

College *of the* Mainland

I N F O R M A T I O N S E S S I O N

COM
DUAL
CREDIT
ADVANTAGE

THE OPENING DOORS
& PROMISE
SCHOLARSHIP

THURSDAY, JAN. 29 | 6-7:30 P.M.
COM CONFERENCE CENTER



Event Agenda

6:00 - 6:10 p.m.

Welcome Remarks – Michelle Brezina, VP Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

6:10 - 6:20 p.m.

Introduction of the Dual Credit & CHS Team – Lindsey Souris, Dual Credit Enrollment Coach & Dr. Kimberly Ross, Director of Collegiate High School

6:20 - 6:30 p.m.

Dual Credit Advantage, Promise Scholarship – Lindsey Souris, Dual Credit Enrollment Coach

6:30 - 6:40 p.m.

CHS Overview – Dr. Kimberly Ross, Director of Collegiate High School

6:40 - 6:45 p.m.

TSI Prep – Dr. Shani Johnson, Director of Instructional Support

6:45 - 6:50 p.m.

Preparing for College Level Learning – Dr. Rocky Barney, Dean of Instruction

6:50 - 7:00 p.m.

Student Testimonies – Real Experiences – Zoey Bryan, Thalia Cruz, Leonidas Contreras

7:00 - 7:10 p.m.

