

**Madison County Virtual Academy (MCVA)**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q. What are the requirements for student enrollment?**

- Reside in the Madison County School district
- Student must be in grades 7-12
- Student must be on track to graduate
- Have access to a reliable laptop
- Maintain consistent, daily access to the Internet (minimum 1.5 Mbs).
- Maintain minimum overall GPA of 2.0 in courses taken during the current academic year.
- Accumulate no more than five (5) virtual unexcused absences or three (3) physical attendance absences during the current year.
- Maintain appropriate course progression as measured by the completion of weekly assignments, quizzes, and/or tests.
- Adhere to the Academic Integrity Contract.
- Remain in good standing as a student of the Madison County Virtual Academy.
- Students with discipline infractions resulting in suspension or expulsion will immediately be removed from the Madison County Virtual School.
- Students must provide their own transportation to the testing site. Licensed students will be permitted to drive themselves with an approved/signed Transportation Agreement. All other students must be driven by a parent or designee.

**Q. What curriculum does the Madison County Virtual Academy use?**

A. MCVA uses the PLATO curriculum, a program administered by Edmentum. The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) developed ACCESS online courses may be utilized when needed.

**Q. Who are the teachers for Madison County Virtual Academics?**

A. The teachers of record for PLATO virtual academy courses will be a combination of those assigned to the virtual academy and teachers from their child's local school. ACCESS courses are managed by teachers approved through the ALSDE. All teachers are Highly Qualified and certified in their content areas.

**Q. What type of diploma does the Madison County Virtual Academy offer?**

A. Students who complete the required coursework for graduation through the MCVA will receive their diploma from their base school.

**Q. Do Madison County Virtual Academy students have face-to-face requirements?**

A. Yes, MCVA students have face-to-face obligations for orientation, proctored tests, state-mandated assessments, and accountability updates.

**Q. Where are face-to-face meeting requirements held?**

A. Face-to-face meetings will take place at the Madison County School's Career Technical Center or Sparkman 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy. The Career Technical Center is located at 1275 Jordan Road, Huntsville, AL 35811. Sparkman 9 is located at 2680 Jeff Road, Harvest, AL 35749. The Madison County Virtual Academy is open Monday - Friday at specified times for tutoring, training, counseling, and proctored testing.

**Q. Is transportation provided for Madison County Virtual Academy students?**

A. No, upon submitting a signed/approved Transportation Agreement, licensed students may drive themselves to the Career Technical Center or Sparkman 9. All other students must be driven by a parent or designee.

**Q. What is involved with proctored examinations?**

A. All unit tests and end-of-course tests must be taken in the physical presence of a Madison County Virtual Academy staff member. Students must report to Career Technical Center or Sparkman 9, to take these tests and exams. Transportation is not provided; therefore, students and/or parents must arrange for reliable and safe transportation according to the terms of the signed Transportation Agreement. At this time, Madison County Virtual Academy does not allow electronic proctoring.

**Q. How is attendance recorded for Madison County Virtual Academy students?**

A. Students participating in the virtual education option must meet the following attendance criteria:

- Students must adhere to the Madison County Schools Attendance Policy
- Students must attend class each day (as monitored by the virtual academy staff) and keep up with course assignments and maintain progress.
  - Log in to courseware daily to document attendance.
  - Physical attendance when directed by the course.
- To remain in the program, students may not have more than five (5) virtual unexcused absences or three (3) physical attendance absences.

**Q. Are there any costs associated with attending the Madison County Virtual Academy?**

A. While the MCVA does not require a fee to attend, there may be required fees for certain courses at the base school and/or Career Technical Center. Students who are not financially able to pay fees may apply for a fee waiver. Fee waiver applications are available at each high school.

**Q. Are Madison County Virtual Academy students required to take state assessments?**

A. Yes, all Madison County Virtual Academy students are required to take all state mandated assessments at the school in which they are zoned to attend. Failure to do so may result in removal from the MCVA and/or non-admittance for the next academic year.

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
7 <sup>th</sup>	Scantron
8th	Scantron
9th	None
10th	None
11th	ACT with Writing
12th	ACT Work Keys

**Q. Are Madison County Virtual Academy students permitted to graduate early?**

A. Yes, students are permitted to accelerate their high school course progression. Students are allowed to take additional courses during the regular school year and summer months under the condition that they maintain the minimum pace across all currently enrolled courses. Further, Madison County Virtual Academy students are permitted to participate in the Credit Advancement programs offered to all Madison County high school students. Students considering Early Graduation must meet the requirements outlined in the Madison County Schools High School Academic Guide. **Students, who meet all requirements for early graduation, as defined in the High School Academic Guide, will be allowed to participate in the next available graduation ceremony.**

**Q. Can Madison County Virtual Academy students participate in extracurricular activities at their home school?**

A. Madison County Virtual Academy students may participate in extracurricular programs at their base schools. If a base high school requires its athletes to take specific athletic or weight training classes, then participating virtual academy students will be required to take these classes as well.

