# Language Arts Courses

## Foundations Level: English Foundations II

English Foundations II is a course is designed to help the struggling reader develop mastery in the areas of reading comprehension, vocabulary building, study skills, and media literacy, which are the course's primary content strands. Using these strands, the course guides the student through the skills necessary to be successful in the academic world and beyond. The reading comprehension strand focuses on introducing the student to the varied purposes of reading (e.g., for entertainment, for information, to complete a task, or to analyze). In the vocabulary strand, the student learns specific strategies for understanding and remembering new vocabulary. In the study skills strand, the student learns effective study and test-taking strategies. In the media literacy strand, the student learns to recognize and evaluate persuasive techniques, purposes, design choices, and effects of media. The course encourages personal enjoyment in reading with 10 interviews featuring the book choices and reading adventures of students and members of the community. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two Semesters, 1.0 credit

## Foundations Level: Reading Skills and Strategies

Reading Skills and Strategies is a course is designed to help the struggling reader develop mastery in the areas of reading comprehension, vocabulary building, study skills, and media literacy, which are the course's primary content strands. Using these strands, the course guides the student through the skills necessary to be successful in the academic world and beyond. The reading comprehension strand focuses on introducing the student to the varied purposes of reading (e.g., for entertainment, for information, to complete a task, or to analyze). In the vocabulary strand, the student learns specific strategies for understanding and remembering new vocabulary. In the study skills strand, the student learns effective study and test-taking strategies. In the media literacy strand, the student learns to recognize and evaluate persuasive techniques, purposes, design choices, and effects of media. The course encourages personal enjoyment in reading with 10 interviews featuring the book choices and reading adventures of students and members of the community. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** One Semester, 0.5 credit

## Foundations Level: Writing Skills and Strategies

Writing Skills and Strategies develops key language arts skills necessary for high school graduation and success on high stakes exams through a semester of interactive instruction and guided practice in composition fundamentals. The course is divided into ten mini-units of study. The first two are designed to build early success and confidence, orienting students to the writing process and to sentence and paragraph essentials through a series of low-stress, high-interest hook activities. In subsequent units, students review, practice, compose and submit one piece of writing. Four key learning strands are integrated throughout: composition practice, grammar skill building, diction and style awareness, and media and technology exploration. Guided studies emphasize the structure of essential forms of writing encountered in school, in life, and in the work place. Practice in these forms is scaffolded to accommodate learners at different skill levels. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

## Core Level English 9: Introduction to Literature and Composition Core

Introduction to Literature and Composition Core is a course that covers literature study, reading, writing, and language. Students read literature from around the world, including the following genres: short story, poetry, memoir, autobiography, drama, and epic. They read examples of informational writing, such as a letter, Web site, magazine article, newspaper article, speech, editorial, and movie or book review. Along the way, they acquire and practice reading skills and strategies that are directly applicable to these literary and informational reading materials. Summaries and annotations support fluency and comprehension of all reading material. Robust scaffolding in the form of process guides and graphic organizers helps reluctant writers to internalize strategies and develop composition skills. Select activities target text-handling skills and promote improved performance on commonly assessed literary analysis and response standards. Study sheets support engagement with direct instruction and develop note-taking and study skills. In addition, students develop and practice writing and language skills. They employ the writing process to create narrative, expository, and persuasive compositions. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level English 10: Critical Reading and Effective Writing

Critical Reading and Effective Writing Core is a course that develops both academic and life skills. Concepts are presented in creative and lively ways that reinforce learning goals and engage students. Literary selections include short fiction and poetry from around the globe, modern drama works, and a contemporary novel. Nonfiction selections feature historical correspondence, diaries, logs, and famous courtroom arguments. Life reading skills target forms, applications, and work-related communication. Grammar review and vocabulary development are included in every unit. Summaries and annotations support fluency and comprehension of all reading material. Robust scaffolding in the form of process guides and graphic organizers helps reluctant writers to internalize strategies and develop composition skills. Select activities target text-handling skills and promote improved performance on commonly assessed literary analysis and response standards. Study sheets support engagement with direct instruction and develop note-taking and study skills. The writing program builds confidence in young writers by targeting control of organization, effective sentences, and word choice. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** 9th Grade English
**Recommended Grades:** 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level English 11: American Literature Core

American Literature Core is a literature and composition course offering organized as a survey of American literature. The course builds literary and communication skills, including reading, writing, language appreciation and aesthetics, listening and speaking, viewing and representing, and research. Within these general topic areas, special emphasis is placed on writing expository, research, and creative compositions; honing critical and analytic skills through close readings of literary, historical, expository, and functional documents; using context strategies and an understanding of etymology to build vocabulary; and practicing communication skills. Reading selections cover a variety of genres and voices in literature and expository prose. Students read a survey of American literature from colonial to contemporary eras. They learn and practice workplace communication skills in special activities, and each unit features an engaging interactive Web exploration that covers core topics in media literacy. Finally, students practice gathering, evaluating, synthesizing, presenting, and documenting information in a unit dedicated to writing research reports. Summaries and annotations support fluency and comprehension of all reading material. Robust scaffolding in the form of process guides and graphic organizers helps reluctant writers to internalize strategies and develop composition skills. Select activities target text-handling skills and promote improved performance on commonly assessed literary analysis and response standards. Study sheets support engagement with direct instruction and develop note-

taking and study skills. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** 10th-Grade English
**Recommended Grades:** 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level English 12: British and World Literature Core

British and World Literature Core is a streamlined survey of British literature that illustrates the origins of English-language literature and reflects its reach beyond the British Isles. The course is standards-based. Each activity correlates to state standards in six core areas: reading, writing, language (appreciation and aesthetics), listening and speaking, viewing and representing (including media literacy), and research. The course gives students meaningful practice in fundamental literacy skills while introducing them to classics of British and world literature. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to think and respond independently, critically, and creatively to the subject matter, whether it's a work of literature, a piece of nonfiction writing, or a media work. The course emboldens students to approach these works — both on their own terms and within a larger context — while providing them with the tools and encouragement they need in order to do so. Summaries and annotations support fluency and comprehension of all reading material. Robust scaffolding in the form of process guides and graphic organizers helps reluctant writers to internalize strategies and develop composition skills. Select activities target text-handling skills and promote improved performance on commonly assessed literary analysis and response standards. Study sheets support engagement with direct instruction and develop note-taking and study skills. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** 10th-Grade English
**Recommended Grades:**
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level English 9: Introduction to Literature and Composition

Introduction to Literature and Composition covers literature study, reading, writing, and language. Students explore literature from around the world, including the following genres: short story, poetry, memoir, autobiography, drama, and epic. They read examples of informational writing, such as a letter, Web site, magazine article, newspaper article, speech, editorial, and movie or book review. Along the way, they acquire and practice reading skills and strategies that are directly applicable to these literary and informational reading materials. In addition, students develop and practice writing and language skills. They employ the writing process to create narrative, expository, and persuasive compositions. They also learn to create and evaluate media presentations and oral presentations and to fine-tune their listening skills. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level English 10: Critical Reading and Effective Writing

