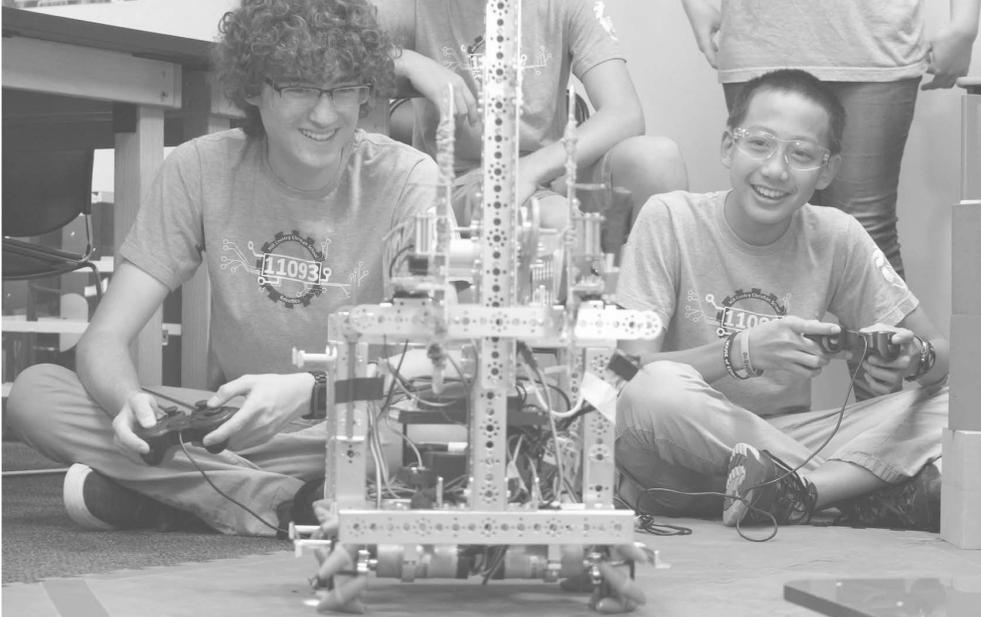




PATHWAYS

ENGINEERING



A COMMUNITY WITHIN A COMMUNITY

Through Pathways, students will set themselves apart as distinct candidates when applying for college. They will confidently demonstrate interest and tangible experience in the field for which they are applying, showing they have challenged themselves to the fullest extent possible given their opportunities.

Hill Country Christian School of Austin is excited to introduce Pathways, an optional program designed for our 9th-12th grade students. This distinctive program offers academic and extracurricular experiences that equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to become successful, Christ-centered professionals in specific fields of study. Pathways offers Hill Country students the opportunity to challenge themselves in a particular subject area within our current course offerings without exempting them from graduation requirements or forgoing the disciplines of a classical Christian education. In fact, Pathways offers a distinct opportunity for students to apply the classical virtues they're acquiring to a particular discipline in a truly unique way.

Through Pathways, we simply guide students along paths many are already on while providing them with targeted opportunities to pursue their passions and interests. This creates a community of like-minded students who support and encourage each other as they work toward their goals: *a community within a community.*

This fall, we will launch our inaugural cohort: the Engineering Pathway, and plan to offer additional Pathways in the future that align with students' personal, educational, and professional interests as well as the strengths and distinctive features of Hill Country. Students who enroll in Pathways will:

- engage in **challenging coursework**,
- attend exclusive extracurricular **seminars and activities**,
- research, create, and defend a **discipline-specific Senior Thesis**.

STEP 1: APPLY

The application process for the Engineering Pathway will be open to current 8th grade students (rising 9th grade students) during the course request process in the spring semester. Students' grades, test scores, application essays, and letters of recommendation will be considered as part of the selection process.

STEP 2: FOLLOW THE PATH

Participants will follow a curated path of courses within our general high school offerings — taking these classes alongside their peers. They will deepen their understanding of engineering concepts and applications while fulfilling all graduation requirements associated with a classical Christian education.

STEP 3: GRADUATE WITH DISTINCTION

Upon graduation, participants will receive a diploma with "Engineering Distinction" and further commendations noted on their high school transcripts and in the graduation ceremony.



