

OHS Financial Literacy Requirement FAQ & Resources

Students considering their financial literacy and Social Studies requirement options for the Senior year can use the information and resources below to help decide which option is best.

The main points to remember:

- **Students must complete .5 credit (1 semester) of a financial literacy course to graduation.** The following courses meet this requirement
 - Business and Personal Finance > *Business course*
 - Economics > *Social Studies course*
 - AP Microeconomics > *Social Studies course*
 - AP Macroeconomics > *Social Studies course*
- **Students must earn 4 full credits of Social Studies to graduate.** Students need to earn 1 full credit of Social Studies in their Senior year to meet this requirement

Personal Finance FAQs

- **Why should I take Personal Finance?** Managing your money as an adult can be complicated. Most experienced adults recommend learning this content while you are still in high school!
- **Is Personal Finance easier than Economics?** Not necessarily. Even though the class teaches practical life situations, it is not easier than learning about the academic theories of economics.
- **What do 4 year colleges want me to take?** As long as students have an overall rigorous Senior year schedule, colleges do not have a preference for students to take an Economics vs Personal Finance course.
- **Can I take Personal Finance to satisfy my SS requirement?** No. Personal Finance only meets your financial literacy requirement. Students must take 4 credits of social studies to graduate. Personal Finance is a Business class, not a Social Studies class. Seniors usually need 1 full year (credit) of Social Studies to graduate.
- **What if I took Personal Finance my Junior year?** Great! You have met your financial literacy requirement early! There is an option to select this when you register online. You do not need to retake Personal Finance or sign up for any Econ courses.
- **Can I take Personal Finance and an Economics class?** Yes! Students interested in business and finance are encouraged to take both.

AP Economics FAQs

- **What is the difference between AP Micro and AP Macroeconomics?**
[Here is a video describing AP Micro Econ](#)
[Here is a video describing AP Macro Econ](#)
[Here is a side by side chart comparing the two options](#)
- **Will taking both AP Micro and AP Macro satisfy my SS requirement?** - YES! AP Macro and AP Micro are both Social Studies courses and financial literacy courses. Taking both meets all Senior SS requirements.
- **Can I take one AP Economics course to satisfy my SS requirement?** - NO. You must take 1 full credit of Social Studies to meet your requirement. If you take only one

AP Economics course, you must take another Social Studies course to accumulate 1 full SS credit.

- **Can I really take an AP class in the fall and pass the AP test in the Spring? - YES!** Historically students taking the fall class actually do better than the ones in the spring even with that layoff time
- **Should I take both?** Mr. Beckstrom encourages this! The vast majority of AP micro (fall semester) students will continue on to take AP macro (in the spring). Students interested in careers in business will especially benefit from taking both.
- **Will I be behind if I only take one of the two?** NO ... they supplement each other well because they both deal with supply and demand but there are no key concepts that you would need from one class for the other ... they are 2 different classes
- **Should I take AP Micro or AP Macro or just regular ECON?** If you are on the fence TAKE THE AP CLASS! You can't get college credit from regular ECON but can in AP! Don't sell yourself short!