

## Mission Statement

Dr. T.J. Owens Gilroy Early College Academy, located on the campus of Gavilan Community College, was established in 2006-07 as a partnership between the Gilroy Unified School District and Gavilan Community College. The program is structured to provide successful, challenging, and meaningful experiences for students identified as high ability who are not yet reaching their potential. Additionally, these students are typically the first in their family to attend and graduate from college. Students are offered not only the opportunity to earn a high school diploma by meeting the Gilroy Unified School District's graduation requirements and meet university entrance requirements by taking A-G high school coursework, but they also take college courses for which they receive college units through dual enrollment---some leading to an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree in 4 to 5 years; others to meet transfer requirements. Most graduates will go on to pursue higher education in a 4-year college or university.

Above all, prospective GECA students must have high academic achievement potential. Generally speaking, we seek out classic AVID profile students, who typically exhibit many of the following benchmarks:

- California STAR test (CST) scores in the "Proficient" (or above) in both the ELA and Mathematics categories
- Documented ability to read at, or above, 9th grade level
- Excellent school attendance and citizenship with minimal discipline issues
- Strong personal desire and determination to attend college
- Assessed potential to prosper both academically and socially in a highly rigorous high school curriculum (Honors and AP) at GECA and in fully transferable college classes at Gavilan Community College

## Application Process

In November, 2009, we will begin accepting applications for fall 2010 new enrollment . The following time line is an estimate of dates:

- **November:** Enrollment windows opened
- **February:** Enrollment window for fall semester 2010 enrollment at GECA closes
- **March :** All applicants should be notified of status **NOTE:** Current projections are to admit a class of 75 freshmen (currently 8th graders).
- **Late March:** Student Interviews begin

Candidates should complete Sections I through III of the application and parents/guardians should complete Sections V through VI. Sections VII and VIII will require information from the student, his/her school counselor, and parents/guardians.

In addition, you will need to submit the following with the application:

- Copy of the student's academic transcript from his/her current school, including disciplinary records. (If not available, please submit current year grade reports and disciplinary records for the student.)
- Copies of most current California STAR Test results. (If not available, please submit a statement as to why scores are not available.)
- Two (2) letters of recommendation – one from a current teacher and one from either a current counselor or administrator. (Not Applicable for home-schooled students.)

A completed GECA 2010 Recommendation form [that you can find on the web page at www.gavilan.edu/geca](http://www.gavilan.edu/geca) for downloading.

We look forward to receiving your application packet and to meeting you during the interview process!

Dr. T.J. Owens  
Gilroy Early  
College Academy



*Be Someone  
Go Somewhere  
Seek Excellence*

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## Expected School Wide Learning Results

Expected school wide learning results (ESLR's) were written by the Early College Advisory Committee and visited yearly. This was originally accomplished in the development of the school as a whole.

In support of our Mission Statement, we hold the following expected learning results for our students:

A Dr. T. J. Owens Gilroy Early College Academy graduate will:

✦ Acquire the core abilities to apply the necessary combination of skills and knowledge required for the lifelong pursuit of ongoing academic, occupational, and personal growth.

✦ Demonstrate the requisite skills for independent and critical thinking, problem solving, articulation, organization, and presentation.

✦ Acknowledge, respect and embrace human diversity.

✦ Become empowered through self-knowledge, self-esteem, self-motivation, and self-discipline, while growing the capacities to overcome adversity, accept boundaries, and maintain high standards of personal integrity.

✦ Develop collegiate-level skills in mathematics, science, computer technology, liberal arts and humanities, English, and economics, and then apply that knowledge to understand the past, learn from the present, and anticipate the future.



## Accomplishments:

Dr. T.J. Owens Early College Academy has been open for a little more than one academic year. In August, 2007, it celebrated its first anniversary. Most of the first year was dedicated to establishing the instructional program, developing a culture of trust and respect, engaging parents, and expanding enrollment to capacity. While relatively basic compared to established high schools that have extra and intra- curricular activities, the following achievements and accomplishments have been monumental in establishing the foundations of an excellent program.

For the 2008-2009 school year:

- 894 API score
- 91% "At or Above Proficient" in English-Language Arts
- 47% "At or Above Proficient" in Algebra I
- 77% "At or Above Proficient" in Geometry
- 75% "At or Above Proficient" in Earth Science
- All four AYP criteria met
- 98% ADA rate to date this year
- 100% CAHSEE passing rate
- Runner-up in Academic Decathlon Team
- Fall semester of 2008-2009 students earned a total of 786 credits in their Gavilan College classes with an average GPA of 3.075.

## Requirements:

To earn a diploma of High School Graduation from the Dr. T.J. Owens Gilroy Early College Academy at Gavilan College, a student must successfully:

- Earn 300 semester credits of high school work – with a grade of "C" or better – in the subject areas listed below
- Pass both the Language Arts and Mathematics sections of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) Ref: Education Code §60851 and §60859
- Complete Algebra I Ref: Education Code §51224.5
- Pass a course in Health Education (state content requirement)
- Complete a Senior Portfolio Culminating Project

## Honor Tribunal

Students actively participate in self-governance through two student-run bodies: *Student Congress* and *Honor Tribunal*. Student leaders are elected by their peers to serve on the Student Congress, which is charged with governing student clubs, planning school social events, and fund raising. Our school is governed under a unique document known as *The Honor Code of GECA*, the basic tenets of which are honesty, personal integrity, accountability, and respect for diversity. It is this Honor Code that provides the framework for student behavior expectations, taking the distinctive nature of high school on a college campus into account. The Honor Tribunal serves as the hearing body for students who may have violated the Honor Code; the Honor Tribunal then deliberates and makes recommendations to the school principal in student disciplinary matters.