**Q. What happens if a student fails a course?**

A. Students who fail one class may elect to attend summer school. Students will be responsible for transportation to and from summer school and for paying all summer school fees. Students are expected to adhere to Madison County expectations, procedures, and policies regarding summer school and credit recovery. If a student fails a class and retakes the class in summer school, then, upon the successful completion of summer school, the student's GPA for the academic year just completed will be recalculated. If the student's GPA is at least a 2.0, and the student is still on track for graduation, and he or she meets all other requirements and expectations of the Madison County Virtual Academy, then the student will be permitted to continue his/her enrollment in the virtual academy.

Students who fail more than one course per semester will be withdrawn from the Madison County Virtual Academy. Students who are not on track for graduation by the end of summer school will be withdrawn from the Madison County Virtual Academy. Students who do not have a 2.0 GPA by the end of summer school for the academic year just completed, or ending semester will be withdrawn from the Madison County Virtual Academy.

**Q. How do I apply for enrollment to the Madison County Virtual Academy?**

- A.
1. Applicants who are currently enrolled in a Madison County School
    - If you are currently enrolled at a Madison County School, then the MCVA Virtual Academy application form can be completed using the following link: <https://goo.gl/Lq4Ukl>
  2. Applicants who are NOT currently enrolled in a Madison County School
    - If you are not currently enrolled in a Madison County School, then a completed New Student Registration Packet with all supporting documentation, in addition to the MCVA Virtual Academy application should be emailed to [tshumate@mcssk12.org](mailto:tshumate@mcssk12.org).

**Q. How will I know if my application has been accepted?**

A. Once your application is received by Madison County Virtual Academy, you will receive an acknowledgement email. Depending on the availability of your academic records, the determination may take 10 days. Applicants will be informed of the Virtual Academy administrator's decision by email.

**Q. If my application is approved, what are the next steps?**

- A. Once the applicant receives email confirmation of admittance, the student and parent or guardian will:
1. Meet with a member of Madison County Virtual Academy staff to sign the required paperwork, discuss goals for graduation, and build the student's course schedule.
  2. Attend a required orientation session that will include guidance in virtual learning and an introduction to navigating the course management system(s).

**Q. When are applications for enrollment accepted?**

A. Applications for enrollment are accepted throughout the academic year and during the summer. Typically, it is best for a student to start the virtual academy at the beginning of a semester (August or January). However, it is sometimes possible to accept a transfer student during a semester. The Madison County Virtual Academy staff will evaluate the transfer student's current schedule and grades to determine the feasibility of enrolling in the Madison County Virtual Academy after a semester has already started.

**Q. What types of student supports services are offered?**

- Orientation for Students/Parents
- Guidance & Counseling

- Monitoring
- Tutoring
- Assessment
- Digital Resources

**Q. How many credits per year are Madison County Virtual Academy students required to take?**

A. Students are required to take at least six credits per year. Four of the six credits must be core classes (math, science, English, and social studies) unless the student has accumulated more core credits than is required for the student to remain on track for graduation. With principal and parent permission, students may be allowed to attempt additional credits per year.

**Q. What does “on-track” for graduation mean?**

A. A student who is on-track for graduation has earned a credit in each of the core areas – English, Math, Science, and Social Studies – for each year of school attendance beginning in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

If a student makes application to the MCVA at midterm, on track for graduation also includes the condition that the student has passing averages in all currently enrolled courses at his or her base school.

**Q. Does the Madison County Virtual Academy follow the Madison County School’s academic calendar?**

A. The Madison County Virtual Academy operates on a standard semester system in accordance with the Madison County School System’s academic calendar. Most high school classes are offered in a “block” format. The starting and ending date of ACCESS classes (regardless of the format) is determined by the Alabama State Department of Education and is closely aligned with the Madison County School System’s academic calendar.

**Q. I have more questions. What is the contact information for the Madison County Virtual Academy?**

A. If you have additional questions, please contact either:  
Tim Solley, 256-852-2557 ext. 61403, [tsolley@mcस्क12.org](mailto:tsolley@mcस्क12.org)  
Tandy Shumate, 256-852-2557 ext. 63001, [tshumate@mcस्क12.org](mailto:tshumate@mcस्क12.org)