

Gulf Shores City Schools' Academic Seals of Excellence

Academic Seals of Excellence are awarded in three areas:

1. Career and Technical Education
2. STEAM
3. Fine Arts

The Seals of Excellence are awarded to those students who excel in one or more of the three areas. These students will complete the GSHS graduation requirements in addition to the specialty area requirements.

The Gulf Shores High School Seal of Excellence in Career and Technical Education

Students who choose to pursue the GSHS Seal of Excellence in Career and Technical Education will complete all of the Gulf Shores High School graduation requirements while simultaneously completing a challenging and enriching selection of additional CTE requirements. These requirements will provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge and experiences to help prepare them for post-secondary careers and training/education. These students will be recognized at their high school graduation, their diploma will receive a stamp indicating the Seal of Excellence, and this information will be included on their official transcripts.

Criteria for 2023-2026 Cohorts:

1. Student must have a 3.0 unweighted GPA overall.
2. Student must complete three courses in the area of concentration with at least an A or B in all three courses.
3. Student must complete ONE of the following:
 - A. Pass the appropriate industry-recognized certification/credential in the area of concentration.
 - B. Complete at least three courses in the area of concentration.
 - C. Complete the Alabama State Fire College VFF-160 Block Test (fire science students only).
4. Student must participate for three or more years in the area-related student organization and be in good standing, as determined by the club sponsor:
 - A. HOSA
 - B. FCCLA
 - C. FFA
 - D. DECA
 - E. Sports and Entertainment Marketing Club
 - F. Robotics Club
 - G. NJROTC
 - H. Environmental Conservation Club
 - I. 911 Club
 - J. Computer Science Club

Department teachers will provide forms to document participation and good standing in student organizations.

5. Student must complete an approved Capstone Project during *junior* or *senior* year and pass the committee review by:
 - A. 2023 Cohort: Friday, March 24, 2023
 - B. 2024 Cohort: Friday, March 24, 2023 (junior year); or Friday, March 22, 2024 (senior year)

C. 2025 Cohort: Friday, March 22, 2024 (junior year); or Friday, March 21, 2025 (senior year)

D. 2026 Cohort: Friday, March 21, 2025 (junior year); or Friday, March 20, 2026 (senior year)

Capstone Project details will be provided by the teacher(s) in each specialty area.

6. After successfully completing and passing the Capstone Project, the student must complete the required Seal of Excellence application by the deadline of:

A. 2023 Cohort: Friday, April 14, 2023

B. 2024 Cohort: Friday, April 12, 2024

C. 2025 Cohort: Friday, April 11, 2025

D. 2026 Cohort: Friday, April 10, 2026

7. Student must pass the committee review after all documents have been submitted.

Areas of Concentration for 2023-2026 Cohorts

Engineering

Computer Science

Health Science

Gulf Coast Sustainability: Green Industries or Gulf Coast Sciences

Public Safety and Service: Fire Science

Business and Marketing

Hospitality and Tourism: Culinary Arts

Government and Public Administration: NJROTC

Aviation

The Gulf Shores High School Seal of Excellence in STEAM

Students who choose to pursue the GSHS Seal of Excellence in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) will complete all the Gulf Shores High School graduation requirements while simultaneously completing a challenging and enriching selection of additional STEAM requirements. These requirements will provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge and experiences to help prepare them for post-secondary STEAM pursuits. These students will be recognized at their high school graduation, their diploma will receive a stamp indicating the Seal of Excellence, and this information will be included on their official transcripts.

Criteria for 2023-2026 Cohorts:

1. Student must have a 3.5 unweighted GPA in the required courses*.
2. Student must have a 26 ACT STEM Score (average of math & science scores only).
3. Student must complete an approved Capstone Project during his/her *junior* year and pass the committee review by the deadline of:
 - A. 2023 Cohort: Friday, March 24, 2023
 - B. 2024 Cohort: Friday, March 24, 2023 (junior year); or Friday, March 22, 2024 (senior year)
 - C. 2025 Cohort: Friday, March 22, 2024 (junior year); or Friday, March 21, 2025 (senior year)
 - D. 2026 Cohort: Friday, March 21, 2025 (junior year); or Friday, March 20, 2026 (senior year)
4. Student must complete the required application, including three recommendation forms from area teachers/mentors, by the deadline of:
 - A. 2023 Cohort: Friday, April 14, 2023
 - B. 2024 Cohort: Friday, April 12, 2024
 - C. 2025 Cohort: Friday, April 11, 2025
 - D. 2026 Cohort: Friday, April 10, 2026
5. Student must pass the committee review after all documents have been submitted.

***Seal of Excellence in STEAM Required Courses**

Science

Students must take the following honors courses:

Honors Biology

Honors Chemistry

Students must take two of the following AP courses:

AP Chemistry

AP Physics 1

AP Biology

AP Environmental Science

Technology & Engineering

Students must take three of the following courses (one must be an AP course):

Foundations of Engineering—10th

Applications of Engineering

Design Innovation

Designing for the Gulf Coast

Programming with Robots

Exploring Computer Science

AP Computer Science Principles
AP Computer Science A
Robotics/Digital Electronics
IT Fundamentals

Arts

Students must take three of the following courses:

Culinary I
Culinary II
Baking and Pastry
Marching Band
Concert Band
Steel Drums
Choir
Dual Enrollment Music 101
Audio Technology
Guitar
Visual Arts
Creative Writing
Theatre
World Language
AP Language and Composition
AP Literature and Composition
AP Studio Art
AP US Government and Politics
AP World History
AP US History
AP European History

Math

Students must take the following honors courses:

Honors Geometry
Algebra II w/Trig
Pre-Cal

Students must take the following AP courses:

AP Stats
AP Cal AB

The Gulf Shores High School Seal of Excellence in Fine Arts

Students who choose to pursue the GSHS Seal of Excellence in Fine Arts will complete all the Gulf Shores High School graduation requirements while simultaneously completing a challenging and enriching selection of additional Fine Arts requirements. These requirements will provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge and experiences to help prepare them for post-secondary Fine Arts pursuits. These students will be recognized at their high school graduation, their diploma will receive a stamp indicating the Seal of Excellence, and this information will be included on their official transcripts.

