

Telos Academy – Frequently Asked Questions: Credits and Schedules

As your son progresses therapeutically and academically, it is important to be informed and aware of his overall academic status. This document is designed to help you understand how your student receives credit and how our Academic Administration coordinates his scholastic trajectory.

1) How do I assist the school administration in getting academic records to Telos Academy?

- It is vitally important that Telos Academy receive all necessary documentation of your son's previous secondary school experience in order to properly place him in the correct schedule. Please gather all official school transcripts you can from 9th grade onwards (including any wilderness programs), and send these to our academy administrative assistant. If your son has taken advanced math or foreign language courses previous to 9th grade, please report that as well. Before we can create a cemented academic schedule, we must be apprised of all the credits your son has been awarded.

In some cases, calling or visiting your school may be the most effective way to procure an official transcript. If you have trouble with this process, please notify our academic administration to let them know. Ideally, we would like to have this information confirmed within the first week of admission. Any delays in this process can cause stress on the student as his academic schedule cannot be set until we know which classes he needs.

2) Will my student be able to take the same courses that would have been offered in his home school?

-Generally students at Telos Academy will be on the same curriculum track as they would have been at their home school. In every case possible, students are placed in sections designed to award them the credits they need for high school graduation. In some instances, we are not able to offer the courses that a student would have taken in the exact sequence as he would at home. When such events occur, the student can be placed in another course that is needed for graduation that is appropriate to his academic skill level. Telos Academy uses the Utah State graduation sequence as a guide for its academic scheduling. You can see a simple overview of the credit requirements for graduation by visiting the link below:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/CURR/gradinfo/Home/High-School-Requirements-by-Year.aspx>

3) What happens if my student is behind in credit? How does Telos Academy address this?

-It is common for students to arrive to our program with some credit deficits. Many students have experienced some disruption in their academic journey previous to admission; our academic model is specifically designed to assist them to recover their missing credit in a balanced but efficient way. Once our academic team has received all the necessary scholastic records for a student, they map out the needed credits and align his schedule accordingly.

Telos Academy experiences a continual stream of admitting students throughout the year, and thus is required to operate on an academic quarter system rather than a semester schedule. Quarter terms help to both accommodate arriving students and offer a wider variety of courses through the academic year. Each quarter goes for 8-10 weeks and awards .25 credits per course (rather than a .5 credit for a 16 week semester). For those more familiar with a semester system, two academic quarters are equivalent to a semester. Each quarter, students may possibly earn up to 2.0 credits.

Because Telos Academy operates year-round, we offer five academic quarters on our school calendar. Thus, it is possible for a student to earn 10 credits per year instead of the standard 8. When credits are needed even faster (such as in cases of recovering upperclassmen), Independent Study courses can be offered. These courses award even more credit at a potentially quicker pace (depending on student ability and motivation). Each student's individual circumstances and ability are taken into account when planning their academic path toward credit recovery.

4) How is my son's class schedule determined each quarter? Do I have input on which classes he takes?

-Schedules are primarily determined by the grade level of each student and his past academic history. Each student in 9-10th grade has specific set of prescribed core courses by the state of Utah which we follow. For upperclassmen, our academic administration reviews past transcripts to identify any courses that have been missed from previous grades or partial credit that needs to be filled (i.e. three of four terms of English). After the appropriate core classes have been assigned, elective coursework then fills in the balance of the student's schedule. The last consideration for a student's schedule is if he has failed any courses previously that need to be re-done for graduation for credit.

As a parent, we need your cooperation to make your son's academic experience a smooth one. Please gather and submit all academic records referred to above in a timely manner. Upon receiving these records, our administration will generate a preliminary transcript that includes all the credit a student has received in his high school career. It is vitally important that you review this document when it is sent to you so that any errors can be rectified with one of our school counselors. Once his transcript is confirmed, then a student will receive a firm schedule that is based on his credit needs. Any schedule that is created until then is subject to change.

Requests for specific core classes cannot be accommodated unless directly tied to a graduation plan for upperclassmen. If your son has a concern about his academic schedule, please refer him to our academic administration. Kindly assist us in facilitating this process by not requesting schedule changes for your student outside of this circumstance.

5) How do Psychology courses work at Telos?

As part of their participation in our program, Telos students receive a high degree of therapeutic education and are involved in several clinical activities. When you combine the sheer volume of clinical work (including individual and family therapy, clinical specialty groups, modules, and other therapeutic assignments) it adds up to several hours a week. While it is not a traditional psychology survey course a student might take at a traditional high school, we certainly feel this work merits comparable credit.

Telos Academy awards .25 credits of Psychology each full term a student is admitted in our program. This credit helps to satisfy the elective credit requirements for high school graduation (and even Social Science credit in some states). Each student's primary therapist will assess and assign a Psychology grade each quarter based on the student's involvement and active participation in his therapeutic work. Encourage your student to check in with his primary therapist to discuss the grading criteria used to evaluate their progress.

6) What elective classes does Telos Academy offer to students?

-Currently, Telos offers two primary categories of elective credit: Fine Arts & Physical Education. Both of these courses are required to graduate high school, but once the needed credits are completed they will count as electives. Elective credit can also be earned in form of our Film class which is offered intermittently through the year. Telos Academy also can assist in coordinating Independent Study courses for upperclassmen that have specific credit needs. For more information about how Independent Study courses work at Telos please visit the webpage below:

<http://academy.telosrtc.com/independent-study.html>

7) Does my son have access to any foreign language classes?

-Due to the specialized nature of foreign language learning, Telos Academy does not offer formal foreign language classes at this time. Some languages may be studied through the Independent Study course model, and many of our students can take/complete up to two years of language learning with this resource. Many students report this to be quite challenging as opposed to the regular class setting experienced in a traditional high school and often require support of a language tutor to complete these courses.

As many students are looking to meet college entrance requirements, we encourage interested upperclassmen to complete up to two years of a foreign language through our Independent Study resources which can be coordinated through our school counselors. Once a student begins a foreign language Independent Study course, we will often take a few weeks to assess his progress and then review if a tutor is needed to help him advance effectively. In these cases, individuals from the community who speak the language fluently serve as tutors. *Note: for more obscure languages, it is less likelihood that we will find eligible tutors to assist.*

We hope you are finding success in becoming more familiar with our procedures. Do not hesitate to reach out regarding any specific questions or concerns relating to your son's academic trajectory. For more information and resources relating to Telos Academy, please visit the following websites:

<http://adviser.telosrtc.com/>
<http://telosacademy.weebly.com/>