Critical Reading and Effective Writing offers a balanced curriculum that develops both academic and life skills. Concepts are presented in creative and lively ways that reinforce learning goals and engage students. Literary selections include short fiction and poetry from around the globe, Shakespearean and modern drama, and contemporary novels. Nonfiction selections feature historical correspondence, diaries, logs, and famous courtroom arguments. Life reading skills target forms, applications, and work-related communication. Throughout both semesters, students build active reading strategies as they question, predict, clarify, and evaluate events and ideas presented in text. The writing program builds confidence in young writers by targeting control of organization, effective sentences, and word choice. Students compose using the writing process. Grammar review and vocabulary development are included

in every unit. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** 9th Grade English
**Recommended Grades:** 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level English 11: American Literature

American Literature is a general studies program in literature and composition, organized as a survey of American literature. American Literature expands upon and deepens understanding of literary and communication skills covered in Critical Reading and Effective Writing, including reading, writing, language appreciation and aesthetics, listening and speaking, viewing and representing, and research. Within these general topic areas, special emphasis is placed on writing expository, research, and creative compositions; honing critical and analytic skills through close readings of literary, historical, expository, and functional documents; using context strategies and an understanding of etymology to build vocabulary; and practicing communication skills in online discussions. Reading selections cover a variety of genres and voices in literature and expository prose. Students read a survey of American literature from colonial to contemporary eras. They are encouraged to respond critically and personally to these works and to use them as a context for thinking about the unique and universal aspects of culture. They learn and practice skills for workplace communication in special activities. Finally, students practice gathering, evaluating, synthesizing, presenting, and documenting information in a unit dedicated to writing research reports. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** 10th-Grade English
**Recommended Grades:** 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level English 12: British and World Literature

British and World Literature offers a survey of British literature that illustrates the origins of English-language literature and reflects its reach beyond the British Isles. The course is standards-based. Each activity correlates to state standards in six core areas: reading, writing, language (appreciation and aesthetics), listening and speaking, viewing and representing (including media literacy), and research. The course gives students meaningful practice in fundamental literacy skills while introducing them to classics of British and world literature. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to think and respond independently, critically, and creatively to the subject matter, whether it's a work of literature, a piece of nonfiction writing, or a media work. The course emboldens students to approach these works — both on their own terms and within a larger context — while providing them with the tools and encouragement they need in order to do so. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** 10th-Grade English
**Recommended Grades:**
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## AP Level: AP English Language and Composition

In AP English Language and Composition, students learn to understand and analyze complex styles of writing by reading works from a variety of authors. They'll explore the richness of language, including syntax, imitation, word choice, and tone. They'll also learn about their own composition style and process, starting with exploration, planning, and writing, and continuing through editing, peer review, rewriting, polishing, and applying what they learn to a breadth of academic, personal, and professional contexts. The equivalent of an introductory college-level survey class, this course prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in communications, creative writing, journalism, literature, and composition. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** At least a B-grade in most recent English course

**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## AP Level: AP Literature and Composition

AP English Literature and Composition immerses students in novels, plays, poems, and short stories from various periods. Students will read and write daily, using a variety of multimedia and interactive activities, interpretive writing assignments, and class discussions to assess and improve their skills and knowledge. The course places special emphasis on reading comprehension, structural and critical analysis of written works, literary vocabulary, and recognizing and understanding literary devices. The equivalent of an introductory college-level survey class, this course prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in creative writing, communications, journalism, literature, and composition. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** At least a B-grade in most recent English course
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

# Mathematics Courses

## Foundations Level: Math Foundations I

Math Foundations I offers a structured remediation solution based on the NCTM Curricular Focal Points and is designed to expedite student progress through 3rd- to 5th-grade skills. The course is appropriate for use as remediation for students in grades 6 to 12. When used in combination, Math Foundations I and Math Foundations II (covering grades 6 to 8) effectively remediate computational skills and conceptual understanding needed to undertake high school–level math courses with confidence. Math Foundations I empowers students to progress at their optimum pace through over 80 semester hours of interactive instruction and assessment spanning 3rd- to 5th-grade math skills. Carefully paced, guided instruction is accompanied by interactive practice that is engaging and accessible. Formative assessments help students to understand areas of weakness and improve performance, while summative assessments chart progress and skill development. Early in the course, students develop general strategies to hone their problem-solving skills. Subsequent units provide a problem-solving strand that asks students to practice applying specific math skills to a variety of real-world contexts. he content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Math (NCTM) April 2006 publication, *Curricular Focal Points for Prekindergarten through Grade 8 Mathematics: A Quest for Coherence* and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Foundations Level: Math Foundations II

Based on the NCTM Curricular Focal Points, Math Foundations II is designed to expedite student progress through 6th- to 8th-grade skills. The course is appropriate for use as remediation at the high school level or as a bridge-to-high-school or as middle school curriculum. The program simultaneously builds the computational skills and the conceptual understanding needed to undertake high school–level math courses with confidence. The course's carefully paced guided instruction is accompanied by interactive practice that is engaging and accessible. Formative assessments help students to understand areas of weakness and improve performance, while summative assessments chart progress and skill development. Early in the course, students develop general strategies to hone their problem-solving skills. Subsequent units provide a problem-solving strand that asks students to practice applying specific math skills to a variety of real-world contexts. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Math (NCTM) April 2006 publication, *Curricular Focal Points for Prekindergarten through Grade 8 Mathematics: A Quest for Coherence* and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: Introductory Algebra Core

Introductory Algebra Core provides a curriculum focused on beginning algebraic concepts that prepare students for success in Algebra I. Through a "Discovery-Confirmation-Practice" based exploration of basic algebraic concepts, students are challenged to work toward a mastery of computational skills, to deepen their conceptual understanding of key ideas and solution strategies, and to extend their knowledge in a variety of problem-solving applications. Course topics include integers; the language of algebra; solving equations with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; fractions and decimals; measurement; exponents; solving equations with roots and powers; multi-step equations; and linear equations. Within each Introductory Algebra Core lesson, students are supplied with a scaffolded note-taking guide, called a "Study Sheet," as well as a post-study "Checkup" activity, providing them the opportunity to hone their computational skills by working through a low-stakes, 10-question problem set before starting a formal assessment. Unit-level Introductory Algebra Core assessments include a computer-scored test and a scaffolded, teacher-scored test. To assist students for whom language presents a barrier to learning or who are not reading at grade level, Introductory Algebra Core includes audio resources in both Spanish

and English. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 7, 8, 9
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: Algebra I Core

