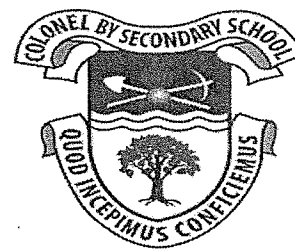


Academic or Applied?

Helping you decide...

(Portions of this document are provided courtesy: OSCA Today and the Toronto District School Board)



This brochure is designed to assist students and parents with the completion of Grade 9 Student course selection process. Students generally have a choice between *Academic*, *Applied*, or *Locally Developed* when choosing English, Math, Science, Geography and French courses.

Please note: this document is meant to serve as a guideline only. We strongly urge students and parents to consider their options carefully and consult with teachers and guidance counsellors before making a final decision regarding course selections.

What's the difference?

Academic Courses → focus on essential concepts and explore related concepts; and
 → have a strong emphasis on theory.
 → lead to University-preparation courses in grades 11 and 12.

Applied Courses → focus on the essential concepts; and
 → emphasize practical applications.
 → lead to College-preparation courses in grades 11 and 12.

Locally Developed Courses → courses focus on gaps in specific subject areas/disciplines
 → lead to applied/college or workplace/essential courses

Our experience shows that the following **Work Habits** help to ensure Success in a language-based course (English, French, Geography or Science)

Academic Courses	Applied Courses
<p>The student...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is able to work independently in a focused manner - can cover large amounts of material in shorter periods of time - has well-developed synthesis skills; must be able to use prior knowledge and experiences to solve problems - completes homework independently, consistently and thoroughly - is able to persevere when challenged 	<p>The student...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is often dependent upon teacher direction and instruction in the classroom - is able to work in a focused manner for short periods of time - is able to apply new learning to tasks, although may need reminding of skills acquired in previous units or years - usually needs assistance to organize and complete homework - requires a great deal of assistance or coaching when provided with challenging tasks

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is it so important to be enrolled in the correct program in grade 9?

- Statistically, if a student fails a credit in grade 9, there is a 15% increased likelihood of dropping out of high school per course failed.
- Students who are inappropriately placed are sometimes unable to switch to a more appropriate class because the course may not be offered in the same time slot or it may be offered during another class slot that can't be moved.
- It can be challenging to make up a missed credit in the summer in summer school.
- Students can become very stressed and feel overwhelmed if they are placed in a level for which they are not suited.



2. Can a student change from Applied to Academic?

- A student can move from Applied to Academic. Completion of a formal transition course or summer school Reach Ahead course may be required in some cases (ex. math).

3. Do all the courses I take have to be the same type?

- No. For each subject you should consider your strengths and skills. For example, you can do math and science at one level and English or Geography at another based on your abilities in each subject. Post-secondary destinations should also be considered when deciding on a course type.

4. Can I still go to university if I take Applied courses?

- Yes. You do not need Academic math or Academic science to get into many university programs (ex. English, Law, History). Students should carefully research university admission requirements so as not to take unnecessary courses.
- Colleges and universities have articulation agreements that grant credits and admission into a related university program, after completion of some 2 or 3 year college diplomas.

5. How important is the grade 8 teacher's recommendation?

- The grade 8 teachers' feedback can be very beneficial when making course level decisions. They have spent a significant amount of time working with the student and has a good grasp of the student's ability at this point. It is strongly recommended to take the teachers' feedback into consideration; however, the decision rests with the student and family.

6. What if I have questions or concerns about course selection?

- You should contact the teachers, Guidance Counsellors and Student Success Teacher at your grade 8 school or at Colonel By Secondary.

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