

Frequently Asked Questions about Chattahoochee's Requests for Flexibility

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Accelerated, Cohort-Based Learning/Modified Seat Time

1. **What does this request for flexibility (RFF) allow Chattahoochee to do?**

This RFF allows Chattahoochee to offer cohort-style courses to qualified students that wish to participate in accelerated courses based on their academic/creative level of achievement.

2. **What is the purpose of this RFF?**

This RFF presents Chattahoochee's students with strong aptitudes in the arts, sciences, and social studies with the opportunity to complete the requirements of a year-long course in one semester. Qualified students could participate in an accelerated course in their area/discipline of strength.

An accelerated course allows for students to be appropriately challenged for their aptitude and learning level, to move more quickly into an advanced-level course, and to create flexibility in their later years at Chattahoochee HS. All of these opportunities compliment students' overall learning and supports their college and career readiness.

3. **How would Chattahoochee students benefit?**

By completing introductory coursework in an accelerated fashion, students could explore more career pathways, participate in advanced level coursework, connect with the community through internships, and experience greater inter-disciplinary learning opportunities.

4. **What classes will be offered as accelerated-based learning opportunities?**

At this point, Chattahoochee is tentatively planning to offer the following courses

- An honors biology and honors chemistry cohort
- An introduction to art, design fundamentals I, and advanced design (intro to graphics or intro to digital technology) cohort
- An AP European history and AP world history cohort

5. **Who is eligible for accelerated learning offerings?**

Only a limited number of students will be invited to participate in each cohort. Acceptance into accelerated course offerings will be based upon multiple criteria including: application, test scores, portfolios, and teacher recommendations.

Students may not simply enroll in an accelerated course. Please do not request that a student be enrolled in a cohort. Students, if selected, will receive additional information about the course and directions on how to enroll.

6. **When do courses meet?**

The complexity of scheduling requires Chattahoochee to be flexible in the implementation of these courses. Tentatively, these courses will meet during 4th period and the first half of fifth period creating a 90 minute block of instructional time. Students enrolled in accelerated courses will not have a homeroom.

College Style Classes

- 1. What does this request for flexibility (RFF) allow Chattahoochee to do?**

This RFF allows Chattahoochee to have more than the state allowed 32 students in an academic class.
- 2. What is the purpose of this RFF?**

This RFF presents Chattahoochee upperclassmen (juniors and seniors) with the option to take a high school course that resembles the large, lecture-hall style courses offered at many universities.
- 3. How would Chattahoochee students benefit?**

Over 80% of Chattahoochee graduates attend a 4-year university. Many of these graduates find themselves unaccustomed to and academically underprepared for the format of large, lecture-hall style teaching which is a hallmark of many undergraduate courses. In addition to the course's content standards, the teacher will instruct students in the skills necessary to be successful learners in this format of instruction.

Additionally, some courses at Chattahoochee "fill up" and not all students are able to enroll in the courses they request. By providing a large, lecture-hall style class, more students would be able to enroll.
- 4. Will students be required to take classes in this format?**

No. This is an option for students who would like to experience this style of learning. There are traditional classroom and virtual course offerings that students can take if they are not interested in the college-style format.
- 5. What classes will be offered in this format?**

Chattahoochee is currently exploring this option only for AP Psychology. This is an Advanced Placement course which is not required for graduation.
- 6. When does the class meet?**

The complexity of scheduling requires Chattahoochee to be flexible in the implementation of these courses. Tentatively, these courses would follow a traditional college schedule, meeting 2 or 3 days per week for an extended period of time similar to the College English format already in place.
- 7. Are all classes at Chattahoochee moving toward this format?**

No. Chattahoochee believes firmly in small class sizes in most circumstances. Chattahoochee will continue to work diligently to reduce class size for its other course offerings to the greatest extent possible. This large-format class is an option for upperclassmen who elect to experience it.

Expanded Internship/Work-Based Learning Opportunities

- 1. What does this request for flexibility (RFF) allow Chattahoochee to do?**
This RFF allows Chattahoochee to expand current, credit-earning internship opportunities to a greater number of students.
- 2. What is the purpose of this RFF?**
This RFF presents a wider spectrum of Chattahoochee students with the opportunity to add a real-world component to their education and become better prepared for the workplace.
- 3. How would Chattahoochee students benefit?**
Students would have the expanded opportunities outside the classroom to explore interests and gain career awareness. Additionally, internships are résumé builders; offer competitive advantages when applying for schools, jobs, and scholarships; and teach responsibility, accountability, and self-discipline.
- 4. What kind of internship/work-based learning opportunities will there be? Who is responsible for finding the internship? Does a student earn credit for the internship?**
This RFF is designed to allow maximum flexibility in choosing internships. As long as the student and employer agree to abide by the policies and the procedures of the program, any employment (paid or unpaid) may be eligible.

