

## WELCOME TO HOMESCHOOLING THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL 101

**Bradley County Home Educators (BCHE)** - Bradley County Home Educators is a Christian organization and is governed by Christian principles; however, it is open to everyone who homeschools regardless of religion or cultural background as long as they can respect the policies, principles, and Statement of Faith outlined in the BCHE By-Laws. We are primarily a SUPPORT GROUP whose mission is to help others find joy in their homeschooling journey. All our activities and events are led by homeschool parents who volunteer their time and effort for the sake of their own families and other homeschool families. Within our scope of support, we offer our members many activities and opportunities for social and educational interaction. Please enjoy our public pages and public calendar, which lists activities open to non-members. For membership information, please see [www.bche.org](http://www.bche.org).

**Church-Related School (CRS or Umbrella School)** – Registering with a CRS is advised during the high school years, although not required. They offer transcripts, diplomas, support, and the guidance of knowledgeable counselors. Research your options before making a decision. There is a fee to register and often there are fees associated with graduating, transcripts, IDs, etc. A few popular options in Tennessee are listed below, but you can find many more with a simple online search.

- **HomeLife Academy (HLA)** – This is the most commonly used CRS in our area and provides all the information you need to know about homeschooling through high school. This information is even available to non-members. They have counselors available by phone or email. All grade reporting, payments, and registration can be completed online. HomeLife offers annual transcript reviews for high school students. Students receive a high school diploma from HomeLife Academy. Visit [www.homelifeacademy.com](http://www.homelifeacademy.com) for more information.
- **Gateway Christian Schools** – Another widely used CRS for Tennessee homeschoolers. Gateway has a list of recommended curricula for high school classes, which can be a great resource for any high school student. Payments can be made online, and paperwork can be scanned and sent through email. Visit [www.gatewaychristianschools.com](http://www.gatewaychristianschools.com) for more information.
- A survey of local homeschooling families resulted in the following additional umbrella schools: Family Christian Academy of East Tennessee, Cumberland Christian Academy, and Rhea County Academy. A simple online search will result in many more options.

**Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)** – This is not a CRS, but it has one of the most comprehensive websites with High School information, forms, examples of course planning, and advice. Members of HSLDA can also call for one-on-one advising. You may check with BCHE for a discount code for an HSLDA membership. Visit [www.hsllda.org](http://www.hsllda.org) for more information on High School & Beyond.



**High School Course Requirements:**

**1 credit = a full year of study = 150 hours (50 min/day x 180 days)**

**0.5 credit – half a year of study = 75 hours**

<b>Courses</b>	<b>22 Credits</b>	<b>Minimum Requirement</b>
English	4 Credits	Any 4 English Courses
Mathematics	4 Credits	Any 4 Math Courses
Natural Science	3 Credits	Any 3 Science Courses
US History	1 Credit	Families from other countries may study their home country
Social Studies	2 Credits	Any 2 Social Science Courses
Personal Finance	0.5 Credit	Not an economics, nor a math course
Physical Education	1 Credit	150 Hours of Physical Exercise or Sports Activities
Health/Wellness	0.5 Credit	
Electives	6 Credits	Select electives based on the student's goals/interests

**English – 4 Credits Minimum Required**

English 9, 10, 11, and 12 includes the following components: Literature, Composition, plus any grammar or vocabulary that may be needed.

**Mathematics – 4 Credits Minimum Required**

Four years of math courses are required.

**Natural/Physical Sciences – 3 Credits Minimum Required**

It is **recommended** that college-bound students take 3 courses containing labs.

**Social Sciences – 3 Credits Minimum Required**

If a student takes more than 3 courses from this area of study, the extra course will be counted as an elective.

**Personal Financial** – 0.5 credit; This is not a math or economics course.

**Physical Education and Health/Wellness** – 1 credit Physical Ed.; 0.5 credit Health/Wellness

**Foreign Language** – 2 credits; Recommended to take 2 years of the same language.

**Electives – So many choices...**

These can be mainly based on subjects the students are interested in. You can be so creative with electives!



