

Upper School Academic Planning Guide & Course Descriptions

2023-
2024

The course descriptions are provided as a general guide to aid the MCA students in selecting appropriate courses for the school year. The brief descriptions do not represent all material covered in the course. Offerings may change as needs and availability of resources demand.



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Graduation Requirements

Class of 2022 and beyond

Department	College Prep	Honors I	Honors II
Bible* (1 per year enrolled)	3-4	3-4	3-4
English	4	4	4
Mathematics (math course required every year)	4	4	4
Science	4	4	4
Social Studies	4	4	4
Foreign Language	2	3	3
Physical Education (max 1.5)	1	1	1
Fine Arts	1	2	1
STEM Elective	0	0	2
Speech (or Debate)	.5	.5	.5
Electives from any Dept	varies	varies	varies
Total Credits	27	27	27
<i>Specific courses required within a department are listed in the MCA Academic Handbook section of the Parent-Student Handbook.</i>		<u>Additional Honors Diploma Minimum Requirements</u> 3.75 weighted GPA 4 AP or Dual Credit level credits (any combination) 40 cumulative hours of community service	

♦ A minimum of 1 fine art credit is required for all graduates;

Honors I graduates choose a second fine art credit;

Honors 2 graduates choose 2 STEM elective credits in addition to the one fine art credit.

Grade Point Average (GPA) & Class Rank

Grade points shall be awarded based upon the grade earned in each semester course and designation of the course as College Prep (on grade level), Honors or Dual Credit/Advanced Placement (AP).

Class rank is determined only for valedictorian and salutatorian and is based on the weighted GPA through the end of the 3rd quarter. See details in the Parent-Student Handbook. The [MCA School Profile](#) is provided to colleges with the transcript to give appropriate perspective to the academic environment and grading scale.

Grading Scale

Weight (effective fall 2020):

Honors courses additional .50 grade point

Dual Credit courses additional 1 grade point

Advanced Placement (AP®) courses additional 1 grade point

	Grade	College Prep (on grade level)	Honors +.5	Dual Credit Or AP® +1
A+	98-100	4.30	4.80	5.30
A	93-97	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	90-92	3.70	4.20	4.70
B+	87-89	3.30	3.80	4.30
B	83-86	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80-82	2.70	3.20	3.70
C+	77-79	2.30	2.80	3.30
C	73-76	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70-72	1.70	2.20	2.70
F	69 and below	0.00	0.00	0.00

Always refer to the [Parent-Student Handbook and the Academic Handbook](#) (within the Parent-Student Handbook found on the FACTS Family Portal) for school policies and academic guidelines.

Course Levels

On Grade-level College Preparatory – all courses not otherwise indicated are on grade-level college preparatory level, focusing on critical thinking skills, problem solving and mastery of subject knowledge.

Honors – more academically challenging than our college preparatory courses. Instruction is both accelerated and in greater depth and is intended to prepare students for subject-specific, college-level courses taken either at MCA or post-high school. These courses naturally have a heavier workload and require greater critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

~GPA weight (+.5) is awarded.

~*Prerequisite Requirements*: 85% average in prior related coursework; teacher recommendation; standardized test scores or placement assessments may be used for some courses.

Dual Credit – university courses taught on the MCA campus during a high school period. Unless otherwise stated, taught by MCA teachers credentialed as college professors. Limited offerings of online courses with an MCA faculty facilitator are available. Students are concurrently enrolled in MCA and the college granting credit. The coursework and expectations are exactly the same as those taught on the college campus. Both high school and college credit are earned simultaneously by passing the course. Receiving colleges determine if transfer credit grades such as dual credit course grades are calculated in the college grade point average (GPA). Available in 10th-12th grades.

~GPA weight (+1) is awarded.

Advanced Placement (AP®) – university level courses taught by MCA teachers on our campus during a high school class period. While learning the subject matter of the course, students increase their critical thinking, problem-solving, analysis, and writing skills through collaborative learning, in-depth study and discussions. Students must devote *considerable independent study time to master content understanding* and to achieve high grades and high AP® Exam scores. Each course concludes with a national standardized exam in May which students are required to take. The exam score may earn students college credit and/or placement into higher level college coursework. The AP® exam and the exam fee is charged in November. Courses available in 10th-12th grades.

~GPA weight (+1) is awarded. *AP weight is forfeited if the student does not take the AP Exam.*

AP[®] and Dual Credit

Enrollment Qualifications & Expectations

*Plan for **12 hours per week of study per course: 3 hours in class and 9 hours of independent study.** Successful candidates have demonstrated effective study habits including self-motivation for independent learning in addition to thorough completion of assigned work. This principle applies to both DC and AP courses.*

Advanced Placement & Dual Credit Course Limit

4 college level courses = full time college student status

- **Limit: 3 AP[®] or Dual Credit Courses per semester** [courses taught over two semesters count as 1/2: Spanish, Precalculus, and Calculus]

Due to the intensive time investment required (up to 9 hrs/week study time per course) to adequately study for college level courses, students with extracurricular or other time commitments are limited to 3 college level (3 credit hour) courses per semester. Taking 3 in one semester is a very heavy load and not easily managed as a full-time high school student schedule & workload with 3-4 additional high school courses.

Students who do not have extracurricular commitments may meet with the academic counselor to request an exception to the limit.

Advanced Placement (AP[®]) Program

MCA Qualifications to Enroll:

- Minimum 3.25 GPA
- Teacher Recommendation related subject prior year
- Minimum 85% average in subject prior year

Visit: [APStudents.CollegeBoard.org](https://apstudents.collegeboard.org) and [AP-AppropriateGradeLevels.pdf](#) for further details

All students enrolled in an AP[®] course are required to take the AP exam. The AP[®] GPA weight is forfeited if the exam is not taken.

AP Exam Fee \$95-\$100 (Fee Reductions Available for [Qualifying Students](#))

Dual Credit Program

Students are dually enrolled in the university and MCA9; the college course is taught at MCA during a high school class period; grades and credits are reported on the permanent college and high school transcripts. *Colleges may calculate the transfer course/credits grade in the cumulative GPA.* Students are responsible for paying the college tuition and fees and providing their own textbooks. Students are accountable to the college's academic integrity and behavior policies.

MCA's Dual Credit Partners:

LeTourneau University
[Course Catalog](#)

\$90/credit hour (\$270 per 3 credit hour course) +
 textbook
 Awarded \$17,000/yr scholarship if enroll in LETU full time

LETU courses in Texas Common Core Numbering System (tccns.org) for ease of transfer credits

John Brown University
[Course Catalog](#)

\$395 per 3 credit hour course + textbook
 Awarded \$315/ dual credit course scholarship if enroll in
 JBU full time

MCA/University Qualifications to Enroll:

Dual Credit Course	Senior Qualifications	Junior or Sophomore Qualifications (may also qualify w/senior criteria)
<i>All Dual Credit Courses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 3.25 Cumulative GPA (weighted) • Teacher Recommendation related subject prior year • Minimum 85% average in subject prior year* 	
JBU OT/NT Bible or Philosophy <i>Bible & English Teacher Rec</i>	ACT Comp 20, SAT 1020 or CLT 66	PreACT 20 or PSAT 1020
LETU: History, English, Speech <i>English and/or History Teacher Rec</i>	ACT English 18+Reading 22 or SAT EBRW 480	PreACT English 18 + Reading 22 or PSAT EBRW 480
LETU: College Algebra, Stats or Trig	ACT Math 21 or SAT Math 500	PreACT Math 22 or PSAT Math 510
LETU: Precalculus	ACT Math 23 or SAT Math 530	PreACT Math 24 or PSAT Math 540
LETU: Calculus	Completion of LETU Precalculus plus Trigonometry with minimum 80% Final Average	
LETU: Spanish <i>Elementary Spanish I = DC Span 2</i> <i>Elementary Spanish II = DC Span 3</i>		ACT/PreACT Comp 20 or SAT/PSAT 1020 AND Elem Span I: *90% Final Average in Spanish I Elem Span II: CLEP 61 to place out of Elem Span I
LETU: Intro Fine Arts	ACT Comp 20, SAT 1020 or CLT 66	PreACT 20 or PSAT 1020

College Level Courses

DEPARTMENT MCA/COLLEGE	COURSE NAME	POTENTIAL COLLEGE CREDIT HOURS	MCA HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT	COURSE TYPE
BIBLE	JBU BBL 1013 Old Testament Survey	3	.5	Dual Credit
BIBLE	JBU BBL 1023 New Testament Survey	3	.5	Dual Credit
BIBLE/ RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY	JBU RPH 2103 Intro to Philosophy	3	.5	Dual Credit
ENGLISH	LETU ENGL 1013 Composition I	3	.5	Dual Credit
ENGLISH	LETU ENGL 1023 Composition II	3	.5	Dual Credit
WORLD LANGUAGES	LETU SPAN 1113 Elem Spanish I	3	Spanish 2 = 1	Dual Credit
WORLD LANGUAGES	LETU SPAN 1123 Elem Spanish II	3	Spanish 3 = 1	Dual Credit
MATH	LETU MATH 1203 College Algebra	3	.5	Dual Credit
MATH	LETU MATH 1423 Elem Statistics	3	.5	Dual Credit
MATH	LETU MATH 1252 Trigonometry	3	.5	Dual Credit
MATH	LETU MATH 1303 Precalculus	3	.5	Dual Credit
MATH	LETU MATH 1252			
MATH	LETU MATH 1903 Calc I	3	1	Dual Credit
SCIENCE	AP [®] Physics 1	4	1	AP [®]
SCIENCE	AP [®] Physics 2	4	1	AP [®]
SCIENCE	AP [®] Biology	8	1	AP [®]
SOCIAL STUDIES /HISTORY	LETU HIST 2113 US History I	3	.5	Dual Credit
SOCIAL STUDIES /HISTORY	LETU HIST 2123 US History II	3	.5	Dual Credit
SOCIAL STUDIES	AP [®] United States Government	3	.5	AP [®]
COMMUNICATIONS	LETU COMM 1113 Intro to Speech	3	.5	Dual Credit
FINE ARTS (MCA) /HUMANITIES	LETU HUMA 1153 Intro Fine Arts	3	.5	Dual Credit

STEM /COMPUTER SCI	AP [®] Computer Science Principles	3	1	AP [®]
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Upper School Schedule

Students must enroll in courses necessary to meet graduation requirements.

Grades 9-11

- A minimum of 7 academic or fine art courses per semester are required; students may choose an academic course or a non-academic class or study hall for the 8th course. Non-academic course list [HERE](#).
- Athletics class is the 9th course on an athlete's student schedule; it is year-round with the same attendance standards as all other courses.

Grade 12

- A minimum of 6 academic or fine art courses per semester are required (must accomplish graduation requirements); students may choose academic course(s) or up to 2 non-academic classes or study halls. Non-academic course list [HERE](#).
- Athletics class is the 9th course on an athlete's student schedule; it is year-round with the same attendance standards as all other courses. Seniors only may withdraw from the athletics class after their last sports season.

1st Period (Monday -Thursday 7:30-8:25) is primarily an elective course period. Students enrolled in academic courses periods 2-8 may have their study hall assigned 1st period and would report to their first class by 8:30; students may use this period for tutoring and making up missed tests/quizzes. We cannot guarantee a 1st period study hall.

