

Simmons Career and Acceleration Academy and Exceptional Center

1202 West Grant Street, Plant City Florida 33563

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hillsboroughschools.org/simmons



“Someday is now and that somebody is you!”

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) **Do you offer the Standard Diploma?** Yes! We offer both the 18 credit and 24 credit diplomas.
- 2) **Are you a charter school?** No. We are a public school. You can find our application on our website at hillsboroughschools.org/simmons.
- 3) **Is it true that only bad students go to Simmons?** No. Students that come to Simmons are typically students who have fallen behind academically but are still working hard towards getting their high school diploma.
- 4) **Do you have attendance requirements?** Yes. Attendance is required just like any public school, and we also have behavior and academic expectations.
- 5) **Do you have sports?** No. We do not have sports, but we are continuously working with senior administration on the possibility of students being able to participate in what would have been their neighborhood school, so long as the student is in good behavioral and academic standing.
- 6) **Are all of your classes on computers?** No. We have a two-track method of delivering curriculum. One way is via the computer using Edgenuity, and the second way is “face-to-face” classes like a traditional high school.
- 7) **Are all of your teachers certified in the area in which they are teaching?** Yes. If any teacher is out of field, by law, we are required to notify our parents and families.

- 8) **Do you have a graduation ceremony?** How about Prom? Clubs? Other student activities? Yes. We have all that plus Student Government. Our Career and Technical (CTE) programs are well known throughout the county for their participation in competitions and producing industry certifications.
- 9) **Do you follow the same schedule as the traditional high schools?** Yes.
- 10) **What are the student hours?** All students go to school from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday – Friday. Early Release 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday.
- 11) **Are there two schools?** Yes. Both serve the same purpose, which is working with students towards their standard high school diploma.
- 12) **Why come to Simmons?** We are a smaller school than any traditional high school. We offer more individualized attention, more tutoring, and countless ways to ensure that our students are getting the right classes and help necessary to graduate from school.
- 13) **Do students wear uniforms?** Students are required to wear career apparel including polo shirts with the Simmons logo, long pants without rips/holes, and closed-toed shoes. We ask that students refrain from wearing anything red or blue. Pants MUST be fastened at the waste. Students may wear a jacket/sweater that opens in the front.
- 14) **Can I go to college if I graduate from Simmons?** Yes. Many students also choose to enlist in the different branches of the military. We encourage all of our students to begin their post-secondary careers at Hillsborough Community College or at one of Hillsborough County Public Schools Technical Colleges.
- 15) **Is transportation provided to and from school?** Yes. We have a broad attendance boundary and our students typically come from Armwood, Brandon, Durant, Newsome, Plant City, and Strawberry Crest high schools. Unfortunately, students who live within 2 miles of Simmons or any Hillsborough County school are not eligible for bus transportation.
- 16) **Once I get caught up with all of my credits, can I go back to my neighborhood school?** No. There are very very **VERY** rare cases where an arrangement like that is made between the parent and the sending school PRIOR to coming to Simmons. Once you (the student) enroll at Simmons, it is the expectation that the student will graduate from Simmons.
- 17) **What CTE programs are there?** Agriculture and Culinary Arts.

