

GENEVA COUNTY VIRTUAL ACADEMY



Geneva County Board of Education
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Geneva County Virtual Academy

Geneva County Virtual Academy (GCVA)

Purpose

The purpose of GCVA is to provide Geneva County School students the opportunity to complete courses leading to graduation and receipt of a diploma through an online, virtual platform.

Courses will follow the Courses of Study developed by the Alabama Department of Education, and meet the standards established by the State Board of Education.

Virtual schooling offers students many benefits as they relate to time flexibility, and program customization. Virtual students assume increased *responsibility, organization, self-direction, and personal discipline* in order to complete the courses and school requirements.

Other than daily physical attendance at the school and any other requirements removed by Act 2015-89, students who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for extracurricular participation may do so at their zoned school as if they were in attendance on campus each day.

Method

Students attending GCVA will be required to have daily access to the Internet. GCVA will not supply computers or other devices to access the Internet. All courses will be web-based (accessed through the Internet). Students will also be required to sign the GCVA statement of Academic Integrity Contract.

Courses will have their own pacing guidelines which students must follow to achieve course success. However, students are not limited by those guidelines. They may complete coursework and earn a diploma at a faster pace if all requirements are met.

Requirements

Students:

- Must reside within one of the three school zones served by the Geneva County Board of Education.
- Must maintain consistent, reliable daily access to the Internet, either at their home or other location available to them.
- Must maintain a passing grade in each course taken and progress consistent with the pacing guidelines developed for each course, or as developed by GCVA administration. Students who are not successful academically may be placed on academic probation and jeopardize their enrollment in GCVA.
- Must take all Unit Tests, Semester Exams, and other required testing determined by GCVA administration, at the GCVA site. GCVA students will be required take all state mandated assessments on the campus of their base school.

- Who commit a discipline infraction that would normally result in an out of school suspension or expulsion from school put their enrollment in GCVA in jeopardy. These infractions may result in immediate dismissal from the virtual school program.
- Must adhere to the Geneva County Board of Education's attendance policy and attend class daily in accordance with the adopted Board calendar. Student attendance requirement is met by logging into their courses each day.
- Enrolling in GCVA who were not enrolled in a Geneva County School the prior year must adhere to the placement standards established by the system and the State Department of Education.
- Whose education program and pathway is determined by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may apply for enrollment if the IEP team determines GCVA is the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for that student. In doing so, GCVA will follow the guidelines published by the State Department of Education on Dec. 11, 2015, "Virtual Schools (and Programs) Guidance for Students with Disabilities."

Benefits

Students at GCVA will have:

- The benefit of instruction in courses that are aligned with the Alabama Courses of Study.
- No tuition charges, and minimal fees, if any.
- Flexible and personalized learning experiences, as well as an individualized academic and career preparation plan.
- The ability to work at their own pace, with the minimum standard being the pacing guide established by the program or GCVA administration.

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Athletic Eligibility Responsibilities

Enrollment in the Geneva County Virtual Academy provides eligibility compliance only for extracurricular activities provided by the high school to which the student is zoned. Eligibility for those activities is contingent upon meeting all requirements that a student attending school on the school's campus would have to meet, except as otherwise allowed.

The Geneva County Board of Education (GCBOE), Geneva County Schools, the Geneva County Virtual Academy (GCVA) and its employees do not make, and expressly disclaim, any representation or assurance as to any student's National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility or compliance in connection with a student's enrollment in the GCVA. It is the student and guardian's responsibility to ensure that they meet NCAA eligibility and compliance standards as a condition to enrollment in the Geneva County Virtual Academy.

The student and guardian are responsible for following all NCAA guidelines including those related to course selection and course completion at the standard pace as set forth in applicable NCAA standards, including, without limitation, the NCAA's nontraditional course requirements. Monitoring appropriate course progress and Course selection is the sole responsibility of the student and guardian. GCVA staff will facilitate documentation requests to assist in the eligibility process as required by NCAA.

I have read and understand the above responsibilities and conditions as they relate to courses I take and NCAA requirements, prior to enrollment in the Geneva County Virtual Academy.

