



Western Line
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Western Line Collegiate Academy Handbook



What is the Western Line Collegiate Academy?

Western Line School District in conjunction with Mississippi Delta Community College will implement and follow the Middle College Program design. Students who meet qualifications will take college level classes at O'Bannon High School, Riverside High School, the Greenville Higher Education Center (GHEC), and Mississippi Delta Community College (MDCC) campus.

The Collegiate Academy allows students to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an associate degree. The student body consists of high school juniors and seniors enrolled in dual credit courses at their high school and MDCC at GHEC. The Collegiate Academy expands learning opportunities for highly motivated students, provides up to 60 hours of college credit transferable to universities, and/or an industry certification credential. The key to the success of this initiative is a strong partnership between the Western Line School District and MDCC.

What students qualify to participate?

Students in grade 10 will be selected to enter the Western Line Collegiate Academy in grades 11 and 12 by meeting necessary criteria for entry. We will initially follow the guidelines already in place for students to qualify for Dual Enrollment. This will include ACT score requirements, students' QPA, and teacher recommendations attesting to the student's potential for success in college level classes. Students who enroll in this program will graduate from O'Bannon High School or Riverside High School with a high school diploma and either an Associate of Science or Associate of Arts degree from Mississippi Delta Community College.

A potential Collegiate Academy student:

- Will meet all eligibility criteria for dual credit/dual enrollment.
- Will be a junior (14 core high school units) in good standing with a GPA of 3.0 or above. (Alternative admission is possible with a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 and a minimum composite ACT score of 30 or equivalent SAT score.)
- Will submit a written recommendation from his/her high school English or Math teacher.
- Demonstrates the maturity to cope with the challenges and relative freedom of a college environment.
- Has demonstrated appropriate, responsible, and respectful behavior on the high school campus
- ACT Subscore for English Composition is a 17 and College Algebra is 19.

What can students expect after completion of the Western Line Collegiate Academy?

- High school graduation.
- Associate degree from college and/or industry certification credentials.
- Transfer scholarship opportunities.
- Accumulation of 60 college credits and/or industry certification credentials.
- Strong connection and identification with a community of learners.
- Increased maturity, independence, and evidence of coping skills.

What can students expect when taking classes at Collegiate Academy?

- MDCC will work with WLSL to customize Collegiate Academy within this framework.
- The curriculum will be customized to meet the needs of the district within degree requirements. This includes the new Mississippi Graduation Requirements with Endorsement Options, excluding most health care programs.
- Students attend normal high school activities (athletics, band, choir, etc.) and organize college classes to fit within their schedule.
- Classes are taught at the high school and local MDCC campus/online.
- MDCC will work with students and their high school counselor to customize their educational journey.
- Students will be exposed to a rigorous college curriculum and expert faculty.
- Students will have access to a cadre of student service professionals for assistance with university transfer advising.
- Students can engage in high school activities and, if desired, college activities – excluding athletics.
- Students will have a refreshing challenge with the opportunity for increased individual attention through faculty tutoring in the Learning Lab.

Funding:

WLSL will be responsible for the tuition charges, fees, and textbooks as well as transportation and meals. However, if a student fails a required dual credit course and wishes to retake it, the cost will be the responsibility of the student, parents, or legal guardians.

Discipline

While in MDCC facilities, on MDCC property or in MDCC classes, the students, faculty and Staff of WLSL shall comply with all state and local laws and all applicable MDCC regulations and policies. Failure to follow these proscriptions will subject the individual to the disciplinary procedures of MDCC and may result in dismissal from the Western Line Collegiate Academy.

Significant discipline issues that exceed the parameters of the WLSL Handbook guidelines (e.g., expellable offenses, alternative school, etc.) will be addressed by the school district's superintendent or designee. The student may be dismissed for serious violation of high school rules or regulations as described below and detailed in the handbook. While on the MDCC/GHEC Campus, students must also adhere to the MDCC Code of Conduct including any disciplinary actions that may arise. If the violation of the MDCC Code of Conduct is such that the student is no longer allowed on the MDCC Campus, then WLSL shall recommend dismissal. In all cases of dismissal, WLSL shall follow necessary due process procedures and make a recommendation for placement in the appropriate educational setting.

Students may be asked to leave the Western Line Collegiate Academy including but not limited to the following reasons:

- Persistent noncompliance with the WLSL Student Code of Conduct, WLSL Student Handbook and/or the MDCC Code of Conduct.
- Excessive discipline issues
- Failure to maintain academic eligibility determined as follows;
 - Students must maintain an unweighted GPA of 2.0 or higher
 - Students cannot fail any college course due to nonattendance
 - Students must not accumulate excessive absences and/or tardies as dictated by MDCC attendance policies.
- The WLSL student handbook shall serve as the main policy guide for student discipline. All statutory regulations will be followed related to due process and other discipline matters required by law.