Athletes with a 1st Period Study Hall use it for makeup tests and tutoring rather than missing athletics class.

1st Period 7:30-8:25 Mon-Thur (Elective/Academic Period)

2nd - 8th Periods 8:30 - 3:15 Mon - Thur (Academic and Elective Periods)

9th Period Athletics 3:20 - 4:10 Mon - Thur (Athletic Period - year-round for MCA athletic team members)

2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 6th Periods 8:00 - 1:15 Fridays (Academic and Elective Periods plus Chapel)

Advanced Placement & Dual Credit Maximum

- **Limit: 3 AP or Dual Credit Courses per semester** (excludes 3 hr courses taught over two semesters)

Due to the intensive time investment required (up to 9 hrs/week study time per course) to do well in college level courses; taking 3 in one semester is a very heavy load and not easily managed for full-time high school students with extracurricular involvement.

Keep in mind that 4 college level courses = full time college student status

Course Availability

- Prerequisite requirements must be met in order to be enrolled in a course.
- Every effort is made to enroll all students in their first choice courses.
- Core course enrollment takes precedence over elective courses if a scheduling conflict arises.

The course descriptions represent the courses we are prepared to offer. **Minimum enrollment requirements and schedule restrictions impact final offerings.** Students should request the courses they most want and also provide acceptable alternatives; when necessary, an alternate course will be substituted during the scheduling process. Dual credit offerings are dependent upon current MCA staffing, having credentialed college instructors on staff.

Schedule Change Requests

Requests may be made in writing and with parent approval after schedules are published for each semester. Requests are reviewed based on meeting prerequisite requirements, course availability and progress toward graduation requirements. The time period for requests is limited to

- First week of classes for elective courses
- Second week of classes for core subject courses
- Dual credit drop date according to college calendar (transfer to on grade level equivalent at MCA)

Course Sequences & Offerings

Department	9th	10th	11th	12th
Bible (1 per year enrolled*)	Systematic Theology	Christ & Culture	OT/NT Survey (CP, Hon) DC OT/NT Survey	Philosophy (CP) DC Philosophy + Apologetics
English (4 credits)	World Literature I*	World Literature II*	American Literature	English Composition (CP, Hon) DC English Comp I & II
Math (4 credits)	Algebra I* Geometry (8th Alg1)	Geometry* Honors Algebra II	Algebra II* College Readiness Algebra DC College Algebra + DC Statistics Trig & DC Precalculus	College Algebra Readiness DC Coll. Alg + DC Statistics DC Trig + DC Precalculus DC Calculus Personal Finance + DC Statistics (5th yr only)
Science (4 credits)	Biology	Chemistry Honors Chemistry	Physics AP Physics Environmental Science (DS only)	Physics (DS only) Environmental Science Honors Anatomy & Physiology AP Biology AP Physics 2
Social Studies (4 credits)	World Geography	World & Church History	US History Dual Credit US History	Economics + US Gov't Economics + AP US Gov't
Foreign/World Language (2 credits; 3 for Honors)	Spanish I, Spanish II, Spanish III Spanish I, Dual Credit Spanish II, Dual Credit Spanish III American Sign Language I*, American Sign Language II*			
Fine Art (1 credit; 2 for Honors I)	2D Art, 3D Art, Graphic Design I, Graphic Design II, Advanced Art, Portfolio Art Band, Jazz Band, Worship Band Choir, Vocal Ensemble Theatre, Technical Theatre Music Theory I & II; Dual Credit Intro to Fine Arts (one of these offered/yr based on demand)			
Communications (1/2 speech/debate)	Debate I, Advanced Debate Dual Credit Speech, Speech Journalism: Newspaper, Broadcast News, Yearbook, Yearbook Editor			
P.E. & Health (1 P.E. credit)	P.E.: Physical Education (2023-24); Performance Course (Athletics); 4 yr Marching Band; Off Campus P.E. Health, Principles of Health Science			
STEM (2 credits for Honors II)	Robotics, Business Tech & Digital Marketing (2022-23), AP Computer Science Principles, Intro to Java, Technology Department Internship, Foundations of Entrepreneurship, Graphic Design I, Graphic Design II			
Academic Non Dept Electives	Teen Community Emergency Response Team, Personal Finance, Faith & Science, Psychology, Ethics & Christian Values			
Non Academic <i>Limit 1/semester</i>	Development Office Internship, Media Tech Internship, Elementary School Internship, Library/Office Aid, DS Study Skills & Strategies (in DS program), Study Hall (includes 1st period)			

*Directed Studies sections offered

*1 Bible credit per year enrolled; transferring in students are enrolled in Systematic Theology in addition to their grade-level Bible course when scheduling permits

CP=College Prep; **DC**=Dual Credit; **AP**=Advanced Placement; **DS**= MCA Directed Studies program students

See course descriptions for appropriate grade levels for elective courses, prerequisite requirements and sequencing.

Refer to [graduation requirements](#) for full details and specific courses required to graduate.

Core Subject Courses

Bible Courses

1 course required for each year enrolled at MCA

Systematic Theology

Grades: 9+

1 credit (yearlong)

This is the foundational course for our high school Bible curriculum. The course provides students with a correlation of the data of biblical revelation as a whole in order to systematically exhibit the total picture of God's self-revelation. This course will include historical backgrounds, apologetics and defense, and exegetical work, but focuses on the total structure of biblical doctrine. Some areas of study will include Bibliology, Theology proper (God the Father), Christology, Pneumatology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Angelology, and Eschatology. The theological foundation given in this course will be used as a basis for Bible courses in grades ten through twelve. *Students may purchase their book if they choose to write or make notes in it which can be helpful in this course.* **All freshmen take this course as well as transfer students in place of an elective when possible.**

Christ & Culture

Grade: 10

1 credit (yearlong)

This course invites students to a personal journey with Christ in their faith. Some areas of focus include understanding the Biblical narrative as a whole, personal journaling, and a practical application of faith and truth in contemporary culture. Students will be given the opportunity to incorporate prayers, other forms of writing, and creative projects into learning.

Old & New Testament Survey

Grade: 11

1 credit (yearlong)

This Bible course is an introduction to the history and message of both the Old Testament and New Testament. It will provide a general survey of the content of each book and will focus on certain significant themes, with emphasis on the relevance and application to the Christian faith. This study is designed to help students read, research, exegete, and share major scriptural principles from the Old Testament. This course has as its ultimate goal a greater understanding, love, and appreciation for the great truths of the Christian faith. The content of this course is the same as the dual credit course, but assignments will be high school level work and vary from the honors and dual credit courses.

Dual Credit Old Testament Survey: JBU BBL 1013 or Honors Old Testament Survey

Grade: 11

**½ credit (semester)
3 credit hours**

Dual Credit Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, 85% average in related coursework, admission into JBU

Honors Prerequisites: 85% min avg in related courses; teacher recommendation

This Bible course is an introduction to the history and message of the Old Testament. It will provide a general survey of the content of each book and will focus on certain significant themes, with emphasis on the relevance and application to the Christian faith. This study is designed to help students read, research, exegete, and share major scriptural principles from the Old Testament. This course has as its ultimate goal a greater understanding, love, and appreciation for the great truths of the Christian faith. Students will earn 3 hours of college credit upon successful completion of the course.

Concurrent enrollment in the partner university required for dual credit students; additional tuition and fees apply. College deadlines, policies & requirements apply.

Honors level students audit the dual credit course, completing the same assignments. Students do not enroll in the college, nor earn college credit. Semester graded course; no quarter grades.

**Dual Credit New Testament Survey: JBU BBL 1023 or
Honors New Testament Survey**

Grade: 11

**1/2 credit (semester)
3 credit hours**

*Dual Credit Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, 85% average in related coursework, admission into JBU
Honors Prerequisites: 85% min avg in related courses; teacher recommendation*

This Bible course is an introduction to the history and message of the New Testament. It will provide a general survey of the content of each book and will focus on certain significant themes, with emphasis on the relevance and application to the Christian faith. This study is designed to help students read, research, exegete, and share major scriptural principles from the New Testament. This course has as its ultimate goal a greater understanding, love, and appreciation for the great truths of the Christian faith. Students will earn 3 hours of college credit upon successful completion of the course.

Concurrent enrollment in the partner university required for dual credit students; additional tuition and fees apply. College deadlines, policies & requirements apply.

Honors level students audit the dual credit course, completing the same assignments. Students do not enroll in the college, nor earn college credit. Semester graded course; no quarter grades.

Intro to Philosophy

Grade: 12

**1/2 credit (semester)
Fall**

A survey of the main areas of philosophy, including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and philosophy of religion. Students should develop their critical reading skills, their ability to analyze difficult philosophical texts, and their ability to advance a single, clear argument on philosophical issues. Additionally, students should become more comfortable speaking about philosophical problems and concerns as they learn more about the relationship between the Christian faith and contemporary philosophy. The course content is similar to the dual credit course, but will be delivered at a high school level. Assignments will differ from the honors and dual credit courses as appropriate for a high school course.

Dual Credit Intro to Philosophy JBU RPH 2103

Grade: 12

**1/2 credit (semester)
3 credit hours Fall**

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, 85% average in related coursework, admission into JBU

A survey of the main areas of philosophy, including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and philosophy of religion. Students should develop their critical reading skills, their ability to analyze difficult but rewarding philosophical texts, and their ability to advance a single, clear argument on philosophical issues. Additionally, students should become more comfortable speaking about philosophical problems and concerns, and they should know more about the relationship between the Christian faith and contemporary philosophy. Meets The Arts and Humanities requirement of the JBU Core Curriculum. ***Concurrent enrollment in the partner university required; additional tuition fees apply.*** College deadlines, policies & requirements apply. Students provide their own books.

Bible IV: Apologetics

Grade: 12

**1/2 credit (semester)
Spring**

In a world increasingly hostile to a Christian worldview, one may capitulate to culture or critically engage culture while standing firm in the faith. Because we believe that God's truth leads to full human flourishing, engaging culture as faithful witnesses to our Lord and Savior provides the more fruitful option. To that end, students in the Apologetics course will learn to defend their faith with logic and reason. Students will gain the ability to articulate the Christian faith and to consider how that faith shapes our living in this world (i.e., ethics, politics, etc.). In order to accomplish these objectives, students will critically examine various readings, hypothetical scenarios, and cultural phenomena and respond to such during class discussions and through written assignments. At the completion of the course, graduates should be equipped to enter their professional and academic pursuits with a greater ability to discern unbiblical worldviews and to defend their faith with rational arguments, in love and in truth, for the glory of God and the advancement of the gospel.

In studying Ethics from a Christian theological perspective, students will delve into the historical and philosophical contexts of moral philosophy, examining works from Ancient, Medieval, Modern, and Contemporary thinkers. This will allow them to explore the evolution of moral philosophy over time and understand how these ideas continue to shape contemporary discussions. As part of this course, an emphasis will also be placed on student-led discussions facilitated by the instructor. These discussions will challenge students to utilize critical thinking skills to develop their understanding with a Christian worldview of ethical issues and apply their knowledge to real-world situations. Through these discussions, students will develop their ability to articulate their Christian moral philosophy while engaging with the perspectives of others in a respectful and thoughtful manner.