# Recommended Courses for College<sup>4</sup>

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>4 CREDITS</b>	English 9, 10, 11, 12 or Dual Enrollment courses.
<b>MATH</b>	<b>4 CREDITS</b>	Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-calculus, Calculus, Statistics, or Dual Enrollment courses.
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>3 CREDITS</b>	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Dual Enrollment courses, or other lab sciences
<b>US HISTORY</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	US History (required for US citizens)
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>2 CREDITS</b>	World History, Government, Economics, or Dual Enrollment courses
<b>PERSONAL FINANCE</b>	<b>1/2 CREDIT</b>	Not the same as Economics and is in addition to the math requirement.
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>1/2 CREDIT</b>	If Wellness is taken at a public/private school, it will transfer to HLA as 1/2 health and 1/2 credit of PE.
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	150 hours of any physical activity or sport.
<b>Recommended Electives—6 Credits</b>		
<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</b>	<b>2 CREDITS</b>	Two (2) years of same language.
<b>PERFORMING ARTS</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	Music, Art, Drama, Dance, Art/Music History Appreciation
<b>COMPUTER COURSE</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	Choose any computer-related course.
<b>OTHER ELECTIVES</b>	<b>2 CREDITS</b>	Choose any elective based on your goals or interests.
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>22 CREDITS</b>	<b>REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION</b>

## LOCAL CO-OPS

Classes can be taken through various cooperatives that our area has to offer. Parents partner with other homeschooling parents and/or teachers for the students to earn their high school credits through classes taken in a group setting. Some local co-op options are:

- BCHE High School Co-op - [www.bche.org](http://www.bche.org)
- Hilger Higher Learning - <https://hhlearning.com>
- Classical Conversations - <https://classicalconversations.com>
- Speak to Lead - <https://speaktoleaddebate.wixsite.com/homeschool>



### Grading Guidelines:

As per HomeLife Academy's Website: Most HLA parent-teachers do not use percentage grades in their teaching and grading. However, if you do prefer to use percentage grades, the HLA grading scale is as follows:

HOMELIFE ACADEMY'S	GPA used in Applecore is as follows:
<b>GRADING SCALE</b>	A+ = 4.0
A = 100 - 94	A = 4.0
B = 93 - 88	A- = 3.67
C = 85 - 77	B+ = 3.33
D = 76 - 70	B = 3.0
P = 69 OR BELOW	B- = 2.67
	C+ = 2.33
	C = 2.0
	C- = 1.67
	D+ = 1.33
	D = 1.0
	D- = .67
	F = 0

Note: All high school grades must be a letter or numerical grade and not Satisfactory/Excellent or Pass/Fail. If you enter numerical grades, they will be converted to the grading scale above.

**Work Experience** - Your student's job can also earn them high school credits on their transcript. List this as "Work Experience," earning them 0.5 credit per semester.

## SPORTS

- **TSSAA** - The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) permits a homeschooled student to participate in public school extracurricular athletics. There is more information about this on our website: [www.bche.org](http://www.bche.org) and <https://tssaa.org/tssaa-home-school-rule>.
- **NCAA** - If your student-athlete is college-bound, visit <https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/home-school-students> for all the information you need to know about playing high school sports and beyond, including a downloadable Home School Tool Kit for homeschool students.
- **LOCAL SPORTS** - Bradley Knights Sports Co-op is an athletic organization that serves our local homeschool community in a Christ-centered atmosphere. There are several sports opportunities available for high school students, including basketball, baseball, and football. Please visit [www.bradleyknights.org](http://www.bradleyknights.org) for more information about their current offerings.



## ACT TESTING

The ACT (originally American College Testing) is a standardized test used for college admissions in the United States and is the test most commonly used for students in our area. The ACT test covers four academic skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and scientific reasoning. It also offers an optional direct writing test. It is accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the United States as well as more than 225 universities outside of the U.S. The main four ACT test sections are individually scored on a scale of 1–36, and a composite score (the rounded whole number average of the four sections) is provided. ACT also provides an automatically calculated ACT Superscore to all students who have taken the ACT more than once from September 2016 to the current day.

### *Just give me the basics...*

What: Test for college entry or for dual enrollment, usually taken in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

When: Six nationwide test dates during the year at local high schools/colleges

What: Register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). Practice tests and other resources are available online.