The Western Line Collegiate Academy will be located on the GHEC Campus of MDCC. Most courses will be offered on the GHEC campus, but courses may be offered on any MDCC Campus or online. MDCC will provide sufficient classrooms and related space for WLSL academic programs. Limited and controlled access to the MDCC library will also be provided. There will be no unauthorized access to any other space deemed by MDCC to be unsuitable for high school students or their programs. MDCC Shall be responsible for utilities, and the maintenance thereof, and for necessary telecommunications and internet connections. Security needs will be provided by the GHEC campus security and WLSL staff will be trained in all campus security protocols.

Transportation:

Transportation will be provided to all Collegiate Academy students by the Western Line School District. The WLSL agrees to arrange morning and afternoon transportation for students enrolled in the Collegiate Academy, and will ensure prompt arrival to and departure from the GHEC campuses each school day. It is understood that the Collegiate Academy may operate under a different calendar than the home high schools, and travel may become the responsibility of the students/parents on days WLSL schools are not in session.

Students will be allowed to drive themselves to MDCC campus and back to their respective home school. However, it will be the student’s responsibility to pay for a parking permit as required by MDCC.

Students may not carpool together unless they are siblings residing in the same household.

Attendance:

The Western Line Collegiate Academy is not for the average student. Students must show responsibility and dedication to attendance and punctuality. Students must attend all classes as provided by the MDCC attendance policy Monday-Thursday. Each Friday, students will report to their home school where they will be in attendance to complete homework and activities from their MDCC classes as well as attend necessary courses offered by the school.

Check-ins or Check-outs:

Students must report to the WLSD designee each day to be counted present. If a student must Check-in late or Check-out early, the parent must make face-to-face contact with the WLSD designee who will alert the home schools. All MDCC policies for attendance will be followed.

Graduation Honors:

Western Line Collegiate Academy Students may qualify for any WLSD graduation honors including Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

Extracurricular Activities:

Students may participate in any WLSD Extracurricular Activity or sport that takes place at their home school. However, MDCC attendance policy will take precedence over any activities and therefore may not allow for participation in some events.

Advisory Team:

An advisory team composed of the student's base school Counselor, Principal, and teachers, as well as the District Middle College Program Liaison will meet to make selection decisions based upon student applications, grades, ACT Scores, and work ethic.

Nutrition:

The WLSD Office of Child Nutrition shall provide all meals to Western Line Collegiate Academy students.

Uniform:

Students will follow the Western Line School District dress code policy.

Polo Shirts must be royal blue or gold in color. Uniform Bottoms must be navy or khaki in color.

Students will wear the district issued lanyard with their MDCC ID while on the MDCC Campus.

Staff:

WLSD provides a School Safety Officer that is on site at GHEC during hours the students are on campus.

MDCC Dual Enrollment Handbook:

<https://www.msdelta.edu/programs/dual-enrollment/counselor-guidelines.php>

Student/Parent Agreement

Western Line Collegiate Academy

As a WLSD Collegiate Academy Student, I agree to the following:

- Make education a high priority in my life, including positive participation in class and school activities.
- Be punctual and maintain exceptional attendance in high school and college classes.
- Take responsibility for my own learning, behavior, and success.
- Behave in a manner that shows respect for everyone in the school community – students and staff, as well as the college and school facilities and equipment.
- Adhere to the technology agreements of WLSD and MDCC.
- Comply with both WLSD and MDCC policies and codes of conduct.
- To be placed on probation and be obligated to attend mandatory tutoring if grades on any report card fall below a “C”.
- Meet required ACT Scores or Accuplacer scores in order to participate in certain college courses.
- Maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA.
- Understand that I can be removed from the Collegiate Academy due to behavior or failure to meet academic requirements.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

As a parent/guardian of a WLSD Collegiate Academy Student, I agree to the following:

- Support daily attendance and will turn in proper documentation should my child miss.
- Keep abreast of activities by talking to my student, reading all material sent home, and actively listening to phone calls home.
- Check my child’s progress and attendance through ActiveParent and MDCC’s online portal frequently.
- Recognize and understand that my child is expected to be self-motivated, and an active participant in his/her education.
- Recognize and emphasize to my child that he/she is responsible for adhering to the technology agreements of WLSD and MDCC.
- Understand that MDCC is a closed campus and that students may not leave campus at any time without prior approval and/or notification by a parent/guardian.
- Understand that my child will be placed on probation and be obligated to attend mandatory tutoring if grades on any report card fall below a “C”.
- Understand that my child must meet required ACT or Accuplacer scores in order to participate in mandatory college courses.
- Understand that my child must maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA.
- Understand that my child can be removed from the Collegiate Academy due to behavior or failure to meet academic requirements.

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Principal Signature: _____ Superintendent Signature: _____