

2026



Scholars Academy Student & Parent Handbook 2026–2027

"PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCHOLARS,
LEADERS, AND SERVANTS THROUGH ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
AND CHRISTIAN FAITH."

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

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Welcome from the Provost

Dear Scholars Academy Student,

Welcome to Charleston Southern University! We are excited that you have chosen to begin your college journey through the CSU Scholars Dual Credit Program.

As a CSU Scholar, you are doing something remarkable. While completing high school, you are also challenging yourself with college-level coursework, earning credits toward your future degree, and discovering what it means to be part of a university community. This opportunity will require commitment, organization, and hard work, but you will not be walking this journey alone. Your professors, advisors, school counselors, and the CSU faculty and staff are here to encourage and support you.

At Charleston Southern University, our mission is to promote academic excellence in a Christian environment. We want you to grow not only as a student but also as a leader and a person of character and faith. We encourage you to ask questions, communicate with your professors, meet deadlines, and take full advantage of the resources available to you. Remember that the grades you earn in these courses will become part of your permanent college transcript, so approach each class with responsibility and determination.

You belong at CSU, and we are proud to welcome you into our Buccaneer family. We hope your experience in the CSU Scholars Program helps you build confidence, explore your interests, and recognize the many possibilities ahead of you.

Congratulations on taking this important step toward your future. We look forward to watching you learn, grow, and succeed.

Dr. Michael Wilder

Provost

Charleston Southern University

Welcome to Charleston Southern University

Charleston Southern University is an accredited Christian university committed to promoting academic excellence while integrating faith into every area of learning.

Students are encouraged to:

- Think critically
- Lead courageously
- Serve compassionately
- Live with integrity
- Grow spiritually

Although Scholars Academy students remain enrolled in high school, they are considered Charleston Southern University students and are expected to follow university academic and behavioral standards.

About the Scholars Academy

The Scholars Academy is Charleston Southern University's dual enrollment program designed for academically motivated high school juniors and seniors.

Students earn **college credit** for every successfully completed course while remaining enrolled in high school.

Courses are available

- On campus
- Online
- Hybrid (when available)

Classes are taught by CSU faculty using the same curriculum and academic standards expected of all university students.

Why Choose Scholars Academy?

Students who participate in Scholars Academy can:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ Earn transferable college credit | ✓ Strengthen college applications |
| ✓ Experience college before graduating from high school | ✓ Begin earning credits toward a degree |
| ✓ Save money on college tuition | ✓ Learn from university professors |
| ✓ Build confidence | ✓ Become familiar with college expectations |
-

Tuition

Only \$325* per Course

One of the most affordable dual enrollment opportunities available.

Students receive:

- College instruction
- University transcript
- Access to campus resources
- Library privileges
- Academic support
- Blackboard learning system
- CSU email account

*Tuition costs may be subject to change in future semesters

Scholars Academy Scholarship

Students who complete Scholars Academy courses and later enroll full-time at Charleston Southern University may earn tuition discounts during their freshman year.

Students receive

\$125 tuition discount

for each Scholars Academy course successfully completed

(up to four courses)

Maximum scholarship: **\$500**

Students who withdraw from a Scholars Academy course are not eligible for the associated scholarship.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be a high school junior or senior
- Have a minimum 3.0 unweighted GPA
- Complete the online application
- Submit high school transcript

Although not required, PSAT, SAT, ACT, or CLT scores are encouraged.

Supporting Student Success in Freshman English, Foreign Languages, and Mathematics

The use of **SAT, ACT, and Charleston Southern University** placement examinations plays a critical role in ensuring student success in **freshman-level English and mathematics courses**. These measures provide objective indicators of a student's **academic readiness**, helping to place students in courses that align with their current skill levels and learning needs.

If a student does not have SAT or ACT scores, they must take the CSU Accuplacer. Students who want to take French or Spanish courses must take a placement test.

Email testingcenter@csuniv.edu to schedule a test.

ENGLISH

ENGL 111 Composition, Rhetoric and Research

ENGL 112 Composition with Introduction to Literature (Prerequisite ENGL 111)

English Placement Guide for Regularly Admitted Students

If I have the following score...	I am eligible to take...
SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW): 550 or higher	ENGL 111
ACT English: 21 or higher	ENGL 111
Classic Learning Test (CLT): 70 or higher	ENGL 111
ACCUPLACER WritePlacer: 6–8	ENGL 111

Statement on the Selection of Novels in English Courses

Charleston Southern University is committed to providing students with a rigorous academic education grounded in a biblical worldview. As part of that commitment, English courses include the study of classic and influential works of literature that have shaped culture, history, language, and human thought.

