

Exemptions from Finals

Final exams are given each semester. As an incentive to improve attendance and encourage students to maintain high marks and good behavior, Westlake High School allows final exam exemptions.

Exemptions from finals are a privilege, not a right. Our expectation is that students who are ill should not be in school. Exemptions are on a semester basis. Students may lose exemptions for the fall semester, but may still be eligible for exemptions in the spring semester. The administration may alter the attendance portion of the exemption policy as a result of certain public health events.

Five requirements must be met to earn a final exam exemption.

1. Attendance – regular attendance must be maintained. All “U” and “X” attendance codes, except for X-CV, will count against earning an exemption. For purposes of this exemption procedure, three (3) tardies will equal one unexcused absence. The absence limit is 3 days with the exception of student hospitalization or death in the student’s immediate family. (Immediate family is defined as parents, grandparents, and siblings of the students). In these cases, the limit increases to 5 days. The student’s assistant principal may consider increasing the number of absences allowed in the case of an extended absence due to illness with the appropriate medical documentation as determined by the administration.
2. Grades – Grade requirements depend on the level of the course as follows: 87 in a regular level course, 85 in a PreAP course, 83 in an AP course.
3. Behavior – Appropriate behavior is required to earn this exemption. Misconduct that results in out of school exemption, or placement in the District Alternative Education Program (DAEP) disqualifies the student from all test exemptions.
4. Honor Code – the Westlake Honor Code must be followed at all times. An Honor Code violation disqualifies the student from all exemptions during the semester in which the violation occurred.
5. TAKS – A student must pass all TAKS taken in the semester of the exemption.

Students will complete an exemption declaration form and submit the form to the Assistant Principal’s office one week prior to the start of final exams. If the student fails to meet any of the five requirements after the exemption declaration form is turned in, the student will no longer be eligible for an exemption. Since final exam exemptions are privileges that are earned, no appeal of the grade level principal’s decision will be considered.

All Westlake High School students may earn final exam exemptions. The number of allowed exemptions increases with each grade classification.

Freshman – one exemption per semester

Sophomores – two exemptions per semester

Juniors – three exemptions per semester

Seniors – all finals may be exempted each semester