Students are responsible for finding and initiating their own internship/work-based learning opportunities. Upon successful completion of the program, students will earn credit toward graduation in the elective category.

- 5. Who is eligible?**
Students of legal working age who are on track for graduation may apply for this alternative learning opportunity. A student must stay on track for graduation in order to continue participating in the program.
- 6. Does this replace TAG internships or other, current career based work opportunities?**
No. This program is designed to supplement the opportunities that already exist. Currently only students enrolled in TAG or certain career pathways are eligible for internships. This RFF provides students not in those programs an opportunity for valuable work experience as well.

If an internship is already offered through one of the other programs, the student should continue to participate through that program. This program is only for students who are not already being served.

Personal Fitness Waivers

- 1. What does this request for flexibility (RFF) allow Chattahoochee to do?**

This RFF allows Chattahoochee students to waive the graduation requirement of 0.5 credit for Personal Fitness.
- 2. What is the purpose of this RFF?**

This RFF presents Chattahoochee students an alternative way to meet the graduation requirement of 0.5 credit for Personal Fitness through participation in Georgia High School Association (GHSA) sanctioned sports and marching band. This would reward our students for engaging in extensive physical activity outside the scheduled school day.
- 3. How would Chattahoochee students benefit?**

Students will have greater flexibility in designing their school schedule to meet their interests and needs. By opening one period for one semester, students could enroll in electives they otherwise would not have room for, participate in work study activities, or pursue advanced coursework through traditional and virtual course offerings.
- 4. How do students qualify for this waiver?**

Chattahoochee HS students may earn the personal fitness waiver through one of the following means: (1) completion of one season of a GHSA Varsity Sport at Chattahoochee HS; or (2) completion of two seasons of a GHSA Junior Varsity Sport at Chattahoochee HS; or (3) completion of two seasons of Chattahoochee HS Marching Band.
- 5. Are all grade levels eligible to apply for this waiver?**

No. Only students in the Class of 2017 and beyond are eligible to apply. Waiver applications must be submitted during a student's Junior year. Seniors are not eligible to apply.
NOTE: Class of 2016 Seniors that participate in Fall Sports will be allowed to apply.
NOTE: Class of 2017 Seniors that participate in Marching Band will be allowed to apply.
- 6. Does a student receive actual credit for taking the Personal Fitness course?**

No. Students who waive Personal Fitness will have a Personal Fitness Exemption code added to their transcript designating the waiver. No grade or credit will be assigned.
- 7. If transferring to another school, will the Personal Fitness waiver still be honored?**

The waiver was approved specifically for Chattahoochee students only. If a student transfers to another school, even if it is another Fulton County school, the student will be required to fulfill the Personal Fitness credit.
- 8. Can students participating in club sports apply for a waiver?**

The only sports approved for a waiver are those which are GHSA sanctioned.

Baseball	Basketball	Cheerleading
Cross Country	Football	Golf
Gymnastics	Lacrosse	Soccer
Softball	Swimming	Diving
Tennis	Track & Field	Volleyball
Wrestling		
- 9. Can a student apply for a waiver retroactively – i.e. a student played a GHSA sport last year, but will not in the future, can that student apply for a waiver?**

No. All RFFs take effect as of August 2015 and are not retroactive.

10. Can a student take an alternative PE class and use that class to waive Personal Fitness?

No. The RFF is approved only for participation in GHSA sports and marching band. Personal Fitness is required for graduation whereas other, elective PE classes are not.

11. What is the process for obtaining the Personal Fitness waiver?

Once the student has met the criteria for the waiver, he/she will request the waiver form from the designated school staff for their activity. The final deadline for students to submit a completed waiver form to the Counseling office will be during May of their Junior year; specific due dates will be announced later. If a student does not meet the criteria and/or does not turn in a completed waiver form by the specified date in May in their Junior year, they will be required to take Personal Fitness their senior year.

12. When and where will the waiver Forms be available?

Waiver forms will be available in the Fall of the 2015-2016 school year. Once a student has met the Personal Fitness waiver criteria, they should request a waiver form from the school staff member designated for their activity.

Athletics: Athletic Director

Marching Band: Band Director

13. When does this waiver process go into effect?

The waiver will go into effect starting in the 2015- 2016 school year and will only apply to students in the Class of 2017 and beyond (see question #5 for exceptions).