

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 CIS course grades are weighted and factored into BSM GPA	PACC PACC course grades are weighted and factored into BSM GPA	PSEO PSEO course grades are NOT weighted or factored into BSM GPA
<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: https://ccaps.umn.edu/college-in-the-schools</p> <p>* \$145.00/ Course if seeking college credit.</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/admission/undergraduate/college-credit-in-high-school/pacc/</p> <p>* \$300.00/ Course if seeking College Credit.</p>	<p>Post-Secondary Education Options (PSEO) is a program allowing high school students to get a head start by taking college courses at colleges and universities. BSM 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/index.htm</p>

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College in the Schools (CIS)

Benilde-St. Margaret's School is partnering with the University of Minnesota College in the Schools to bring undergraduate-level courses into our classrooms. Students choosing to attend University of Minnesota College in the Schools courses 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.

*There is a \$145 registration fee per student, plus the cost of textbooks, technology and supplies. Students may also need to pay for transportation to and from Field Day activities. Cost for credits (\$145/student) will be charged to BSM Tuition account.

Here are BSM's CIS Options:

Creative Problem Solving (S1 or S2)

seniors

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and

Three college credits from the University of Minnesota

Sophomores may register with instructor permission and a 3.0 or better GPA. Full course description and requirements will be found on 54 of the Program of Studies.

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.

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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.

*Students can choose whether to earn PACC Credit. The cost is \$100.00 per credit. Fee will be charged to tuition at BSM and sent to St. Mary's. The PACC courses we offer are 3-credit courses, so total cost for taking a PACC course for college credit will be \$300.00

PACC: Accelerated Spanish III (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: Spanish II OR Honors Spanish II

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This third-year Spanish course is fast paced and rigorously builds upon the knowledge and abilities students gained in Spanish II. Students will engage in conversations, develop listening skills, and read and write in the Spanish language. This course will refine and introduce new vocabulary and grammar structures. The study of customs and cultures in the Spanish-speaking world will include units on art, health and fitness, community and volunteerism, pre-Columbian civilizations, Spanish civilization and colonization, and natures and environments. Participation and conversation are integral parts of this course. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and film. Due to the unique nature of Honors Spanish II (or III), in that the course covers more than one year's worth of curriculum, students cannot drop this course at semester time to Spanish II (or III).

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.

AP Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: Completion of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.

This course is available for PACC credit. This course is a second-year chemistry course, designed to be the equivalent of the general course taken during the first year of college. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam. It is structured around the six big ideas as described in the AP Curriculum Framework: including the structure of matter, properties of matter, chemical reactions, the rates of chemical reactions, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. A special emphasis will be placed on the seven science practices, which capture important aspects of the work in which scientists engage. Learning objectives will combine content with inquiry and reasoning skills during multiple hands-on laboratory investigations.

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

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experimental design, anticipating patterns with probability and simulation, and statistical inference. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

PACC: Español Para Hispanohablantes II (YR)

*Two semesters, two credits,
open to freshmen and*

*Prerequisite: Español para Hispanohablantes I
sophomores*

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program.

This course is designed for students who have completed Español para Hispanohablantes I. Through their study of literature, music and movies, students will refine their grammar and learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will develop their writing skills, with special attention given to spelling and accentuation.

Among other activities, students will discuss culture, debate topics, write compositions and create projects.

Circumlocution skills will be emphasized in order to progress while maintaining communication in Spanish. Of special note, students will practice their research and public speaking skills as they teach elementary school students about zoo animals at the MN Zoo during their World Language Days program. This course prepares students to take Español Para Hispanohablantes III the following year.

PACC: Español Para Hispanohablantes III (YR) *Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels*

Prerequisite: Español para Hispanohablantes II.

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This course is designed for students who have completed Español para Hispanohablantes II. Through their study of literature, music and movies, students will refine their grammar and learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will develop their writing skills, with special attention given to spelling and accentuation.

Among other activities, students will discuss culture, debate topics, write compositions and create projects.

Circumlocution skills will be emphasized in order to progress while maintaining communication in Spanish.

Students will practice their research and public speaking skills when they defend opposing scholarly articles. Of special note, students will write bilingual chapter books for elementary school buddies. This course will prepare freshmen to take AP Spanish Language and Culture the following year, while sophomores and juniors may elect to take AP Spanish Literature and Culture.

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: Spanish IV (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: Spanish III

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This fourth-year Spanish course is designed to start developing intermediate skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing through conversations, discussions, authentic readings, and composition writing. The study of Spanish speakers and their culture will include units on conflict resolution and relationships, the workplace, Aztec and Mayan civilizations and their myths and legends, the fusion of cultures in Spain before 1492 and in the Americas after the arrival of Europeans, the environment, civil rights as well as government. Participation and conversation are key components of this course, and one focus will be speaking in Spanish. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities by means of authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and movies.

PACC: Spanish V (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Prerequisite: Spanish IV or Pre-AP Spanish

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This fifth-year Spanish course is designed to continue developing intermediate skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing through conversations, discussions, authentic readings, and composition writing. The study of Spanish speakers and their culture will include units on fashion trends, the environment, human rights, personalities and

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conflict resolution, entertainment, diversity, the culinary arts, our societal issues, the economy, our free time, and 21st century challenges and advancements. Participation and conversation are key components of this course, and two main focuses will be speaking and writing in Spanish. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities by means of authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and movies.

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.