

## **Alternative Education**

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Alternative Education is a way for students to earn their high school diploma or the equivalent in a medium other than the traditional - 4 years at Mills. We understand that every student is unique and we encourage each person to fully understand the options available to them. Below is a list of alternative education programs that will earn you a high school diploma or the equivalent:

### **Adult School**

The Adult School for San Mateo Union High School District is located behind San Mateo High School. It offers two options

1. Earning a high school diploma from your host high school - students take courses during the day that align with the graduation requirements from Mills. Typically, this program is set up for seniors who are within 40 credits of graduation.
2. GED – equivalent to a high school diploma. Must be 17 ½ to enroll in the GED preparation program at the Adult School. Once accepted, you will begin taking classes to prepare you for the GED Test (a fee applies). You can only take the test once Adult School teachers deem you ready. You have to be 18 to take the test or within 60 days of your graduation date.

Visit the San Mateo Adult School website for more information: <http://www.smace.org/>

### **Middle College**

The Middle College program enables students to take their classes at CSM while earning credits for their high school graduation. English and Social Sciences are required classes, and the student chooses other college classes that will apply to both their high school and college credits. The impact on Middle College students is expected to include...

- High School graduation
- Strong connection and identification with a community of learners
- Increased motivation and engagement in project-based learning
- Accumulation of college credits and early preparation for college admission
- Improved communication skills and media literacy
- Increased maturity, independence, and evidence of coping skills
- Work experience and exploration of career options, particularly in Multimedia and Broadcasting Arts
- Improved attendance and academic achievement

Visit the Middle College Website for more information:  
<http://www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/middlecollege/>

### **CHSPE – California High School Proficiency Examination**

The CHSPE is a test that consists of two test sections: English-language Arts and Mathematics. You must pass both sections to receive a Certificate of Proficiency (equivalent of a high school diploma). It is only valid in California and is offered three times a year, a fee applies. You must be 16 years old to take this test.

Visit the CHSPE website for more information: <http://www.chspe.net>

### **Peninsula High School**

Peninsula High School, the continuation high school for the San Mateo Union High School District, offers a leading alternative education learning environment where each individual student is valued.

Serving more than 240 students, Peninsula assists those who are behind in credits toward graduation and are at risk of not completing high school. PHS takes great pride in its commitment to students and to creating a healthy and supportive learning community that fosters high standards for academic achievement, acceptance, trust, and personal responsibility.

Visit Peninsula High Schools website for more information:  
<http://phs.smuhsd.org/phs.htm>

**\*For questions about any of these options, contact your counselor\***