The novels selected for our courses are chosen because of their literary merit, historical significance, and educational value—not because the university endorses every idea, behavior, or worldview they contain. Great literature often explores the complexities of the human condition, including themes of sin, injustice, suffering, redemption, courage, and hope. These works provide meaningful opportunities for students to think critically, engage in respectful dialogue, and evaluate ideas through the lens of Scripture.

We recognize that some literary works may contain language, situations, or perspectives that some students and families find challenging. Rather than avoiding these works, our faculty intentionally teach them from a Christian worldview, helping students develop discernment, wisdom, and the ability to engage the culture thoughtfully while remaining firmly rooted in biblical truth.

Faculty guide classroom discussions with care and sensitivity, encouraging students to analyze literature academically while considering how Christian principles inform their understanding of the text. Our goal is not merely to study literature but to cultivate graduates who can thoughtfully evaluate ideas, communicate effectively, and faithfully engage the world as followers of Christ.

SPANISH AND FRENCH

As soon as the student completes a placement test, he/she will receive notification (on screen) of the course which he/she has tested (110, 120, 201, etc.).

Email testingcenter@csuniv.edu to schedule a test. It takes approximately 15 minutes, and you will receive your scores/results immediately.

- FREN 110 - French for Today's World I (3 hour(s))
- FREN 110L - French Culture (0-1 hour(s))
- FREN 120 - French for Today's World II (3 hour(s))
- FREN 201 - Intermediate French I (3 hour(s))
- FREN 202 - Intermediate French II (3 hour(s))
- SPAN 110 - Spanish for Today's World (3 hour(s))
- SPAN 120 - Spanish for Today's World II (3 hour(s))
- SPAN 201 - Intermediate Spanish I (3 hour(s))
- SPAN 202 - Intermediate Spanish II (3 hour(s))

If I test into...	I am allowed to take...	Should I sign up for a lab?
110	110	Yes
120	110 or 120	110- Yes 120- No
201	120 or 201	No
202	201 or 202	No
300 or 400-level These students are exempt from the LAC foreign language requirement.	202 or courses at 300/400-level if I desire.	No

MATHEMATICS

- MATH 103- Intermediate Algebra (4 hour(s))
- MATH 105- Introduction to Mathematical Structures (3 hour(s))
- MATH 110 (3 hour(s)) with required lab
- MATH 110L- College Algebra Workshop (1 hour)
- MATH 111 College Algebra (3 hour(s))
- MATH 130 Precalculus (4 hour(s))
- MATH 209 Calculus for Business (3 hour(s))
- MATH 213- Probability and Statistics (3 hour(s))
- MATH 221 - Calculus I (4 hour(s))
- MATH 222 - Calculus II (4 hour(s))
- MATH 321 - Calculus III (4 hour(s))

Math Placement Guide for Regularly Admitted Students			
If I have the following score...			I am eligible to take...
SAT Math	ACT Math	CLT QR	Course Placement
490 +	19 +	16+	Math 105, Math 110 with Math 110L
510+	20+	17+	Math 105, Math 110
530 +	22 +	19+	Math 105, Math 111
590 +	25 +	24+	Math 130, Math 209, Math 213
700 +	30 +	30+	Math 221
Accuplacer QAS	Accuplacer AAF	Course Placement	
200-242		Math 099	
243-250		Math 103, Math 105	
251+	200-220	Math 105, Math 110 with Math 110L	
	221-236	Math 105, Math 110	
	237-259	Math 105, Math 111	
	260-284	Math 130, Math 209, Math 213	
	285-300	Math 221	

Other Available Courses

Students may choose from a variety of courses, including:

Science

- Biology with Lab
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Chemistry

History & Government

- World Civilization
- American Government

Psychology

- General Psychology
- Social Psychology

Biblical Studies

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Hebrew
- Greek

Additional Courses

- Philosophy
- Robotics
- Theatre
- Music Appreciation
- Personal Health
- Medical Terminology

Course availability varies by semester.

Academic Advising/Registration

Students register for courses through an academic advisor.

Advisor for all Scholars is Dr. Ryan Thomas; he can be reached at rthomas@csuniv.edu

Student Responsibilities

[CSU-Student-Handbook-2026-27-FINAL-20260915.pdf](#)

As a college student, you are expected to:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ✓ Attend every class | ✓ Meet deadlines |
| ✓ Arrive on time | ✓ Participate respectfully |
| ✓ Check CSU email daily | ✓ Communicate professionally with faculty |
| ✓ Read Blackboard announcements | ✓ Ask for help early |
| ✓ Complete assignments independently | ✓ Follow all university policies |
-

Academic Expectations

College classes move significantly faster than high school classes.

