

College Credit Options

Obtaining College Credit

There are four options to obtain college credit while enrolled at BSM. A brief explanation of the options is offered below. Be sure to access each website for specific information as well as researching the requirements of any college or university you are interested in.

Advanced Placement	College in the Schools <small>CIS course grades are weighted and factored into BSM GPA</small>	PACC <small>PACC course grades are weighted and factored into BSM GPA</small>	PSEO <small>PSEO course grades are NOT weighted or factored into BSM GPA</small>
<p>Benilde-St. Margaret's School offers over twenty AP courses to interested and eligible students. AP courses at BSM are first year-college equivalent courses, approved by the College Board. BSM does require students who enroll in any AP course to sit for the May AP exam OR submit the required portfolio of work. Many colleges and universities will provide college credit based on these test results.</p> <p>Course descriptions and requirements will be found under each academic department.</p> <p>Of note: At an information session presented by Georgetown, Harvard, Penn, Duke and Stanford, the admission reps indicated that whether a college accepts the credit or not, the expectation at highly selective schools is that students have taken AP courses and tests because these are the best ways to prepare for the rigors of the freshman year in college.</p>	<p>College in the Schools (CIS) allows motivated juniors and seniors to earn college credits by taking University of Minnesota, Twin Cities courses, at BSM.</p> <p>Students receive both high school and college credits.</p> <p>For more information online users select Learn more about CIS</p> <p>Other users copy and paste this address in your browser:</p> <p>https://ccaps.umn.edu/college-in-the-schools</p>	<p>Saint Mary's Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC) offers college- level learning experiences and college credit to participating private high school programs, with the same expectations, workload, learning activities, projects, and exams as the courses taught to first-year students at Saint Mary's.</p> <p>Students receive both high school and college credits.</p> <p><i>For more information:</i> Online users select: Learn more about PACC.</p> <p>Other users copy and paste this address in your browser: https://www.smumn.edu/smc/show_page.php?pageId=168</p>	<p>PSEO is a program allowing high school students to get a head start by taking college courses at colleges and universities. Juniors and seniors in high school may enroll, full-or part- time in courses and will receive concurrent high school and college credit.</p> <p>Students may apply to the University of Minnesota and all of its branches, all the Minnesota State Universities, community colleges, technical colleges or Minnesota private liberal arts colleges. College tuition, fees and textbooks are paid for by the State of Minnesota.</p> <p><i>For more information:</i> Online users select: Learn more about PSEO.</p> <p>Other users copy and paste this address in your browser: https://education.mn.gov/mde/fam/dual/pseo</p>

College Credit Options

College in the Schools (CIS)

Allows motivated juniors and seniors to earn college credits by taking University of Minnesota, Twin Cities courses, at BSM. Courses listed are subject to University of Minnesota approval.

BSM offers Combined Courses that allow students to learn about topics from multiple perspectives. For courses found below, they are being taught with an engineering teacher, as well as a teacher from another department. You will also see these course listings shown on that department's program of studies page.

Creative Problem Solving (S1 or S2)

*One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors
Three college credits from the University of Minnesota*

Sophomores may register with instructor permission and a 3.0 or better GPA.

Creativity is essential for success across disciplines and highly valued by employers. Embracing creativity gives meaning and value to how you approach your life, solve problems, and pretty much everything you do. A creative mindset not only unveils opportunities but also nurtures an appreciation for the iterative nature of the creative process, embracing growth arising from perceived setbacks or failures. This course is designed to move you out of your existing comfort zones, encouraging you to explore beyond initial solutions and recognize the inherent value of considering multiple perspectives. The only wrong answer is having only one answer. Central to the mission of the course is the development of your personal traits of creativity, thoughtful analysis, ingenuity, experimentation, and the ability to solve problems both individually and collaboratively. The curriculum, provided by the College of Design at the University of Minnesota, awards 3 college credit hours upon successful completion. It will be necessary for students to put in additional time outside of class to fully complete required projects, readings and assignments.

Introduction to Literature: Poetry, Drama, Narrative (LITR, WI)

*One semester, one credit, open to seniors.
Four college credits from the University of Minnesota.*

This is a writing-intensive course that also meets the Literature Core requirement. From epic battles against monsters in legendary kingdoms to stories about characters in worlds like our own, literature engages us with the diverse perspectives and experiences that make up our communities and world. This course introduces students to ways of understanding and appreciating literature in English across cultures and historical periods. Through this course, we will develop skills to help us understand literature, especially the ability to read language closely (a skill valuable in many disciplines beyond literature).

We will explore how writers use language and literary aspects, such as genre, voice, tone, symbol, motif, theme, imagery, narrative, and form. We also will learn how to write about literature, sharing our interpretations of how and why literary works have meaning for ourselves and others, while viewing them through critical cultural lenses, including ways to understand how gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and class can function in literary texts.

College Credit Options

St. Mary's University of Minnesota Program of Advance College Credit

Benilde-St. Margaret's School is partnering with Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Program of Advanced College Credit (PACC) to bring undergraduate-level courses into our classrooms. Students choosing to attend Saint Mary's University will earn college credit. Colleges and universities may recognize coursework completed at other institutions. Check with your college of choice regarding their individual transfer credit policy.

PACC: Accounting II (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors, and seniors

Prerequisite: Accounting I

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program (see page 58). Accounting II builds on concepts from Accounting I to provide a more complex understanding of financial accounting with sections on inventory, specialized journals, and corporate accounting. The class also introduces students to managerial accounting concepts.

PACC: Investing & Portfolio Management (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program (see page 58). The course covers the basic principles of investing from the perspective of a professional portfolio manager. Students in the class actively manage a live six-figure stock portfolio that is part of the BSM endowment fund. Students model the portfolio in Microsoft Excel and use it to create various analytical tools to help make sound investment decisions. Course content includes valuation models, risk assessment, analysis of financial securities, portfolio theory, investment banking, time value of money, and financial derivatives.

PACC: Thinking Theologically (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one BSM credit, open to seniors

Prerequisite: satisfactory completion of Theology 10 Discipleship and Theology 10 Morality with a "B" in both semesters.

Three credit college level options

This course is eligible for PACC credit (see page 58). This **college-level** course introduces students to the methods and practices of thinking theologically through an examination of some of the major questions people have asked and found answers to within religious contexts, especially the Judeo-Christian narrative. This course pays particular attention to the human experience of suffering, and how those different experiences shape our theological questions, both past and present. The course also embeds how theology is examined at a university defined by multidisciplinary approaches to truth and knowledge.

AP Biology (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors

This course is eligible for PACC credit.

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology or Honors Biology; completion of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.

This course is a second-year biology course, designed to be equivalent to an introductory biology course intended for biology majors during the first year of college. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam in Biology. Students will explore major concepts in Biology, including cell structure and function, the cell cycle, DNA structure and function, principles of genetic inheritance, physiology and anatomy of animals and plants, biodiversity, ecology, and evolution.

Students should have a strong understanding of basic biology and chemistry concepts. Given the amount of material covered on the AP exam, the course will move at a quick pace.

AP Statistics (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program (see page 58)

Prerequisite: Completion of two semesters of one of the following courses with the required grade indicated Algebra II with a grade of "A" in both semesters.

FST with a grade of "A-" or higher. Precalculus with a grade of "C+" or higher.

This is a rigorous writing intensive course designed to teach students how to organize, display, and interpret data. An emphasis will be placed on the four major themes of the AP Statistics curriculum: exploring data, sampling, and experimental design, anticipating patterns with probability and simulation, and statistical inference. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.