Algebra I Core provides a curriculum focused on the mastery of critical skills and the understanding of key algebraic concepts, preparing students to recognize and work with these concepts. Through a "Discovery-Confirmation-Practice" based exploration of algebraic concepts, students are challenged to work toward a mastery of computational skills, to deepen their conceptual understanding of key ideas and solution strategies, and to extend their knowledge in a variety of problem-solving applications. Course topics include an Introductory Algebra review; measurement; an introduction to functions; problem solving with functions; graphing; linear equations and systems of linear equations; polynomials and factoring; and data analysis and probability. Within each Algebra I Core lesson, students are supplied with a scaffolded note-taking guide, called a "Study Sheet," as well as a post-study "Checkup" activity, providing them the opportunity to hone their computational skills by working through a low-stakes, 10-question problem set before moving on to a formal assessment. Unit-level Algebra I Core assessments include a computer-scored test and a scaffolded, teacher-scored test. To assist students for whom language presents a barrier to learning or who are not reading at grade level, Algebra I Core includes audio resources in both Spanish and English. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** Introductory or Pre-Algebra
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10
**Length:** Two Semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: Algebra II Core

Algebra II Core provides a curriculum that builds on the algebraic concepts covered in Algebra I. Through a "Discovery-Confirmation-Practice" based exploration of intermediate algebra concepts, students are challenged to work toward a mastery of computational skills, to deepen their conceptual understanding of key ideas and solution strategies, and to extend their knowledge in a variety of problem-solving applications. Course topics include conic sections; functions, relations, and their graphs; quadratic functions; inverse functions; and advanced polynomial functions. Students also cover topics relating to rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions; sequences and series; and data analysis and probability. Within each Algebra II Core lesson, students are supplied with a scaffolded note-taking guide, called a "Study Sheet," as well as a post-study "Checkup" activity, providing them the opportunity to hone their computational skills by working through a low-stakes, 10-question problem set before moving on to a formal assessment. Unit-level Algebra II Core assessments include a computer-scored test and a scaffolded, teacher-scored test. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** Algebra I
**Recommended Grades:** 11, 12
**Length:** Two Semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: Geometry Core

Geometry Core provides a curriculum focused on the mastery of critical skills and the understanding of key geometric concepts. Through a "Discovery-Confirmation-Practice" based exploration of geometric concepts, students are challenged to work toward a mastery of computational skills, to deepen their conceptual understanding of key ideas and solution strategies, and to extend their knowledge in a variety of problem-solving applications. Course topics include reasoning, proof, and the creation of a sound mathematical argument; points, lines, and angles; triangles; quadrilaterals and other polygons; circles; coordinate geometry; and three-dimensional solids. The course concludes with a look at special topics in geometry, such as constructions, symmetry, tessellations, fractals, and non-Euclidean geometry. Within

each Geometry Core lesson, students are supplied with a scaffolded note-taking guide, called a "Study Sheet," as well as a post-study "Checkup" activity, providing them the opportunity to hone their computational skills by working through a low-stakes, 10-question problem set before moving on to a formal assessment. Unit-level Geometry Core assessments include a computer-scored test and a scaffolded, teacher-scored test. To assist students for whom language presents a barrier to learning or who are not reading at grade level, Geometry Core includes audio resources in both Spanish and English. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** Introductory or Pre-Algebra
**Recommended Grades:** 10, 11
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: Precalculus Core

Precalculus Core is a course that combines reviews of algebra, geometry, and functions into a preparatory course for calculus. The course focuses on the mastery of critical skills and exposure to new skills necessary for success in subsequent math courses. The first semester includes linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical, polynomial, and rational functions; systems of equations; and conic sections. The second semester covers trigonometric ratios and functions; inverse trigonometric functions; applications of trigonometry, including vectors and laws of cosine and sine; polar functions and notation; and arithmetic of complex numbers. Within each Precalculus Core lesson, students are supplied with a post-study "Checkup" activity, providing them the opportunity to hone their computational skills by working through a low-stakes problem set before moving on to a formal assessment. Unit-level Precalculus Core assessments include a computer-scored test and a scaffolded, teacher-scored test. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of two years of algebra and one year of geometry.
**Recommended Grades:**
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Introductory Algebra

Introductory Algebra is a comprehensive course that provides students with the groundwork for success in Algebra I. Through a "Discovery-Confirmation-Practice" based exploration of beginning algebraic concepts, students are challenged to work toward a mastery of computational skills, to deepen their conceptual understanding of key ideas and solution strategies, and to extend their knowledge in a variety of problem-solving applications. Course topics include integers, number lines, and inequalities; variables and variable expressions; solving equations with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; fractions and decimals; measurement; exponents; solving equations with roots and powers; multi-step equations; and linear equations. Within each Introductory Algebra lesson, students are supplied with a post-study "Checkup" activity, providing them the opportunity to hone their computational skills in a low-stakes, 10-question problem set before moving on to a formal assessment. Additionally, many Introductory Algebra lessons include interactive-tool-based exercises and/or math explorations to further connect lesson concepts to a variety of real-world contexts. To assist students for whom language presents a barrier to learning or who are not reading at grade level, Introductory Algebra includes audio resources in both Spanish and English. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 7, 8, 9
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Algebra I

Algebra I is a comprehensive course that provides an in-depth exploration of key algebraic concepts. Through a "Discovery-Confirmation-Practice" based exploration of algebraic concepts, students are challenged to work toward a mastery of computational skills, to deepen their conceptual understanding of key ideas and solution strategies, and to extend their knowledge in a variety of problem-solving

applications. Course topics include an Introductory Algebra review; measurement; an introduction to functions; problem solving with functions; graphing; linear equations and systems of linear equations; polynomials and factoring; and data analysis and probability. Within each Algebra I lesson, students are supplied with a post-study "Checkup" activity, providing them the opportunity to hone their computational skills in a low-stakes, 10-question problem set before moving on to a formal assessment. Additionally, many Algebra I lessons include interactive-tool-based exercises and/or math explorations to further connect lesson concepts to a variety of real-world contexts. To assist students for whom language presents a barrier to learning or who are not reading at grade level, Algebra I includes audio resources in both Spanish and English. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** Introductory or Pre-Algebra
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10
**Length:** Two Semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Algebra II

Algebra II is a comprehensive course that builds on the algebraic concepts covered in Algebra I and prepares students for advanced-level courses. Through a "Discovery-Confirmation-Practice" based exploration of intermediate algebra concepts, students are challenged to work toward a mastery of computational skills, to deepen their conceptual understanding of key ideas and solution strategies, and to extend their knowledge in a variety of problem-solving applications. Course topics include conic sections; functions, relations, and their graphs; quadratic functions; inverse functions; and advanced polynomial functions. Students also cover topics relating to rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions; sequences and series; and data analysis and probability. Within each Algebra II lesson, students are supplied with a post-study "Checkup" activity, providing them the opportunity to hone their computational skills in a low-stakes, 10-question problem set before moving on to a formal assessment. Additionally, many Algebra II lessons include interactive-tool-based exercises and/or math explorations to further connect lesson concepts to a variety of real-world contexts. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** Algebra I
**Recommended Grades:** 11, 12
**Length:** Two Semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Geometry