Criteria for 2023-2026 Cohorts:

1. Student must have a 3.0 unweighted GPA overall.
2. Student must earn four fine arts credits from the course listing below and receive an A or B in each of the courses. **Audit students are not eligible for this honor.**
 - a. Band, Choir/Chorus, Guitar, and/or Music Technology
 - b. Visual Arts and/or AP Studio Art
 - c. Drama
 - d. Any combination of the courses listed above
3. Student must participate in two approved fine arts-related extracurricular activities. This is defined as something outside of the school day that requires extra commitment. Examples include:
 - Band - Try Out for All-State
 - Band - Make District Honor Band
 - Band - Section Leader/Drum Major/Captain
 - Band - Small Ensemble Performance (student created and led)
 - Band - Taking Weekly Private Lessons for full semester
 - Band - Other specific activity approved by Band Director
 - Band Section Leader/Drum Major
 - Leadership team in band, chorus, drama, or visual arts
 - Drama Club
 - Tutoring middle school and/or fellow high school student
 - Taking private lessons
 - Community event performances
 - Musical or theatre involvement
 - Teacher prep assistance
 - Volunteering to perform at local nursing home
 - Creating artwork for school and community
 - Scholastic National Art Contest submission with recognition
 - Shrimp Fest Youth in Art and/or Vocal/Instrument competition participant
 - Annual Alabama State Superintendent Fine Arts Competition with selected and/or recognized submission
 - Annual Coastal Community College High School Art Competition
 - Annual VFW National Patriotic Student Art Competition
 - Published in Celebrating Art Book; (ANY Session).
 - Perform on the District level at Trumbauer
 - Perform, direct, or produce in a theatre production on or off campus.
 - Other: Must be approved by Fine Arts Committee

Department teachers will provide forms to document participation in extracurriculars.

4. Student must obtain 20 hours of approved community service related to the arts. Practice time for community performances, in addition to director service hours, qualifies as community service. Students will account for a minimum of 20 hours. Department teachers will provide the appropriate forms for documentation.
5. Student must complete a Capstone Project during the senior year and pass the committee review. The Capstone Project must be a 2-5-minute video presentation regarding the student's experiences in the fine arts programs at Gulf Shores High School. It must include how the student sees fine arts impacting his/her life in the future. PowerPoint with a voiceover, pictures with a voiceover, or standard/creative video may be used. Be creative! Email the Capstone Project to gulfshoreshighfineartsdepartment@gmail.com by
 - a. 2023: Friday, March 24, 2023
 - b. 2024: Friday, March 22, 2024
 - c. 2025: Friday, March 21, 2025
 - d. 2026: Friday, March 20, 2026
6. Student must complete the required application, including recommendation and documentation forms by area teachers/mentors, by the deadline of:
 - a. 2023 Cohort: Friday, April 14, 2023
 - b. 2024 Cohort: Friday, April 12, 2024
 - c. 2025 Cohort: Friday, April 11, 2025
 - d. 2026 Cohort: Friday, April 10, 2026

The Gulf Shores High School Seal of Biliteracy

Purpose and Rationale

- The purpose of the Seal of Biliteracy is to:
- Encourage students to develop biliteracy skills.
- Encourage the development of world language instruction in all of our schools.
- Recognize and honor our rich and diverse language and cultural assets.
- Provide employers with a method for identifying biliterate candidates.

Gulf Shores City Schools recognizes the importance of mastery of two or more languages. Biliteracy can contribute to a student's cognitive development, an understanding of diverse cultures, and career opportunities. Furthermore, the study of world languages can provide a skilled workforce which supports our national economy and our national security. Communication in multiple languages is a critical element in enabling our students to participate effectively in a global political, social, and economic context. Gulf Shores City Schools hopes to build trust and understanding across languages and cultural groups in our diverse community through multilingual communication and literacy skills. Therefore, it is the intent of our district to promote the development of literacy in two or more languages and to provide recognition for the attainment of those skills.

The Seal of Biliteracy on high school diplomas and transcripts recognizes students attaining functional proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English. These students will be recognized at their high school graduation, their diploma will receive a stamp indicating the Seal of Biliteracy, and this information will be included on their official transcripts.

Seal of Biliteracy Criteria for 2020 Cohort and Beyond

1. Complete application for Seal of Biliteracy by March 20 of senior year.
2. Schedule and sit for required examinations as identified below.
3. Earn a qualifying score in the examinations identified below.

English Language Proficiency

Students must meet one of the following criteria for English language proficiency:

- ACT ELA Composite Score of 20 or higher (Writing-English-Reading only)
- WIDA ACCESS 2.0 Composite Score Level of 4.8 or higher (English Language Learners only; must be taken prior to senior year.)
- AAPPL score of Intermediate Mid 3 (I-3) or higher in each of the four components (Interpersonal Listening/Speaking, Presentational Writing, Interpretive Reading, and Interpretive Listening).

World Language Proficiency

Students must meet one of the following criteria for proficiency in a language other than English:

- AP score of 3 or higher (Must be taken prior to senior year.)
- AAPPL score of Intermediate Mid 3 (I-3) or higher in each of the four components (Interpersonal Listening/Speaking, Presentational Writing, Interpretive Reading, and Interpretive Listening).