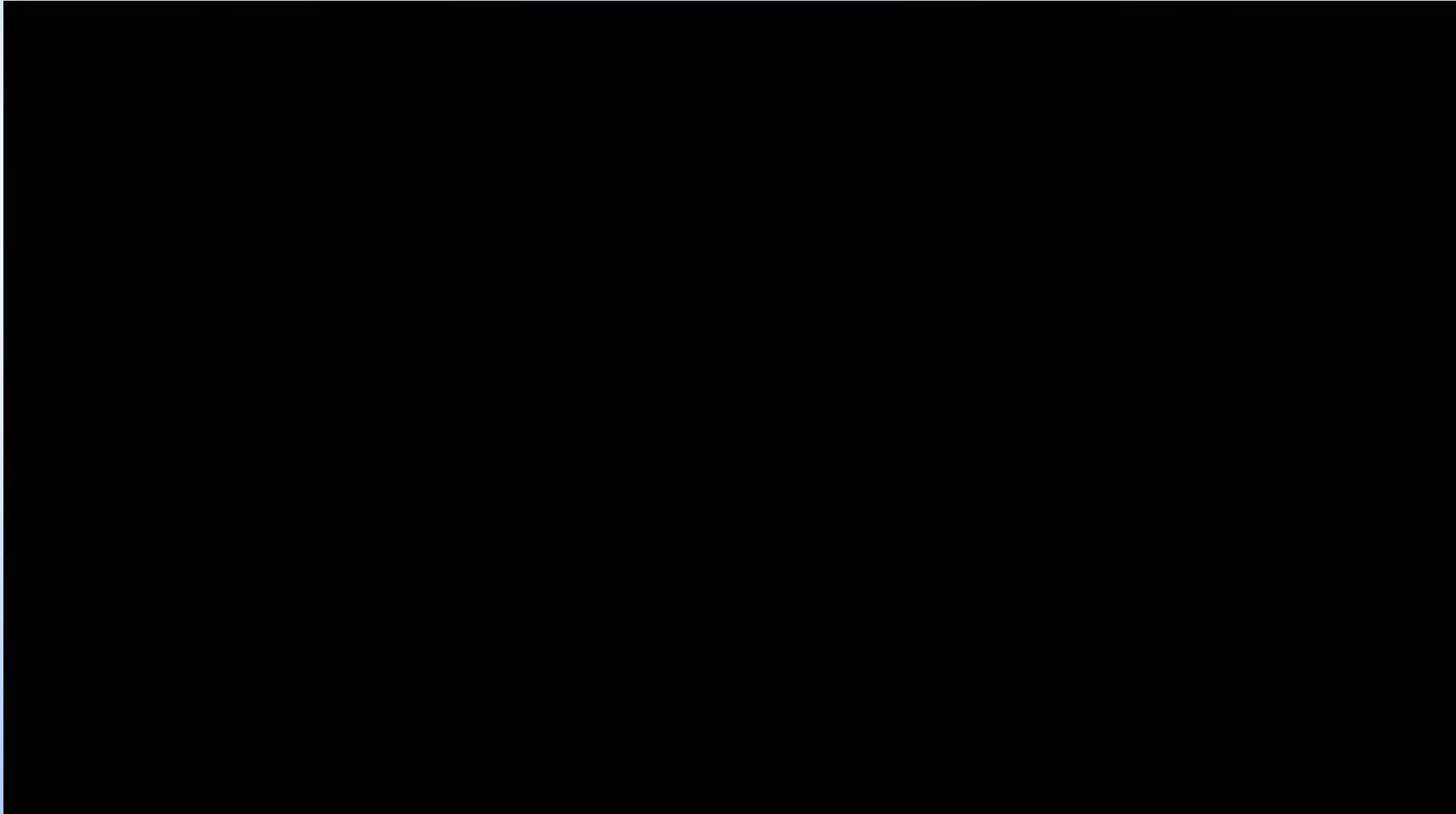
Next Steps

7:10 - 7:30 p.m.

Meet the Staff & Take Action

7:10 - 7:45 p.m.

Rotating Tours of CHS



Meet Your Dual Credit Advantage Team

Dual Credit & Collegiate High School Staff

We are here to support you at every step!



Dual Credit Staff



Collegiate High School Staff



THE OPENING DOORS
PROMISE
SCHOLARSHIP

COM DUAL CREDIT ADVANTAGE
& THE OPENING DOORS PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

College of *the* Mainland®

Opening Doors Promise Scholarship: Your Path to Free College

The Opening Doors Promise Scholarship covers full tuition & fees for eligible students at COM **after** scholarships, state or federal aid has been applied!

What Does It Cover?

- Remaining tuition & fees for up to two years at College of the Mainland
- Available for both academic and workforce training programs
- Helps students earn an associate degree or workforce certificate debt-free

**NO TUITION.
LIKE, FOR REAL.**

com.edu/promise

How to Qualify for the Promise Scholarship

To receive the Promise Scholarship, students must:

- Live in a Participating Community:
- Texas City, La Marque, Hitchcock, or Santa Fe
- Be a 2026 High School Graduate.
- Must have earned a **high school diploma** from an eligible school district, charter school, private school, home school or GED.
- Apply & Enroll at COM full time for fall 2026 (Either starting fall session 1 or 2).
- Complete FAFSA (or TASFA) and maintain good academic standing.

CLASS OF
2026

Steps to Apply as a Promise Scholarship Student

Step 1: Apply to COM

Complete the **ApplyTexas** application for College of the Mainland

Step 2: Complete the FAFSA

(or TAFSA for eligible students)

Submit financial aid forms to determine eligibility

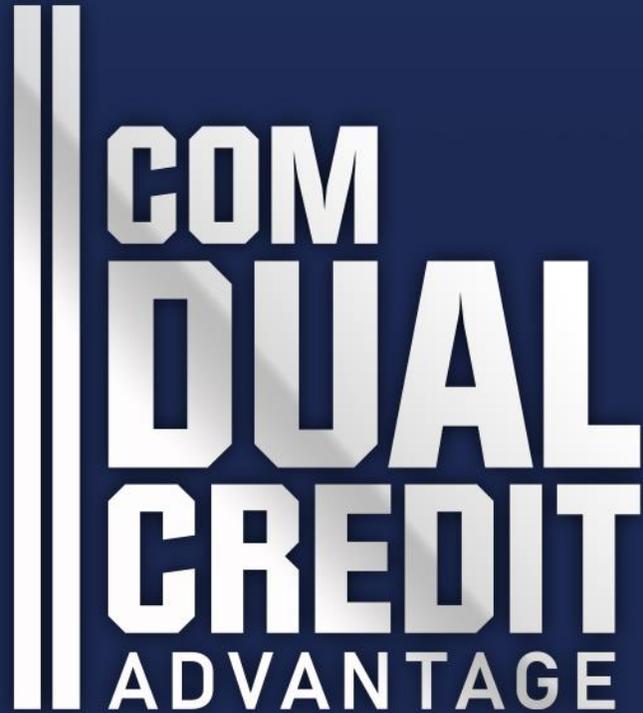
Step 3: Enroll Full-Time at COM

Must take at least **12 credit hours** per semester (or full-time in a workforce program)

Step 4: Maintain Academic Progress

Stay in **good academic standing** to remain eligible for funding

The COM Dual Credit Advantage



The COM Dual Credit Advantage gives high school students two pathways to earn college credit while completing their high school diploma.