**Expert-Led
Seminars
& Workshops**



**Like-Minded
Community**



**Discipline-Specific
Senior Thesis**



**Experiential
Learning**



**Extracurricular
Opportunities**



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*Preparing for College.
Preparing for Life.*

Are Hill Country high school students required to participate in Pathways? No. High school students are not required to participate in Pathways.

Do Pathways participants have graduation requirements different from their peers? No. All students benefit from the full array of courses and disciplines associated with a classical Christian education. Graduation requirements are the same for everyone. However, students in Pathways have specific requirements in their field of study (e.g., advanced or honors-level courses, specific electives, and extracurricular activities).

Can a student apply for Pathways after his or her freshman year? Yes. We highly recommend students apply in 8th grade. However, 9th grade students who want to enroll in a specific Pathway at the end of the fall or spring semester may apply. We will review these applications case by case—students may need to adjust their course schedules and fulfill additional requirements to be eligible for the program.

Can students who transfer to Hill Country after their freshman year still apply? Yes. Rising sophomores can still apply for Pathways if they transfer to Hill Country after their freshman year. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Students are more likely to gain entry into Pathways if they have taken advanced or honors-level courses in the relevant program areas and completed past electives in the field of study. Students may not apply for Pathways after their sophomore year.

As we launch, will exceptions be made for current Hill Country students? For our inaugural year, we will consider potential junior and senior applicants on a case-by-case basis. Admission depends on evaluation of their Pathways application and completion of past required coursework.

Is there an additional cost? No. However, additional fees may be associated with students' extracurricular participation in Robotics.

Can students exit Pathways before completion? Yes. Students may withdraw from Pathways without penalty before the start of any school year.

Is Pathways a separate school within Hill Country? No. Pathways participants will take classes alongside their peers, including those not in a Pathway.

Can students participate in more than one Pathway? No. Given the various elective and extracurricular requirements of each Pathway, this would not be feasible.

How does Pathways align with a classical education? Students participating in Pathways will continue their studies in the various disciplines that comprise our core curriculum as a classical Christian school as they seek to understand and appreciate that which is true, good, and beautiful. Students go deeper in one area without sacrificing the breadth of the classical curriculum.

 = required to graduate with the Engineering Distinctive

YEAR ONE: 9TH GRADE

English:	Classical Literature or Honors Classical Literature
Foreign Language:	Latin I, Latin II, Spanish I, or Spanish II
Mathematics:	Honors Geometry or Honors Algebra II
Science:	Honors Biology
Social Studies:	World History I
Theology/Rhetoric:	Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ (1 semester) and Logic (1 semester)
Elective:	Engineering: Design
Elective:	Student Choice

YEAR TWO: 10TH GRADE

English:	Western Literature or Honors Western Literature
Foreign Language:	Latin II or Spanish II (if not yet completed)
Mathematics:	Honors Algebra II or Honors Pre-calculus
Science:	Honors Chemistry
Social Studies:	World History II or AP European History
Theology/Rhetoric:	The Epistles of Paul (1 semester) and Speech (1 semester)
Elective:	Engineering: Computing
Elective:	Student Choice

YEAR THREE: 11TH GRADE

English:	American Literature or AP English Language & Composition
Mathematics:	Honors Pre-calculus or AP Calculus AB/BC
Science:	AP Physics
Social Studies:	U.S. History/CCU U.S. History
Theology/Rhetoric:	Apologetics (1 semester) and Debate (1 semester)
Elective:	AP Computer Science Principles
Elective:	Student Choice
Elective:	Student Choice

YEAR FOUR: 12TH GRADE

English:	Advanced Western Literature or AP English Literature & Composition
Mathematics:	AP Calculus AB/BC (if not yet completed)
Science/Math	
Elective:	Anatomy & Physiology, AP Biology, OR Statistics
Social Studies:	Economics (1 semester) and Government/CCU Government (1 semester) or AP Macroeconomics (full year)
Theology:	Christian Ethics & Moral Philosophy (1 semester) and Student Choice Elective (1 semester)
Rhetoric:	Senior Thesis: Engineering Capstone (full year)
Elective:	Student Choice
Elective:	Student Choice

Seminars: Participants will attend program-approved lectures and/or field-related extracurricular activities quarterly. A curated list of offerings will be provided.