Catalina Foothills High School

Eligibility Criteria for Math Placement

Criteria for Honors Placement for Students Currently in an Honors Math Class				
Honors Eligibility Requirements/Data Points				
Current Math Course	Semester 1 Grade	Semester 2 Grade	Semester 1 Honors Final	Semester 2 Honors Final
Honors	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Note: Students in standard math must take the Honors level final during the final exam make-up period.				

- Students who meet all of the above data points will automatically be placed in the next honors course at the end of the current school year, unless the student self-selects a standard math placement for the following year.
- Students who do not meet all four data points will automatically be placed in the next standard level math course unless the student successfully appeals their placement.
- Students who do not meet all four data points and are at least a year ahead of their grade level may also select to retake the current honors course next year, instead of taking the next standard level math course. This is only an option for students who are a grade level or more ahead.

Students Eligible for the Appeal Process

Students may appeal in the following situations:

- Students who miss multiple data points above, but score a 2.5 or above on ALL data points
- Students who miss only one data point with any score, but earn a 3.0 or above on all other data points
- Students who miss both data points first semester with any score, but earn both data points second semester

To be considered for an appeal…

The **student** must email an appeal letter to their current teacher within one day of taking the final that addresses the following:

- Reason(s) why the student wants to take the next honors level course.
- An explanation of why the student missed the data points that they did and what they learned about their own learning process to help prevent missing data points in the future.
- Strategies the students will employ in the future and over the summer to ensure their success in the next honors level course.

Appeal Decisions

A panel of math teachers teaching the current class and the department chair will make a team decision on appeals based upon the following criteria:

- The student's data points and knowledge base as provided by the final exams and unit exams.
- The student's appeal letter, what the student has stated they will do to ensure success, and evidence of those strategies that are already in place to ensure their success.

The math team considers the gaps that a student may have in their knowledge and if the student will be able to fill in those gaps during an accelerated math course based upon the strategies that the student has already implemented during the school year, and the strategies the student has detailed in their appeal letter. The committee works diligently to set students up for success and the ability to be highly proficient in their next level course, which may be a standard course if the student has too many gaps in knowledge to fill in those gaps at an honors level pace.

Criteria for Honors Placement for Students Currently in a Standard Math Class						
Honors Eligibility Requirements/Data Points						
Current Math Course	Semester 1 Grade	Semester 1 Standard Final	Semester 2 Grade	Semester 2 Standard Final	Semester 1 Honors Final	Semester 2 Honors Final
Standard	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.0 (Except Algebra 1 which only has a standard Final)	3.0 (Except Algebra 1 which only has a standard Final)
Note: Students in standard math must take the Honors level final during the final exam make-up period.						

- The honors pathway is open to all students, but students that are not already in the Honors pathway may need to do additional weekly work outside of their standard class to be placed in honors (beyond Algebra 1).
- The main difference between the Honors pathway and the Standard pathway is the speed with which the material is learned and assessed.

Honors Placement into Honors Geometry from Standard Algebra 1

- Since there is not an Honors Algebra 1 class, the pacing for all Algebra 1 students is the same as the content is foundational for all future math coursework. However, during the year students will routinely be given extensions and abstractions on every assessment that will prepare those students who want to enter Honors Geometry the following school year.
- Students who earn all four data points, **where the finals are not HONORS level, but the standard Algebra 1 level, and score a 3.5 on the standard level finals**, will automatically be considered for placement in Honors Geometry; however, the student will select their placement into Honors Geometry or standard Geometry.
- Students who do not meet all four data points will automatically be placed in the next standard level course unless the student successfully appeals their placement.

Students Eligible for the Appeal Process

Students may appeal in the following situations:

- Students who miss multiple data points, but score a 3.25 or above on ALL data points.
- Students who miss only one data point with any score, but earn a 3.5 or above on all other data points.
- Students who miss both data points first semester with any score, but earn both data points second semester.

To be considered for an appeal…

The **student** must email their current teacher within one day of taking the final an appeal letter that addresses the following:

1. Reason(s) why the student wants to take the next honors level course.

2. An explanation of why the student missed the data points that they did and what they learned about their own learning process to help prevent missing data points in the future.
3. Strategies the students will employ in the future and over the summer to ensure their success in the next honors level course.

Appeal Decisions

A panel of math teachers teaching the current class and the department chair will make a team decision on appeals based upon the following criteria:

- The student's data points and knowledge base as provided by the final exams and unit exams.
- The student's appeal letter, what the student has said they will do to ensure success, and evidence of those strategies that are already in place to ensure their success.

The math team considers the gaps that a student may have in their knowledge and if the student will be able to fill in those gaps during an accelerated math course based upon the strategies that the student has already implemented during the school year, and the strategies the student has detailed in their appeal letter. The committee works diligently to set students up for success and the ability to be highly proficient in their next level course, which may be a standard course if the student has too many gaps in knowledge to fill in those gaps at an honors level pace.

Honors Placement into Honors Algebra 2 or AP Precalculus from Standard Geometry or Standard Algebra 2

- The pacing of Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra 2 is faster than the pacing of standard Geometry and standard Algebra 2. In Honors Geometry, one additional unit and multiple extensions in other units are taught that are not taught in standard Geometry. In Honors Algebra 2, the units are the same, however the depth is much greater. The honors classes are taught roughly the equivalent of two more units of study in extensions within each unit.
- Students in standard Geometry and standard Algebra 2 **must take the honors final both semesters** in addition to the standard final, and must earn a 3.0 or above on the honors level finals. Students also need to earn a 3.5 or higher on the standard Geometry and the standard Algebra 2 finals for both semesters.
- To prepare for the honors final, students must go to the department chair or their current teacher on a weekly basis throughout the school year to obtain copies of the honors summative assessments and to work with the teacher so that they can learn the additional material not taught in their current standard course.
- Students who want the honors placement for the following school year will need to sign up with the math department chair at the beginning of the current school year to be added to the list of students taking the honors finals at the end of both semesters.
- Students who take both honors finals and meet all four data points will automatically be placed in the next honors level course.

