

BECKMAN SYSTEM EXIT STANDARDS

Mission Statement: Beckman Catholic High School, a catalyst for lifelong learning, global awareness, personal growth and spiritual development rooted in Catholic Teachings.

1. Religion and Spirituality
Students will give witness to a relationship with God through knowledge of the Catholic faith in their everyday lives.
2. Communication
Students will demonstrate competency in verbal and non-verbal communication, suitable to a variety of audiences/situations.
3. Analysis
Students will think independently, critically, utilizing experience, reason, and educational background.
4. Problem Solving
Students will solve problems and resolve conflicts individually and cooperatively.
5. Value Judgment and Decision Making
Students will make decisions based on gospel values while recognizing the existence of other value systems.
6. Aesthetics & Fine Arts
Students will develop an appreciation of the fine arts.
7. Civic Responsibility
Students will demonstrate civic responsibility through an active concern for cultural diversity in local, regional, and world communities.
8. Environment
Students will understand and respect the interdependence of the global environment.
9. Wellness
Students will construct and live a healthy lifestyle.
10. Technology
Students will apply skills to employ technology proficiently and ethically.
11. Life and Career Planning
Students will develop a vision of their future and the need for life-long learning, based on an ongoing self-analysis.

Following are highlights and items that pertain to course selection and course registration from the Academic Program section of the Beckman Handbook.

CAREER PLANNING

Prior to the 9th grade year, each student will work out a course plan for the remaining three years of high school and a career plan and file these plans on the student information system. While there may be changes in individual plans and in the courses being offered by the school, the planning will enable the student to evaluate his/her own talents, goals, attitudes and choices to be followed after graduation. This Career Plan will be revisited each year.

COLLEGE CREDIT OPTIONS

In the options outlined below, a high school student can earn both high school and college credit for the courses taken. The high school determines the amount of high school credit awarded; the college determines how the credit applies to their specific degrees and programs of study.

Paperwork: Students are responsible for completing and submitting the required paperwork through the guidance office. A parent signature is required.

Courses available to Beckman students for college credit:

Macroeconomics	Music Appreciation	AP Calculus
Introduction to Psychology	Intro to Engineering	Animal Science
*Composition I	Principles of Engineering	Crop Science
Composition II	AP Language and Comp	Welding
Introduction to Religions	AP American History	CNA

*Requires a qualifying ACCUPLACER score of 6 or ACT English score of 19.

Ways to Earn College Credit:

Concurrent enrollment: These courses are offered and taught on our campus; the Beckman instructor meets NICC's quality staff requirements. The course credit and grade go onto the student's high school transcript and the student's permanent college transcript as NICC credits. Students incur a cost of \$150 per course. The transferability of these courses compares to a course taken at NICC.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses: These courses are offered and taught by a Beckman teacher who meets Beckman quality staff requirements. The student can opt to take an AP exam. The score earned and the student's college choice determines credit earned. The transferability of these courses varies by college but the advanced placement program is nationally recognized. Students incur the cost of the exam.

Articulated Courses: Students earn college credit in NICC career and technical programs. Although no college credit is earned while in high school, the credit is entered on an NICC transcript after the student has successfully completed 12 NICC credits post high school. Articulated courses do not contribute to the student's NICC grade point average, but do satisfy specific career program requirements. Students must earn a C- or better in the course, articulate credit within one year of graduation from Beckman, in some cases take an exam, and complete the required paperwork. Students incur no cost for this credit.

Postsecondary Enrollment: Through this legislated option, students in grades 11 and 12 and identified talented and gifted students in grades 9 and 10 are eligible to take college courses. Students may not enroll in courses that are comparable to district high school offerings; Western Dubuque District must approve the courses. The District reimburses the post-secondary institution up to \$250 for each course. Students must notify their counselor of their intent to enroll in a post-secondary enrollment course prior to the start of the term in which the course will be taken and must have one open period in the semester the course is taken. Students pay for failed or dropped courses.

PSEO Credits and Grades: Grades earned in concurrent enrollment and postsecondary classes will be included on the high school transcript and will be calculated in the high school grade point average. In most cases, these grades also become part of a student's college transcript and GPA. Students are encouraged to research their postsecondary course of study to determine how credits will transfer. [Transfer In Iowa](#) is a website that explains the college credit policies at the three state universities.

Placement in College Credit (PICC)

The PICC program allows high school students to enroll part-time in college credit courses at NICC prior to high school graduation.

Students earn both high school and college credit for successfully completing college-level coursework. These post-secondary credits are transferable to other colleges and universities depending on the degree requirements at that institution. High school students must meet the requirements and guidelines for the NICC class for which they are registering including a qualifying ACT®, ALEKs Math or ACCUPLACER® placement score. Students must also meet the academic requirements of the school district along with minimum proficiency cut scores in reading, math and science based on their Iowa Assessments.

