



Upper School Planning Path

This guide provides a snapshot into what a typical Upper school student might study throughout their time at AIM. Using the **4 Threads to the Future** curricular framework, a student can choose to pursue their passion in a specific thread, or explore a range of options in multiple threads.



Building Blocks

All of the 4 Threads are built on a strong **Liberal Arts** curricular foundation. Students explore courses in all subjects, providing core competencies in each, while infusing **21st Century Skills** into their courses along the way.

English

4 years of practice in reading and writing of all genres.

Math

3 or 4 years of Math through the Calculus level.

Science

3 or 4 years of laboratory Sciences.

Language

2 or 3 years of Latin or another Foreign Language.

History

3 or 4 years of expository thinking, reading, and writing.



Ability to work with others in a **collaborative** and constructive manner.



Communication proficiency as an analytical and expository writer, and public speaker.



Creative approach to problems that emphasizes generative thinking.



Proficiency as a flexible problem solver, and positive **critical thinker**.

An example scope of **core** courses taken throughout your Upper School experience:

Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4	
English	Foundations of Literature	English	Self-Realization in Literature	English	American Literature	English	Senior Seminar Literature
Math	Algebra I	Math	Geometry	Math	Algebra II	Math	Precalculus or Statistics
Science	Biology	Science	Chemistry	Science	Physics	Science	Senior Seminar Global Science
Language	Linguistics	Language	Latin I	Language	Latin II	History	Senior Seminar History
History	Ancient Civilizations	History	Global Cultures	History	Modern American History	Dual Enrollment	

Core courses also offered at the **Honors** level.



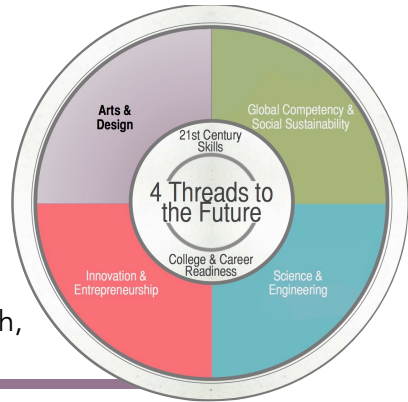
- History: Art History
- English: Shakespeare
- Entrepreneurship: Intro to Marketing
- Science: Physics
- English: 21st Century American Lit

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 Intro to Psychology
Intro to Philosophy
Intro to Sociology
- 
 Intro to Core Arts Skills
- 
 Intro to Entrepreneurship



Upper School Planning Path - Arts + Design

Use this guide to ensure you have the strongest curriculum possible as you venture toward something in the A+D thread. If you are looking into the A+D field, you'll notice a strong emphasis placed on Creativity and Expression, but also English, Writing, and core 21st Century Skills.



Using your Liberal Arts foundation, add some of these **elective** and **blended** courses to complete your curriculum:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Elective I Arts + Design I	Elective II Arts + Design II	Elective III Figure Drawing	Elective V Independent Study: Charcoal & Clay
Blended I Intro to the 4 Threads	Blended II Intro to Art History	Elective IV 3D Sculpture	Elective VI Portfolio Building

Pursue these extras to ensure you have the strongest possible college application and track toward success:

Strengthening Your Time In The Upper School

Experiences

Consistent **experience in artistic environments outside of AIM** at a range of places: Arts Schools, Community Art Centers, Maker Spaces, etc.

Testing

Many art schools are **test-optional**, but some of the most prestigious require strong test scores.

Summer

Participation summer programs, with the goal of **building a volume of work** and reading quality writings.

Leadership

Use your **100 required hours** to explore places such as the Handworks studio, and NextFab Philly. Dedicate your time to working with others and being a leader in your activities.

Capstone

Using your **Senior Seminar** research to study an A+D area more closely. This may be something related to your desired future track, or something that provides you with a breath of background knowledge.

Portfolio

Begin this volume of work **as early as possible**, but schools really look at work from **Junior year and after**.



Student Snapshot - Kendall '17

Kendall's Thread Path

Featured Coursework

American Literature
Science & History of Stained Glass
Honors English

Experiences

Philadelphia Symmetry Synchronized Ice Skating Team ; Service through Jack & Jill ; AIM Student Ambassador ; Arts Designer Jack & Jill

Leadership

Ice Skating Gold Medalist, Varsity Sport Captain, Leadership Camp Neidig, Girls on The Run Junior Coach

Core Summer Reading

To Kill A Mockingbird (Lee), *Between The World and Me* (Coates), *Enrique's Journey* (Nazario)

Top 5 College Options



Senior Capstone

Eastern European Studies
Research: Repression & Freedom of Architecture in Eastern Europe

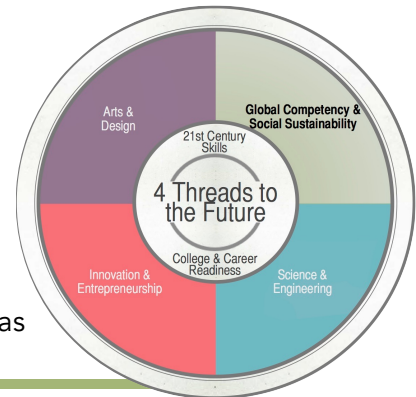
Elective Courses

Arts + Design Studio
Fashion Design
Portfolio
Figure Drawing



Upper School Planning Path - Global Competency + Social Sustainability

Use this guide to ensure you have the strongest curriculum possible as you venture toward something in the G+S thread. If you are looking into the G+S field, you'll notice a strong emphasis placed on cultural awareness and empathy, as well as English, Writing, and core 21st Century Skills.



