will transfer and a student will typically only have to complete two more years to earn a Bachelor's Degree. Students who only complete a college pathway are not guaranteed that all general education requirements will be met and will potentially have to spend more than two years to earn a Bachelor's Degree.



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**10. Will my student be allowed to participate in school activities such as sports, clubs, etc.?**

Yes, students will be exposed to a full high school experience.

**11. How does the *iAccelerate Academy* fit into Ashbrook High School?**

One of the great parts of the *iAccelerate Academy* is the ability to have a traditional high school experience while taking an accelerated course load. *iAccelerate Academy* students can play sports, participate in band and chorus, and enjoy all types of extracurriculars. The sky's the limit for what you choose to do!

**12. How will my child benefit from this program?**

Students who attend the *iAccelerate Academy* will earn a high school diploma and an Associate Degree without any cost.

**13. Will students in the *Academy* be in classes with students outside of the *Academy*?** Ashbrook is a comprehensive high school, so courses are scheduled based on students' individual needs. All students will have access to a variety of courses including AP, Honors, Fine Arts, and many other courses.

**14. Will CCP students receive honors or AP credit for completing college courses?**

All community college courses included in the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement will receive weighted credit in accordance with NCDPI policy GCS-L-004. Currently, CCP classes are weighted the same as AP classes.