- **Dual Credit Courses** – Take individual college classes at your high school, at COM, or online.
- **Collegiate High School (CHS)** – Enroll in a structured program taking both high school and college courses at COM to earn an associate degree by high school graduation.

Save time, save money, and get a head start on your future!

What is Dual Credit?

Students can earn both high school and college credit by completing one course.

Earn College Credit

Earn college credit early to save time and money.

College Resources

Dual Credit students have access to the college library, tutoring services, career exploration and more.

Eased Transition

Dual Credit students are eased into the demands of college level work in a familiar, supportive environment.

Head Start

Complete foundation courses that will transfer to a public college or university in Texas or get ahead on earning a workforce certificate.

Dual Credit is a special program that allows high school students to take college courses while still earning high school credit.

- Take **real college courses** while still in high school
- Earn **both high school and college credit** for the same class
- Classes may be taught **at your high school, at COM, or online**

How Does Dual Credit Work?

- You enroll in a college-level course approved by both your high school and College of the Mainland.
- The course follows college standards and earns you real college credits upon passing.

Taught by College-Approved Instructors

- Courses follow college-level standards.
- Classes may be taught by high school teachers or college professors.

Where Can You Take Dual Credit Courses?

- **At Your High School** – Convenient & familiar.
- **At College of the Mainland (COM) Campus** – Experience college life!
- **Online** – Flexible learning on your own schedule.

STRATEGIC

Dual Credit Course Formats & Scheduling

- **At your high school?**
16-week courses
- **At COM or online?**
8-week courses
- **Mix & match to fit
your schedule!**

**Ask your
counselor
which format
is best for you!**



What is Collegiate High School?

Collegiate High School (CHS) is a structured program where students take all classes at COM and graduate high school with both a diploma and an associate degree!

- Enjoy a college campus experience!
- Receive personalized support for high school & college success.

Graduate high school as a college sophomore!



What is Collegiate High School

CHS at a Glance

Location

All classes are taken at College of the Mainland.

Participation in high school and college extra-curricular activities is encouraged.

Target Students

Students who want the rigor and challenge of college courses and the freedom of a flexible schedule.

Goal

All students will work towards high school graduation and associate degree requirements simultaneously.

Course Load

Students are enrolled as full-time college students and take a minimum of 12 college hours a semester.

How Does Collegiate High School Work?

- Students enroll in college-level courses while completing high school requirements at COM
- CHS students follow a structured academic degree plan to stay on track for graduation

CHS is the fastest way to earn a college degree while still in high school — saving time and money!

Taught by College Professors

- Courses meet college-level standards
- Students have access to college resources, advising, and student life

Where and When Do CHS Students Take Classes?

- All classes are taken on the COM campus, giving students a true college experience
- Courses may be offered in person, hybrid or online for flexibility
- Most CHS students complete their associate's degree without having to participate in summer courses.

STRATEGIC

TSI Prep

Dr. Shani Johnson, Director of Instructional Support

TSI Prep: Tutoring Center

Your student is ***not*** doing this alone

The Tutoring Center offers **free academic support** to help Dual Credit and Promise students succeed on the **TSI test** and in their college classes.

TSI Prep: Tutoring Center

How We Help

TSI Test Preparation

Extra help in Reading, Writing, and Math before or after testing

Study Skills & Academic Coaching

Time management, test-taking strategies, and confidence building

Practice & Review Support

Guided practice in a calm, supportive environment

Early Support When Students Need It

Help is available as soon as a student struggles, not after they fall behind

TSI Prep: Tutoring Center

Why Parents Care

- Builds strong college habits early
- Reduces stress and test anxiety
- Supports long-term college success

Who Can Use These Services

- Dual Credit students
- Promise Scholarship students
- First-time college students

Cost

- All services are free

“Our goal is to help students feel confident, prepared, and supported from day one.”

