

Choosing Well: The FaithCore Elective & Pathway Planner — Family Edition

FaithCore Lab · PurposeCore · Planner v1 · a free planning guide · for the homeschool family planning high-school electives · one quiet evening at the kitchen table, ending in a written plan

What this is. Compass helped your student see *how God made them*. This guide helps you answer the next question together: *so what do we actually sign up for?* It's free, it's practical, and it's built to be done in one unhurried evening with a pencil. It ends in a Four-Year Plan you can revise and keep. Nothing here is a verdict about your child — only suggestions about courses, always yours to change.

1. Start where you are

There are two good doors into this, and they're equally honored.

"We did Compass." Wonderful — bring your student's **Pathway Map** patterns from the Compass HS book. The interests, strengths, and work-values they noticed are your starting material. Skip to Section 3 and match those patterns to courses.

"No Compass? No problem." You can plan just fine with three simple questions, asked warmly: 1. What does your student genuinely *enjoy* — the things they'd choose on a free afternoon? 2. What do they want *more* of than school currently gives them? 3. What's one thing they're *curious* about but haven't tried?

Three honest answers are enough to plan by. (*If you'd like the deeper look first, the free Compass books — "How God Made Me," "Gifts & Interests," and the HS "Interests, Work-Values & Calling" — are a lovely evening on their own.*)

2. How electives work here

A few plain facts make the rest simple: - **Credits & semesters.** Each FaithCore elective is a **semester course worth 0.5 credit**. Two per year is a comfortable elective load alongside core subjects. - **Two lines, honestly different. Academic-line** courses (most electives) are **graded** — real letter/percentage grades from their assessments, transcript-bearing. **PurposeCore** courses are **formation** — recorded as *completed/participation*, never a letter grade, because they form the heart rather than test mastery. Knowing which is which keeps your transcript honest. - **What a**

transcript records. Each course goes on the transcript under its **exact transcript title** — the *frozen registrar title*, which by design is often shorter than the catalog name — at 0.5 credit, semester, with a grade (Academic) or “completed” (PurposeCore). - **The homeschool transcript how-to.** Write the course’s **transcript title** — not its catalog title — plus the credit (0.5), the term, and the mark. **Where the two names differ, the transcript title is what goes on the transcript.** Worked examples: catalog *Creating with Code: An Introduction to Computer Science* records as **Introduction to Computer Science**; catalog *Health Sciences: The Body and the Call to Care* records as **Health Sciences**; catalog *Marketing: The Honest Brand* records as **Marketing**. (Each course page lists its transcript title.) Don’t write “AP” or “college credit” — those are separate paths. Simple, honest, and enough for any college admissions office.

3. The interest map

Find the row that sounds like your student. Each points to two or three **published FaithCore electives** to start with, and the **Pathway Program(s)** those courses open. A ★ marks a *cross-shelf* course — one that counts toward more than one Program, the efficient way to explore widely while keeping doors open.

If your student is drawn to...	Start with	Programs it opens
Arguing fairly, persuading, speaking well	Rhetoric & Public Speaking ★, Justice & the Law	Rhetoric counts toward four — Communication, Media & the Arts · Business & Entrepreneurship · Law & Justice · Leadership
Truth, fairness, how rules and courts work	Justice & the Law, Constitutional Law: How to Read a Case, Criminal Justice	Law & Justice
The past — people, nations, and ideas	The Great Thinkers, The Rise and Fall of Great Civilizations, World History	History, Civilization & World Affairs
Business, money, and building things	Economics Through Stewardship, Personal Financial Literacy, The Language of Business	Business & Entrepreneurship (Global Business & Leadership) ★ also opens Leadership)
Caring for people’s bodies and minds	Health Sciences, Bioethics & Being Human, Psychology	Medicine & Science (Forensic Science ★ also opens Law & Justice)
How technology and AI actually work	Creating with Code: An Introduction to Computer Science, Wisdom in the Age of AI & Social Media	AI & the Digital World

If your student is drawn to...	Start with	Programs it opens
Stories, media, performance, design	Media & Influence ★, Marketing: The Honest Brand ★, Drama & Acting	Communication, Media & the Arts (Media & Influence also opens AI & the Digital World; Marketing also opens Business & Entrepreneurship)
Serving the church and others	Church History, Ministry & Nonprofit Leadership ★, Apologetics	Ministry & Service (Ministry & Nonprofit Leadership also opens Leadership)
Big questions — meaning, God, ethics	Philosophy — The Big Questions, Faith & Science	History, Civilization & World Affairs · Medicine & Science
Sport and the discipline of the body	Performance Advantage	Athletics (<i>an explore card — offered a little differently than the Programs</i>)

A word on the ★ picks: a course that counts toward several Programs lets a still-exploring student keep many doors open at once. Rhetoric & Public Speaking is the champion — it counts toward four. That’s a smart place to start when your student isn’t sure yet. But “start narrow and go deep” is just as good; there’s no wrong way to explore.

4. Grade-by-grade wisdom

- **9th grade:** start gently — one elective your student is genuinely curious about. Every FaithCore course is **prerequisite-free**, so there’s no wrong first pick. The goal this year is a good experience, not a completed pathway.
- **10th-11th grade:** the heart of exploration — two electives a year, following interests, trying a cross-shelf ★ course to keep options open. If a Program is emerging, you can start aiming for it *deliberately* now.
- **12th grade:** finish what’s meaningful. A student close to completing a Pathway can finish it; a student still sampling can keep sampling. **Both are honorable** — a pathway completed shows depth; a wide sample shows range. Neither is “behind.”

5. The Pathway Program math

A **FaithCore Pathway Certificate™** recognizes that a student completed a Program’s curriculum. Restated exactly from the criteria:

Standard award: any 3 courses from the Program’s published list, at least 2 of them Academic-line. “With Distinction” is the Program’s named signature condition. A course may count toward more than one Program (a shelf is not exclusive); the certificate names the pathway completed.

Two practical notes: **(1)** because one course can count toward several Programs, a student who picks cross-shelf ★ courses can move toward *two* pathways at once — real efficiency, honestly earned. **(2)** The certificate is a **certificate of completion, school- or teacher-attested — never a credential or a promise of a job or a college seat.** It recognizes real work done. (*Each Program's "With Distinction" condition is listed on that Program's page.*)

6. Choosing without fear

One last thing, and it's the most important. Electives are **exploration, not destiny.** A “wrong” pick that taught your student something is not a loss — it's part of how they learn who they are. Your child's identity is not at stake in a course catalog; it is secure in Christ, before and after any choice on this page. Plan thoughtfully, hold it loosely, and enjoy the years. *“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.”* (Romans 12:6, NIV) — the goal isn't to optimize a transcript; it's to help your student grow into how God made them.

The Four-Year Plan worksheet

One page per grade. Pencil it in, revise it freely, keep it.

Grade 9 — Electives: _____ | _____ · Program(s) building toward: _____ · Credits this year: ____ **Grade 10** — Electives: _____ | _____ · Program(s): _____ · Credits: ____ **Grade 11** — Electives: _____ | _____ · Program(s): _____ · Credits: ____ **Grade 12** — Electives: _____ | _____ · Program(s): _____ · Credits: ____

Pathway tracker: Program: _____ · Courses completed toward it: ____ / 3 · On track for the certificate? ☐ yes ☐ still exploring (both are fine)

When you're ready to enroll: our courses are quote-based — just ask, and we'll send a simple quote (see the How Buying Works page). The free Compass books and this Planner are yours to keep either way.

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