The Bridge Year Program

Queens College, College Preparatory Programs & Townsend Harris High School Collaboration

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What is the Bridge Year Program?

A highlight of the Queens College/Townsend Harris High School collaboration is the Bridge Year Program. During their fourth year at Townsend Harris High School, all seniors enroll at Queens College as non-matriculated students, taking up to six credits per semester of college-level courses on the college campus, often with other Queens College students. These accredited courses extend beyond the Townsend Harris curriculum requirements. The Bridge Year for seniors is an opportunity that provides them with authentic and rigorous preparation for college.

Three credits per semester are earned in the Freshman Humanities Colloquium, which is a “Great Books” course, team-taught in a seminar-style setting by Queens College faculty and THHS faculty. The seminars emphasize reading, writing, and student-led discussion and are patterned on Queens College’s Honors in the Humanities seminars, as well as the seminar programs at St. John’s College in Annapolis and the University of Chicago.

Taken in tandem with the Freshman Humanities Colloquium each semester, students also enroll in a three credit elective course of his or her choice, giving students an exceptional opportunity to explore various disciplinary offerings at the college.

Senior Program Course Requirements

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<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
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<td>Humanities Colloquium</td>
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<td>U.S. Government</td>
<td>Economics</td>
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<td>One Queens College Elective</td>
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Why the Bridge Program?

In a 2010 survey of THHS alumni, more than 63% of responders felt that their experiences during the Bridge Year left them “well prepared” or “very well prepared” along measures of participating in class discussions, writing clearly and effectively, managing [their] daily time schedule, registering for college courses, reading the assigned texts and articles, taking notes in college classes, taking tests and examinations, learning on [their] own, and pursuing ideas and finding the information [they] need.

The Bridge Year is designed to ease the students’ transition from high school to college through early exposure to college-level work. Students are able to adjust to the much greater freedom that exists on college campuses, while learning the responsibility necessary to handle that freedom. Through this unique collaboration with Queens College, Townsend Harris High School students receive a snapshot into the college experience while still in high school.
GENERAL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES
Daily attendance is mandatory, just as it is for all other high school students. Therefore students must sign in daily in Room 334 during the posted hours. Failure to sign in is recorded as an absence and is reported the next day to the student’s parents/guardians and the Dean. The only legal reasons for absence are illness, a death in the family, religious observance, or court appearance. Students are required to present a note after they are absent from school. Absences due to illness of three or more consecutive days require a note from a doctor.

The school day for seniors is from 7:30am-3:30pm. Students may have periods of free time during the day, which should be utilized for studying and homework.

CUTTING
Cutting the Humanities Colloquium and the Senior Meeting is reported to parents/guardians and the Dean whenever it occurs. Students will incur demerits, and this may affect the students’ ability to participate in senior activities, be in honor societies, be on teams, and/or to receive awards.

BOOK AND MATERIAL COSTS
- Seniors receive 6 free credits at Queens College each semester. If a student registers for a course carrying more than three credit hours, it is the student’s responsibility to pay the cost for additional credits.
- Books for the Humanities Colloquium will be provided to the students.
- Books for Elective course must be purchased by the student and students are urged to buy their books early. Books are usually available in August for September classes and in January for February classes.
- Several college courses require MAT (Material and Transportation) fees which the student must pay directly to the bursar’s office. Failure to pay MAT fees, which are indicated on the Queens College bill, will result in a student’s being irreversibly dropped from all college courses.

SENIOR CLASS MEETING
A senior class meeting is held every Monday during Band 7 in the Townsend Harris High School auditorium. Attendance is mandatory for all students except those with a scheduled college class.

PROGRAM CHANGE REQUESTS:
If for any reason students have problems with their programs
1. Before June 30th, they should communicate with their guidance counselors at the high school
2. After June 30th, they should contact the College Preparatory Office on the Queens College campus at (718) 997-3175 or email at QC.CPP@qc.cuny.edu.
SCHOOL CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER
In the event of inclement weather, all students are urged to contact the school or college to determine if classes will be in session.

- If Queens College is closed and Townsend Harris H.S. is open, seniors MUST report to the high school building for attendance sign-in and further instructions.
- If Townsend Harris is closed and Queens College is open, students MUST report to their college classes.

QUEENS COLLEGE ID CARD
All students are issued a Queens College I.D. card. College regulations require students to carry their ID cards on campus and to present them to a member of the faculty or staff if requested to do so. The ID card carries the privilege of using Queens College facilities. Lost I.D. cards must be replaced.

**NOTE:** Your ID card is not transferable to anyone. To replace a lost or stolen card:

- Go to Bursar’s Office in Jefferson Hall
- Pay a $5.00 replacement fee and get a receipt
- Take receipt to Main Gatehouse on Kissena Blvd.
- Retake picture

MID YEAR GRADES
Townsend Harris High School sends midyear high school and Queens College grades to all colleges to which students have submitted applications. Colleges will count your Queens College course grades into your college GPA.

PROOF OF GRADUATION
All colleges to which students have been accepted require proof of graduation in order to enroll (register) for the fall term. Townsend Harris High School sends out final transcripts including high school and college grades as proof of graduation.

At the end of the fall term, a student’s complete record of grades for that term, including grades for all Queens College courses, will be sent to the colleges to which the students are applying.
TAKING COLLEGE COURSES IS A PRIVILEGE
Tuition-free enrollment in Queens College courses is an integral part of the Townsend Harris High School Bridge Year. It is also a privilege. To help ensure that students use this privilege responsibly, the following policies are in effect:

- Students who receive a WU (Withdrawal, Unofficial) in a college course in the fall semester will not be permitted to enroll in any college elective for the spring semester. WU is the grade assigned when a student has stopped attending and submitting work in a course without formally withdrawing. It counts as an F.
- Students who have excessive absences without valid excuses during the fall semester will not be permitted to enroll in any college electives in the spring.
- Students are required to give permission for the high school and parents to receive college course grades.
- At the end of the spring semester, a student’s complete record of grades for the senior year, including grades for all Queens College courses, will be sent to the colleges that students are planning to attend.

IMPORTANT: All programs at Queens College and Townsend Harris High School may be affected by budgetary constraints and are subject to local policies.