Geometry is a comprehensive course that provides an in-depth exploration of geometric concepts. Through a "Discovery-Confirmation-Practice" based exploration of geometric concepts, students are challenged to work toward a mastery of computational skills, to deepen their conceptual understanding of key ideas and solution strategies, and to extend their knowledge in a variety of problem-solving applications. Course topics include reasoning, proof, and the creation of a sound mathematical argument; points, lines, and angles; triangles; quadrilaterals and other polygons; circles; coordinate geometry; and three-dimensional solids. The course concludes with a look at special topics in geometry, such as constructions, symmetry, tessellations, fractals, and non-Euclidean geometry. Within each Geometry lesson, students are supplied with a post-study "Checkup" activity, providing them the opportunity to hone their computational skills in a low-stakes, 10-question problem set before moving on to a formal assessment. Additionally, many Geometry lessons include interactive-tool-based exercises and/or math explorations to further connect lesson concepts to a variety of real-world contexts. To assist students for whom language presents a barrier to learning or who are not reading at grade level, Geometry includes audio resources in both Spanish and English. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** Introductory or Pre-Algebra
**Recommended Grades:** 10, 11
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Precalculus

Precalculus is a comprehensive course that weaves together previous study of algebra, geometry, and functions into a preparatory course for calculus. The course focuses on the mastery of critical skills and exposure to new skills necessary for success in subsequent math courses. The first semester includes linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical, polynomial, and rational functions; systems of equations; and conic sections. The second semester covers trigonometric ratios and functions; inverse trigonometric functions; applications of trigonometry, including vectors and laws of cosine and sine; polar functions and notation; and arithmetic of complex numbers. Within each Precalculus lesson, students are supplied with a post-study "Checkup" activity, providing them the opportunity to hone their computational skills in a low-stakes problem set before moving on to a formal assessment. Additionally, connections are made throughout the Precalculus course to calculus, art, history, and a variety of other fields related to mathematics. The content is based on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of two years of algebra and one year of geometry.
**Recommended Grades:**
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## AP Level: AP Calculus AB

In AP Calculus AB, students learn to understand change geometrically and visually (by studying graphs of curves), analytically (by studying and working with mathematical formulas), numerically (by seeing patterns in sets of numbers), and verbally. Instead of simply getting the right answer, students learn to evaluate the soundness of proposed solutions and to apply mathematical reasoning to real-world models. Calculus helps scientists, engineers, and financial analysts understand the complex relationships behind real-world phenomena. The equivalent of an introductory college-level calculus course, AP Calculus AB prepares students for the AP Exam and further studies in science, engineering, and mathematics. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## AP Level: AP Statistics

AP Statistics gives students hands-on experience collecting, analyzing, graphing, and interpreting real-world data. They will learn to effectively design and analyze research studies by reviewing and evaluating real research examples taken from daily life. The next time they hear the results from another poll or study, they will know whether the results are valid. As the art of drawing conclusions from imperfect data and the science of real world uncertainties, statistics plays an important role in many fields. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP Statistics prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in science, sociology, medicine, engineering, political science, geography, and business. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** Algebra II or Math Analysis
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

# Science Courses

## Core Level: Earth Science

Earth Science Core offers a focused curriculum that explores Earth's composition, structure, processes, and history; its atmosphere, freshwater, and oceans; and its environment in space. Topics include an exploration of the major cycles that affect every aspect of life, including weather, climate, air movement, tectonics, volcanic eruptions, rocks, minerals, geologic history, Earth's environment, sustainability, and energy resources. Optional teacher-graded labs encourage students to apply the scientific method. The content is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: Physical Science

Physical Science Core offers a focused curriculum designed around the understanding of critical physical science concepts, including the nature and structure of matter, the characteristics of energy, and the mastery of critical scientific skills. Topics include an introduction to kinematics, including gravity and two-dimensional motion; force; momentum; waves; electricity; atoms; the Periodic Table of Elements; molecular bonding; chemical reactivity; gases; and an introduction to nuclear energy. Teacher-graded labs encourage students to apply the scientific method. The content is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: Biology

Biology Core offers a curriculum that focuses on the mastery of basic biological skills, concepts, and models that are important for students to know and apply in everyday life. The course begins with the study of cell and molecular biology and covers experimental design; chemistry and the biochemical basis of life; cell structure and function; basic metabolism; and genetics. Building on this foundation is an exploration into evolution, biodiversity, organismal biology, and ecology. As part of the study of vertebrates, the structure and function of major organ systems and biological processes in humans are introduced. Teacher-graded labs encourage students to apply the scientific method. The content is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** Middle school / junior high life science
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: Chemistry

Chemistry Core offers a curriculum that facilitates students' understanding of chemistry concepts and critical scientific skills. Topics include the nature of matter; the structure of atoms and molecules; bond formations; the qualitative and quantitative aspects of chemical reactivity; the physical and chemical properties of solids, liquids, and gases; the states of matter; phase transitions; equilibrium; kinetics; thermodynamics; electrochemistry; nuclear chemistry; and an introduction to organic chemistry. Teacher-graded labs encourage students to apply the scientific method. The content is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** Middle school/junior high physical science, and one year of algebra
**Recommended Grades:** 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Earth Science

Earth Science is a robust course that explores Earth's composition, structure, processes, and history; its atmosphere, freshwater, and oceans; and its environment in space. Students are encouraged to look at Earth science from both personal and worldly perspectives and to analyze the social implications of the topics covered. Laboratory experiments introduce students to different lab techniques while building their skills in critical thinking, inquiry, and observation. Topics include an exploration of the major cycles that affect every aspect of life, including weather, climate, air movement, tectonics, volcanic eruptions, rocks, minerals, geologic history, Earth's environment, sustainability, and energy resources. The content is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Physical Science

Physical Science is a thorough course that provides students with an understanding of the nature and structure of matter, the characteristics of energy, and the societal implications of physical science concepts. Using the scientific method — observation, data collection, analysis, hypothesis, and conclusion — students are encouraged to extend their knowledge through the development of scientific explanations, hypotheses, and conclusions. Topics include an introduction to kinematics, including gravity and two-dimensional motion; force; momentum; waves; electricity; atoms; the Periodic Table of Elements; molecular bonding; chemical reactivity; gases; and an introduction to nuclear energy. The content is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Biology