English/Literature Courses

4 credits required

World Literature I

Grade: 9

1 credit (yearlong)

World Literature I is the study of literature from a Biblical perspective within a variety of historical time periods including 725 B.C. Greece, 16th century Mexico, Elizabethan and Victorian England, as well as a sci-fi futuristic America. The fiction and nonfiction reading selections include novels, short stories, essays, poetry, and plays. The course is designed to give students the opportunity to expand their vocabulary, increase their maturity as writers, further develop their analysis skills, integrate appropriate grammatical structures, appreciate a writer's craft, and demonstrate understanding of text both verbally and in writing. Students will continue to develop and implement skills in a variety of writing modes including: research papers, personal narratives, descriptive, expository and argumentative essays, and poems.

World Literature II

Grade: 10

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Eng I/World Literature I

World Literature II expands on the study of world literature from a Biblical perspective within historical time periods including 1600s Venice as well as 19th and 20th century England and America. Studies will not only include novels but will also expand into in-depth analysis of other genres: short story, play, and poetry. Integrated within each piece of literature, students will expand their vocabulary and develop a personal writing style to be applied as they refine their writing skills through various modes of descriptive, narrative, persuasive, and expository writing and sentence imitation.

American Literature

Grade: 11

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Eng II/World Literature II

American Literature explores works from a Biblical perspective and within the historical time periods spanning from Puritan New England to postmodern era, wherein students will study movements/ages and how literary characteristics reflect the developing, changing American society. Studies will include the novel, and will also span into uniquely early-American compositions such as diaries, personal narratives, poems, and sermons. Students will read five novels or works of historical fiction. Integrated within each piece of literature, students will expand their vocabulary and continue to develop a personal writing style, which will be applied through various modes of creative, narrative, persuasive, expository writing and sentence imitation.

English Composition**Grade: 12****1 credit (yearlong)***Prerequisites: Eng III/American Literature*

A study of rhetoric and effective writing processes at a 12th grade level. The content is similar to the honors and dual credit composition courses, though assignments will differ as appropriate for high school curriculum.

Honors English Composition**Grade: 12****1 credit (yearlong)***Prerequisites: 85% in Eng III; ACT/SAT College Readiness Eng & Reading Scores; teacher recommendation*

Students audit the dual credit English Composition I and II courses, completing the same assignments. Students do not enroll in the college nor earn college credit. Semester graded course; no quarter grades.

Dual Credit English Composition I: LETU ENGL 1013**Grade: 12****1/2 credit (semester)
3 college credit hours***Prerequisites: 85% average in Eng III; teacher recommendation; college readiness scores; admission into LETU*

A study of rhetoric and effective writing processes. Emphasis on expository and evaluative writing. Prerequisite(s): Qualification on ACT or SAT exam. **Concurrent enrollment in the partner university required; additional tuition fees apply.** College deadlines, policies & requirements apply. Students may be required to provide their own books.

Dual Credit English Composition II: LETU ENGL 1023**Grade: 12****1/2 credit (semester)
3 college credit hours***Prerequisites: ENGL 1013*

A study of argumentation/logic and writing for the professions with an emphasis on using the personal computer to plan, draft, and revise written projects. Each student is required to write a fully documented research paper and give oral presentations in class. Prerequisite(s): Completion of ENGL 1014 with a grade of C or better or ENGL 1013. **Concurrent enrollment in the partner university required; additional tuition fees apply.** College deadlines, policies & requirements apply. Students provide their own books.

Mathematics Courses

4 credits required & *must be enrolled in math every year*

Required Courses: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry + 1 credit higher level math

Math sequence charts follow the descriptions

Algebra I**Grades: 8, 9****1 credit (yearlong)***Prerequisites: 9th-none; 8th-pre-algebra or by assessment*

The Algebra I class combines existing math skills with abstract thinking to solve various problems. The class is designed to broaden the student's general math skills and prepare them for higher level mathematics. Students will study mathematical principles regarding exponents, polynomials, systems of equations, graphing linear equations and inequalities, rational numbers, radicals, functions, and quadratic equations.

Algebra II**Grade: 10****1 credit (yearlong)***Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry*

Algebra II reviews and extends the key concepts of Algebra I to increase the student's problem-solving skills. The content of Algebra II is organized around families of functions, including linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical, and rational functions. As students study each family of functions, they will learn to represent them in multiple ways—as verbal descriptions, equations, tables, and graphs. Students will also learn to model real-world situations using functions in order to solve problems arising from those situations. In addition to its algebra content, Algebra II includes numerous examples and exercises involving geometry, data analysis and an introduction to trigonometry. Applications for each concept are integrated throughout the course to give the students an idea of how these mathematical tools are used to solve real problems. Intelligent design in the concepts and applications points to the omniscience of the Creator of all minds. Available for 11th grade transfer students.

Algebra II, Honors**Grade: 10****1 credit (yearlong)***Prerequisites: Geometry preferred; Algebra I 90% minimum, *teacher recommendation, placement assessment*

The honors level course of Algebra II is an advanced pace, more in-depth study of the topics in Algebra II (refer to Algebra II course description). Students are expected to display a greater understanding and application of the concepts. An expanded study of trigonometry is included in preparation for the Honors Pre-calculus course. To help students prepare for DC Calculus, the course provides instruction and practice using short-response and extended-response test questions. Typically, students who took Geometry as 9th graders or who excelled in math are successful candidates. May be available for 11th grade transfer students. **Placement and teacher recommendation based upon: assessment score, standardized test scores, and student performance in class. Summer online, self-paced instruction may be available to some students for an opportunity to earn placement in the course.*

Geometry**Grades: 9, 11****1 credit (yearlong)***Prerequisites: Algebra I*

Geometry is an exploration of the shapes and figures in our world using the tools of an analytical and logical mind to discover the unifying principles and patterns used by the Creator. Geometry is taken in 9th grade following 8th grade Algebra I or in 11th grade after students complete Algebra I and II. Geometry introduces the language and concepts necessary to reason and communicate deductively about objects and figures in space. The course will look in detail at triangles, figures in the plane, figures in space, parallel lines, quadrilaterals, congruence, similarity and relationships in circles. The use of postulates and theorems in the writing of formal proofs will be integrated into the above topics. Students will develop reasoning and problem solving skills through the study of topics including congruence and similarity, and apply properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles; problem solving skills will also be developed by using length, perimeter, area, circumference, surface area, and volume to solve real-world problems. Numerous examples and exercises involving algebra, and data analysis are included.

College Readiness Algebra**Grades: 11, 12****1 credit (yearlong)***Prerequisites: Algebra II & Geometry*

This college preparatory course begins with a review of basic concepts and skills and is followed by a study of relations, equations, inequalities, functions and graphs. The following types of functions are studied: polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric. Topics from finite mathematics: matrix algebra and mathematics of finance are also covered. This course may not be taken after completion of Precalculus.

**Dual Credit College Algebra with Applications
LETU Math 1203**

Grades: 11, 12

**1/2 credit (semester)
3 credit hours Fall**

Prerequisites: 85% average in Algebra II (honors level preferred) & Geometry, teacher recommendation, college readiness math scores, admission into LETU

A study of linear and quadratic equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, and linear inequalities with emphasis on business applications. This course may not be taken for credit by anyone who has passed MATH 1303, MATH 1603, or MATH 1903 with a grade of C or better. Prerequisite(s): MATH 1123 or equivalent. **Concurrent enrollment in the partner university required; additional tuition fees apply.** College deadlines, policies & requirements apply. Students provide their own books.

Dual Credit Elementary Statistics LETU Math 1423

Grades: 11, 12

**1/2 credit (semester)
Spring**

Prerequisites: 85% average in Algebra II (honors level preferred) & Geometry, teacher recommendation, college readiness math scores, admission into LETU

An introductory treatment of research statistics. Included are frequency distribution, graphic representation, correlation, sampling theory, probability, and statistical hypotheses. Not applicable to graduation requirements in mathematics or engineering. Prerequisite(s): MATH 1123 or equivalent. This course is taken the semester opposite Dual Credit College Algebra.

Dual Credit Trigonometry LETU MATH 1252

Grade: 11, 12

**.5 credit
3 college credit hrs**

Prerequisites: 85% avg Honors Algebra II & Geometry, teacher recommendation

Students complete the equivalent of a junior college semester of trigonometry: radian measure and unit circles, graphs of circular functions, trig. identities, inverse circular functions, trig. equations, the Laws of Sines and Cosines, and application problems. Graphing calculator technology is integrated into every topic. Prerequisite(s): MATH 1203 or equivalent.

Dual Credit Pre-calculus LETU MATH 1303

Grade: 11, 12

**.5 credit
3 college credit hrs**

Prerequisites: 85% avg Honors Algebra II & Geometry, teacher recommendation

Students complete the equivalent of a junior college semester of pre-calculus: a study of polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions, systems of equations and inequalities, sequences, series, and analytic geometry, including a review of algebra. Prerequisite(s): MATH 1203 or equivalent.

Dual Credit Calculus LETU MATH 1903

Grade: 12

**.5 credit
3 college credit hours**

Prerequisites: 80% avg Dual Credit Pre-calculus & DC Trig, teacher recommendation

LETU Prerequisite: MATH 1252 and MATH 1303 or equivalent (MCA's DC Precalculus plus DC Trig)

This course is the college Calculus I course taught over the full school year.

An introduction to calculus with emphasis on concepts and principles. Topics studied include limits, derivatives, applications of derivatives, and antiderivatives. Students learn to understand calculus using the presentation and methods of the rule of four: Numerical, Algebraic, Graphical, and Verbal. Students utilize graphing calculators extensively to solve problems, discover concepts, interpret results, and support conclusions. In addition, students must validate reasons for their mathematical choices or solutions via written complete sentences using the language of calculus.

We must meet a minimum enrollment number in order to offer this as a dual credit course. When that number is exceeded, student(s) will be able to choose to take the course as dual credit.

Personal Finance Elective

Grades: 11-12

½ credit (semester)

Prerequisites: Algebra II

Financial planning is one aspect of Christian life. As followers of Christ, we strive to live out a biblically-based worldview in our everyday choices, including our financial choices. This course provides the perfect context for shaping a student's relationship and perspective on money as a component of biblical stewardship and contentment, living a generous life, avoiding debt, planning wisely and protecting investments. The course is based on Dave Ramsey's Foundations in Personal Finance, High School edition. Dave Ramsey teaches that personal finance is 80% behavior and 20% head knowledge so teaching teens to take control of their financial planning and to develop educational and career goals to help them obtain and grow their income over time is a core part of the class. ***Available as a core math course fall semester for seniors who have completed 4 math credits; DC Stats must be taken spring semester.*

Math Course Sequences

Math Sequence Options starting with 9th Grade Algebra 1

(must meet criteria for each advanced course enrollment)

9th	10th	11th	12th
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	College Readiness Algebra
Algebra I	Algebra II Honors (by approval)	Geometry	DC College Algebra & DC Statistics DC Trig + DC Precalculus

Math Sequence Options starting with 8th Grade Algebra 1

(must meet criteria for each advanced course enrollment)

8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II Honors	DC Trig + DC Precalculus	DC Calculus
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II (Honors preferred for DC)	College Readiness Algebra	DC College Algebra & DC Statistics*
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II (Honors preferred for DC)	DC College Algebra & DC Statistics	DC Trig + DC Precalculus

*Personal Finance/Statistics only available for 5th year math students who do not qualify for DC senior year

If calculus is required for your intended college major, it is important that you take the highest level math you qualify for during high school. Click to view: Example [List of College Majors & Programs that require CALCULUS in college.](#)

Highly selective colleges value applicants who complete the *highest level of math available or possible for the student*. U.S. Service Academies expect all applicants to take calculus.

