

SENIOR SCHEDULE EXCEPTION APPLICATION

Student's First Name: _____

Student's Last Name: _____

Student's ID#: _____

Student's Cell Phone: _____

Student's Email: _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Complete, sign and submit this application if you would like to graduate early or flex one or more class periods in your senior year.
2. Contact your school counselor to schedule an appointment prior to the schedule change window deadline.

DISCLOSURE & CONSENT: You must read & initial each blank and sign at the bottom. Your initials and signatures below indicate your acknowledgement and understanding of the risks/limitations of exercising the early graduation and/or schedule flexing option. Please check the option(s) you are requesting:

Initials Risk/Limitation

_____ Completing this application does not guarantee my request will be granted.

_____ I understand that I have other options that would be a better choice to prepare me for college and/or career. These other options include but are not limited to earning tuition-free college credit while in high school.

_____ Taking less than a full load of courses in my senior year will put me at a disadvantage in my readiness for college and career success.

_____ Athletic eligibility and college admission can be adversely effected if I take less than a full load of courses in my senior year.

_____ Many colleges and employers view anything less than a full course load as a sign of a poor work ethic.

_____ Many colleges and employers view anything less than a full course load as a major risk for loss of skills, abilities and habits that contribute to college and employment success.

_____ My course selections may make this request impossible and/or I may need to choose other courses to make this option possible.

_____ I have reviewed my remaining graduation requirements and assured that this request will not keep me from meeting them.

- _____ I would like to graduate early.
- _____ I would like to flex one or more courses.

You may download an actual copy of this application from the S3 Website.

Student Signature _____
Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Cox Mill High School

Early Graduation & Schedule Flexing Handbook



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The mission of the
CMHS School Counseling Program
is to empower all students
to maximize their present and future
academic, career and personal/social success.

**It is the philosophy of Cox Mill High School
to advise and strongly encourage every
student to take a full, challenging load for
all four years of high school.**

*Thank you for encouraging your students to take a full load
in their senior year.*

-Appalachian State U, Office of Admissions

*The message you are conveying to your students reflects
how we feel regarding student course selection.*

-NC State University, Office of Admissions

SCHEDULE FLEXING

What are better alternatives?

- Take some challenging courses to improve your preparation for college-level coursework later; this might also improve your chances for college admission.
- Earn tuition-free college credits through a community college program (Career & College Promise).
- Complete an Internship related to your career interest area.
- Take courses for personal enrichment, to explore an interest area or possible career or further develop your knowledge and skills.
- Take courses that allow you to broaden a healthy lifestyle.
- Take an additional foreign language course.

College is not easy and we ... find that many students who follow this path end up being quite surprised about the challenge of college work when they get here. If they take harder classes their senior year, they might have found that transition a bit easier to make.

-Western Carolina University, Office of Admission

Typically, a competitive applicant to Carolina will have taken the most rigorous course load available to them at their high school and usually does very well in those courses ... Competitive applicants also take these rigorous courses through to the end of their senior year. High school is a four-year gig, not three years with a victory lap, and we do take senior schedules and grades into consideration when reviewing an application for admission.

-UNC Chapel Hill, Office of Admission

The majority of our admitted students exceed the minimum course requirements (for graduation) ...

-UNC Charlotte, Office of Admission

When we review a student's application file, the senior year schedule is one of the core pieces we take into consideration. A weak senior year schedule (more non-academic courses/early release periods than academic classes) is considered a red flag in this review process.

- UNC Greensboro, Office of Admission

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SCHEDULE FLEXING

Flexing Courses

Students who have completed graduation requirements may have room in their schedules to flex (leave school) for one or more periods during their senior year. As per Cabarrus County Schools Guidelines, students are limited to flexing a maximum of one course per semester or two courses per year. Flexing is only allowed for at the start or the end of the school day.

Risks and Sacrifices

Students who choose to flex one or more class periods must accept that there are risks and sacrifices, which include but are not limited to the following ...

- Impacts a student's academic preparation; fewer courses means less knowledge/preparation for college and career.
- Increased likelihood that important employment soft skills and academic success skills will be lost/diminished (study habits, time management, project planning and research skills, etc.) just prior to entry into college and/or the workforce.
- Free time allows students to develop poor habits that will negatively impact future college and career success.
- Miss one of the most exciting semesters of high school; the final semester of high school is packed with important opportunities to bond/celebrate with your classmates and teachers.

Hello Charger Family!

Congratulations on being close to completing your graduation requirements and earning a high school diploma! As graduation draws nearer, you may find yourself considering the early graduation and/or schedule flexing options for your senior year. This handbook is designed to help you as you explore those options.

The decision to graduate early or flex courses can have an impact on future success and should be taken very seriously. Both student and parent/guardian are encouraged to carefully consider and discuss the pros and cons before making this important decision together.

Please carefully read all of the information provided in the following pages if you are considering graduating early or flexing one or more courses in your senior year. After reading this, please contact your school counselor to discuss further questions and to schedule an appointment if necessary.

Good luck with making this difficult and important decision!

Sincerely,

Your CMHS School Counselors

EARLY GRADUATION



Early Graduation

Students eligible for early graduation must have completed all of their graduation requirements by the end of the first (fall) semester of their senior year. These seniors do not attend high school for the second (spring) semester.

Early graduates do not receive their high school diplomas until the graduation ceremony in June of their senior year. Students who need evidence of graduation prior to the graduation ceremony may request a letter from the school counselor or principal stating that they have met all graduation requirements and are eligible for a diploma.

Risks and Sacrifices

Students who choose to graduate early must accept that there are risks and sacrifices, which include but are not limited to the following ...

- Impacts a student's academic preparation; fewer courses means less knowledge/preparation for college and career.
- Increased likelihood that important employment soft skills and academic success skills will be lost/diminished (study habits, time management, project planning and research skills, etc.) just prior to entry into college and/or the workforce.
- Free time allows students to develop poor habits that will negatively impact future college and career success.
- Early graduates miss one of the most exciting semesters of high school; the final semester of high school is packed with important opportunities to bond/celebrate with your classmates and teachers.

EARLY GRADUATION

What do colleges say?

Typically, a competitive applicant to Carolina will have taken the most rigorous course load available to them at their high school and usually does very well in those courses ... Competitive applicants also take these rigorous courses through to the end of their senior year.
-UNC Chapel Hill, Office of Admission

We tell students that they should definitely take a full course load and challenge themselves ... College admissions has become increasingly competitive and students who challenge themselves academically are preparing themselves for collegiate level work.
-UNC Wilmington, Office of Admission

What are better alternatives?

- Take some challenging courses to improve your preparation for college-level coursework later; this might also improve your chances for college admission.
- Earn tuition-free college credits through a community college program (Career & College Promise).
- Complete an Internship related to your career interest area.
- Take courses to explore an interest area or possible career.
- Take courses in an area of interest to further develop your knowledge and skills.
- Take courses that will provide personal enrichment for use later in life.
- Take courses that allow you to broaden a healthy lifestyle.
- Take an additional foreign language course.