Students Eligible for the Appeal Process

Students may appeal in the following situations:

- Students miss the data point for the first semester honors final, but earn the second semester honors final and the class grade data points each semester.
- Students who miss both honors semester finals data points but score a 2.5 or above on the honors finals and earn the class grade data points each semester.

- Students who miss only one data point with any score, but earn all 3.0 scores on the other data points.
- Students who earn a 2.0 or above on the honors finals will be placed in honors and the teacher will closely monitor their diagnostic in the first two weeks to evaluate placement and may move the student if appropriate.

To be considered for an appeal…

The **student** must email an appeal letter to their current teacher within one day of taking the final that addresses the following:

1. Reason(s) why the student wants to take the next honors level course.
2. An explanation of why the student missed the data points that they did and what they learned about their own learning process to help prevent missing data points in the future.
3. Strategies the students will employ in the future and over the summer to ensure their success in the next honors level course.

Appeal Decisions

A panel of math teachers teaching the current class and the department chair will make a team decision on appeals based upon the following criteria:

- The student's data points and knowledge base as provided by the final exams and unit exams.
- The student's appeal letter, what the student stated they will do to ensure success, and evidence of those strategies that are already in place to ensure their success.
- Students who are closer to the proficiency level of 3.0 are accepted, but most times students who are closer to the 2.5 for all 4 data points may be denied if their work has consistently shown conceptual misunderstandings. This is because the pacing of the next course does not allow time for correcting prior conceptual misunderstandings while learning the new content.
- Students who show the data points for 2nd semester or are near the data points for 2nd semester always have their appeals accepted, regardless of data points from 1st semester as the courses are cumulative and this shows they mastered the material.
- Students who only miss one data point are always accepted unless the data point is the 2nd semester final which measures the knowledge that needs to be transferred, and then a case-by-case decision is made if the student is not near the 3.0 data point.

The math team considers the gaps that a student may have in their knowledge and if the student will be able to fill in those gaps during an accelerated math course based upon the strategies that the student has already implemented during the school year, and the strategies the student has detailed in their appeal letter. The committee works diligently to set students up for success and the ability to be highly proficient in their next level course, which may be a standard course if the student has too many gaps in knowledge to fill in those gaps at an honors level pace.

Criteria for Students to Place into Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

AP Statistics:

- Any passing grade from AP Precalculus
  Or
- Any passing grade from Standard Statistics/Discrete Math
  OR
- Any passing grade from AP Calculus AB
  OR
  If the student will be a senior, they may take a proficiency test on the material taught in standard Statistics and must score a 2.5 or higher to enter AP Statistics. Students will be given all the standard Statistics exams to study from and can receive support from the teacher all year to learn the content.

AP Calculus AB:

- Any passing grade from AP Precalculus
  OR
- Recommended a 2.5 or above in standard Precalculus
  OR
- If a student will be a senior, they may take two Precalculus classes in person in the summer (Math 188, 189 at Pima Community College) is typical and earn a grade of B or above.

AP Calculus BC:

- Recommended 2.5 or above in AP Precalculus
  OR
- Recommended a 2.5 or above in AP Calculus AB
  OR
- If a student will be a senior, they may take Calculus I in person in the summer (Math 220 at Pima Community College is typical and earn a grade of B or above)

Additional Information for Students Who Want to Test into the Honors Program

- Students who are trying to test into Honors Geometry from Algebra 1 or Honors Algebra 2 from standard Algebra 2 are reminded of the criteria to place into honors each quarter during the school year. Students and families receive a letter that highlights the criteria/requirements. Students are asked to inform their teacher if they are interested in honors so that they can receive support throughout the year to maintain a high level of proficiency (3.5 and above) in class.
- Students will receive the materials they need to prepare for honors placement from their current teacher or the department chair. Both the current teacher and the department chair will support the student as they learn the additional honors material. They are given multiple options before and after school to learn the material they need for the honors finals. Students come in for about 30-60 minutes a week for additional support. Students may choose to study on their own, but those who participate in the CFHS support sessions have been more successful.
- Students will take the honors finals with the department chair. If they miss the first semester, they are automatically accepted for an appeal if they take the second semester final and score a 2.5 or above.

Additional Information for Students Who May Be Deciding to Leave the Honors Program

- If students are not meeting the score 3.0 requirement during the first semester, teachers will meet with them to discuss what strategies they need to employ to earn the 3.0 for second semester, and try to help the student achieve the 3.0.
- In rare cases, if the student is scoring below 2.5, the teacher and student's family may elect to move the student to the standard course at the end of the first semester.
- When course registration begins (typically at the beginning of the third quarter), teachers will meet individually with students to discuss goals for the next school year and to help them decide if the pacing in honors is appropriate for them. For example, the teacher may inquire about how much time is spent outside of class and what outside resources are being used to support success, what sports/activities students are involved in, and what AP or honors classes the students want to take the next school year to help them determine if they can budget enough time for an honors math class. Students may then self-select to take the next standard course, if appropriate, but this is done on a case-by-case basis. If a teacher disagrees with a student's decision to move out of honors, as the student is excelling and has earned all of the data points, the teacher will contact the family to encourage the student to take the next honors course.