

**N**acogdoches County's **O**pportunity for **B**etter **L**earning **E**xperience (NOBLE Scholars)

1. Students in grades 9 through 12 at Nacogdoches County public schools are eligible to be considered as a NOBLE Scholar. To be eligible, parents must help their children understand the importance of following appropriate high school curriculum pathways, of practicing good citizenship and self-control, and of participating in service projects that contribute to the community. [Academics, Citizenship, & Service]

2. Curriculum Pathways

With HB 5, seniors of 2021 and beyond, must graduate on a distinguished curriculum pathway with an endorsement:

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ➤ English                      | 4 credits                        |
| ➤ Mathematics                  | 4 credits – including Algebra II |
| ➤ Science                      | 4 credits                        |
| ➤ Social Studies               | 3 credits                        |
| ➤ Other Languages              | 2 credits in the same language   |
| ➤ Physical Education           | 1 credit                         |
| ➤ Fine Arts                    | 1 credit                         |
| ➤ Electives                    | 7 credits                        |
| ➤ Completion of an endorsement |                                  |

**TOTAL**

**26 credits**

3. Service project **40 hours**

High school students must engage in service projects and documentation must be submitted to the high school counselor for approved hours. The service projects may include volunteering with: church groups, nursing homes, school-sanctioned groups, community organizations, the Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce, or other community events. The 2020 graduates must accumulate 40 hours by the end of the fall semester of the senior year; this includes hours earned in grade 9 through the end of the first semester of grade 12.

4. Seniors who have at least an 75% score for each course (grades 9-11) and at least an 75% score for each grade 12 course at the end of the first semester, and who have submitted 40 hours of service project documentation are eligible to be identified as a NOBLE Scholar. High school counselors determine the list of students who are seniors and who have met the NOBLE Scholars requirements. High school counselors notify the students of this honor and provide a list of their schools' scholars to the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, Education Committee, usually in late January.
5. NOBLE Scholars are eligible to attend the NOBLE Scholars Banquet hosted by the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, coordinated by the Education

Committee, in spring each year (often in March). Scholars will RSVP for the banquet with their high school counselors who will, in turn, relay this information to the Education Committee. Parents of Scholars are invited to attend the banquet to watch their children be recognized as a NOBLE Scholar. Medallions will be provided to each Scholar.

6. A group photograph is made and the photo and names are printed in the Daily Sentinel.
7. NOBLE Scholars who are planning to attend SFA may complete an application to be considered for one of 20+ \$1,000 scholarships. This scholarship may be awarded three additional times, making the total possible scholarship of \$4,000 across 4 years. Additional information will be available at the SFA Financial Aid Office for years 2-4 at SFA (for years 2-4, the scholarship application is completed through SFA's general scholarship procedure with a due date of February 1).
8. For additional information, contact the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, 936-560-5533.
9. Sponsors of this initiative include: Citizens 1<sup>st</sup> Bank, Etech, Fairchild, Price, Haley & Smith, Laird Funeral Home SERVPRO of Lufkin/S. Nacogdoches County.