

STAGGS ACADEMY

MYTH #1:

Students will no longer qualify for scholarships if admitted to the Academy.

FACT

As students of the Academy, all high school seniors are eligible to apply for scholarships and financial aid opportunities just as they would at any other high school. Because their two years at the Academy will count as dual credit courses, once they graduate, students will be considered first time freshmen (with university credit) and qualify for free monies just like any other high school senior.

At the end of their first semester, their status will change to that of sophomores or juniors, depending on the cumulative semester credit hours.

Throughout their tenure at the Academy, students will be guided by the Academy counselor and administrative staff on the processes of how to complete their admissions, scholarship, and financial aid forms.

MYTH #2:

Core courses will not transfer to other universities.

FACT

TAMIU degree requirements include a General Education Core Curriculum (42 hours). Every public institution in Texas has a Core, which is designed to provide a solid foundation for their college education and to make transfers between and among Texas institutions of higher education as smooth and seamless as possible. All public institutions of higher education are required by law to accept a completed core and/or all college level courses.

Link: <http://statecore.its.txstate.edu/>

Note: Specific programs may have additional pre-requisite requirements that might not be fulfilled by the core or may ask the students to take their credits locally for credit.

MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS

MYTHS

& MISCONCEPTIONS *cont.*

MYTH #3:

Academy students will lose their high school ranking once they are admitted.

FACT

Students will take (import) their existing coursework, grades and GPA when they transfer to the Staggs Academy. From that point on, their GPA and rank will be recalculated, as they begin the new semester(s) with dual credit courses. At the university level, two years of rigorous college coursework is for more impressive to other colleges/universities than a high school class rank. In addition, students will now have two GPAs to consider, their first being their high school GPA and rank, and their University GPA at TAMIU.

MYTH #4:

Students' GPA will decline at the Academy.

FACT

Student GPAs will be calculated on a semester basis. Their high school GPA will be weighted (1.1) for every dual credit course. Most students' GPA increase after the first year.

MYTH #5:

Students who transfer to the Academy do poorly and are returning to their previous high school campus.

FACT

Academy students did remarkably well the first year. The final semester of the first year, the Academy had 75% of its students earning recognition in either the Dean's List or Distinguished Honors. The Academy also has a 95% retention rate.

THE JULIETA & FRANK STAGGS ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL AND STEM STUDIES

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