Biology is an in-depth course that allows students to master scientific skills, develop an understanding of key concepts and models, and apply the scientific method to biological topics. Through the development of their own scientific explanations, students extend their knowledge and make sense of the world. Students are encouraged to look at biology from both a personal and worldly perspective and to analyze the social implications of the topics covered. The course begins with the study of cell and molecular biology and covers experimental design; chemistry and the biochemical basis of life; cell structure and function; basic metabolism; and genetics. Building on this foundation is an exploration into evolution, biodiversity, organismal biology, and ecology. As part of the study of vertebrates, the structure and function of major organ systems and biological processes in humans are introduced. The content is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Chemistry

Chemistry is a rigorous course that begins with an overview of chemistry concepts and critical scientific skills. Students then extend their knowledge by applying the scientific method — observation, data collection, analysis, hypothesis, and conclusion. They are encouraged to look at chemistry from both personal and worldly perspectives and to analyze the social implications of the topics covered. Topics include the nature of matter; the structure of atoms and molecules; bond formations; the qualitative and quantitative aspects of chemical reactivity; physical and chemical properties of solids, liquids, and gases; states of matter; phase transitions; equilibrium; kinetics; thermodynamics; electrochemistry; nuclear chemistry; and an introduction to organic chemistry. The content is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** Middle school/junior high physical science, and one year of algebra

**Recommended Grades:** 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## AP Level: Biology

In AP Biology, students build the conceptual framework necessary to understand science as a process. The course is divided into three sections with correlating laboratory exercises: molecules and cells; heredity and evolution; and organisms and populations. Students will also explore evolution, energy transfer, continuity and change, the relationship of structure to function, regulation, interdependence in nature, and the balance of science, technology, and nature. The equivalent of an introductory college-level biology course, AP Biology prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in health sciences. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** Biology and Chemistry
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## AP Level: Chemistry

AP Chemistry builds students' understanding of the nature and reactivity of matter. After studying the structure of atoms, molecules, and ions, students move on to solve quantitative chemical problems and explore how molecular structure relates to chemical and physical properties. Students will examine the molecular composition of common substances and learn to predictably transform them through chemical reactions. The equivalent of an introductory college-level chemistry course, AP Chemistry prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in science, health sciences, or engineering. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** Chemistry and Algebra II
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## AP Level: AP Physics B

AP Physics B is a non-calculus survey course covering five general areas: Newtonian mechanics, thermal physics, electricity and magnetism, waves and optics, and atomic and nuclear physics. Students will gain an understanding of physics' core principles and then apply them to problem-solving exercises. They'll learn how to measure the mass of a planet without weighing it, find out how electricity makes a motor turn, and learn how opticians know how to shape the lenses for glasses. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP Physics B prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in science and engineering. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** Algebra II, Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## AP Level: AP Psychology

AP Psychology provides an overview of current psychological research methods and theories. Students will explore the therapies used by professional counselors and clinical psychologists and examine the reasons for normal human reactions: how people learn and think, the process of human development and human aggression, altruism, intimacy, and self-reflection. They'll study core psychological concepts, such as the brain and sense functions, and learn to gauge human reactions, gather information, and form meaningful syntheses. Along the way, students will also investigate relevant concepts like study skills and information retention. The equivalent of a 100-level college survey course, AP Psychology prepares students for the AP Exam and for further studies in psychology and life sciences. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** Biology
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

# Social Studies Courses

## Core Level: Geography and World Cultures

Geography and World Cultures Core offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that enables students to explore how geographic features, human relationships, political and social structures, economics, science and technology, and the arts have developed and influenced life in countries around the world. Along the way, students are given rigorous instruction on how to read maps, charts, and graphs, and how to create them. Geography and World Cultures Core is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

Geography and World Cultures Core is designed as the first course in the social studies sequence. It develops note-taking skills, teaches the basic elements of analytic writing, and introduces students to the close examination of primary documents.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

## Core Level: World History Core

World History Core offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that uses multiple perspectives to trace the development of civilizations around the world from prehistory to the present. The course covers major events in world history, including the development and influence of human-geographic relationships, political and social structures, economics, science and technology, and the arts. Students investigate the major religions and belief systems throughout history and learn about the importance of trade and cultural exchange. Other topics include the development of agriculture, the spread of democracy, the rise of nation-states, the industrial era, the spread of imperialism, and the issues and conflicts of the 20th century. Students learn to use primary historical documents as evidence as they learn about past events. The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

World History Core is designed as the second course in the social studies sequence. Students develop confidence in their analytic writing through a scaffolded sequence of short analytic pieces and short essays, including document-based questions. Primary documents are embedded in the instruction to encourage students to make frequent connections to evidence from the past.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: U.S. History Core

U.S. History Core offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that traces the political, social, economic, and cultural heritage of the United States through four centuries of change and development. Students learn about the Native American, European, and African people who lived before the Declaration of Independence in what is now the United States. They also explore the multiple causes and effects of the Civil War, Industrial Revolution, and Great Depression. Students learn to interpret historical documents using examples from the Great Awakening, westward expansion, the "roaring twenties," McCarthyism, and the struggle for civil rights. The content is based on the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) standards and is aligned to state standards.

U.S. History Core is designed as the third course in the social studies sequence. Students receive scaffolded guidance for their analytic writing, with an emphasis on analyzing and extending course instruction. Students study primary documents in detail, with annotations and scaffolded questions to guide their reading and comprehension.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 10, 11
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: U.S. Government and Politics

U.S. Government and Politics Core offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that uses the perspective of political institutions to explore the history, organization, and functions of the U.S. government. Beginning with basic theories of government, moving to the Declaration of Independence, and continuing to the present day, the course explores the relationship between individual Americans and the governing bodies. It covers the political culture of the country and gains insight into the challenges faced by presidents, congressional representatives, and other political activists. It also covers the roles of political parties, interest groups, the media, and the Supreme Court. The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

U.S. Government and Politics Core is designed to fall in the fourth year of social studies instruction. Students perfect their analytic writing through a scaffolded series of analytic assignments and written lesson tests. Students read annotated primary documents and apply those documents to the course content.

**Prerequisites:** U.S. History is recommended, but not required
**Recommended Grades:** 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

## Core Level: U.S. and Global Economics

U.S. and Global Economics Core offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that provides an introduction to key economic principles. The course covers fundamental properties of economics, including an examination of markets from both historical and current perspectives; the basics of supply and demand; the theories of early economic philosophers such as Adam Smith and David Ricardo; theories of value; the concept of money and how it evolved; the role of banks, investment houses, and the Federal Reserve; Keynesian economics; the productivity, wages, investment, and growth involved in capitalism; unemployment, inflations, and the national debt; and a survey of markets in areas such as China, Europe, and the Middle East. The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

U.S. and Global Economics Core is designed to fall in the fourth year of social studies instruction. Students perfect their analytic writing through a scaffolded series of analytic assignments and written lesson tests. They also apply basic mathematics to economic concepts. Students read selections from annotated primary documents and apply those readings to the course content.