Students will receive a discounted tuition rate from NICC for enrollment into PICC. Students' families will be responsible for the cost of the tuition, course materials, and textbooks for the course.

GRADING REPORTS

1. Mid-quarter deficiencies for students are sent to parents whose student has a grade of C- or below.
2. Report cards are issued at the quarter and at the semester. Quarter report cards are issued to parents at parent/teacher conferences.
3. Semester report cards are mailed to each home.
4. Semester grades are recorded on the student's permanent record.

GRADING SYSTEM: GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Beckman uses letter grades, which signify a range of grades, not an absolute number. The purpose of the grade is to measure the student's individual achievement, not how he/she is doing in relationship to other students.

The **numerical values of grades** are as follows for all classes:

A = 4.00	C = 2.00
A- = 3.67	C- = 1.67
B+ = 3.33	D+ = 1.33
B = 3.00	D = 1.00
B- = 2.67	D- = .67
C+ = 2.33	F = .00

Grade Point Average: The above **numerical values of grades** are used to generate a **grade point average** using the number of credits earned for each course times the numerical grade value divided by the total number of credits earned. GPA serves to quantify individual academic performance.

Semester Grade Point Average: A semester GPA considers only the courses and grades in a given semester.

Cumulative Grade Point Average: A cumulative GPA considers all courses taken and those grades.

Non-weighted Grade Point Average: A non-weighted GPA is calculated based on a 4.0 scale and is reported on the transcript. The non-weighted GPA is used to calculate the weighted GPA.

Weighted Grade Point Average: The weighted GPA is calculated using the following formula:
Non-weighted GPA + value points earned from taking honors courses (.02 points per honors semester taken). The weighted cumulative GPA is reported on the transcript and is used to determine: Beckman semester honor roll, academic letter and NHS eligibility.

No Class rank: Beckman Catholic does not report rank on the high school transcript and report cards. Many universities and colleges will base their admission decision on a holistic evaluation of student qualifications. The evaluation includes analysis of student transcripts to determine class rigor and review of student extra-curricular and leadership experiences. Under exceedingly, rare circumstances, the Beckman Guidance Office can calculate class rank and provide it directly to a college, university, or financial aid organization when those institutions require such information for application purposes.

Beckman will use the weighted GPA to determine salutatorian and valedictorian honors. In the case of multiple valedictorians, no salutatorian will be named. ACT in addition to weighted GPA will be used to determine KWWL Best of Class and Governor's Scholar. In the case of a tie, these individuals will be chosen by lot.

Transition: The following note appears on the transcript: Beckman Catholic High School employs a weighted grade point average system to encourage students to take a rigorous course load, including honors and advanced placement courses, and elective courses. The cumulative weighted GPA is calculated using the following formula: non-weighted cumulative GPA + (.02) (number of semesters of weighted courses).

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to fill six periods in an eight-period day. Students must accumulate 230 credit hours for graduation. College-bound students are strongly encouraged to earn at least 260 credits. Graduation requirements are as follows:

All Classes		English	40
Theology	40	Phys Ed	20
Math	30	Electives	40
Science	30		230
Social Studies	30		

***Additional Notes:**

1. All students must take and pass Theology classes each semester they are in attendance at Beckman. If a student has not been in attendance at a Catholic school all four years, the 20/40 Theology credit total may be waived. Non-Catholic students are required to take and pass 17.5/35 hours of Theology. Non-Catholics may opt out of second semester 12th grade year. 230 total credits are still required.
2. According to state law, students must take and pass Physical Education every year if they are in attendance unless granted a medical or academic waiver.
3. Students who do not attend any classes during the 8th semester are exempt from the Physical Education and Theology requirements. 230 total credits are still required.
4. According to state law, all students must take and pass one semester of American Government and one year of American History.
5. State law stipulates that all students must take and pass 4 years of English and 3 years of Math, Science, and Social Studies.
6. Students must complete service requirements as outlined in the student handbook.

GRADUATION CEREMONY-PARTICIPATION

Students who fail to earn 220 semester hours may not participate in the graduation ceremony. Students who have earned a minimum of 220 semester hours but less than the required 230 semester hours may participate in graduation activities if they submit, in writing, an academic plan to complete all requirements necessary for reception of diploma from Beckman Catholic High School. The diploma will be withheld until the required 230 credits have been obtained.