College Readiness and Support Resources for Student Success

College Readiness

College Readiness Minimum Score Requirements

Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA2)

English Language Arts & Reading (ELAR)	Mathematics
945 AND essay score of 5 OR less than 945 with an essay score of 5 AND an NRS score of 5	950 OR less than 950 AND an NRS score of 6

Assessment Exemptions

Exam	Composite	Exempts TSIA2 ELAR	Exempts TSIA2 Mathematics
SAT	N/A	EBRW: 480	MATH: 530
ACT	23	English: 19	MATH: 19
STAAR EOC	English III: 4000	Algebra II: 4000	

COM Student Support Services

Free Academic Resources

- **Tutoring Center** – Get help with writing, math, and more
- **Library & Research Assistance** – Access online databases and research support
- **Advising & Counseling** – Meet with advisors to stay on track with your academic goals

Career & College Planning

- **College & Career Services** – Resume building, career counseling, and job placement assistance
- **Transfer Assistance** – Help with transferring credits to universities

Student Life & Well-Being

- **Student Clubs & Activities** – Get involved on campus
- **Mental Health & Wellness Services** – Access counseling and wellness programs

Upward Bound: Your Pathway to College Success

Upward Bound (UB) is a federally funded program that helps high school students prepare for college.

- **Academic Tutoring** – Get extra help in core subjects
- **College Prep & Mentorship** – Support in choosing colleges and applying for scholarships
- **Summer College Experience** – Take part in summer enrichment programs on a college campus
- **Financial Aid & FAFSA Assistance** – Help with applying for financial aid and understanding college costs

Who Can Join?

- High school students from first-generation or low-income backgrounds
- Students motivated to attend college but need additional support

Upward Bound provides a strong foundation to help students succeed in higher education!

Dual Credit vs. CHS Eligibility Comparison

DUAL CREDIT VS. CHS ELIGIBILITY COMPARISON		
Requirement	Dual Credit	Collegiate High School (CHS)
Grade Level	Grades 9-12	Grades 11-12
Academic Standing	Good standing at high school	Strong academic performance & motivation
College Readiness (TSI, ACT, SAT)	Required for most courses	Required for all students
Course Location	High school, COM campus, or online	Primarily at COM campus
Application Process	ApplyTexas application & counselor approval	ApplyTexas + CHS application, essay and recommendations
Additional Requirements	Meet course prerequisites	Counselor & teacher recommendations, interview process

CHS – Grades 9-10 may participate with a waiver.

Preparing for College-Level Learning

Dr. Rocky Barney, Dean of Instruction

College Courses = Higher Expectations

Dual Credit and CHS students are enrolled in real college classes and must meet college-level standards.

Here's what to expect:

- **More Independence** – Professors treat you like a college student.
- **Time Management is Key** – Fewer reminders, more personal responsibility
- **Stronger Study Habits** – College coursework requires deeper thinking and preparation
- **Critical Thinking & Participation** – Expect discussions, research and writing at a higher level
- **Grading Differences** – College grades are based on fewer assignments and exams

Be prepared, stay organized, and make the most of your college experience!

Classroom Expectations

Prepared and Engaged

Arrive having completed readings/assignments and participate appropriately in discussions or activities.

Professional Behavior

Respectful communication, attention during class

Active Learning

Classes may involve discussion, problem-solving, group work, or applied activities rather than continuous lecture.

Classroom Expectations (Continued)

Accountability without Reminders

Instructors will not routinely prompt students to participate, submit work, or stay focused—responsibility rests with the student.

Respect for Diverse Perspectives

College classrooms value open dialogue; students are expected to listen, disagree constructively, and contribute thoughtfully.

Appropriate Use of Technology

Use of AI and other technology is governed by the instructor and discussed in the course syllabus

Faculty Responsibilities

Provide Clear Expectations

Faculty outline course objectives, grading criteria, and deadlines through the syllabus and course materials

Deliver instruction aligned to learning outcomes

Class activities, assignments, and assessments are designed to support stated course goals and student learning

Create a respectful learning environment

Faculty foster inclusive, professional classrooms where questions and differing viewpoints are welcomed

Offer access to academic support and feedback

Provide office hours, respond within reasonable timeframes, and give feedback intended to improve student learning

Evaluate performance fairly and consistently

Student work is assessed using established criteria applied equitably across the course

Eligibility, Steps to Apply & Costs

Steps to Apply for Dual Credit & Collegiate High School

How to Apply: Dual Credit and CHS

Step 1:

Complete the Interest Form

Step 2:

Take the TSIA2 or submit qualifying ACT or SAT scores

Step 3:

Complete the ApplyTexas Application.