**Prerequisites:** U.S. Government and Politics is recommended, but not required
**Recommended Grades:** 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Geography and World Cultures

Geography and World Cultures is a robust, one-semester course that explores how geographic features, human relationships, political and social structures, economics, science and technology, and the arts have developed and influenced life in countries around the world. Along the way, students are given rigorous instruction on how to read maps, charts, and graphs, and how to create them. At the intersection of culture and geography, students learn about art, science, individuals and communities, and history and current events. Students discover how a mountain in the distance can inspire a Sufi poet, how a river blocking a passage occupies a civil engineer and a ship builder alike, and how the sound of a busy Cairo street inspires a musician. Human history is all about cultures meeting — how they influence and inspire each other; what sets one apart from the next; and how they battle each other for land, natural resources,

religious dominance, and more. The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

Geography and World Cultures is designed as the first course in the social studies sequence. It develops note-taking skills, teaches analytic writing, and introduces students to the close examination of primary documents.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

## Comprehensive Level: World History

World History is a robust, writing-intensive course that uses multiple perspectives to trace the development of civilizations around the world from prehistory to the present. Students are encouraged to use their knowledge of critical points in history to develop their points of view and apply what they have learned to the promotion of civic action in a rapidly globalizing world. The course explores how human-geographic relationships, political and social structures, economics, science and technology, and the arts have developed and influenced life in these civilizations. Students investigate the major religions and belief systems throughout history and learn about the importance of trade and cultural exchange. Other topics include the development of agriculture, the spread of democracy, the rise of nation-states, the industrial era, the spread of imperialism, and the issues and conflicts of the 20th century. The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

World History is designed as the second course in the social studies sequence. Students continue to improve their analytic writing and develop confidence by writing multiple short analytic pieces and longer essays, including document-based questions. Primary documents are embedded in the instruction to encourage students to make frequent connections to evidence from the past.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: U.S. History

U.S. History is a dynamic course that traces the political, social, economic, and cultural heritage of the United States through four centuries of change and development. Students learn about the Native American, European, and African people who lived before the Declaration of Independence in what is now the United States. They also explore the multiple causes and effects of the Civil War, Industrial Revolution, and Great Depression. Students learn to use historical documents as evidence as they analyze past events and formulate their own ideas about the Great Awakening, westward expansion, the "roaring twenties," McCarthyism, and the struggle for civil rights. The content is based on the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) standards and is aligned to state standards.

U.S. History is designed as the third course in the social studies sequence. Students continue to develop their analytic writing, with an emphasis on analyzing and extending course instruction. Students study primary documents in detail and develop their skills at interpreting and applying primary evidence.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 10, 11
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

### Comprehensive Level: U.S. Government and Politics

U.S. Government and Politics is a vigorous, writing-intensive course that uses the perspective of political institutions to explore the history, organization, and functions of the U.S. government. Students are

encouraged to use their knowledge of the structures and processes of governing to develop their own views on current political issues and apply what they have learned to the promotion of civic action. Beginning with basic theories of government, moving to the Declaration of Independence, and continuing to the present day, the course explores the relationship between individual Americans and the governing bodies. It looks closely at the political culture of the country and gains insight into the challenges faced by presidents, congressional representatives, and other political activists. It also covers the roles of political parties, interest groups, the media, and the Supreme Court. The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

U.S. Government and Politics is designed to fall in the fourth year of social studies instruction. Students perfect their analytic writing through a series of analytic assignments and written lesson tests. Students perform frequent close readings of primary documents and apply those documents to the course content.

**Prerequisites:** U.S. History is recommended, but not required
**Recommended Grades:** 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

## Comprehensive Level: U.S. and Global Economics

U.S. and Global Economics is a wide-ranging course that provides an introduction to key economic principles. Students gain an understanding of choices they must make as producers, consumers, investors, and taxpayers. They have ample opportunity to develop their points of view and apply what they learn to the promotion of civic action. Topics include an examination of markets from both historical and current perspectives; the basics of supply and demand; the theories of early economic philosophers such as Adam Smith and David Ricardo; theories of value; the concept of money and how it evolved; the role of banks, investment houses, and the Federal Reserve; Keynesian economics; the productivity, wages, investment, and growth involved in capitalism; unemployment, inflations, and the national debt; and a survey of markets in areas such as China, Europe, and the Middle East. The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

U.S. and Global Economics is designed to fall in the fourth year of social studies instruction. Students perfect their analytic writing through a series of analytic assignments and written lesson tests. They also apply basic mathematics to economic concepts. Students read extensive selections from crucial primary documents and apply those readings to the course content.

**Prerequisites:** U.S. Government and Politics is recommended, but not required
**Recommended Grades:** 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

## AP Level: AP Macroeconomics

AP Macroeconomics students learn why and how the world economy can change from month to month, how to identify trends in our economy, and how to use those trends to develop performance measures and predictors of economic growth or decline. They'll also examine how individuals, institutions, and influences affect people, and how those factors can impact everyone's life through employment rates, government spending, inflation, taxes, and production. The equivalent of a 100-level college-level class, this course prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in business, political science and history. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** Algebra II (or Math Analysis)
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

### AP Level: AP Microeconomics

AP Microeconomics studies the behavior of individuals and businesses as they exchange goods and services in the marketplace. Students will learn why the same product costs different amounts at different stores, in different cities, at different times. They'll also learn to spot patterns in economic behavior and how to use those patterns to explain buyer and seller behavior under various conditions. Microeconomics studies the economic way of thinking, understanding the nature and function of markets, the role of scarcity and competition, the influence of factors such as interest rates on business decisions, and the role of government in promoting a healthy economy. The equivalent of a 100-level college course, AP Microeconomics prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in business, history, and political science. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** Algebra I
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** One semester

## AP Level: AP U.S. History

AP U.S. History analyzes and explores the economic, political, and social changes in America since Columbus. Students master historical knowledge and critical analysis, build reading, writing, and communication skills, and discover how historical events have contributed to American culture. In the process, they'll learn how decisions and events of the past continue to have profound effects on the world today and how knowledge of the causes behind past events can influence future decisions. By the end of the course, students will be ready to put their factual knowledge to work by weighing evidence and interpreting problems presented by historians. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP U.S. History prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in history, political science, economics, sociology, and law. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** At least a B-grade in most recent social studies course
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

# Foreign Language Courses

## Core Level: French I

French I Core teaches students to greet people, describe family and friends, talk about hobbies, and communicate about other topics, such as sports, travel, and medicine. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Vocabulary includes terms to describe school subjects, parts of the body, and people, as well as idiomatic phrases. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes the verb system, adjective agreement, formal and informal address, reflexive verbs, and past tense. Students also gain an understanding of the cultures of French-speaking countries and regions within and outside Europe, as well as insight into Francophone culture and people. The content is based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards.

