

Summer Introductory Courses for Freshmen - Descriptions & FAQ Answers

Intro to English (4-week course): Improved written expression is the prime objective of the “Intro to HS English” course. Incoming freshmen enrolled in the four-week course will engage in the foundational theory and applied mechanics of “formal thesis-driven, argumentative, expository writing” which is the touchstone of the St. Xavier High School English program. Focusing on the building blocks - sentence structure and paragraph organization, students will learn and practice the various core competencies of the freshman year writing curriculum: descriptive essay, narrative essay, argumentative essay, literary analysis, MLA format, quote integration, punctuation, et al. Using the freshman summer reading assignment as an anchor, the course will offer direct instruction on the basics of literary theory (plot, character, setting, theme, etc.) with special emphasis on close reading strategies for improved comprehension. Making use of many of the same tools and techniques students can expect to encounter in the school year, the course is both review and primer for the rigors of freshman English at St. Xavier.

Intro to Math (4-week course): A course designed to introduce students to some of the basic concepts of Algebra I (first degree equation solving, laws of exponents, slope, and intercept line.) Equivalent to about 1 ½ quarters of an Algebra 1 course.

Study Skills (2-week course): A skills-oriented approach geared to improve students’ abilities to plan, organize, read, listen critically, summarize and self-test. Numerous other attitudinal and practical steps for self-help are taught, which will lead to mastery learning. Organizational skills, time management, active reading and active listening skills, note taking, and expository writing are tools to this mastery learning. Students often report this course as instrumental to success in their first year. **Due to the demand for spots in this course and the amount of material covered daily, attendance is imperative. If a student misses 2 classes for any reason, he will be automatically withdrawn from the course without a refund.** It is recommended that no classes are missed. Study Skills fills up quickly, so early registration is advised.

FAQs:

- Arriving in a timely fashion is critical to your student’s success. Though traffic is lighter during June, please keep factors like traffic, trains, and stopping for breakfast in mind when leaving for St. X in the morning.
- These three optional courses are popular but not part of the student’s permanent record.
- If your son wishes to take part in an athletic camp, family vacation, weight training or mission trip, he may do that and still take the Intro to English or Intro to Math courses. He is permitted to miss up to one week and still complete the course. Because Study Skills is organized around a 2-week session, students may not miss classes.
- If you have received a recommendation from either the English or Math Departments, please take their advice and enroll in that subject. The recommendations should be out by mid-April. If you have not received a notice from Math or English, but feel your son could benefit from either course, enroll him in that course.
- All classes will be in person with no remote option.