- Select **College of the Mainland** as your institution
- Use your high school email for easy communication

Step 4:

Meet with Your High School Counselor

- Dual Credit will select classes.
- CHS will discuss requirements

Steps to Apply for Dual Credit & Collegiate High School (Cont.)

Step 5:

Submit the CHS application packet
(CHS applicants only)

- Includes:
 - Personal Essay explaining your academic goals
 - Parent (or Guardian), Counselor & Teacher Recommendations
 - Immunization Records

Step 6:

Attend a CHS Interview (CHS applicants only)

Step 7:

Enroll in Classes

Step 8:

Pay Tuition or Confirm Scholarship Eligibility.

- Check if you qualify for the FAST Scholarship (free tuition for eligible students)
- Make payment arrangements if needed

Cost of Attendance

DUAL CREDIT TUITION

- **In-District:**
\$33/credit hour
(\$99 for a 3-credit class)
- **Out-of-District:**
\$45/credit hour
(\$135 for a 3-credit class)

VS

COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL TUITION

- **\$31/credit hour**
(\$93 for a 3-credit class)
- \$2,700/year Administrative Fee
- Paid by select ISDs

Fast Scholarship: Free Tuition for Eligible Students

The FAST Scholarship helps make college more affordable for Dual Credit and CHS students.

What Does It Cover?

- **Full tuition** for Dual Credit and CHS courses
- **Any additional fees** (not including \$2,700 administrative fee for Collegiate High School)
- **Textbooks & supplies** – no out-of-pocket costs!

Who Qualifies?

- Students who received **Free or Reduced Lunch** in the past **four years**
- Students enrolled in COM Dual Credit courses or CHS

No Application Needed!

- COM automatically confirms eligibility – no extra paperwork required!

Important Dates: Registration Periods

Registration Periods

Fall 2026:

- **16-week and 1st 8-week:**
Apr. 7 - Aug. 14
- **2nd 8-week:**
Apr. 7 - Oct. 9

Spring 2027:

- **16-week and 1st 8-week:**
Nov. 3 - Jan. 8
- **2nd 8-week:**
Nov. 3 - Mar. 5

FAFSA

Fall 2026:

- **Priority Deadline for
16-week and both
8-week sessions:**
Jun. 1

Promise

- **Scholarship
application:**
Jul. 1

**First Day
of Fall 2026
Classes:
Aug. 17**

Student Voices: Real Experiences

Student Voices: Real Experiences

Hear from our students!

- Why they chose Dual Credit or CHS
- Challenges they overcame
- How it helped prepare for college/career
- The financial benefits



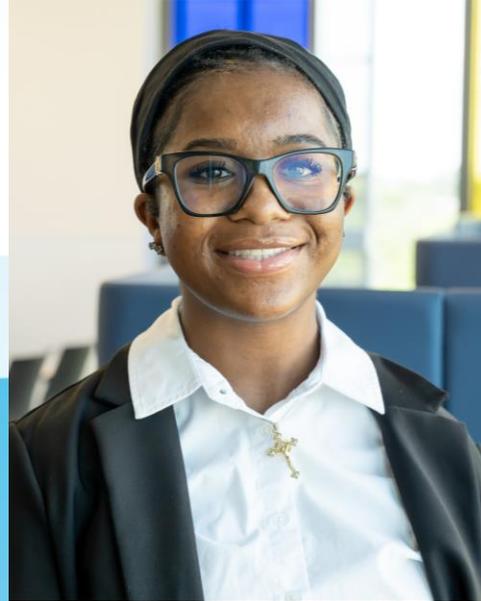
Demarcus Hunter



Student Voices: Real Experiences



Leonidas Contreras



Zoey Bryan



Thalia Cruz

Next Steps

Get started today!

Step 1:



Meet with staff tonight
for questions.

Step 2:



Fill out this inquiry form
for more information.

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual(s) on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, to include gender identity and gender expression, or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.

See you at COM!