Other: Scholarships are available for high scores; Scores can be sent to colleges for dual enrollment or college entry. Usually taken spring of 10th grade for dual enrollment period; can be taken up to 12 times.

### *Other tests you may explore:*

PSAT: Preliminary SAT

NMSAT: National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

SAT: Reasoning Test (Similar to ACT) for college entry

CLT: Classic Learning Test (Similar to ACT) for college entry

## DUAL ENROLLMENT

**What is it?** Dual enrollment is a student taking a class at a local college or university and getting both high school credit AND college credit for the same course. One semester of college is equal to one year of high school. Students can only take 100 and 200-level courses, but there are many choices of classes including PE, health, languages, the sciences, math, English, history, and tons of electives. Local classes are available at Lee University, Cleveland State Community College, and Bryan College.

**What are the benefits:** Classes are cheaper for a dual-enrolled student, lighten the student's course load in college years, learn to prioritize deadlines, time management, help them learn to respond to different world views they encounter and experience different teaching styles.

### *So how do I get started:*

- Must be a high school Junior or Senior (occasionally a sophomore, check with college)
- Minimum ACT score of 19
- Contact the Dual Enrollment Coordinators at the local colleges for application information.
- Dual Enrollment Grants and Scholarships are available; you may be required to pay additional fees such as parking, application, books, etc.



## RECORD-KEEPING (TRANSCRIPTS/PORTFOLIOS)

A *transcript* reflects the individualized progress of a student's academic work and is not designed to display all of the student's activities.

- It is best for a transcript to be simple and to the point – more is not always better.
- It is not recommended that a student complete more than 7-8 credits per year because the transcript may look padded.
- Courses such as Life Skills and Volunteer Work should not be on the transcript of a college-bound student, as that may actually weaken the transcript.
- Non-academic information such as character training, community service, volunteer work, descriptions of course work, achievements, and honors should be entered in the portfolio, which will accompany the transcript for college or scholarship applications, employment records, etc.

The *portfolio* is a formal record of all extracurricular activities, community service, awards, accomplishments, activities, projects, etc which we can print, seal, and send along with the official transcript. Colleges and universities love it it is like getting a record of all the classes a student completed (official transcript) WITH a complete resume (official portfolio). If your student is not college-bound the portfolio can be sent to technical colleges or employers, or simply kept as a record for later use.

You should request a transcript from your CRS for college application. Most charge a fee. Colleges do want an official transcript with a school "seal", not printed off by the student.

### Final Words of Advice:

- Develop a network of "mentors" whose children are a few years older than yours
- Look over this info, again and again, every few months
- Begin looking at colleges and help your child think about the future
- Pray about who and what God has designed your child to be and do
- Keep a good record – even if they're just papers in a folder
- Ask questions!
- Don't worry!!



## Dual Enrollment College Contact Information

### Cleveland State Community College

- Rachel Scruggs- [rscruggs@clevelandstatecc.edu](mailto:rscruggs@clevelandstatecc.edu)
- 423-614-8743

### Bryan College

- Pat Wesolowski [pat.wesolowski@bryan.edu](mailto:pat.wesolowski@bryan.edu)
- 423-775-7159

### Lee University

- Emily Makowski [emakowski@leeuniversity.edu](mailto:emakowski@leeuniversity.edu)

### Chattanooga State Community College

- Early College [earlycollege@chattanoogastate.edu](mailto:earlycollege@chattanoogastate.edu)
- 423-697-2676

### Tennessee College of Applied Technologies

- <https://tcatathens.edu/future-students/dual-enrollment>

All state run programs will be available to students in state schools, so the TN Promise scholarship is available at CSCC, UTC, TCAT, ChattState. Bryan College also accepts the TN Promise, but Lee does not.

All state schools superscore; Bryan College does superscore; Lee does not.

### Dual enrollment Grant:

- <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs/dual-enrollment-grant.html>

### Hope Scholarship:

- <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/money-for-college/tn-education-lottery-programs/tennessee-hope-scholarship.html>

FASFA: - <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>