Science Courses

4 credits required

Required Courses: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, 1 higher level lab-based science course

Biology

Grades: 9

1 credit (yearlong)

The study of Biology allows students to develop and apply communication skills using the scientific method while also participating in group-based laboratory activities. Special emphasis will be placed on the components of cells, photosynthesis and plant growth, genetics and concepts of heredity, taxonomy and classification systems, invertebrate vs. vertebrate organisms, ecosystems, as well as human anatomy and physiology. Laboratory sessions are designed to enhance the student's understanding of material covered, which includes dissections of key organisms that represent various phyla studied.

Chemistry I

Grades: 10

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Chemistry I is a study of the basic principles for understanding inorganic chemistry. Major topics include measurement, matter and energy, substances, nomenclature, chemical reactions, chemical composition, chemical quantities, atomic theory, chemical bonding, gases, liquids and solids, solutions, acids and bases, chemical equilibrium, and oxidation and reduction reactions. Laboratory exercises are designed to introduce students to basic chemistry laboratory skills and make some practical applications to the principles learned in the classroom. The level of understanding of the chemical principles studied will help the student understand the important role chemistry plays in everyday life.

Chemistry I, Honors

Grades: 10

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Concurrently enrolled in Hon Algebra II or PSAT/PreACT Math 80th percentile, teacher recommendation

Chemistry I Honors is a study of the basic principles for understanding inorganic chemistry. Major topics include measurement, matter and energy, substances, nomenclature, chemical reactions, chemical composition, chemical quantities, atomic theory, chemical bonding, gases, liquids and solids, solutions, acids and bases, chemical equilibrium, oxidation and reduction reactions, and electrochemistry. Laboratory exercises are designed to give the student strong laboratory skills and to reinforce principles learned in the classroom. Honors chemistry goes deeper and faster than Chemistry 1. The level of understanding of the chemical principles studied will prepare the student for further studies in chemistry either at the advanced high school level or introductory college level *Placement based upon placement test scores and meeting prerequisite requirements.*

Physics

Grades: 11

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Algebra II or concurrently enrolled

This course covers the fundamental principles of physics through the lens of a biblical worldview and in a way that is accessible to students who may not have had prior exposure to the subject. Throughout the course, we will cover topics such as Newtonian mechanics, energy, momentum, and waves with a focus on developing a solid understanding of the foundational concepts. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and hands-on laboratory investigations, students will develop a deep appreciation for the beauty and order of the natural world. We will explore how these concepts relate to our everyday experiences and the world around us, and examining the physical laws that govern the universe and reflect the wisdom and creativity of our Creator (Gen 2:1, Romans 1:18-20, 1 Tim 4:4). While we will not cover the same level of

detail as in AP Physics 1, students will still be challenged to think critically, creatively, and analytically as they approach scientific problems and explore the connections between physics and the biblical worldview.

AP[®] Physics 1

Grades: 11

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: concurrent enrollment in Dual Credit Pre-calculus, teacher recommendation

In AP Physics 1, we will explore the fundamental principles of physics through the lens of the Bible, examining how the laws of nature reflect the wisdom and creativity of our Creator (Gen 2:1, Romans 1:18-20, 1 Tim 4:4). Throughout the course, we will cover topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion), work, energy, impulse and momentum. We will explore how these concepts relate to our everyday experiences and the world around us and examine the ways in which the Bible informs our understanding of physics. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and hands-on laboratory investigations, students will develop a deep understanding of the principles of physics and their connections to the biblical worldview. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to approach complex scientific problems with a rigorous analytical framework and a deep appreciation for the majesty of God's creation. This course is a full-year algebra-based physics course that is equivalent to a first-semester introductory college course in physics. The AP exam fee is applied to the Family FACTS account. College credit potential based upon exam score: 4 credit hours.

AP[®] Physics 2

Grades: 12

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: AP Physics 1 or equivalent course and teacher recommendation

Building upon the foundation laid in AP Physics 1, this course will delve deeper into the intricacies of physics, exploring the complexities of fluid statics and dynamics, thermodynamics, electrical forces and fields, electrical circuits, electromagnetism, optics, quantum mechanics, and nuclear physics through the lens of the Bible. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and hands-on experiments, students will deepen their understanding of the laws of nature and their connections to the biblical worldview. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to engage with the cutting-edge questions and challenges of modern physics from a biblical perspective, as they seek to discern the mysteries of God's creation. This course is a full-year course that is equivalent to a second-semester introductory college course in physics. The AP exam fee is applied to the Family FACTS account. College credit potential based upon exam score: 4 credit hours.

Environmental Sciences

Grades: 12

1 credit (yearlong)

Grade 11 DS students

Prerequisites: 3 years of science

In Environmental Sciences, students will develop a greater understanding of the natural world around them and some insight as to man's impact on that world. The course utilizes both individual and group study. The areas of emphasis will include study of the planet Earth, scientific method, ecological interactions, biomes, energy resources, and management of human impact. The students will examine the challenges facing us as we make proper use of the Earth that God has placed in our care. The Bible will be used as a reference and guide as we examine the decisions the students will need to make in the future.

Human Anatomy & Physiology, Honors

Grades: 12

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Chem I; min 85% avg in prior science courses, teacher recommendation

The Human Anatomy & Physiology Honors course is a college preparatory course that studies the human body using a systems approach. Laboratory exercises include dissection (primarily cat), microscopy studies, and physiological exercises that reinforce information learned in lecture.

Prerequisites: Biology & Chemistry; min 85% avg in prior science courses, teacher recommendation

The AP Biology course covers topics regularly taught in a first year college biology course for biology majors and is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory biology course. This course differs significantly from the usual first high school course in biology with the use of a college-level textbook, the range and depth of topics covered, the type of laboratory work done by students, and the time and effort required of students. The kinds of labs done by AP students are the equivalent of those done by college students. It aims to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology. After showing themselves to be qualified on the AP Exam, some students, in their first year of college, are permitted to take upper-level courses in biology or register for courses for which biology is a prerequisite. Other students may have fulfilled a basic requirement for a laboratory-science course and will be able to undertake other courses to pursue their majors. The AP exam fee is applied to the FACTS account. College credit potential based upon exam score: 8 hours. [AP Biology Course and Exam Description](#).

Social Studies Courses

4 credits required; Geography, Church & World History (substitute World History for transfer credits), US History, Economics, US Government

World Geography

Grades: 9**1 credit (yearlong)**

World Geography studies the five themes of geography (location, place, region, movement, and human interaction/environment) and applies these themes to regions of the Earth. Comparisons of regions are made by the students to gain an understanding of how people live and interact with each other and their environment. Analysis of physical characteristics and natural resources of various regions of the Earth will be made with respect to the economics, social, and cultural impact on the environment and resources.

Church and World History

Grades: 10**1 credit (yearlong)**

The study of Church and World History is, by definition, broad in scope. There is no way to focus on all that could be evaluated. However, the major themes in human behavior and interaction are important parts of understanding who we are and how we are to function in God's creation. We cannot simply expect to live all our lives in secure and familiar surroundings. While this is certainly true, we (particularly as Christians) are a people mainly influenced by Western culture. The integrated Church and World History course will cover a wide spectrum of movements, events, and people from around the world, but we will take an especially careful look at how faith in Christ has led to the development and growth of those people who live in the culture of the West. This isn't so much of a geographical association as it is one of ideas and beliefs. There will be substantial examination of Biblical teaching in regard to all that is studied. The Lord truly is master of all things at all times and it is in light of His truth and providence that we will consider what has happened since Genesis.

We will ask two major questions throughout this course: (1) How does God use events and people in world history to culminate in the perfect timing for Christ's coming into the world? (2) How does God use events and people in world history to grow and strengthen His church and to prepare the world for the return of His Son? (*1 Credit*)

United States History

Grades: 11**1 credit (yearlong)**

The ideas, movements and events that have shaped and formed the United States will be presented and evaluated in order that students will be knowledgeable and appreciative of their culture, heritage, and future. Major events and topics that are highly influential in United States History will be critically evaluated to continue development of critical thinking skills

as students use this subject to develop the tools of learning. Events and ideas having particular concern for Christian response will be examined and students will work on crafting argumentative reasoning skills. The importance of geography will also be stressed in discussion with westward expansion and world events. This course will integrate conceptually with American Literature for a more cohesive understanding between history, ideas, literature, and the humanities.

**Dual Credit United States History I LETU HIST 2113 Grades: 11 ½ hs credit (semester)
3 credit hours**

Prerequisites: World & Church History (85% min avg), teacher recommendation, college readiness reading and writing scores, admission into LETU

This is an online college course with an MCA faculty in the classroom serving as the facilitator; the class meets during a high school period. A general survey of the establishment and growth of the American nation from the colonial period through the Civil War and into the Reconstruction era. Covers the social, political, economic, and cultural life of the new nation, giving particular stress to the reasons behind the near dissolution of the Union. Upon completion of this course, students will create an argument using historical evidence and analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources. Students will analyze the effects of historical, political, social, social, economic, and global forces on this period of United States History. Student work ethic, self-motivation, research skills and college-level writing skills are keys to success.

Concurrent enrollment in the partner university required for dual credit students; additional tuition fees apply. College deadlines, policies & requirements apply. Students provide their own books.

**Dual Credit United States History II LETU HIST 2123 Grade: 11 ½ hs credit (semester)
3 credit hours**

Prerequisites: World & Church History (85% min avg), teacher recommendation, college readiness reading and writing scores, admission into LETU

This is an online college course with an MCA faculty in the classroom serving as the facilitator; the class meets during a high school period. A continuation of the survey of American life beginning with the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era and extending to the present. Political, economic, diplomatic, and military history are covered along with the contributions of minority groups. Upon completion of this course, students will create arguments using historical evidence and analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources. Students will analyze the effects of historical, political, social, social, economic, and global forces on this period of United States History. Student work ethic, self-motivation, research skills and college-level writing skills are keys to success. ***Concurrent enrollment in the partner university required for dual credit students; additional tuition fees apply.*** College deadlines, policies & requirements apply. Students provide their own books.

Economics Grade: 12 ½ credit (semester)

Economics is a survey class with a general overview of macro and micro economic theories and principles using the United States economic system as a model. Students will study supply and demand, productivity, business organizations, government intervention and financial institutions. The course is a presentation of our capitalistic economy which is regulated by its supply and demand. A capstone project for the course is a 6-week Economics Fair designed to encourage entrepreneurship and business skills. The course encompasses a biblical worldview of stewardship.