HONOR ROLL

At the end of the semester an honor roll will be determined using the weighted GPA and according to the following levels:

All Classes	Semester GPA
Honors	3.25-3.74
High Honors	3.75-4.0+

HONORS PROGRAM:

The purpose of an honors program is to challenge self-directed, self-motivated students who have demonstrated superior achievement to excel in specific disciplines above and beyond the average classroom. Honors level courses differ from regular courses in that content is covered in greater depth and students are challenged to question, recognize divergent views, develop creative thinking and expression, and use critical thinking skills.

Guidelines:

1. All honors courses will have prerequisites and placement requirements.
2. Each semester of honors course work will earn an added value of .02 to a student’s cumulative GPA.
3. Honors courses will be offered in the core areas of math, science and English and several senior course electives in an effort to encourage students to take electives as well as honors coursework.
4. No student who has met course prerequisites will be denied entrance to an honors course; however, any student who earns a semester grade of a C or below in an honors course will be subject to review and possible removal from the honors course, in an effort to best serve the needs of the student involved.

Placement Criteria:

Students will be placed in honors courses based on the following criteria:

1. At least two or more years of standardized test data
2. Recommendation from the previous content area teacher
3. Conference with administration regarding honors placement.
4. Successful completion of the current content area course with a letter grade of B or higher.

Courses Designated as Honors Courses:

Honors English 9	Pre-Calculus
Honors English 10	AP Calculus
AP Language & Composition	Honors Physical Science
Honors Algebra	Honors Biology
Honors Geometry	AP American History
Honors Algebra 2/Trig	

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR COURSES TAKEN IN JUNIOR HIGH

According to Chapter 12 of Iowa Code: An individual pupil in a grade that precedes ninth grade may be allowed to take a course for secondary credit if all of the following are true: 1. The pupil satisfactorily completes the course. 2. The course is taught by a teacher licensed by the Iowa board of educational examiners for grades 9- 12 and endorsed in the subject area. 3. The course meets all components listed in subrule 12.5(5) for the specific curricular area. 4. The board of the school district or the authorities in charge of the nonpublic school has developed enrollment criteria that a student must meet to be enrolled in the course.

Beckman offers Honors Algebra 1 to junior high students and uses the honor placement criteria to determine enrollment in the course. The grade and credit becomes part of the student’s permanent high school record and is calculated into GPA and class rank. A student may opt to retake the course; if a student does not earn at least a C or better, he/she will be required to retake the course.

POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

In selecting courses, students must be aware of any academic requirements for entrance into programs or schools to be entered after graduation from high school. Since the requirements for various schools differ widely, it is impossible to provide an accurate summary in this handbook. Students and parents must keep informed of academic requirements that the student will have to meet to continue a formal education program after high school and be sure to include these courses in their course selections.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN:

The Protection of Children curriculum is taught in grade 7 and in grade 11 as mandated by the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Required Courses				
Grades 7 & 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology
Social Studies	Global History	Biology	US History	US Government
Science	Physical Science	English	Science	English
English	English	Math	English	PE
Math	Math	PE	Math	
PE	PE	*A sixth semester of social studies is required for graduation, most students take this during 10th or 11th grade.	PE	*A sixth semester of social studies is required for graduation, most students take this during 10th or 11th grade.

RESOURCE PROGRAM

We are able to address the special learning needs of our students through our Resource Program. The philosophy of the program is to assist the students who may be low in organizational skills, motivation, and/or ability to learn at the expected classroom pace. The Resource Program will also provide supplemental instruction in deficit areas based on the particular needs of each student. The goal is to create independent learners who are able to compensate for and/or adjust to their learning styles.

SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS

Student schedules are posted on the student information system. Schedule changes will be

allowed on registration day. After classes begin in the fall, students will be allowed to drop classes for the first five (5) school days. Schedule adjustments will be permitted during the week of first semester exams. At the beginning of the second semester, students will have the first five (5) days of the semester to drop a course. During schedule adjustment periods, courses will be added only if there is room available in the requested class. Parents are encouraged to check student schedules and to call or email school officials about any concerns. Any request to drop a course after 5 days goes to an administrative review.

SCHOOL AND COURSE REGISTRATION

Beckman will coordinate the registration of all students for classes at Beckman. In the third quarter, registration for the following year will take place. An opportunity will be made to visit with the counselor or administration to plan registration. Course descriptions will be provided to aid students in course selection. Every effort will be made to fulfill student course requests. If, however, it is not possible to schedule the combination of courses requested, the student will be consulted to make the necessary course selection changes.

TECHNOLOGY

Beckman is a 1:1 school. All students are issued a Chromebook. Students and parents must sign the Beckman Technology Use Agreement as part of the annual registration process. The agreement can be found on the Beckman webpage under School Information>Technology>1:1 Laptops.