The material in this course is presented at a moderate pace.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
**Length:** Two Semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: French II

French II Core teaches students to communicate more confidently about themselves, as well as about topics beyond their own lives - both in formal and informal address. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Vocabulary includes terms in cooking, geography, and architecture. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes present- and past-tense verb forms and uses, negation, and direct and indirect objects. Students deepen their knowledge of French-speaking regions and cultures by learning about history, literature, culture, and contemporary issues. The content is based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards.

The material in this course is presented at a moderate pace.

**Prerequisites:** French I or the equivalent
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two Semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: Spanish I

Spanish I Core teaches students to greet people, describe family and friends, talk about hobbies, and communicate about other topics, such as home life, occupations, travel, and medicine. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Vocabulary includes terms to describe school subjects, parts of the body, and people, as well as idiomatic phrases. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes the structures and uses of present-tense verb forms, imperatives, adjective agreement, impersonal constructions, formal and informal address, and reflexive verbs. Students explore words used in different Spanish-speaking regions and learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries and regions within and outside Europe. The content is based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards.

The material in this course is presented at a moderate pace.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
**Length:** Two Semesters, 1.0 credit

**Core Level: Spanish II**

Building on Spanish I Core concepts, Spanish II Core students learn to communicate more confidently about themselves, as well as about topics beyond their own lives - both in formal and informal situations. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Students expand their vocabulary in topics such as cooking, ecology, geography, and architecture. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes a review of present-tense verb forms, an introduction to the past tense, the conditional mood, imperatives, impersonal constructions, and reported speech. Students deepen their knowledge of Spanish-speaking regions and cultures by learning about history, literature, culture, and contemporary issues. The content is based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards.

The material in this course is presented at a moderate pace.

**Prerequisites:** Spanish I or the equivalent
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two Semesters

## Comprehensive Level: French I

Balanced between the thematic and communicative approaches to learning language, French I teaches students to greet people, describe family and friends, talk about hobbies, and communicate about other topics, such as sports, travel, and medicine. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Vocabulary includes terms to describe school subjects, parts of the body, and people, as well as idiomatic phrases. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes the verb system, adjective agreement, formal and informal address, reflexive verbs, and past tense. Students also gain an understanding of the cultures of French-speaking countries and regions within and outside Europe, as well as insight into Francophone culture and people. The content is based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: French II

Building on French I concepts, French II students learn to communicate more confidently about themselves, as well as about topics beyond their own lives — both in formal and informal address. Balanced between the thematic and communicative approaches to learning language, each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Vocabulary includes terms in cooking, geography, and architecture. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes verb conjugations and uses in the present tense, past tense, and imperative and conditional moods, as well as direct and indirect objects and personal, possessive, and relative pronouns. Students deepen their knowledge of French-speaking regions and cultures by learning about history, literature, culture, and contemporary issues. To further connect to French culture and people, students are encouraged to view supplementary materials on the Web or to consult community resources or other media. The content is based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards.

**Prerequisites:** French I or the equivalent
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Spanish I

Spanish I covers the five Cs of the ACTFL standard: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. The instruction is balanced between the thematic and communicative approaches to learning language. Spanish I students learn to greet people, describe family and friends, talk about hobbies, and communicate about other topics, such as ecology, travel, and medicine. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Vocabulary includes terms to describe school subjects, parts of the body, and people, as well as idiomatic

phrases. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes the verb system, adjective agreement, formal and informal address, reflexive verbs, and past tense. Students explore words used in different Spanish-speaking regions, and they learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries and regions within and outside Europe. Web explorations give students further insight into the culture and people of the Spanish-speaking world, including the United States. Spanish I is balanced between the thematic and communicative approaches to learning language. The content is based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Spanish II

Spanish II covers the five Cs of the ACTFL standard: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. The instruction is balanced between the thematic and communicative approaches to learning language. Leveraging Spanish I concepts, Spanish II students learn to communicate more confidently about themselves and their hopes and fears, as well as about topics beyond their own lives — both in formal and informal situations. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Students expand their vocabulary in cooking, geography, and architecture. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes verb forms, tenses, moods and uses, impersonal constructions, and reported speech. Students deepen their knowledge of Spanish-speaking regions and cultures by learning about history, literature, culture, and contemporary issues. Students also are encouraged to consult materials outside the course, such as Web links, community resources, or other media, to better understand Spanish-speaking culture and people. Spanish II is balanced between the thematic and communicative approaches to learning language. The content is based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards.

**Prerequisites:** Spanish I or the equivalent
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## AP Level: AP French Language

AP French Language students apply their French grammar and vocabulary knowledge and their listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills to a wide variety of real-world contexts. Students learn to speak fluently and accurately, write complicated compositions, and comprehend native speakers. The equivalent of a college-level language course, AP French Language prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study of French language, culture, and literature. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** 3-4 years of French or equivalent native fluency
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## AP Level: AP Spanish Language

AP Spanish Language students practice perfecting their Spanish speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. They study vocabulary, grammar, and cultural aspects of the language, and then apply what they've learned in extensive written and spoken exercises. By the end of the course, students will have an expansive vocabulary and a solid, working knowledge of all verb forms and tenses. The equivalent of a college-level language course, AP Spanish Language prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study of Spanish language, culture, or literature. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

**Prerequisites:** 3-4 years of Spanish or equivalent native fluency
**Recommended Grades:** For qualified AP students
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

# Fine Arts and Health Courses

## Core Level: Music Appreciation

Music Appreciation Core is a streamlined course that introduces student to the history, theory, and genres of music, from the most primitive surviving examples, through the classical to the most contemporary in the world at large. The course is offered in a two-semester format: The first semester covers primitive musical forms, classical music, and American jazz. The second semester presents the rich modern traditions, including: gospel, folk, soul, blues, Latin rhythms, rock and roll, and hip-hop.The course explores the interface of music and social movements and examines how the emergent global society and the Internet is bringing musical forms together in new ways from all around the world. Students complete either a performance practicum or a listening practicum throughout the course. The performance practicum requirement can be met by participation in supervised instrumental or vocal lessons, participation in a church or community choirs, community musical performances, or anything that is structured to meet at regular intervals and legitimately provides opportunities for students to build vocal and/or instrumental skills. The listening practicum requires students to listen to a variety of music genres and comment. Parents or guardians will be required to validate their children's regular participation in the chosen performance or listening practicum.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Music Appreciation