United States Government Grade: 12 ½ credit (semester)

United States Government is designed to clarify and develop political thinking, decision making and behavior as an aspect of Christian life and citizenship. It will develop effective citizens within the frame of our Christian principles presented in the Bible and in many aspects of our Constitution. Students will study the historical background of the founding of our great nation and the principles that influenced the writing of our constitution. Students study government theory and the structure, principles and the processes of government in relation to the policy-making process.

Prerequisites: 85% min avg prior SS courses; teacher recommendation

This course will give students an analytical perspective of government and politics in the United States. Both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples will be covered. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, policies, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics. While there is no single approach that an AP American Government and Politics course must cover, students will become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. It will develop effective citizens within the frame of Christian principles presented in the Bible and in many aspects of our Constitution. This course will culminate in students taking a national examination in May to endeavor to earn college credit for Social Studies course requirements. The AP exam fee is applied to the FACTS account. [AP U.S. Government and Politics Course and Exam Description](#). College credit potential based upon exam score: 3 credit hours.

Foreign/World Language Courses

2 credits of the same language required

3 sequential credits (same language) required for the honors diploma

Spanish I

Grade: 9

1 credit (yearlong)

This introductory course is designed for students with little or no previous study of Spanish. Spanish is presented in a real-life context, which provides meaning for communication via video, technology, role plays, music, projects and games. Vocabulary is presented using different scenarios to build comprehension. Grammar is taught visually, utilizing rules and examples in context to increase learner understanding. Strategies for developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills teach and reinforce concepts learned. Repetition and comprehensible input are important components of this course. Some Spanish-speaking countries are explored in order to expand cultural horizons and cultivate an appreciation for the Spanish language. In addition to written tests and quizzes, students may also be assessed by means of aural activities. Homework assignments are an integral part of this course; they reinforce concepts/skills introduced and explored in class, which enable students to participate in class in a meaningful way. Completion of homework assignments is a must. Active participation is required.

Spanish II

Grades: 9, 10

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Spanish I

Spanish II is a continuation of Spanish I, including development of all modalities of the language — listening, speaking, reading, and writing — with a heavy emphasis on grammatical structures and verb tenses. Having been introduced to the present tense in Spanish I, students will further explore irregular forms of the present tense before moving on to the past, present progressive, and present perfect tenses, along with learning commands, stem-changing verbs and reflexive verbs. The big idea of Spanish II is differentiating and mastering the preterite and imperfect tenses, and using them in a variety of settings. Skills are developed through more advanced reading, writing, and listening activities, as well as opportunities for practice speaking. Students will engage with the Spanish language through video, role play, music, games, story-telling, and projects, as well as verbal and written assignments. Some Spanish-speaking countries will be explored in order to expand cultural horizons and cultivate an appreciation for the Spanish language. Students will also appreciate a Biblical approach to language learning and cultural awareness.

Spanish III**Grades: 10,11****1 credit (yearlong)**

Prerequisites: 85% min avg in Spanish II or DC Spanish II & Teacher Recommendation

This course is designed to build on the skills learned in Spanish I and II, broadening the students cultural experience with a communicative approach to learning about Hispanic culture and societies. The Spanish III course delves more deeply into the nuances of the language and focuses on more advanced grammar structure and conversation pieces. It is a challenging course best suited for students with an interest in and natural aptitude for the Spanish language. Students will be exposed to a variety of vocabulary groups and will be able to understand, speak, read and write them in the context of new linguistic and grammatical patterns. The course will offer speaking practice and frequent written work utilizing rich language while at the same time continually integrating idioms and newly acquired lexical items. The majority of the learning is done in the Spanish language, with only a little use of the English language to clarify complex issues. Even though there is a textbook used in this course, a lot of learning is completed through the use of class discussion, group presentations, and various projects throughout the year. A desire for learning, a high level of self-motivation, and self-discipline are required to keep up with the pace.

**Spanish II Dual Credit:
LETU SPAN 1113: Elementary Spanish I****Grades: 10****1 credit (yearlong)
3 college credit hours**

Span II Prerequisites: 90% min avg in Spanish I & Teacher Recommendation

Note: Class is conducted in Spanish. A basic beginning semester course for students with no previous study of Spanish. Emphasis on speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as the basis for the development of all three Communication Modes (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational). Hispanic cultures will be introduced through a variety of texts, including readings, music, art, and film. This one semester college course is taught over the full high school academic year for the DC Spanish II students.

**Spanish III Dual Credit:
LETU SPAN 1123: Elementary Spanish II****Grades: 10,11****1 credit (yearlong)
3 credit hours**

Prerequisite: SPAN 1113 with min 85% average & Instructor Approval

Note: Conducted in Spanish. For students with the equivalent of one semester of previous study of Spanish. The emphasis is on strengthening students' interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in both oral and written Spanish. Hispanic cultures are presented through a variety of authentic texts, including short pieces of literature, essays, and newspaper articles. Music, art, and film are also included. After Elementary Spanish I (SPAN 1113) and II (SPAN 1123), students should be able to engage in everyday conversations with native speakers, and read straightforward texts, both fiction and nonfiction, with relative ease. Students should be prepared to invest significant time outside of class in order to achieve their desired level of success.

American Sign Language I**Grades: 9-11****1 credit (yearlong)**

Prerequisites: Directed Studies program enrollment

Available by approval and only for students enrolled in the MCA Directed Studies program to satisfy the foreign language requirement. In ASL 1, students will learn basic vocabulary, grammar, familiarization of ASL culture and history; the class structure will include small group interaction time, review quizzes, and sign variations. By second semester, students will adapt and sign each week's memory verse. As this is a collaborative class, mutual interaction is mandatory between students and the facilitator. Cooperative effort of new vocabulary through interaction with the facilitator, as well as peers, will be graded and is paramount to be successful in this class. Assessment methods include participation, homework, tests, and ASL presentations. The course is an online course through the American Sign Language University, facilitated in the classroom by an MCA instructor. Students have home access to the online course materials. Additional material is incorporated in class from textbooks.

Prerequisites: ASL I, Directed Studies program enrollment

Available by approval and only for students enrolled in the MCA Directed Studies program to satisfy the foreign language requirement. In ASL II, students learn how to greet people, ask questions, describe things, tell stories, name things, express their feelings, sign songs, and more. Students will be further acquainted with additional sign language vocabulary, language syntax, and more intense grammar as well as fingerspelling and numbers. Students present stories which include adaptations and dialogues. An MCA instructor facilitates the instruction using *Signing Online Instruction*, a web-based course which focuses on conversational ASL, using videos to demonstrate the visual nature of signing. Students have at-home access to the e-learning platform. Additional material from textbooks is incorporated in the class. Students will have at least one experience of immersion in the deaf community by visiting a local church. Assessment methods include; participation, quizzes, tests, and ASL presentations.

Elective Courses

Physical Education / Athletics / Health

1 P.E. credit required to graduate; 1 ½ credit P.E. maximum toward graduation credits

Physical Education - 1st Period

Grades: 9-10

1 credit (yearlong)

The Physical Education course incorporates activities designed to develop strength, muscular endurance, cardiovascular efficiency, flexibility, and agility. The student will be given an opportunity to assess his/her fitness, develop skills, knowledge and understanding to enjoy a productive life for Christ. PE class is assigned at the earliest opportunity (usually 9th or 10th grade) to students who have not earned PE credit, are **not** MCA athletes, and are not or *pre-approved* for off campus P.E. credit. ***Offered alternating years; next offered 2021-22.***

Athletics: Performance Course - 3:20-4:15 M-Th Aug-May

Grades: 9-12

1 credit (yearlong)

Corequisites: participation in MCA Athletic Team; required for athletes

Athletics is a year-long strength and conditioning class for all MCA athletes -- in season and out of season -- to prepare athletes and supplement team training for overall conditioning and core body strength. **Daily attendance is required year-round as with all classes.** All MCA team athletes should anticipate working out and conditioning in PC and/or with their team every Monday-Thursday during school months. Out of season workouts end at 4:15 pm at the conclusion of the 9th period. In season workouts may begin during the Athletics period and will continue until the team practice ends for the day. The team-building and fitness training that this program helps facilitate, aids in developing leadership, character, and cohesiveness within a team while staying true to our core beliefs of training up young adults in Mind, Body, and Spirit. (½ Credit per semester with a maximum of 1 ½ credits granted during high school). *Full-year enrollment is required for MCA athletes with the exception of those who **only** participate in golf. Seniors may drop the course after completion of their final MCA sport season; use the [Athletics Drop Form](#) to do so.*

Off-Campus Physical Education

Grades: 9-12

½ credit (semester)

Prerequisite: Not a member of any MCA athletic team; currently involved in competitive sports with practice 5 or more hours per week. Application and approval required.

Contact the Academic Counselor for further details. Max 1 P.E. credit awarded.

[Application for Off-Campus P.E.](#) (accepted two weeks prior to a school semester)

Health**Grades: 10****½ credit (semester)**

This course is designed to teach students about being knowledgeable in maintaining total body health through the aspects of physical, mental, social and spiritual wellness. This course will allow, under a Biblical teaching model, for students to become aware of their body functions and what it takes to actively incorporate a healthy lifestyle that will aid in honoring and refining the bodies that God so beautifully created. Students will learn about the specialized interaction of the many systems of the body and will be given tips about nutrition, exercise and fitness models, and also disease and disease prevention that will assist them in living healthy, productive lives. In addition to their bodies, students will be encouraged to maintain good mental and spiritual health by learning how to deal with stress, peer pressure and the difficulties of life, all within the context of dependence on God. They will be taught the importance of the choices they make and will learn how to develop healthy relationships with others and how this will assist them in developing that same relationship with Christ. Fall semester course.

Principles of Health Science**Grades: 10****½ credit (semester)***Prerequisites: Health*

This course is designed to educate and inform students on the history and background of health care and health care systems as it applies to the functionality of our body systems as a unit. Students will also be exposed to various career paths and options available with the knowledge they gain in the course, such as Medical Terminology, CPR/First Aid, and disease control. Students will take a more in depth look at human physical anatomy and physiology and its structure. Discussions will include God's divine plan, His will and how these relate to reproduction, growth and development, and death. The course is highly recommended for students considering careers in healthcare services as they will gain knowledge pertinent to a wide range of healthcare professions. Spring semester course.

Psychology**Grade: 11, 12****½ credit (semester)**

In this class, we will include definitions of psychology, a Christian worldview vs secular worldview, pioneers of psychology, ppsychological approaches such as client-centered and Freudian, historical timeline with advances in psychology, and Ethical standards of "do no harm" practices, both good and poor practice examples. The student will participate in active discussions, research of topics and demonstrate knowledge of the materials covered. The second 9 weeks will cover introductory diagnosis examples, research methods, motivation types, brain/nervous system, sensation-perception, motivation-emotions, learning-memory and both sociology and social media stressors. Psychometric testing and tools to assess will be included in this section. Research papers will be written in APA format to include specific data included on the topic and findings associated with the topic.

