

# Alternate Career Pathways - Virtual Academy

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## HIGH POINT VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a) 1.ii, as well as with the district's I&RS and Rtl programs, High Point Regional High School offers students the opportunity to engage in virtual learning, so as to meet individual student needs, and to prepare students for success in college and career. We recognize that virtual learning is a component of an enriching 21st Century education, and we have responded to the needs of our community and our students accordingly. High Point teaching staff members have also created exceptional virtual courses for our students to consider. The High Point Virtual Academy uses *Educere* to provide online and blended learning courses. These courses are taught by certified teachers and aligned to the NJSLS.

## ALTERNATE CREDIT PATHWAYS

There are **three** alternate credit pathways:

**1) Original Credit through Option II:** This opportunity enables students to take courses for original credit. It is recommended that students take these courses via the High Point Virtual Academy, but other providers/institutions may be approved by the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. All Option II courses must be aligned to and meet the proficiencies and content enumerated in the NJSLS. Additionally, to receive credit on their transcript students may be required to demonstrate proficiency in the subject area via the departmental final exam or the equivalent with approval from the Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

**2) Credit Recovery:** This option provides students who have failed a course, or who have lost credit due to attendance, with the opportunity to earn back this credit. Students should discuss the credit recovery process with their guidance counselor. Credit recovery may also be a recommended intervention by the district I&RS Team.

### Requirements for earning Original Credit through Option II; or for Credit Recovery:

- Students are prohibited from dropping an "in-seat" course to pursue virtual courses.
- If students have the opportunity to take a course at High Point, in traditional "in-seat" format, the district will not pay for a student to take this course through the Virtual Academy.
- Students who enroll in virtual courses over the summer for Original Credit are responsible for paying for the entire course.
- Students applying for AP/Honors courses are to adhere to the current High Point prerequisites. They will also be required to take the AP examination in May.
- It is the student's responsibility to understand the course description, structure, and requirements prior to registration. Additional equipment may be necessary and is the responsibility of the student.
- Courses are designed to require a minimum of 120 hours for successful completion.
- All laboratory science courses require additional hours and resources.

- Virtual courses might not meet NCAA clearinghouse requirements. Student-athletes should discuss this issue with their guidance counselor.
- During the registration process students must use their High Point Gmail address. A parent email address is also required.
- Students are encouraged to seek all necessary course help through the virtual provider and virtual teacher. The virtual teacher/course is accessible 24/7; therefore all course help should be pursued virtually.
- Students who require educational modifications will receive the full requirements according to their individualized educational plan.

*\* These requirements are subject to administrative discretion, and may be adjusted on a case by case basis.*

**3) Independent Study:** This can be an academically enriching experience for both the student and the cooperating teacher. Independent study provides students with the opportunity to master an academic area through initiative, self-discipline, and the guidance of a cooperating teacher.

**Requirements for earning credit through Independent Study:**

- The student has completed a minimum of 60 credits toward graduation;
- The student has achieved a grade of 80 or better in all prerequisite courses in a specific subject area;
- The student has obtained written approval from his or her parent, the teacher, his or her guidance counselor, and the Principal prior to beginning the independent study;
- The student must carry at least six courses, plus Physical Education before an independent study may be considered during the regular academic school year;
- The nature of the course makes independent study feasible;
- The approved curriculum for the course will be kept on file;
- A teacher with New Jersey Certification in the subject is willing to instruct, evaluate, and grade [Pass/Fail (P/F)] an independent study arrangement.
- Students who wish to participate in an individualized internship program should see their guidance counselor. Students must be prepared to present a proposal to their counselor which will be reviewed and approved by the Director of Curriculum.
- The independent study can be done as a senior project. This option must be discussed with a student's guidance director, the Principal and the Director of Curriculum.
- An independent study course will receive a P/F grade, which will be recorded on the student's transcript, but will not be calculated as part of the student's GPA. Courses taken via Independent Study will be subject to the same grade reporting deadlines that apply to courses taken in the classroom.

*\* These requirements are subject to administrative discretion, and may be adjusted on a case by case basis.*

**How to Apply to for Credit through one of High Point's Alternate Credit Pathways?:**

Submit the appropriate form to your guidance counselor (linked below):

[Application to take a virtual course for ORIGINAL CREDIT or CREDIT RECOVERY](#)

[Application to take a virtual course via INDEPENDENT STUDY](#)

The full list of available Virtual Academy courses can be accessed here:

[Credit Recovery](#)

[Original Credit \(Option II\)](#)

### **Virtual Academy Fees:**

- There are no costs for virtual courses that are part of an I&RS/RTI intervention plan.
- For Original Credit courses taken via the Virtual Academy in situations where the specific course is **not** available “in-seat” at High Point, students must provide a **\$200.00** deposit (made payable to “High Point Regional H.S. and submitted through Guidance). High Point will pay for entire cost of this course directly to the online provider. The \$200.00 deposit will be refunded to students who earn a grade of 70 or better. Any student who does not complete a course or receives a grade lower than a 70 will be required to reimburse High Point for the entire cost of the course. If High Point exhausts the resources allocated to support virtual learning, students will be made aware of this issue prior to scheduling for a course, and alternative arrangements will be made.
- Original Credit courses taken via the High Point Virtual Academy during the **summer** are to be fully paid for by the student.
- Original Credit courses taken via the High Point Virtual Academy during the **school year**, and that are available to students through traditional “in-set” instruction at High Point, are to be fully paid for by the student.
- Financial considerations regarding the ability of students and their parents to provide payment will be considered on a case by case basis.

*\* These requirements are subject to administrative discretion, and may be adjusted on a case by case basis.*