



Empowering Curious Minds  
Introducing the

# New Concentrations Program

## Concentrations Program



Beginning in September 2025, Laguna Blanca Upper School students will have a new opportunity to explore their passions in greater depth through a dynamic academic initiative: the **Concentrations Program**. Designed to honor individuality and elevate student choice, Concentrations offer a structured yet flexible pathway for motivated learners to thrive in specific areas of interest. We spoke with the Head of Upper School Dr. Anna Alldredge to take a deeper look into the vision, design, and goals of this exciting new signature program.

### Building on Student Passions

Laguna’s Upper School curriculum is known for its depth and breadth of core and elective courses. But as Dr. Alldredge explains, the inspiration behind the Concentrations Program was to create something even more intentional.

“No two students take the exact same classes at Laguna. Each has a distinct academic journey,” she shares. “Concentrations will give students the opportunity to highlight a sustained commitment to a particular field of study—similar to a minor in college.”

Students who opt into the Concentrations Program may choose between Business and Entrepreneurship, Creative Arts, Global Citizenship, or STEM and Innovation. Each course pathway allows students to go beyond electives alone by immersing themselves in a cohesive blend of coursework, extracurricular involvement, and reflection.

### What Makes Concentrations Unique?

While all Upper School students take electives, those who opt into a Concentration take a more purposeful and in-depth

route. Participants complete multiple elective courses in their chosen area, actively participate in related extracurriculars, and maintain a quarterly Concentration Portfolio.

This portfolio serves as both a learning tool and a reflective journal, connecting the dots between disciplines, showcasing progress, and encouraging students to think critically about their development.

“It’s about interdisciplinary learning with real-world relevance,” Dr. Alldredge explains. “We want students to see how their interests can lead to impact.”

### Aligning with Laguna’s Core Values

The program’s design reflects Laguna Blanca’s values of scholarship, character, balance, and community. By encouraging students to pursue passions while maintaining a well-rounded course load, Concentrations support academic growth and personal development.

“Students are also required to engage in community-based learning and consider how their studies can contribute to solving meaningful real-life challenges,” Dr. Alldredge adds. “It’s an important part of helping them thrive not just academically, but as citizens of the world.”

### Who Should Consider a Concentration?

Open to rising tenth and eleventh grade students, the program is designed for those who wish to deepen their study in a specific field. Maintaining a 3.0 GPA, fulfilling extracurricular involvement, attending regular coordinator meetings, and completing portfolio requirements are essential for students to stay in good standing.



“This program is for any student who is curious, committed, and excited to dig deeper,” says Dr. Alldredge.

### What Will Students Gain?

In addition to academic knowledge, students develop leadership, critical thinking, and synthesis skills. Each Concentration emphasizes reflection—encouraging students to examine how their classes, clubs, and experiences intersect.

The Concentration Portfolio includes reflective prompts, coursework artifacts, extracurricular documentation, and a culminating piece in the final year that captures their overall growth and vision for the future.

“It’s not just about what students learn, it’s about how they grow,” says Dr. Alldredge. “We want them to thrive on curiosity, creativity, and purpose.”

### Supporting Diverse Learners

One of the program’s greatest strengths is its adaptability. With multiple pathways and course options, each Concentration meets students where they are.

For example, the Business and Entrepreneurship Concentration offers experiences in leadership, finance, and innovation. The Creative Arts track emphasizes deeper engagement in visual and performing arts courses and showcases. Global Citizenship centers on global issues, critical thinking, and civic engagement. STEM and Innovation explores sustainability, design, and systems-based thinking through science and technology.

“All learners can thrive in this program,” Dr. Alldredge affirms. “It’s about choice and depth.”

### Led by a Dynamic Team

Two respected faculty members will co-lead the program: Lauren Bedard, upper school math teacher, and Daisy Altamirano, upper school history teacher. Both bring extensive experience in interdisciplinary teaching and project-based learning.

“They are a fantastic team—visionary, collaborative, and deeply committed to student growth,” says Dr. Alldredge.

“One advantage of allowing students to join at various stages of their academic journey is that they can reflect on previous coursework in their portfolio and draw meaningful connections to their current learning,” explains Lauren Bedard.

### A Program That Grows With Students

At its heart, the Concentrations program is about helping students craft meaningful academic narratives.

“This program lets students explore their passion early, building a personal narrative through focused and reflective work,” says Daisy Altamirano.

“This initiative allows students to tell their own stories—stories of curiosity, growth, purpose, and passion,” Dr. Alldredge says. “As we continue to expand our offerings, Concentrations will be a powerful way to help Upper School students *Thrive On*—in their studies and in life.”

LEARN MORE ABOUT  
CONCENTRATIONS



# LAGUNA BLANCA

## Concentrations Program

### UPPER SCHOOL CONCENTRATIONS

Concentrations provide students the opportunity to immerse themselves in interdisciplinary coursework and apply their learning to real-world innovation and leadership. Students go above and beyond Laguna’s core curricular requirements to complete a Concentration. In addition to the below **coursework requirements**, students must demonstrate involvement in a related school club and/or extracurricular. Students may apply for a Concentration as rising 10th or 11th graders. In order to maintain good standing in the Concentration program, students must maintain a **3.0 GPA**, meet the **club/extracurricular requirements**, attend the required **meetings** with the Concentration coordinators, and meet all the Concentration **portfolio requirements**.

Business/Entrepreneurship Concentration	Creative Arts Concentration	Global Citizenship Concentration	STEM and Innovation Concentration
<i>Foundational concepts in leadership, finance, and innovation that develop into authentic business experiences</i>	<i>Committed engagement to arts courses, programs, and showcases, including advanced coursework</i>	<i>Scholarship on global issues, multiculturalism, and critical thinking as a vehicle for civic engagement</i>	<i>Studies in science and technology that support sustainability and complex problem solving</i>
<p>A total of at least <b>four semesters</b> of the following coursework:</p> <p><i>TEDxLagunaBlancaSchool, Entrepreneurship, Personal Finance, Sports Marketing, AP Economics, AP Psychology, AP US Government, AP Business and Personal Finance.</i></p> <p>In addition, at least <b>one math course</b> beyond Algebra 2/Trigonometry is required.</p>	<p>A total of at least <b>six semesters</b> of the following coursework:</p> <p><i>Any classes in the Visual and/or Performing Arts, including at least one semester at the advanced or honors level. Creative Writing and Art History also qualify.</i></p> <p>In addition, students must participate in at least <b>one showcase and/or performance</b>.</p>	<p>A total of at least <b>four semesters</b> of the following coursework:</p> <p><i>Current Events, Journalism, Ethnic Studies, Chicano/a Studies, Comparative Religion, AP Comparative Government, Philosophy, Philosophy 2, Studies in Leadership.</i></p> <p>In addition, students must advance through at least <b>level four of a world language</b>.</p>	<p>A total of at least <b>four semesters</b> of the following coursework; at least class from both Science and STEM:</p> <p><i><u>Science</u>: Anatomy and Physiology, APES, Intro to Forensics, Marine Science, Science of Food</i>  <i><u>STEM</u>: Coding, Industrial Design, Intro to AI, Intro to Engineering, AP CS, AP Cybersecurity</i></p> <p>In addition, at least <b>one math course</b> beyond Algebra 2/Trigonometry is required.</p>