

## Senior-to-Sophomore Program

**What:** Senior high school students enrolled in basic, college-level courses. Students are able to remain in their home environment and be taught by qualified instructors.

University-level faculty liaisons serve as mentors/supervisors for their high school faculty colleagues. University-level liaisons are provided a \$1,000 stipend per semester, or one course release per year for courses supervised.

**Why:** Promising high school students are often unchallenged during their senior year in high school because they have accumulated sufficient secondary school-level course credits to allow them to matriculate to colleges and universities. A lack of challenge during this critical year often renders them less prepared for the rigors of college-level work when they ultimately matriculate.

**Costs:** Individual high schools reimburse teachers for a course that is taught in load.

**Benefits:**

1. A greater understanding is built between high school and university faculty members about the expectations of university-level work. In this manner, it is hoped that students become better-prepared for university-level work when they ultimately matriculate to the university.
2. Additional, highly qualified students are attracted to Georgia Southern University.
3. Student credit hours generated are credited to the University department in which the course and the mentor/supervisor reside.

**Addressing expressed concerns:**

- “High school teachers are not qualified to teach these courses.”  
**High school teachers must qualify as adjunct instructors to be able to teach these courses. In short, these faculty members must have successfully completed at least 18 semester hours of course work in their discipline and have a master’s degree or have a master’s degree in their discipline to be given adjunct status; this is consistent with SACS accreditation guidelines. This is the same qualification expectation of our current temporary and part-time faculty members.**
- “There will be no ‘quality control.’”  
**The role of the University mentor/supervisor will be to assist the high school adjunct to develop appropriate expectations, compose the syllabus, and to specify suitable learning outcomes and acceptable measures of these outcomes. The course content and quality will be aligned with content and quality expectations of on-campus courses and will be monitored by the faculty mentors. In addition, the learning and performance of students enrolled in the Senior to Sophomore Program will be compared to regularly-admitted Georgia Southern University freshmen.**

- “This decision did not go through appropriate University committees.”  
**The Senior to Sophomore Program is not a change of major nor does it require a change in course content. Faculty members hired must qualify as adjunct faculty members at Georgia Southern University. Curricular elements of individual courses are not being altered.**