Faith & Science**Grades: 10- 12****0.5 credit (semester)***Prerequisites: Biology, teacher recommendation*

This course explores the relationship between science and Christian faith, with the Bible as our source of truth. We will examine the history of this relationship, current debates, and emerging trends, with a focus on how a Christian worldview can inform our understanding of science and its implications. The course is divided into three primary sections: Science and Faith a History, Science and Faith Today, and Science and Faith in the Future. In the first section, we will examine the historical interactions between science and Christianity, including the conflict thesis, the Galileo affair, and the positive contributions of Christian beliefs to the development of modern science. In the second section, we will examine contemporary debates in science and religion, including the creation-evolution debate, the relationship between science and the Bible, and the ethical implications of scientific discoveries. In the third section, we will explore topics such as the intersection of artificial intelligence and theology, bioethics, and the role of science in Christian missions. Throughout the course, we will critically evaluate various approaches to the relationship between science and faith, including naturalism, supernaturalism, and deism, and consider how different perspectives can shape a person's understanding of the world around them. Grounded in scripture, the course will provide students with an opportunity to develop a reflective and critical perspective on the relationship between faith and science.

Ethics & Christian Values

Grade: 11, 12

1/2 credit (semester)

In studying Ethics from a Christian theological perspective, students will delve into the historical and philosophical contexts of moral philosophy, examining works from Ancient, Medieval, Modern, and Contemporary thinkers. This will allow them to explore the evolution of moral philosophy over time and understand how these ideas continue to shape contemporary discussions. As part of this course, an emphasis will also be placed on student-led discussions facilitated by the instructor. These discussions will challenge students to utilize critical thinking skills to develop their understanding with a Christian worldview of ethical issues and apply their knowledge to real-world situations. Through these discussions, students will develop their ability to articulate their Christian moral philosophy while engaging with the perspectives of others in a respectful and thoughtful manner.

Communications

1/2 credit speech or debate required to graduate

DEBATE TEAM:

*All levels of debate meet in one class period for mentoring and team training along with individual instruction. Participation in competitions is **required**.*

Debate

Grades: 9-12

1/2 credit (spring semester)

Debate is an introductory debate course, which teaches the fundamental concepts and skills of debate such as philosophies, principles, and styles of various debate types (LD, CX, and PF) used in high school competition. The focus will be on logical arguments that are based upon evidence/proof. Students will learn to argue both sides of an issue, and apply various debate strategies, expanding their critical thinking skills and public speaking abilities. This course will develop skills in argumentation, research, teamwork, writing, public speaking, and critical thinking. This course satisfies the speech credit requirement.

Participation in competitions is required and may be on weekends.

Advanced Debate

may be taken multiple years

Grades: 11-12

1/2 credit (fall semester)

Prerequisites: Debate I, instructor approval

Advanced Debate serves as a continuing debate experience for second, third and fourth year students that will expand upon the fundamentals of debate, refine speaking and argumentation skills, and continue to develop and utilize leadership and mentoring skills. Students will demonstrate and refine advanced research and synthesis skills to consistently produce sophisticated, competitive debate speeches and rebuttals. Students will continue to participate in competitive debate.

Participation in competitions is required and may be on weekends.

Intro to Speech Communication

Grade: 12

1/2 credit (semester)

A high school level study of basic communication principles, with emphasis placed on public speaking. Topics include classical origins of communication, communication theory, speech development and organization, use of visual aids, and strategies for informative, persuasive, and special occasion speeches. Students have multiple speaking opportunities in class. Assignments will be at a high school level. May be offered as independent study if enrollment is small.

Dual Credit Intro to Speech Communication
LETU COMM 1113

Grades: 11-12

1/2 credit (semester)
3 credit hours

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, college readiness reading and writing scores, admission into LETU

A study of basic communication principles, with emphasis placed on public speaking. Topics include classical origins of communication, communication theory, speech development and organization, use of visual aids, and strategies for informative, persuasive, and special occasion speeches. Students have multiple speaking opportunities in class. NOTE: This is a General Education core course for most degrees. We anticipate offering the dual credit speech in an online format with an MCA faculty facilitator in the classroom to support the LETU professor and the students. **Concurrent enrollment in partner university required for dual credit students; additional tuition fees apply.** College deadlines, policies & requirements apply. Semester graded course; no quarter grades. Students provide their own books.

Journalism - Broadcast News
may be taken multiple years

Grades: 10-12

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: complete application process (see below)

In Broadcast News, students will learn current, marketable skills of news and script writing, editing, basic videography, advertising, financial responsibility, and broadcast journalism skills. These skills will be applied to the broadcast news section Stang Station of the online school newspaper, *Mane Edition*. Students must also be responsible journalists operating under the same guidelines used for professional journalists but also applying a higher standard as they also represent the school's commitment to a Christian worldview. **Prerequisite: Applicants will be selected to join the staff based upon their proven level of responsibility and must submit a video, broadcasting a current news event with the application;** submit to Tara.Ackmann@mckinneychristian.org.

Journalism - Newspaper
may be taken multiple years

Grades: 9-12

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Newspaper Application ([download](#)) & workshop

In Newspaper, students will be learning current, marketable skills of news writing, editing, basic photography, electronic layout and design, advertising, financial responsibility, while working with SnoSites WordPress and Photoshop. These skills will be applied to the production of the online school newspaper, *Mane Edition*. Students must also be responsible journalists operating under the same guidelines used for professional journalists but also applying a higher standard to online and photography they print as they also represent the school's commitment to a Christian worldview. Application required. Additional requirements are mandatory participation in a summer journalism camp and selling of advertising space. **Prerequisite: Application required; students commit to attend the training workshop, held Saturday of the first weekend of school year. Applicants will be selected to join the staff based upon their proven level of responsibility and writing skills presented in their mock article submitted with the application;** submit to Tara.Ackmann@mckinneychristian.org.

Journalism - Yearbook
may be taken multiple years

Grades: 9-12

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Yearbook Application ([download](#)) & workshop (summer or 1st weekend of school); teacher recommendation

In this 21st century, cross curricular, project-based class, students will work collaboratively by using technology such as digital cameras, photo editing software and Yearbook Avenue (Josten's creative software) to digitally produce the Lower, Middle and Upper School yearbooks. Students will use writing skills, communication skills and creativity to tell the story of their school community and peers at McKinney Christian Academy in an engaging way. Applying a higher standard to the copy and photography they print is imperative as they represent the school's commitment to a Christian worldview. Students will demonstrate knowledge of graphic design and will need to think creatively when organizing information within the yearbook. In this college and career ready course, students will need to think critically to meet deadlines, track to goals and utilize multimedia to market and disseminate information that aligns with and models an actual business. Students may be required to work before, during and after school and some weekends to ensure that assignments are

completed on time. Students are encouraged to take the course multiple years, with the expectation of increased responsibility each year. Additional requirements: selling of ad space (yearbook and newspaper) mandatory participation in the August training workshop at MCA. Applicants will be selected to join the staff based upon application and teacher recommendations. Submit application to Tabi.Dossey@mckinneychristian.org.

Journalism - Yearbook Editor
may be taken multiple years

Grades: 11-12

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Completed Yearbook the prior year & selected by instructor

This Editor Only Course will offer a dedicated time period to the planning and design of each yearbook. Editing, Design and Management is a two-semester course, combining the high-level critical thinking, reading and writing skills of print journalism with the artistic, creative and aesthetic skills of the visual and graphic arts. Students will master the writing and editing of the most common forms of journalistic stories; learn and practice the basics of design and layout; analyze and evaluate images based on a set of given values; learn communication, management(time and project), and evaluation skills for individuals and small teams; use of state-of-the-art word processing and design software including the Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator) and *Yearbook Avenue*; and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of ethical responsibilities and communications law. This course will sharpen students' thinking and expression, widen their experience with people and communication, provide an environment for self-directed learning and give them confidence in their ability to see their creative ideas to completion. Being a self-starter is very important. Applying a higher standard to peer interaction and communication is imperative as they will represent the school's commitment to a Christian worldview. Students may be required to work before, during and after school and some weekends to ensure that assignments are completed on time. Editors may develop manuals as part of a portfolio. *Editors will be required to sell advertisements and are required to attend summer camp at their own expense.* They will also be required to help with and attend the Josten's on campus workshop the Saturday of the first weekend of the school year. **Prerequisite: students commit to attend the training workshop, usually held in summer. Applicants will be selected to join the staff based upon their proven level of responsibility, attention to detail and performance from the prior year in Yearbook.**

Fine Art Electives

1 credit required; all freshmen take an entry level fine art course
2 Fine Arts credits or 2 STEM elective credits required for the honors diploma

Band
may be taken multiple years

Grades: 9-12

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: 2 yrs MS band or equivalent

The MCA High School Band program consists of a marching/drumline band, jazz band, and concert band. Performance opportunities expand to festivals, parades, and special concerts throughout the year. In addition to the scheduled MCA concert events, the Mighty Mustang Marching Band plays at ALL home football games and showcases the MCA Drumline "Horsepower" during half-time. Competitions include ATSSB (public school) All-Region & All-State Band, TPSMEA (private school) All-State Band, Solo & Ensemble Contest, Concert & Sightreading Contest and possibly a festival concert. Electric Bass Guitar is only used in Jazz Band and/or high school Praise Band, not concert band. Strings are not offered at this time, however, String Bass/Upright Bass players may perform on the Drumline during marching season and String Bass during concert season. Extracurricular commitment is required. Students must demonstrate the ability to play a band instrument and read music at a freshman level. Contact Mr. Snow (ken.snow@mckinneychristian.org) to arrange an audition for students new to the MCA band. ¼ P.E. credit is awarded for each completed year of marching band.

Jazz Band**Grades: 9-12****1 credit (yearlong)**

may be taken multiple years

Prerequisites: Proficiency on Instrument

This secondary performance-based course provides students with a variety of jazz ensemble experiences. Music is studied and performed from an intermediate to advanced level of jazz repertoire. Jazz basics and technique are intermixed with possible jazz festival music for the semester. This ensemble performs during the fall and spring semesters and other performances throughout the semester with the possibility of a festival performance. Extracurricular commitment is required. Traditional jazz instruments are used in this course. (i.e. – saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, bass, drums & mallet percussion) Class will meet during a general elective class period. Please contact Mr. Snow (ken.snow@mckinneychristian.org) to set up an audition time. Acceptance by audition.

Worship Band**Grades: 10-12****1 credit (yearlong)**

may be taken multiple years

Prerequisites: Application ([download](#)), audition, proficiency on instrument

This will be a non-concert, student-led band that leads worship for chapels. Students must bring their own instruments, except for keyboard and drums which are provided by MCA. Please submit an application to and schedule an audition with Mr. Snow (ken.snow@mckinneychristian.org). Acceptance upon review of **application**, teacher/mentor references, and a live audition that meets performance proficiency.

Choir**Grades: 9-12****1 credit (yearlong)**

may be taken multiple years

Upper School Choir at McKinney Christian Academy provides an opportunity for students to develop and express their vocal abilities. Designed to expose each student to a variety of musical styles and music theory, the choral opportunities include solos, small ensembles and large ensembles. MCA participates in TPSMEA, and TAPPS competitions providing our students the opportunity to experience diverse judging and competition. Competitions include TPSMEA (private school) All-State Choir, Solo & Ensemble Contest, Concert & Sightreading Contest and possibly a festival contest. Choir members are required to perform and participate in all competitions and concerts throughout the year, including those outside of school hours and out of town as part of their grade.

