FRESHMAN YEAR COURSE SELECTION FOR 2025-26

Requirements, Options, and Electives

ALL FRESHMEN ARE REQUIRED TO CARRY A MINIMUM OF 7.5 CREDITS.

This overview document is meant to be a companion guide for you as you make course selections in PowerSchool in March. For more details on placement decisions and course content, see the Freshman Course Placement Guide on the Academics page of our website: www.lschs.org/academics/classof29.

Required Courses	***Credits***	***Notes***
Religion	1	**Religion 9 – Catholic Lasallian Identity.** All students will be registered for this course.
Mathematics	1	**ALL incoming freshmen** must take a placement test in Math. That score, along with your entrance test scores on the Math sections, will enable us to identify the best course placement for you. The placement test covers a range of topics from pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, and Algebra 2. If a student hopes to take a course beyond Algebra 2 Honors in freshman year, then he must contact the Chair of the Math Department, Mr. Nolan (nolang@lschs.org). Placement tests will be given in late April. Most students will take **Algebra 1** or **Algebra 1Y**, a course with additional meeting time and support. (Students in Algebra 1 Y will be notified during the summer.) Many students will be placed in **Accelerated Algebra 1 and Geometry**, **Algebra 2**, **Honors Algebra 2**, or sometimes in **AP Precalculus**. Again, if a student has had a unique advanced math experience in middle school, he should contact the Chair of the Math Department to discuss the placement pathway.
English	1	Most students will take **English 9 – Introduction to Literature and Composition**. Some students will be placed in the "**Y**" version of that course and will receive additional class time and support from their teacher. That determination will happen in the summertime. Students who scored in the 80th percentile or higher on each of the (1) Verbal, (2) Language, and (3) Reading Comprehension sections of the Entrance Exam will automatically qualify for the **Honors Introduction to Literature and Composition**. They will see that option when they register in PowerSchool.
World Languages	1	Freshmen choose from among three world languages: **Chinese**, **Latin**, or **Spanish**. Only those students who in 8th grade have had a full year of one of these languages, in a class that meets every day, are eligible to take a placement test to try to pass into level 2 or 2 Honors. Otherwise, all freshmen will be placed in level 1 of the language of their choice. This year, we will look at the entrance test scores of the students who selected Latin and form an Honors Latin 1 class. We will be in touch with those individual students in May.
Science	1	Students who are recipients of an Academic Scholarship[1] will automatically be placed into **Honors Biology**. The rest of the students will have **Biology**. Freshmen, who did not receive an academic scholarship and who would like to begin freshman year with Honors Biology, must take a placement test to see if they are eligible.
History and Political Science	1	Most freshmen will take **World History 1**. Those freshmen with an Academic Scholarship[1] will automatically be placed in **Advanced Placement Human Geography**. They will see that course option in PowerSchool. If there is room in those classes after registration, additional students who scored in the low 90s (national composite on the Entrance Exam) may also be eligible for this course. The Chair of the History and Political Science Department will register those additional students. If a student does not wish to take an AP course, he simply needs to let us know by not selecting it in PowerSchool.
Innovation and Design	1	The vast majority of freshmen will be entered into **Introduction to Design and Technology**. This course not only acclimates our newest students to the technology they will need to manage their student lives at La Salle, but also it enables students to dabble in various areas of technology to see if future electives in those areas will be of interest.

		This year, we are offering a pathway to bypass this introductory course and enter upper-level courses like A.P. Computer Science Principles or Emerging Technology, among others. To be considered, a student will need to fill out a form, describe/show his experience, and take a placement test. Details are on the Class of 2029 website. This is only for students who want to accelerate their studies in this academic area.
Physical Education	.5	All freshmen will have one semester of Physical Education and one semester of Aquatics.
Group Advisory	0	Freshmen will gather along with their Grade Level Counselor in the small group setting of a classroom for **Group Advisory 9**. This course meets once during the eight-day cycle.
Freshman Proseminar	0	This special course runs twice during the eight-day cycle and is linked in a block on the schedule with Physical Education and Group Advisory. This course promotes La Salle's culture and reinforces the behaviors and habits that will lead to success here and beyond.
Lunch	0	Lunch will be automatically scheduled during one of the designated periods each day.

Electives	***Credits***	***Notes***
Art (elective)	1	Students who are interested in learning through a wide variety of art experiences can elect to take a full-year course in **Foundations Art**. To clarify, this is an **optional elective**. It meets 3 of 4 days in a cycle all year.
Music (elective)	.5 - 1.5	Students who plan to play a musical instrument at La Salle will attend an evaluation of their skills in April. Most freshmen end up in **Introductory Music Performance**. Those students also take **Instrumental Instruction**, a course that focuses on one instrument and has small class sizes with an instructor. Please note that students do not need musical experience to start to learn a musical instrument here at La Salle. They would register for only Instrumental Instruction.
Chorus (elective)	1	Any freshmen are invited to take **Freshman Chorus**. No previous experience is required. To clarify, this too is an **optional elective**.
Science (elective)	1	For the first time, we are opening up **Engineering Design** to freshmen who want a jumpstart in the area of engineering. This yearlong project-based course is designed for freshmen **and sophomores** and is the foundational course for the Engineering Capstone.
David Program* ***(Not an elective - program placement)**	.5	Students with documented learning differences and who are enrolled in La Salle's David Program are rostered for the course titled **Academic Support 1**. These students are scheduled to meet almost daily with their Learning Specialists.

([1] Academic scholarships include Founder, Presidential, Principal, McClean, D'Alfonso)

Contact Information. If you are seeking additional information about placements or auditions after reading the course descriptions and placement details, you should contact the appropriate Department Chairperson.

- Math – Mr. Gary Nolan
  nolang@lschs.org, 215-402-4185
- Science – Mr. Ryan McDowell
  mcdowellr@lschs.org, 215-402-4376
- World Language – Mrs. Jennifer Worthington
  worthingtonj@lschs.org, 215-402-4173
- English – Mrs. Christine Meko
  mekoc@lschs.org, 215-402-4391
- History and Political Science – Mr. John Young
  youngj@lschs.org, 215-402-4198
- Fine Arts –
  - Chorus – Mr. Mark Norman
    normanm@lschs.org, 215-402-4181
  - Art – Mr. Michael Hearn
    hearnm@lschs.org, 215-402-4167
  - Music – Mr. Chris Mele
    melec@lschs.org, 215-402-4908
- Innovation and Design – Mr. Rob Johnson
  johnsonr@lschs.org, 215-402-4884
- David Program – Mr. John Keenan
  keenanj@lschs.org, 215-402-4853

Along with the Department Chairperson, next year's Freshman Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Sara Martin (martins@lschs.org, 215-402-4885) is a resource for you.

Placement Test Dates:

Math/Science/World Languages/Technology and Design: April 23, 24, 28 or 29. Start between 3:30-4:00.
Music Evaluations: April 28, May 7 or 8. Will be scheduled between 2:00-5:00.