



# Discover the adventure of **ACADEMIC CHALLENGE**

*A Partnership between Delaware Technical Community College and the Sussex County School Districts.*

CAPE HENLOPEN • DELMAR • INDIAN RIVER • LAUREL • MILFORD • SEAFORD • SUSSEX TECH • WOODBRIDGE

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Students are selected for participation in the Academic Challenge Program during the third marking period of the seventh grade. The program's eligibility criteria is based on a numerical formula which measures aptitude, achievement, student performance in the specific subject area, and overall student performance.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Students apply with their school counselor. They may qualify for English or math or for both. A combination of points for qualification is accrued from the following sources:

- Average of seventh grade subject area marking period grades
- PSAT 8/9 scores OR GPA of core subjects English, mathematics, science, and social studies\*\*
- Teachers' Evaluation of Student Skills
- District Assessment in English or Math\*\*

\*\*The Academic Challenge Steering Committee approved amended Selection Criteria for the 2020-2021 school year due to difficulties with administering tests.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIONS

As Academic Challenge celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2017, the program continues to innovate with:

- Expanded scheduling options at Levels 4 and 5
- Level 5 spring semester Elective courses (with prerequisite English and mathematics) that can align with career direction
- New Advisement feature at Level 3 to guide students in course selection and University planning
- Summer math and English programs for entry students
- Extracurricular Entrepreneurial Enlightenment Program for students in Level 1-4

## THE PROGRAM

The Academic Challenge Program provides an atmosphere that nurtures the scholastic and creative abilities of highly motivated and academically talented students in the disciplines of mathematics and English.

The program is a college-school partnership between Delaware Technical Community College and the Sussex County School Districts. During the first three years of this five-year program, students are offered the standard high school curriculum in mathematics and English at an accelerated pace. This allows the students to take college courses in junior and senior year. These courses are taught by Delaware Tech instructors, and the students earn formal college credit for transfer to Universities.\*

Students enter the program at the beginning of eighth grade. Once a week, typically Tuesdays, Level 1-3 students (eighth, ninth and tenth grade) are bused from their home schools to the Delaware Tech Owens Campus for a half-day of instruction in math or English, or a full day of instruction in math and English. Level 4 and 5 students (eleventh and twelfth grade) attend Delaware Tech courses taught at the Owens Campus at their scheduled times.

## HISTORY

Delaware Tech began the Academic Challenge Program in 1987. It was modeled after the Johns Hopkins University Study of Mathematically and Verbally Precocious Youth, which was piloted in Sussex County by the Department of Public Instruction.

\*A total of 27 college credits may be earned; 15 college credits in math and math related electives and 12 college credits in English and English related electives.

*Discover the adventure of Academic Challenge . . . 30 years of Excellence in Education!*

## *Academic Challenge Goals*

1. To provide a five-year accelerated program of instruction in mathematics and English.
2. To provide activities that will enhance experience and contribute to developing the well-rounded student.
3. To foster independent learning that promotes responsibility, time management and accountability.
4. To provide students with a foundation for lifelong development.
5. To provide a model that promotes the value of education in an ever-changing society.



*“The growth of the human mind is still high adventure, in many ways the highest adventure on earth.”*

*- Norman Cousins*

### Academic Challenge Curriculum

Level 1				Level 2			
FALL	CR	SPRING	CR	FALL	CR	SPRING	CR
Language, Grammar & Writing	-	Writing, Research & Presentation	-	World Literature	-	British Literature	-
Algebra I	-	Algebra II	-	Geometry	-	Functions, Statistics & Trigonometry	-
Level 3				Level 4			
FALL	CR	SPRING	CR	FALL	CR	SPRING	CR
American Literature	-	Writing & Research	-	ENG 124 Oral Communications	3	ENG 111 Honors Composition	3
Pre-calculus A	-	Trigonometry & Pre-calculus B	-	MAT 281 Calculus I	4	ENG 129 Creative Writing	3
						MAT 282 Calculus II	4
						MAT 251 Finite Math	3
Level 5							
FALL	CR	SPRING	CR	SPRING	CR	SPRING	CR
ENG 128 African American Literature	3	COM 246 Intro to Film	4	MAT 251 Finite Math	3		
ENG 122 Technical Writing & Communication	3	ENG 129 Creative Writing	3	MAT 256 Statistics II	4		
MAT 283 Calculus III	4	HIS 111 US History: Pre-Civil War	3	PHY 281 Physics I with Calculus	4		
MAT 255 Statistics I	4	HIS 112 US History: Post-Civil War	3	BIO 140 General Biology	4		
		ECO 122 Macroeconomics	3	ECO 122 Macroeconomics	3		

For more information:

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