Vocal Ensemble (Mixed)**Grades: 9-12****1 credit (yearlong)**

may be taken multiple years

Prerequisites: Audition

Ensemble members will study and perform a variety of musical styles including madrigals and jazz selections. Contact Mrs. Jordan (Amy.Jordan@mckinneychristian.org) to set up an audition time. Class meets during the 7:30am 1st period elective period. Auditions are open to both men and women; the final selection for the ensemble is in part dependent on the number of each gender that audition. If not enough men audition, the ensemble will be a girl's ensemble. Participation in competitions and concerts some of which are outside of school hours is a required part of being in the ensemble. Acceptance by audition.

Dual Credit Intro to Fine Arts, LETU HUMA 1153**Grades: 11-12****½ credit (semester)***Prerequisites: Admission into LETU*

A survey course giving exposure to various music and art forms through their historical developments in the western world. Musical forms from classical to modern are explored. Art forms such as architecture, sculpture, and painting are traced from the Greek-Roman period to the present. Equates to ARTS1301, DRAM1310, HUMA1315, or MUSI1306 in Texas Common Core Numbering System to qualify for the core coursework in a multitude of degree plans. Minimum 10 enrollment to offer the course. Offered alternating years with Music Theory; minimum 10 students required to be offered.

Music Theory I**Grades: 10-12****½ credit (semester)**

Musical understanding and basic knowledge of how music works as a language and how to use this language to communicate with others. This course is designed for those that want a more in depth knowledge of music, without the performance aspect. We will study the fundamentals of music starting with the basics of pitch, harmony, and rhythm, as well as some different musical genres. Music Theory is designed to develop skills in; reading music and listening to sounds and being able to identify and describe them. The material studied in this class will help students to read music when playing an instrument in band or singing in choir. Offered alternating years with DC course; may be offered 2023-24.

Music Theory II**Grades: 10-12****½ credit (semester)**

Prerequisites: Music Theory I

Music Theory II is a continuation of Music Theory I. Students will continue to learn about music theory through practical application, expounding on principals learned from Music Theory I. Students will learn to analyze music in form as well as compose original music. Offered in alternating years with DC courses; may be offered 2023-24.

Technical Theatre

may be taken multiple years

Grades: 9-12**1 credit (yearlong)**

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

This course is designed to be a technical support class for middle and upper school productions; it is not a performance class. Students will learn basic principles of scene design, set construction, lighting design, sound design, costuming, and production/stage management. Participation in outside-of-school rehearsals in the weeks prior to productions will be required.

Performance Theatre

may be taken multiple years

Grades: 9-12**1 credit (yearlong)**

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

This course is designed to advance students in their dramatic performing abilities and prepare them for competitions and stage productions. Students will have opportunities to present pieces for local and state competitions. Students will participate in fall and spring productions in one or more capacities as required for course credit. Participation in outside-of-school rehearsals in the weeks prior to productions will be required. Please schedule an interview with the teacher (Julie.Tucker@mckinneychristian.org). Acceptance is by audition and/or interview.

Visual Art - 2D**Grades: 9****1 credit (yearlong)**

This course is an introduction to two-dimensional design with emphasis on creativity, composition, content, and the elements and principles of design. A variety of techniques and media will be incorporated in the production of two-dimensional artwork as well as the study of art history and art criticism. Color theory along with black & white value will be used to complete works including drawings, printmaking, painting, and mixed-media. Sketchbook homework is required. Students will have the opportunity to compete in TAPPS.

Visual Art - 3D**Grades: 10
9th by approval****1 credit (yearlong)**

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

This course is an introduction to three-dimensional design including sculpture techniques such as modeling, assemblage, and construction as well as beginning pottery. Various techniques and media will be incorporated in the production of three-dimensional work along with the study of art history and art criticism. Exploration of a variety of media, not limited to wire, clay, wood, and found/recycled objects, will be used to create unique artworks. Sketchbook homework is required.

Students will have the opportunity to compete in TAPPS. At times, 9th grade students are enrolled if space permits and Art 2D is full.

Visual Art - Advanced

Grades: 11-12

1 credit (yearlong)

may be repeated with instructor approval

Prerequisites: 2D or 3D & Instructor Approval

Advanced Art is designed for students who have demonstrated the desire to further develop their skills in art. Working in various disciplines, a variety of techniques, mediums, and tools will be used at an advanced level. Artwork will be accomplished more independently as the personal creative process develops during completion of both two and three-dimensional artwork. Students will expand their skills and mastery of a variety of art media while placing an emphasis on personal inspiration and artistic content, and students will continue to practice critical analysis of their finished work. Creative careers and application of artistic skills will be explored. Students will begin the process of building a cohesive portfolio of work. Sketchbook homework is required. Students are expected to complete work appropriate for competition in TAPPS.

Visual Art - Portfolio

Grades: 12

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Advanced Art & Instructor Approval

Portfolio Art is focused on direction for the creation and assembly of a collection of original and technical art pieces to complete a personal portfolio with artistic breadth and depth. This portfolio will be supplemented with an artist statement, critical analysis, and photographic documentation of artwork for digital submission to help students achieve their future artistic goals. Working within various disciplines, the use of techniques, mediums and tools will be accomplished at an advanced level. Theory and exploration will be emphasized in order to deepen understanding of specific art creation processes. Advanced art criticism and theory will be implemented to help students express personal inspiration and style. Sketchbook homework is required. Students are expected to compete in TAPPS and will have opportunity for participation in additional competitions.

STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

Business Technology & Digital Marketing

Grades: 9-12

1 credit (yearlong)

Age Requirement: 16 years old by Sept 1; permission to have a personal social media account

This course introduces students to computer concepts, hardware design, and business-place applications using a critical-thinking, inquiry-based, problem-based learning (PBL), and performance-based approach to prepare students to move beyond point-and-click skills. Students learn a broad spectrum of computer terminology, hardware, software, operating systems and information systems relating to the business environment. The primary focus of this portion of the course is on practical and real-world business applications of software, including spreadsheets, basic coding, business social media, presentation graphics and business utilization of the internet. The course will be taught through the eyes of a Christian worldview of computers and technology, in which students will learn about responsible digital citizenship and understand the legal, social, and ethical issues related to the use of computers and social media in our daily life. Students must have access to the Microsoft Office Suite outside of the class and have personal social media accounts (must be 16 years old). Arrangements can be made to work on campus in the technology lab either before or after school on a scheduled basis. ***Offered alternating years; next offered 2024-25.***

AP[®] Computer Science Principles**Grades: 10-12**
9th by approval**1 credit (yearlong)***Prerequisites: Algebra I; proven work ethic and attention to detail, teacher recommendation*

Students must be *self-starters* to succeed in this course as the content is delivered through an web-based program with an MCA teacher creating assignments and overseeing the students' work. A teacher recommendation may be required attesting to students' work ethic, attention to detail and problem-solving abilities. In this course, students study the fundamentals of computing, including problem solving, working with data, understanding the Internet, cybersecurity, and programming (Python language). Computer science is everywhere, from our smartphones and video games to music, medicine, and much more. Students will learn how to creatively address real-world issues while using the same tools and processes that artists, writers, computer scientists, and engineers use to bring ideas to life. AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) can help you understand how computing and technology influence the world around you. This course is designed to be equivalent to an introductory college computer science course and is designed for all students regardless of their college or career aspirations. The course should broaden your understanding of computer science for use in a diversity of majors and careers. Students' learning will be evaluated based on daily activities, exams, projects and self-designed computer programs. Students must have access to a computer outside of class to complete assignments. The course will culminate in students taking the national AP exam in May to endeavor to earn college credit; the AP exam fee is applied to the FACTS account. [AP Computer Science Principles Course and Exam Description](#). College credit potential based upon exam score: 3 credit hours. *Meets in the same period and classroom with Intro to Java.*

Introduction to Java (Latte), Honors**Grades: 10-12****1 credit (yearlong)***Prerequisites: AP Computer Sci Principles or demonstration of skills; Algebra I*

Computer programming is the art of designing a logic path for a computer to follow. The computer does not have reasoning skills or common sense. Computer programming is the process of organizing and storing logical steps into a series of instructions that a computer can follow to mimic the reasoning ability of the human mind. Computer programming is a great skill that helps students learn to solve problems logically. "Everyone should learn how to program a computer because it teaches you how to think." ~Steve Jobs.

Students must be self-starters to succeed in this course as the content is delivered through an online program with an MCA teacher creating assignments and overseeing the students' work. This course is an introduction to computer programming using the computer programming language of Java. Java is widely used in the computer programming world. The class will cover software life cycle, programming concepts, and career opportunities. Each week the students will learn a new programming concept to apply in their own program. Programming concepts include Loops, Variables, If statements, Class basics, and Boolean logic. The programming assignments will include tasks such as accept user input, sort names, count objects, test conditions, output data, and store data to a file. *Meets in the same period and classroom with AP Computer Science Principles.*

Robotics

may be taken multiple years

Grades: 9-12**1 credit (yearlong)***Prerequisites: none; teacher approval required to continue 2nd, 3rd or 4th year*

In this project-based learning course, students will be introduced to the engineering design process as they have the opportunity to design, build, test, and ultimately compete in the FIRST Technology Challenge (FTC) robotics competition with their robot. Students will gain valuable hands-on experience as they solve real-world problems and develop skills across a wide variety of disciplines, including physics, mechanics, 3D printing, software development, electronics, communications, teamwork, and leadership. Students will also work to develop a STEM speaker series for the upper school campus that will give them opportunities to learn more about a variety of STEM careers. Students enrolled in this class are expected to participate in at least 4 robotics build days per quarter (on campus, 3 hours in length typically on Friday afternoons), up to four FTC Events (typically on Saturdays between November and March), as well as the TAPPS

State Robotics competition held March/April. Students continue to develop new and more advanced skills (software development, hardware development, modeling / 3D Printing) as they progress from year to year in the program.

Foundations of Entrepreneurship

Grades: 11-12

1/2 credit (semester)

This course is designed for students interested in excelling in the 21st Century by developing an entrepreneurial mindset capable of critical thinking and problem solving. The course will cover essential business topics that will give opportunities for students to develop a business idea and build basic knowledge of various entrepreneurial ventures through project-based learning, market research, and mentorship. The Capstone project will be the development and presentation of a business plan.

Graphic Design I

Grades: 9-12

**1/2 credit (semester)
Fall**

Prerequisites: Art or Journalism

Students will have an opportunity to use the latest computer based software, primarily Adobe Creative Suite, to learn how to produce graphics, enhance photography and create page layouts. Industry standards will be taught that include: color theory and typography. Elements and principles of design will be used to produce artwork for both printed and digital purposes. Special consideration will be given to the commercial application of this type of artwork. The students' faith and Christian walk will be emphasized further as a framework for creativity. **2 years of middle school art satisfies the prerequisite**

Graphic Design II

Grades: 9-12

**1/2 credit (semester)
Spring**

Prerequisites: Graphic Design I & instructor approval

Students will focus on visual and conceptual problem solving through advanced projects in Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. The elements and principles of design will be emphasized. A unit on video production will be introduced and involve a team video project. The students' faith and Christian walk will be emphasized further as a framework for creativity. Students will need to purchase a software subscription for use on their own computer; cost ~\$20/month (1st 30 days free).