Parent: _____

Student: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

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Geneva County Virtual School Q & A

Q. What are the enrollment criteria for the Geneva County Virtual Academy?

- Reside in one of the school zones served by the Geneva County Board of Education.
- Be a rising 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade student.
- Have consistent, daily access to the Internet
- Be on track to graduate with an Alabama High School diploma in accordance with the requirements mandated by the Alabama State Department of Education.
- Even though physical attendance is not required, students must meet other requirements for enrollment in Geneva County Schools.

Q. What does On Track for Graduation mean?

- A student who is on track for graduation has earned at least 1 credit toward the Alabama High School standard diploma in each of the core areas – English, Math, Science, and Social Studies – for each year of school attendance beginning in the 9th grade. If the student makes application to the Geneva County Virtual Academy at midterm, on track for graduation also includes the condition that the student has passing averages in all Currently enrolled core courses at his or her base high school.

Q. What curriculum does the Geneva County Virtual Academy use?

- The Geneva County Virtual Academy primarily uses the curriculum of ACCESS Distance Learning, (Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, & Students Statewide) a program administered by the Alabama State Department of Education. All course curricula are aligned to Alabama Courses of Study.

Q. What type of diploma does the Geneva County Virtual Academy offer?

- At this time, the Geneva County Virtual Academy offers the standard and Advanced Alabama diplomas.

Q. Do Geneva County Virtual Academy students have face-to-face requirements?

- Yes, Geneva County Virtual Academy students have face-to-face obligations for orientation, state-mandated assessments, and course tests. All course tests must be taken on the GCVA campus and will be proctored by school based staff. Students considering the GCVA should expect to report to campus as much as required, depending on their testing requirements, which will be determined in consultation with the school based Counselor. State mandated tests are taken on the campus of the school for which the student is zoned.

Q. Is transportation provided for students to report to the Geneva County Virtual Academy?

- No. Upon submitting a signed Transportation Agreement, licensed sophomores, juniors and seniors may drive themselves to their zoned school. All other students must be driven by a parent or guardian.

Q. How is attendance recorded for Geneva County Virtual Academy students?

- Geneva County Virtual Academy students must “attend” class daily in accordance with the Geneva County

school calendar. Students fulfill attendance requirements when they log into their courses daily. Geneva County Virtual Academy students are required to abide by Geneva County attendance policies and procedures.

Q. How are grades recorded on the transcript for Geneva County Virtual Academy students?

- When students finish their classes, documentation regarding the student's final grades is sent to the base school counselor. The counselor posts the grades to the students' transcripts and places the documentation into the students' cumulative folders.

Q. Are there any costs associated with attending the Geneva County Virtual Academy?

- There could be fees associated with enrollment in some classes, although those would be minimal.

Q. Are Geneva County Virtual Academy students required to take state assessments?

- Yes, all Geneva County Virtual Academy students are required to take all state mandated assessments on site at their home zoned school. All 10th grade students take the ACT Aspire, and all 11th grade students take the ACT Plus Writing. Seniors take the ACT WorkKeys after Winter break.

Q. How many credits per year are Geneva County Virtual Academy students required to take?

- Students are required to take at least six credits per year. Four of the six credits must be core classes (math, science, English, and social studies) unless the student has accumulated more core credits than is required for the student to remain on track for graduation. Students may be allowed to earn additional credits per year.

Q. Does the Geneva County Virtual Academy follow the Geneva County Public School's academic calendar?

- The Geneva County Virtual Academy operates on a standard semester system in accordance with the Geneva County Schools' academic calendar. Most classes are offered in a full year format or a "block" format. The starting and ending date of ACCESS classes (regardless of the format) is determined by the Alabama State Department of Education and is closely aligned with the Geneva County School system's academic calendar. Other online courses which could be used by GCVA are in line with the system's academic calendar as well.

Q. Does the Geneva County Virtual Academy have any extracurricular or sports programs?

- Geneva County Virtual Academy students may participate in athletic programs at their base schools. If a base high school requires its athletes to take specific athletic or weight training classes, then participating Virtual Academy students will be required to take these classes as well.

