

Choosing Well: The FaithCore Elective & Pathway Planner — School Counselor Edition

FaithCore Lab · PurposeCore · Planner v1 · a free planning guide · for the school counselor or academic dean advising students and building an elective slate

What this is. The same interest-to-catalog map as the Family Edition, with the advising and program-building math a school needs: how to counsel an individual student toward a coherent elective path, and how to build a slate of offerings that lets your students complete Pathway Programs. Free forever. It advises the student and plans the program; it never issues a verdict on a child.

1. Two starting points for a student

Whether or not a student completed **PurposeCore Compass**, you can advise well: - **With Compass:** the student brings their HS **Pathway Map** — interests, work-values, and confirmed strengths already noticed. Start from those patterns. - **Without Compass:** three questions surface enough to advise by — what the student enjoys, what they want more of, and what they're curious about. (Point interested families to the free Compass books for the deeper look.)

2. How electives work (the honest-tiering every counselor needs)

- **Semester, 0.5 credit** per course; two per year is a typical elective load.
- **Academic-line = graded, transcript-bearing** (letter/percentage from 30/40/30 assessments). **PurposeCore = formation**, recorded as completion/participation, never a letter grade. Advise families and record transcripts accordingly.
- **Each course records under its exact transcript title** — the *frozen registrar title*, often shorter than the catalog name (e.g., catalog *Creating with Code: An Introduction to Computer Science* records as **Introduction to Computer Science**; *Marketing: The Honest Brand* records as **Marketing**). Where the two differ, the transcript title is written; each course page lists it. No “AP”/“college credit” language unless the student takes the separate CLEP path.

3. The interest map (advising an individual student)

Match the student's interests to 2-3 starter electives and the Programs they open. ★ = cross-shelf (counts toward more than one Program — efficient advising).

If the 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
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>explore card</i>)

4. The Pathway Program math (for completion advising)

Restated exactly from the criteria doc — **do not paraphrase to families:**

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. The certificate is **school- or teacher-attested — a certificate of completion, never a credential.**

Advising with the cross-shelf advantage. Because one course can count toward several Programs, a well-chosen slate lets a student complete a pathway efficiently — and a single cross-shelf ★ course (Rhetoric counts toward four) can advance several pathways at once. When advising, look for the ★ courses that serve the most Programs a student cares about. **The attestation is the school’s:** the supervising teacher or school attests completion; FaithCore supplies the certificate template.

5. Building your elective slate (offerings-planning grid)

You don’t need a specialist for each subject: **every FaithCore course ships with a walk-in-and-teach Teacher Guide** — facilitation, keys, rubrics, pacing — so a faithful generalist can teach it. To let students complete a Pathway, offer **at least 3 courses from that Program’s list, at least 2 Academic-line.** Plan against demand:

Program you want to light up	Courses to offer (any 3, ≥2 Academic)	You may already be close if you offer...
Law & Justice	Justice & the Law, Constitutional Law, Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, U.S. Government	any two of these already
Business & Entrepreneurship	Economics Through Stewardship, Personal Financial Literacy, The Language of Business, Marketing, Global Business & Leadership	an economics + a business course
Communication, Media & the Arts	Rhetoric & Public Speaking, Media & Influence, Marketing, Drama & Acting	Rhetoric (it counts toward four Programs)
Medicine & Science	Health Sciences, Bioethics & Being Human, Psychology, Faith & Science, Forensic Science	Health Sciences + one more

Program you want to light up	Courses to offer (any 3, ≥2 Academic)	You may already be close if you offer...
History, Civilization & World Affairs	The Great Thinkers, The Rise and Fall of Great Civilizations, World History, Philosophy — The Big Questions	any two histories

(Start small, prove it, grow — a school distrusts maximalism, and rightly. One coherent pathway offered well beats ten half-offered.)

6. Choosing without fear (for the student)

Counsel students that electives are exploration, not destiny; a “wrong” pick that taught them something is not a loss; identity is not at stake in a course catalog. *“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.”* (Romans 12:6, NIV).

The Four-Year Plan worksheet (per student)

Grade 9 — Electives: ____ | ____ · Program building toward: ____ · Credits: ____ **Grade 10** — Electives: ____ | ____ · Program: ____ · Credits: ____ **Grade 11** — Electives: ____ | ____ · Program: ____ · Credits: ____ **Grade 12** — Electives: ____ | ____ · Program: ____ · Credits: ____

Program-completion tracker: Program: ____ · Academic-line courses completed: ____ · Total courses: ____ · Standard met (3 incl. 2 Academic)? ☐ · With Distinction condition met? ☐

Licensing is quote-based and scales with enrollment; ask and we’ll send a simple quote (see How Buying Works). Bring your completed plan to a School Preview — the call is twice as productive. The free Compass books and this Planner are yours to keep.

School Counselor Edition · Choosing Well: The FaithCore Elective & Pathway Planner · Planner v1 · PurposeCore · free forever · published-courses-only + the living-document law · completion math restated verbatim from the criteria doc · advises the student, plans the program, verdicts on neither child.