Music Appreciation introduces the student to the history, theory, and genres of music, from the most primitive surviving examples, through the classical to the most contemporary in the world at large. The course is offered in a two-semester, stand-alone format: The first semester covers primitive musical forms, classical music, and American jazz. The second semester presents the rich modern traditions, including: gospel, folk, soul, blues, Latin rhythms, rock and roll, and hip-hop. The course explores the interface of music and social movements and examines how the emergent global society and the Internet is bringing musical forms together in new ways from all around the world. Students complete either a performance practicum or a listening practicum throughout the course. The performance practicum requirement can be met by participation in supervised instrumental or vocal lessons, participation in a church or community choirs, community musical performances, or anything that is structured to meet at regular intervals and legitimately provides opportunities for students to build vocal and/or instrumental skills. The listening practicum requires students to listen to a variety of music genres and comment. Parents or guardians will be required to validate their children's regular participation in the chosen performance or listening practicum.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: Physical Education

Physical Education Core combines the best of online instruction with actual student participation in weekly cardiovascular, aerobic, and muscle toning activities. The course promotes a keen understanding of the value of physical fitness and aims to motivate students to participate in physical activities throughout their lives. Specific areas of study include: Cardiovascular exercise and care, safe exercising, building muscle strength and endurance, injury prevention, fitness skills and FITT benchmarks, goal setting, nutrition and diet (vitamins and minerals, food labels, evaluation product claims), and stress management. The course requires routine participation in adult-supervised physical activities. Successful completion of this course will require parent/legal guardian sign-off on student-selected physical activities and on weekly participation reports to verify the student is meeting his or her requirements and responsibilities. Physical Education Core is aligned to national and state standards and the Presidential Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

## Core Level: Skills for Health

Skills for Health is a valuable, skills-based health education course designed for general education in grades 9 through 12. Skills for Health helps students develop knowledge, attitudes, and essential skills in a variety of health-related subjects, including mental and emotional health; nutrition; physical activity; substance use and abuse; injury prevention and safety; and personal health, environmental conservation, and community health resources. Through use of accessible information and real-life simulations, students apply the seven health skills. These include access to valid health information; self-management; analysis of internal and external influences; interpersonal communication; decision-making; goal setting; and advocacy. Students who complete Skills for Health build the skills they need to protect, enhance, and promote their own health and the health of others. The content is based on the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) standards and is aligned to state standards.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

# Other Supplemental Elective Courses

## Comprehensive Level: German I

Through discussion and language-building activities, students learn to speak, read, write and understand basic German. Simple grammar, punctuation, and spelling are reinforced through a host of interactive lessons, games, and activities. Cultural information is also presented, providing students an understanding of the history and influence of the German language. Students learn to speak, read, write and understand basic German. Simple grammar, punctuation, and spelling are reinforced through a host of interactive lessons, games, and activities. Cultural information is also presented, providing students an understanding of the history and influence of the German language.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: German II

Designed for students with a grasp on elementary-level German, German II introduces increasingly complex vocabulary and grammar, emphasizing oral communication and listening comprehension.

**Prerequisites:** German I or the equivalent
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Latin I

Through various listening, speaking, and writing exercises, students in Latin I learn the basics of this classic language. Audio presentations allow students to build their vocabulary comprehension level, master simple sentence and paragraph construction, and improve their oral skills. Students are introduced to various listening, speaking and writing exercises.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Latin II

Continuing to build on the foundation built in Latin I, students in Latin II increase their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar and engage in increasingly complex conversations and narrative writing. The meaningful applications of word study are also emphasized.

**Prerequisites:** Latin I or the equivalent
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Mandarin Chinese I

Spoken by one-fifth of the world's population, Chinese is an increasingly popular language among young learners. The first of two courses, Mandarin Chinese I provides instruction in the comprehension of Mandarin, the Beijing dialect and basis for modern standard Chinese. Coursework emphasizes the understanding and mastery of Chinese tones and tonal changes, as well as vocabulary and grammar skills. Students also begin to identify and write Chinese characters.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Comprehensive Level: Mandarin Chinese II

Students continue their study of Mandarin Chinese vocabulary, grammar, and culture. Students are exposed to this ancient and complex language through a variety of activities including games, adventure stories, videos, and dialogue. Students also further their understanding of tones and the use of pinyin, which aids in pronouncing the language. This advanced course also provides a solid foundation for reading and writing in the Chinese language. This course uses interactive multimedia experiences to engage students and appeal to diverse learning styles.

**Prerequisites:** Mandarin Chinese I or the equivalent
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** Two semesters, 1.0 credit

## Core Level: Sign Language

In this course, students are introduced to the fundamental concepts of American Sign Language. Students explore vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills using basic signing and finger spelling techniques, and are exposed to activities and exercises that help them understand the culture of deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

## Core Level: Community Service Project

Students who are highly talented or interested in a particular subject area design their own community service project. Students submit proposals for the community project to the principal for prior approval. Working under the guidance of the learning coach and the principal, the student documents the number of hours spent on the project, the work and activities completed, and submits a final project to earn credit.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 10, 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

## Core Level: Business Systems Technology

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Credits:** 0.50
**Prerequisites:** To participate in this course the student must have Microsoft Office (up to the 2003 version) including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access installed on his or her machine. It should be installed before the course begins.

Focusing on the applications and systems used in today's business environment, Business Systems Technology provides students with a solid foundation for understanding and using existing technologies. In addition to learning word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software, students are taught how to create databases and understand computer networking. Students also study viruses, hoaxes, and other threats to computer security.

**Prerequisites:** To participate in this course the student must have Microsoft Office (up to the 2003 version) including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access installed on his or her machine. It should be installed before the course begins.
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.5 credit

## Core Level: Digital Photography

This course contains lessons in digital photography and graphic design. Students learn general photographic concepts and composition skills, elements of graphic design, and digital image-editing and special effects techniques. Students are introduced to the fields of photography, advertising, and illustration as possible career choices.

**Prerequisites:** A digital camera is required
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.50 credit

## Core Level: Emergent Computer Technology

In this course, students learn the basics of building safe Web sites. Starting with the basic concepts of Web design (including using hypertext markup language, or HTML), students move on to planning their site and learning how to link and navigate pages. Students are introduced to more complex design techniques, including how to make sites more attractive and interesting through the use of graphics.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.50 credit

## Core Level: Programming I

In this course, students learn the basics of computer programming using C++ language. Students use Visual Studio.NET 2003 to write programming code that involves variables, common functions, flow control statements, and random numbers. Students are introduced to additional concepts in computer programming such as storing data, classes, and dynamic data.

**Prerequisites:** None
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.50 credit

## Core Level: Programming II

Continuing to build on the foundation of Programming I, students explore the Visual Basic.NET (VB.NET) computer programming language, and use it to create a series of hands-on projects that contain variables, menus, logical expressions, complex message boxes, and arrays.

**Prerequisites:** Programming I
**Recommended Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12
**Length:** One semester, 0.50 credit