Q. What happens if a student fails a course?

- Students who fail one class may elect to attend summer school at their base high school, if available, or any other campus where the course is taught. Students will be responsible for transportation to and from summer school and for paying all summer school fees. Students are expected to adhere to GCVA expectations, procedures, and policies regarding summer school and credit recovery. If a student fails a class and retakes the class in summer school, then, upon the successful completion of summer school, the student's GPA for the academic year just completed will be recalculated. If the student's GPA is at least a 2.0, and the student is still on track for graduation, and he or she meets all other requirements and expectations of the Geneva County Virtual Academy, then the student will be permitted to continue his/her enrollment in the Virtual Academy.
- Students who fail more than one course per academic year will be withdrawn from the Geneva County Virtual Academy. Students who are not on track for graduation by the end of summer school will be withdrawn from the

Q. What types of student support services are offered?

- Orientation — A period of online and face-to face activities for online learning, preparation to include face-to-face meetings and days of online experiences, as determined by GCVA staff.
- Guidance & Counseling - Academic and guidance counseling to include the development of a 4-year high school plan.
- Monitoring - Tracking of student attendance, course progression, grades, and exam proctoring.
- Assessment - All state-mandated tests are administered by the base school staff.

Q. What are the minimum requirements to remain enrolled in the Geneva County Virtual Academy?

- The minimum requirements to maintain enrollment in the Geneva County Virtual Academy are
- Maintain residence in the Geneva County School district Maintain consistent, daily access to the Internet Remain on track for graduation (evaluated at the end of each semester.) Maintain consistent transportation to the home-based school for testing and other services.
- Accumulate no more than 7 unexcused, full-day absences during the current academic year.
- Maintain appropriate course progression as measured by the completion of weekly assignments, quizzes, and tests. Adhere to the Academic Integrity Contract. Remain in good standing as a student of the Geneva County Virtual Academy by adhering to all expectations, procedures, and policies of the Geneva County Virtual Academy, the Geneva County Public School System, the Alabama State Department of Education, and any online class/course program used by GCVA.
- Students who fail more than one class per academic year (includes fall, spring, and if held, summer term) will be removed from the Geneva County Virtual Academy.

Q. Are students whose education is guided by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) eligible for GCVA?

- Decisions regarding enrolling students with an IEP will be made on a case-by-case basis, as determined by each student's particular IEP team. Having an IEP is not an obstacle to enrollment in the GCVA. This is also true for students who have other individualized plans for their education program, such as a 504 plan.

Q. How do I apply for enrollment to the Geneva County Virtual Academy?

- If you are currently enrolled at a Geneva County public school, the Geneva County Virtual Academy application form may be picked up from your home base school. It should be completed and returned to Sherri Winingham at the Geneva County Board of Education or wininghams@genevacoboe.org
- If you are not currently enrolled at a Geneva County Public School, a completed New Student Registration Packet with all supporting documentation should be emailed to the base-school counselor. These are available at the local Schools, or can be emailed to the parent by requesting the packet from the email address listed.
 - Slocomb High School – Gilda Kelly kellyg@genevacoboe.org
 - Geneva County High School – Missy Ford fordm@genevacoboe.org
 - Samson High School – Cara Jesse jessec@genevacoboe.org

Once the new student registration is complete and a GCVA application is completed, it should be returned to Sherri Winingham at the Geneva County Board of Education or emailed to wininghams@genevacoboe.org. It can also be faxed to 334-684-5601.

Q. How will I know if my application has been accepted?

- Once your application is received, you will receive an acknowledgement email.

Q. If my application is approved, what are the next steps?

- Once the applicant receives email confirmation of admittance, the student and parent or guardian will:
 - Meet with the GCVA staff to sign the required paperwork, discuss goals for graduation, and build the course schedule.
 - Attend a required orientation session that will include guidance in virtual learning and an introduction to navigating the course management system(s).

Q. When are applications for enrollment accepted?

- Applications for enrollment are accepted throughout the academic year and during the summer. Typically, it is best for a student to start the Virtual Academy at the beginning of a semester (August or January). However, it is sometimes possible to accept a transfer student during a semester. Staff will evaluate the transfer student's current schedule and grades to determine the feasibility of enrolling in the Geneva County Virtual Academy after a semester has already started.

Q. I have more questions. How should I contact the Geneva County Virtual Academy?

- If you have additional questions, please email wininghams@genevacoboe.org (best way) or call 334-684-5690.