Using your Liberal Arts foundation, add some of these **elective** and **blended** courses to complete your curriculum:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Elective I Privilege in American Thought	Elective II History & Science of Stained Glass	Elective III Global Youth United	Elective V Dual Enrollment: Social Media Communication
Blended I Intro to the 4 Threads	Blended II Government & Geography	Elective IV Intro to Art History	Elective VI Intro to Philosophy

Pursue these extras to ensure you have the strongest possible college application and track toward success:

Strengthening Your Time In The Upper School

Experiences	Testing	Summer	Leadership	Capstone
Involvement in Student Council , and additional clubs both in and outside of school. Involvement in Eye-to-Eye , as a student ambassador, or one's faith community.	The Practice ACT , and official ACT tests with strong scores in English. Many G+S focused students should also look at SAT II subject tests depending on college requirements.	Participation in at least one summer program at a college that explores a related field of interest. Additional summer service and travel experiences are strongly encouraged, and readings are a must.	Using your 100 required hours to explore options in the G+S fields. Participation as a founding member or leader of an in-school club, or sport.	Using your Senior Seminar research to study an G+S area more closely. This may be something related to your desired future track, or something that provides you with a breath of background knowledge.



Student Snapshot - Sam '17

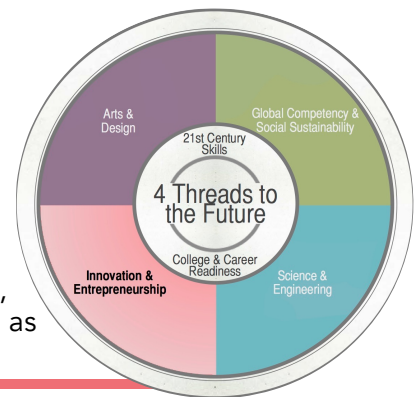
Sam's Thread Path





Upper School Planning Path - Innovation + Entrepreneurship

Use this guide to ensure you have the strongest curriculum possible as you venture toward something in the I+E thread. If you are looking into the I+E field, you'll notice emphasis placed on problem solving, strong Math and Writing skills, as well as the core 21st Century Skills.



Using your Liberal Arts foundation, add some of these **elective** and **blended** courses to complete your curriculum:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Elective I Start-Up Corps I	Elective II Start-Up Corps II	Elective III Social Media Marketing	Elective V Independent Study: Venture Funding
Blended I Intro to the 4 Threads	Blended II Intro to Statistics	Elective IV Business Ethics	Elective VI Dual Enrollment: Intro to Sociology

Pursue these extras to ensure you have the strongest possible college application and track toward success:

Strengthening Your Experience

Experiences	Testing	Summer	Leadership	Capstone
Involvement in AIM's Start-Up Corps program with pursuit of pitch competition opportunities and work with ventures at through Start-Up mentors or other partners.	The Practice ACT , and official ACT tests with strong scores in English, and Math. Many I+E focused students must be aware of general Math requirements.	Participation in at least one summer program (preferably multiple) that provides opportunities to explore collaboration and innovation with others.	Using your 100 required hours to explore options in the I+E fields. Start a venture that pushes you to think critically about markets, production, finance, management, inventory, and collaboration.	Using your Senior Seminar research to study an G+S area more closely. This may be something related to your desired future track, or something that provides you with a breath of background knowledge.



Student Snapshot - Andrew '17

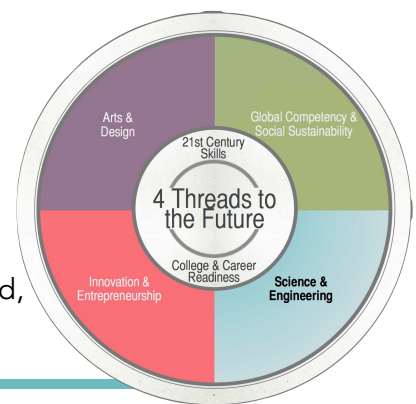
Andrew's Thread Path





Upper School Planning Path - Science + Engineering

Use this guide to ensure you have the strongest curriculum possible as you venture toward something in the S+E thread. If you are looking into the S+E field, you'll notice emphasis placed on numeracy skills, critical problem solving, and core 21st century skills in communication, writing, and speaking.



Using your Liberal Arts foundation, add some of these **elective** and **blended** courses to complete your curriculum:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Elective I Engineering & Robotics I	Elective II Engineering & Robotics II	Elective III Mechanical Engineering	Elective V Independent Study: Human Centered Design
Blended I Intro to the 4 Threads	Blended II Government & Geography	Elective IV Intro to Arduino	Elective VI Intro to Circuits

Pursue these extras to ensure you have the strongest possible college application and track toward success:

Strengthening Your Experience

Experiences	Testing	Summer	Leadership	Capstone
Involvement on AIM's FIRST Robotics team, and engaging in our Robotics lab. Working in our outdoor classroom and involvement in any sort of extra science research available.	The Practice ACT , and official ACT tests with strong scores in English, and Math. S+E students should also look at SAT II subject tests in Math and Physics.	Participation in at least one summer program at a school with Science options. Can include: Penn, Stevens, TCNJ, Lehigh, McDaniel, or other local opportunities.	Using your 100 required hours to explore options in the I+E fields. Work with AIM's FTC robotics team to mentor younger aspiring engineers to be engaged, critical problem solvers in the lab.	Using your Senior Seminar research to study an G+S area more closely. This may be something related to your desired future track, or something that provides you with a breath of background knowledge.



Student Snapshot - Tim '17

Tim's Thread Path

