

## **STEM Academy at Martin High School FAQs**

Students at the STEM Academy at Martin High School will have the opportunity to earn high school credits along four pathways – engineering, biology/biomedical science, computer science and math/science.

### **What will be different about this school than a traditional school?**

Students that attend the Arlington ISD STEM Academy at Martin High School will/can

- Be prepared to pursue a STEM-related career.
- Develop professional life skills in preparation for a career in STEM.
- Be part of the STEM cohort - a group of students that will take their STEM-related academic curriculum and core classes together in a collaborative environment.
- Select a STEM pathway(s) of greatest interest: Engineering, Biology/Biomedical Science, Computer Science and Math/Science.
- Earn AP credit and dual credit (with UT Arlington) in their STEM major.
- Experience integration of STEM content into other core classes such as English and History.
- Have a faculty mentor their freshman and sophomore years.
- Attend talks by professionals in STEM careers.
- Have opportunities to be innovative and to lead.
- Experience STEM enrichment such as field trips, competitions, and student organizations.

### **What are the goals of the program?**

- To expose students to rigorous science, technology, engineering and math curriculum in order to develop a pathway to a future STEM career.
- To develop students who are socially responsible, globally aware and locally engaged.
- To develop a diverse group of students who will be successful as STEM majors in college with no remediation required.
- To graduate students who will have had an opportunity to complete STEM college courses and up to 30 UT Arlington semester credit hours prior to high school graduation.
- To graduate students with additional college credit earned through AP courses.
- To develop students with strong leadership skills that allows them to communicate and collaborate with others.
- To strengthen ties among the school district, UT Arlington and STEM-related businesses in our community.

### **Can my child earn college credit at this school and if so, is it paid for?**

Yes, students can earn college credit through scores on AP exams taken through AP classes, and through dual credit courses offered by Tarrant County College and the University of Texas at Arlington. Students are responsible for the cost of AP Exams and dual credit courses taken through TCC. The STEM Academy at Martin High School covers the cost of tuition and required textbooks for dual credit courses taken through UTA.

**How and when can I apply?**

Interested students need to complete an application to the Arlington ISD STEM Academy at Martin High School. The application will be posted on the AISD website at [www.aisd.net/specializedprograms](http://www.aisd.net/specializedprograms) and on the STEM Academy website and also made available in the counseling offices of Arlington ISD junior high schools on November 11, 2019.

The submission window for online applications will run from 9 a.m. November 11, 2019 through January 30, 2020 at 4 p.m.

**How are the applications evaluated?**

The STEM Academy Selection Committee will review all student applications and grades. Selected students will be interviewed by a panel of Arlington ISD STEM Academy and Martin High School faculty, staff and administrators. After the interview, the students will be asked to write an essay in response to a provided prompt. The STEM Academy will request teacher recommendations from the schools currently attended by the applicants.

Based on the application, grades, interview, student essay and teacher recommendations, the most qualified applicants will be admitted.

The deadline to apply to the AISD STEM Academy is 4 p.m. on January 30, 2020.

**What grades are accepted into this program?**

Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of their first year in the program.

**Can students apply for admission after 8th grade?**

No.

**How do I know if I was accepted and when will I find out?**

Parents will receive a decision letter by email by March 21, 2020 and will have until March 24, 2020 to respond.

**Is it free?**

Yes, there is no fee to attend the AISD STEM Academy at Martin High School.

**Is there transportation?**

Yes. Transportation will be provided before and after school for students between AISD's other five traditional high schools – or students who live more than two miles from Martin High School and are zoned to attend MHS – and the STEM Academy at Martin High School. In addition, bus transportation is provided back to each home campus at 5:30 p.m. to allow students to participate in after-school activities. Bus transportation is not provided to students that do not live in the Arlington ISD attendance zone.

**How many students are accepted versus how many people apply each year?**

Each year 130-175 incoming freshman students will be selected for the STEM Academy. Approximately 400 students apply each year.

**What are the qualifications you are looking for to be accepted?**

- Be a freshman at the beginning of the fall in which you will enter the program
- Maintain a semester average of 80 or better in all core classes 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years
- No failing grades in any course during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades
- Be currently enrolled in Algebra I or Geometry.
- Willing to commit to a 4-year program
- Willing to attend a district program within Martin High School (the AISD STEM Academy at Martin High School)
- Willing to be enrolled as a Martin High School student
- Willing to commit to after school, Saturday and summer activities
- Exemplary attendance and discipline history

**Do you accept out of district students?**

Out of district applicants will only be considered for admission should spots remain available after all resident applicants have been placed. However, out-of-district siblings of current STEM Academy students are exempt from this requirement.

**Is there a waitlist for admission to the STEM Academy?**

No.

**Are there other schools I can go to if I don't get into this one?**

Yes. Students can also apply to Arlington Collegiate High School or Arlington College and Career High School. All program information is available at [www.aisd.net/specializedprograms](http://www.aisd.net/specializedprograms).

Students not accepted into the AISD STEM Academy at Martin High School can also attend their home high school campus or may apply for a transfer to one of the Arlington ISD high schools open to transfers during the Fall transfer window.

**Are there any information meetings and is attending an information meeting required to get in?**

There will be two information meetings prior to the application deadline:

- November 20, 2019 – 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- January 21, 2020 – 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Martin High School Auditorium, 4501 West Pleasant Ridge, Arlington

Students and parents are not required to attend the information meetings.

**What other classes/activities can my child take and do besides the STEM classes and activities?**

Students in the STEM Academy have the opportunity to take all the languages offered at Martin High School: Spanish, French, German, Latin and American Sign Language.

Students in the STEM Academy can participate in the many leadership opportunities at Martin High School such as Student Council, Key Club, NMHS, NHS, NTHS, NSHS and STEM Leadership programs.

Martin High School offers all the fine arts including band, orchestra, theater, choir and art. There are many STEM activities and organizations at the STEM Academy including Robotics, STEM Solar Racing, Roboboat, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Technical Student Association, National Technical Honor Society, Math National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society and National Honor Society.

**Can my child play sports or participate in fine arts while at this school?**

Yes, STEM Academy students may participate in all sports, fine arts, clubs and organizations offered at Martin High School. *Please note that freshman student athletes who transfer to Martin High School via the STEM Academy are not permitted to participate in their sport at the varsity level during their freshman year.* Refer to the Academics, Fine Arts and Athletic links on the Martin High School website. <http://www.aisd.net/martin/departments.html>

**What are the classroom hours?**

The STEM Academy school day will follow the same Arlington ISD schedule with school beginning at 7:35 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m. Students participating in courses at UTA or the Career and Technical Center may have extended hours.

**Will students be required to wear uniforms or T-shirts?**

STEM Academy shirts will be available for students and will be required on certain school days, such as a field trip day or other special event days. However, students will not be required to wear uniforms as part of their school day. During the senior year, students may be required to wear special attire if engaged in an internship. This attire may include but is not limited to a uniform or business defined attire.

**Are there any special academic requirements for STEM Academy students for graduation?**

Students in the STEM Academy are required to complete all state requirements for graduation, including the fulfillment of an Endorsement in STEM or Public Service.

**Does my child need to re-apply for the STEM Academy after their freshman year in the Academy?**

No.

**Who do I contact for more information?**

To learn more about the STEM Academy at Martin High School, or any of Arlington ISD's specialized programs, go to [www.aisd.net/specializedprograms](http://www.aisd.net/specializedprograms) or email [specialprograms@aisd.net](mailto:specialprograms@aisd.net).