Technology Department Internship

Grades: 11-12

1 credit (yearlong)

Prerequisites: Application ([download](#)), AP CSP or Java or proficiency; teacher recommendations

The technology program seeks students who are self directed and enjoy meeting daily challenges through serving the community of MCA. This program will provide a foundation for those who enjoy and embrace the challenges associated with technology. Students are expected to provide a various range of support to our staff and students; therefore, students should be adequately equipped to meet those expectations. Solving technology problems provide students with "real life" situations that allow for academics and personal growth. Students may be exposed to advanced problem-solving techniques; end-user support; computer and network maintenance; researching and project implementation ; website maintenance; multimedia training. (maximum 3 students per year). Must submit three teacher letters of recommendation (unless returning from previous year), and have no infractions of the MCA Honor Code or discipline issues from the prior school year. *Pass/Fail Course*

Core Subject as Elective: 2nd Math or 2nd Science

Grades: 11-12

1/2 - 1 credit

Prerequisites: varies by course; counselor approval

Upper level math (beyond Alg II and Geom) or science course (junior or senior level) for a second math or science in the same year. Based upon availability. See individual math and science course descriptions.

Academic Non-Departmental Electives

Personal Finance

Grades: 11-12

½ credit (semester)

Prerequisites: Algebra II

Financial planning is one aspect of Christian life. As followers of Christ, we strive to live out a biblically-based worldview in our everyday choices, including our financial choices. This course provides the perfect context for shaping a student's relationship and perspective on money as a component of biblical stewardship and contentment, living a generous life, avoiding debt, planning wisely and protecting investments. The course is based on Dave Ramsey's Foundations in Personal Finance, High School edition. Dave Ramsey teaches that personal finance is 80% behavior and 20% head knowledge so teaching teens to take control of their financial planning and to develop educational and career goals to help them obtain and grow their income over time is a core part of the class. **For seniors who have completed 4 math credits, personal finance may serve as a senior math course for one semester.

Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Grades: 9-12

½ credit (semester)

The Teen CERT class will address preparedness and response capabilities of upper school students. The Teen CERT class will train students in emergency preparedness and basic response procedures to ensure that they have the skills needed to protect themselves, and assist others, in the event of an emergency. Teen CERT students can support a school's emergency operations plan and assist emergency services personnel, thus providing valuable surge capacity to local first responders when needed. In addition, students will take home lessons learned in the classroom, spreading the preparedness message to their families. The training of these students will have a tremendous impact on how well we mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from technical and natural disasters both today and in the years to come. *Likely to be offered every other year; determination will be made annually based upon demand and course enrollment.*

Non-Academic or Non-Graded Courses and No-Credit Options

Limit of 1 course per semester for grades 9-11

Limit of 2 per semester for grade 12

Credit Courses

Development Office

Grades: 11-12

1 credit (yearlong)

Internship/Aid

Pass/Fail

may be taken multiple years

Prerequisites: Graphic Design, teacher approval

The Development Office plans, promotes and hosts all the MCA special events such as the auction, Mustang Fun Run, Grandparents Day, and Tee It Up Golf tournament. The student assistant will be included in some event planning and would work with photography, designing flyers, printing, cutting, applying mailing labels, stuffing envelopes, creating and managing online volunteer registrations and, if skilled, may learn to design ads for MCA. They will promote school events by hanging posters on campus, distributing flyers to students and teachers, and placing signage outside. The tasks will vary each day. *Pass/Fail credit*

Elementary School Internship
may be taken multiple years

Grades: 9-12

**½ credit (semester)
1 credit (yearlong)
Pass/Fail**

Prerequisites: teacher recommendation and principal approval

This internship is geared towards high school students who are interested in pursuing a career in elementary education. A classroom is assigned to the student for the school year and the student will work closely with the teacher. Activities include grading papers, giving spelling tests, preparing handouts/projects for class, running errands, individual work with students, reading with students, centers. *Pass/Fail*

Media Technology Internship (Fine Arts Dept)
may be taken multiple years

Grades: 10-12

**1 credit (yearlong)
Pass/Fail**

Prerequisites: Worship Team application ([download](#)) required

Learn to operate the media and technology equipment used in the Student Life Center for productions, concerts, chapel services, etc. Students will assist the Praise Band in all rehearsals and performances. *Pass/Fail. Application required.*

Library Assistant
may be taken multiple years

Grades: 10-12

**½ credit (semester) or
1 credit (yearlong)
Pass/Fail**

Prerequisite: Principal approval

Students will assist library staff with tasks such as circulating and shelving books, assisting with LS Library classes, helping LS & MS students, errands, organization, etc. This is a pass/fail course-no grade points are earned. Principal approval required. Students may not have both a study hall and serve as Library Assistant unless the student is a senior. *Pass/Fail Course.*

Office Assistant
may be taken multiple years

Grades: 10-12

**½ credit (semester) or
1 credit (yearlong)
Pass/Fail**

Prerequisite: Principal approval

Students will assist office staff and teachers with tasks such as photocopying, errands, organization, etc. This is a pass/fail course-no grade points are earned. Principal approval required. Students may not have both a study hall and serve as Teacher/Office Assistant unless the student is a senior. *Pass/Fail Course*

Study Skills and Strategies (Dir. Studies)
may be taken multiple years

Grades: 9-12

**1 credit (yearlong)
Numeric Grade**

Prerequisite: This course is by invitation only through the Directed Studies Program.

The goal of the Directed Studies Program is to assist students with learning differences through various techniques and strategies. Emphasis is placed on assisting with the following: planners, organization skills, self-advocacy, time management, memory skills, test-taking strategies, the enhancement of comprehension skills, and vocabulary development as well as accepting personal responsibility, discovering self-motivation, gaining self-awareness and active learning. In class activities will include tools needed for strategies to improve reading, taking notes, organizing study materials, rehearsing and memorizing study materials and taking tests. The program is designed to assist students with learning differences to achieve their maximum potential in the mainstream classroom. Two underlying principles are essential to the success of the program. One is that students with learning differences can succeed in the mainstream with the appropriate accommodations and support. The second principle is that students who learn differently may need a supplemental curriculum in reading and/or math. Students will apply the study strategies to current course assignments in class and as homework. Grades are earned in this course.

Non-Credit Courses

Study Hall

may be taken multiple years

Grades: 9-12

**No credit
(semester or yearlong)**

Students use the class period to study under the supervision of a faculty member. Limit of one study hall per year. Senior privileges permit two study halls.

Study Hall 1st Period

Grades: 9-12

**No credit
(semester or yearlong)**

There is no supervised study hall during this period; students arrive at school in time for 1st period class, go to the library to study or go to teachers' classrooms for tutoring time. Please refer to the schedule section of this handbook. MCA cannot guarantee a student will not have a class during zero hour every year; the student's course selections and graduation needs will dictate if a course is scheduled for the student during zero hour.

Career Resources for Course Planning

Use these resources to view the education and knowledge needed for various careers to help you identify appropriate courses to prepare you for your college plans. Utilize the occupational outlook for career growth expectations. View degree plans for the majors on college websites.

Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

[O*Net Online](#), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor

[Naviance Student Career Planning Reference Guide](#) Naviance Student Login: <https://student.naviance.com/mckinney>

College Board AP Courses and Career Clusters (apply the same principal to dual credit courses)

[Math Occupations](#)

Course Request Process

Step One: Create a Four Year Plan to Meet MCA Graduation Requirements

- Enter high school credit courses completed, in progress and planned through 12th grade.
- Minimum 7; maximum 8 *academic* courses per year + Athletics class (for MCA athletes) limit of one course per semester from the [Non-Academic or Non-Graded Courses and No-Credit Options](#) category
- Circle diploma type you are planning to complete (College Prep, Honors I, Honors II)
- Note special circumstances, needs or questions.
- You will review and revise this plan each year

Step Two: Complete a Course Request Form for the 2023-24 Year

- 5-6 core courses & indicate level (CP, Hon, DC, AP) for courses that have different levels (check prerequisites)
- 2-3 elective periods: 1st choice & 2nd choice (order of preference) for each available elective period

Select two semester-long electives to = one elective period.

- Write acceptable electives in rank order; if a study hall or internship is desired, include it in your rank order.
- Honors, Dual Credit & AP Course Requests:
 - Ensure you meet the prerequisite course requirements and admission criteria.
 - Ask current teachers for recommendations to enroll (teacher signs your form for recommendation). Applies to Advanced Art, Portfolio Art, Advanced Debate, Advanced Theatre, returning Robotics, etc. *For example, 10th graders interested in taking dual credit US History in 11th grade would ask for recommendations from the World & Church History teacher & English teacher.*
- Circle the diploma type you are planning to complete.
- Note special circumstances, needs or questions.

Step Three: Complete Applications & Schedule Auditions for Courses Where Required

- Find the links to the applications in the description of the course (in the Academic Planning Guide)
- Courses that **require applications**: Worship Band, Media Tech Intern (for worship band), Journalism (broadcast, newspaper, yearbook), Technology Department Internship, Off Campus PE (app due in August)
- Courses that **require auditions**: Vocal Ensemble, Worship Band, Advanced Theatre

Step Four: Prepare all of the above & place in the bin in your English classroom by May 12th.

Make a copy of each one for your own records

Required:

- Student name (first & last) on Four Year Plan Form
- Student name (first & last) on Course Request Form
- Parent approval signature on Four Year Plan Form
- Parent approval signature on Course Request Form

Place all documents in the bin in to your English Classroom by Friday, May 12th

Academic and College Guidance for Course Planning ... and Forms to Submit

Due May 12th

9th Grade:

[Guidance on Planning for 9th Grade](#) Click to View

[Incoming Freshman: 4 Year Plan and Course Request Form](#) Click to Open & Print

10th Grade:

[Guidance on Planning for 10th Grade](#) Click to View

[Incoming Sophomore: 4 Year Plan and Course Request Form](#) Click to Open & Print

11th Grade:

[Guidance on Planning for 11th Grade](#) Click to View

[Incoming Junior: 4 Year Plan and Course Request Form](#) Click to Open & Print

12th Grade:

[Guidance on Planning for 12th Grade](#) Click to View

[Incoming Senior: 4 Year Plan and Course Request Form](#) Click to Open & Print

Transfer / Blank Form:

[Transfer Student/Blank 4 Year Plan & Course Request Forms](#) Click to Open & Print

*Course Applications (**due May 12th**)*

Journalism: Broadcast: see course description

Journalism: Newspaper Staff: [print](#)

Journalism: Yearbook Staff: [print](#)

Worship Band: [print](#)

Technology Department Intern: [print](#)

Media Technology Intern (Worship Band Media): [print](#)

Off-Campus P.E.: [print](#) (due August)

Contacts for Auditions:

Theatre: Julie.Tucker@mckinneychristian.org

Worship Band & Jazz Band: Ken.Snow@mckinneychristian.org

Vocal Ensemble (mixed/co-ed): Amy.Jordan@mckinneychristian.org