

# **Strategic Partnership with LeTourneau University (LETU) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

## **1. How does the dual credit opportunity affect academics at Ovilla Christian School (OCS)?**

- It furthers our commitment to be a college preparatory learning community.
- It exposes all the student body to the rigor of the college classroom.
- It strengthens alignment, academic improvement, and expansion from K thru 12th.

## **2. Will LeTourneau University (LETU) support the Christian worldview of Ovilla Christian School (OCS)?**

The mission statement of LETU: *“LeTourneau University is a comprehensive institution of Christian higher education where educators engage learners to nurture Christian virtue, to develop competency and ingenuity in their professional fields, to integrate faith and work, and to serve the local and global community.”*

LETU has rigorous biblical integration standards for all course content. Professors must attest to their Christian faith as a standard of employment in the same way the OCS teachers must demonstrate an active faith.

## **3. What does it mean to receive 63 hours college credit?**

A student can graduate OCS with up to 63 college credit hours from LeTourneau University as if the course was taken at their campus in Longview. These hours will transfer into the next educational choice of the student, as determined by the receiving institution. In addition, LeTourneau will grant an Associate in Interdisciplinary Studies degree to each student who successfully meets completion requirements. Both will be reflected in an official transcript from LETU.

## **4. Why would a student choose to take advantage of the 63 hours?**

- Accelerate the educational experience by earning up to two years college credit in high school, thus saving their family thousands of dollars in residential college costs.
- Use a post high school year as a “gap”, “bridge”, or “experiential” opportunity for personal growth.
- Slow down the initial pace during their next two years at a four-year institution.

- Explore more educational opportunities in multiple fields.
- Achieve a postgraduate degree in the same time frame as a four year under-graduate degree.

## **5. Why LeTourneau?**

Le Tourneau's vision of developing Christ-like graduates makes the partnering with Ovilla Christian School a natural enhancement for both institutions. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, along with other institutions such as Texas A&M, Baylor University, Southern Methodist University, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Texas, Austin.

Le Tourneau has a broad liberal arts opportunity but also the opportunity for OCS students to develop degrees in six key schools of the university:

- School of Arts and Sciences
- School of Aeronautical Science
- School of Business
- School of Education
- School of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- School of Nursing

## **6. What is the cost? How will parents be billed?**

OCS is the financial agent for LeTourneau in this program. After registration, parents will be billed at a current rate of \$90 per dual credit hour. (Tuition rates are subject to annual adjustments.) This amount is in addition to standard tuition and fees of OCS. There are no discounts for LETU course tuition. Financial aid from OCS will not be used for LETU course tuition. Parents may choose to spread LETU course tuition out over our monthly payment plan. Pre-payment discounts do not apply to LETU course tuition. Course fees, such as lab fees, will be billed in addition to LETU course tuition at actual. Books and supplies will be the responsibility of parents.

## **7. What are options for books and supplies costs?**

Students will purchase the assigned textbook and/or materials for the course. The details regarding the textbook (author, publisher, edition, LETU cost) and other required materials will be provided on the LETU Dual Credit website. Textbooks may be purchased or rented through the LETU bookstore (Tree of Life) online, or at

any other book store including Amazon. OCS will hold used book fairs at the appropriate time.

#### **8. Will my student need a computer?**

If a student enrolls in a LETU online class, the class will be conducted over an internet connected computer. Options are coming soon for parents to learn the requirements concerning school authorized computers. Courses taught online will have computers available in the classroom during school hours.

#### **9. What differences can a student expect between college level courses and traditional high school?**

While OCS is already pursuing a college preparatory rigor, some changes will be noticed by our students:

- Quicker pace: more material will be covered during a semester.
- Less academic grace: deadlines are more strictly enforced. Time management is the responsibility of the student.
- Syllabus rather than daily assignments: assignments and due dates are published at the beginning of a course. Students are responsible to follow the syllabus and submit assignments without teacher prompting.
- Online courses: some courses will be delivered through our online media platform, Canvas. Students will need access to the internet and a standard web browser in order to complete classes. Appeals for variance are decided by the LETU professor of record, not the OCS teacher.
- Independent work: responsibility for learning will shift more toward the student. This is appropriate for our future servant leaders. Parents will need to pay close attention to student progress. Teachers will expect students to manage their learning.

#### **10. What qualifies OCS staff and teachers to instruct college level courses?**

OCS teachers who hold a Master's degree and 18 hours of subject matter graduate studies or equivalent work experience will qualify to act as adjunct professors for LETU and teach courses in our classroom using traditional methods. LETU will credential those teachers as they do any other professor at LETU. Other OCS teachers will act as teaching assistants for online courses led by LETU professors. Both methods will include direct student supervision with active classroom teaching from OCS teachers.

**11. How much more time will students need to devote to outside the classroom studies?**

The rigor of our academics will increase with the LETU partnership. Additional time needed for completion of dual enrollment courses will vary by student and course.

**12. OCS is a college preparatory school. I want my student to be prepared for college. Will my student suffer if he does not participate in the college level classes?**

Students will have the option to opt out of college credit courses and continue with high school level rigor. Non- dual credit students will often receive high school credit in the same classrooms with the dual credit students but will be assessed with high school assessments and activities prepared by OCS faculty.

**13. I am very interested in my student participating in this program. My student is currently in the 4th Grade. What new instruction will she receive in preparation for college level classes in five years?**

Our Dean of Academics is aligning our curriculum from K - 12 to reflect the improved college preparatory academics provided with our partnership. All grade levels will adjust over the next few years to prepare all our students.

**14. I am very interested in my student participating in this program. I have three students currently attending OCS, none in high school at present. Can I begin making payments and lock in the costs today?**

Not at this time.

**15. Can my student obtain any on-campus learning opportunities at Le Tourneau during the high school years? Summer classes? Seminars? Lab experiences?** There are no offerings for summer classes. As we explore and expand our partnership, there may be more options in the future.

**16. I support this opportunity for my student to be challenge and save time and money! How do we sign up?**

Dual enrollment choices are made at registration. A LETU enrollment form is required at initial sign up. All high school students at OCS are eligible for LETU courses as long as they maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or better.