Students should expect to spend:

2–3 hours studying outside class each week for every hour spent in class.

Missing one class can equal an entire week of high school instruction.

Students are responsible for all missed work regardless of the reason for the absence.

Attendance

Regular attendance is required.

Students are expected to:

- Attend every class
- Notify instructors when emergencies occur
- Complete missed work promptly

Excessive absences may lower grades or result in failure according to the course syllabus.

Academic Integrity

Charleston Southern University values honesty.

Students must never:

- Cheat
- Plagiarize
- Copy another student's work
- Share exam answers
- Submit AI-generated work unless specifically authorized
- Falsify information

Violations may result in:

- Reduced grades
- Failure of the assignment
- Failure of the course
- Additional disciplinary action

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence tools, such as ChatGPT, may be used only when specifically permitted by the instructor.

Students remain responsible for:

- Accuracy
- Original thinking
- Proper citation
- Following course policies

Unauthorized use of AI is considered academic dishonesty.

Classroom Conduct

Students are expected to:

- Silence phones
 - Remain attentive
 - Respect classmates
 - Respect professors
 - Participate professionally
 - Avoid disruptive behavior
-

Communication

Students, not parents, are responsible for communicating with instructors.

Students should:

- Check CSU email daily
 - Respond promptly
 - Use respectful language
 - Schedule office hours when needed
-

FERPA Information for Parents

Because Scholars Academy students are enrolled in college courses, federal privacy laws (FERPA) generally protect the student's educational records.

This means that instructors typically communicate directly with students regarding grades, assignments, and academic progress rather than with parents.

Parents can best support their students by encouraging them to communicate with professors, manage deadlines, and seek assistance when needed.

Student Support Services

The Hub

The Hub, located on the 2nd floor of the campus library, is a one-stop shop for academic support, advice, and encouragement. The personalized services are free for students at Charleston Southern University.

Tutoring

Peer tutors are available to review difficult course content, answer questions, and provide practice problems. You can also schedule a tutor to help with time management or map out your assignments for the semester to make sure you're on the path to success. Tutors are available both online and in-person. Services are free for all Charleston Southern University students.

For more information or assistance with Tutoring, please call 843-863-7385.

[Make an Appointment](#)

Walk-In Services

Walk-in services are available for students in The Hub. Our team is available Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. to answer questions about Blackboard, Slingshot, Bucmail, and more! For assistance, please call 843-863-7385.

Testing

Charleston Southern provides a full range of testing services, including [CLEP](#), Placement Exams, and accommodations through [Accessibility Services](#). Tests may be scheduled Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to ensure all tests end by 5 p.m.

Email testingcenter@csuniv.edu to schedule a test today!

Scholars Academy students have access to many university resources, including:

- Library
- Academic Success Center
- Accessibility Services
- Writing Center
- Tutoring
- IT Help Desk
- Campus Ministry

Technology

Students are expected to:

- Use MyCSU, where you can find your schedule, add money to your ID for food service, and more
 - Use Blackboard regularly
 - Check CSU email daily
 - Maintain reliable internet access
 - Submit assignments electronically when required
-

Parking

Students taking classes on campus must:

- Obtain a CSU parking permit (if required)
 - Park only in designated student parking areas
 - Follow all campus traffic regulations
-

Campus Safety

Emergency Number: **843-863-8000**

Campus Police provide:

- Emergency response
- Escorts
- Lost and found
- Safety assistance

Students should immediately report emergencies or suspicious activity.

Student Code of Conduct

Scholars Academy students are expected to:

- Demonstrate honesty
- Show respect for others
- Respect university property
- Follow university policies
- Represent Charleston Southern University with integrity

Behavior inconsistent with university expectations may result in removal from the Scholars Academy.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my parents talk to my professor?

Students should communicate directly with faculty. FERPA limits the information professors may share with parents.

Are these real college classes?

Yes. They are the same courses taken by Charleston Southern University students.

Will the credits transfer?

Many colleges accept transfer credits, but transferability is determined by the receiving institution. Students should consult the registrar at the college they plan to attend.

What happens if I fail?

The course becomes part of your permanent college transcript and may affect future college GPA calculations. Students should seek help early if they experience academic difficulty.

Can I withdraw?

Yes, within university deadlines. However, if you are using these hours to complete high school credit, there may be a penalty on your high school transcript. Withdrawing from a course may also affect eligibility for the Scholars Academy scholarship if you later enroll at CSU.

More Resources

Dual Credit Guidelines for Career and Technical Education Completer Status [Dual Credit Guidelines](#)

[2025-2026 Bill 4984: South Carolina Dual Enrollment Opportunity Act - South Carolina Legislature Online](#)

[Dual Enrollment | CHE](#)