

Doane Academy



*A College Preparatory School
Since 1837*

2026-2027

Upper School Curriculum Guide

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Graduation Requirements

- English - 4 credits
 - Lead Onward Program - Students must take Lead Onward each year. Starting in 2026-27, 0.5 credits per class.
 - Mathematics - 3 credits (including at least Algebra II)
 - Social Studies - 3 credits
 - World and Classical Languages - 3 credits (including level III as a minimum)
 - Science - 3 credits
 - Fine & Performing Arts - 1 credit
 - Physical Education - Students must participate in one team sport per year. Does not count as an academic credit.
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- A minimum of 5.5 academic credits are required each year in grades 9 – 12

Although Doane Academy has minimum requirements, most students aim for the maximum coursework they can complete in a given year. In addition, we recommend that students take 4 years in each core academic department. If students decide not to take 4 years of each core academic course, they should first speak with their advisor and college counselor.

GPA

Doane Academy students earn grades in the range of 0-4.33, with a 4.33 given for an A+. Doane Academy uses a weighted GPA, where an Honors credit gets an additional 0.5 weight and an AP credit gets an additional 1.0 weight. Therefore, a student earning an A+ would receive an unweighted 4.33, a weighted 4.83 for an Honors course, and a weighted 5.33 for an AP course. The students' transcripts will show both the weighted and the unweighted GPA's. Doane Academy, however, does not rank its students.

One Schoolhouse and Prestans Online Academy

Doane Academy partners with outside providers to allow students who have exhausted a key aspect of the curriculum and have demonstrated a high level of motivation and independence to extend their studies in an environment that provides structure, support, and rigor. For example, students who have completed AP Calculus BC have the opportunity to take Multivariable Calculus online.

Well-respected by college admissions officers, One Schoolhouse and Prestans Online Academy produce a transcript that includes any courses a student completes through them. These courses do not appear on the Doane Academy transcript, and colleges receive both a One Schoolhouse/Prestans Online Academy transcript and Doane transcript as part of the application process. Doane Academy handles the process of enrolling students in these courses once approved by the Head of Upper School and relevant department chair.

AP Courses and College Accelerated Program

Students enrolled in an AP course will be required to take the AP exam for that course in order to receive AP credit on their transcripts. This policy helps each AP teacher create a learning

environment in which high expectations inspire students to do their absolute best work. For many students, this work will extend their expectations for themselves beyond their perceived limits and show them they are capable of more than they thought possible. In addition, the shared goal of excelling on the AP test enhances camaraderie within each AP class. Students' ultimate AP test scores help teachers assess the efficacy of their curriculum, assessments, and feedback.

There is a \$98 fee associated with each AP exam. The College Board offers fee reductions and waivers based on a student's financial need.

The Rowan University College Acceleration Program (CAP) provides high achieving high school students the opportunity to receive academic credit both from their high school and Rowan University while still enrolled in high school. The approved courses fulfill many of Rowan University's general education requirements, and the credits earned may also be transferrable to other four-year institutions. Successful completion of CAP courses through Rowan University can better prepare students for college admission and future academic study.

In analyzing the cost of CAP credit and the AP exam, it is important to examine the schools your child is considering and whether these schools accept these forms of credit. Most schools, even highly competitive ones, accept AP credit if a student scores a four or five on the AP exam, and many public universities, particularly in this area, accept CAP credit if a student receives a grade of B- or higher in the applicable course. The cost of taking a comparable course once enrolled in college is often several thousand dollars, so these opportunities to earn college credit while in high school can represent a valuable investment.

2026-27 Course Offerings

English

9th Grade	English 9: Coming of Age
10th Grade	English 10: American Literature
11th-12th Grades	Global Mythology AP English Literature
10th-12th Grades	Creative Writing (minor)

History

9th Grade	Modern World History
10th Grade	United States History AP United States History
11th-12th Grades	AP United States Government and Politics AP African American History International Relations History in Popular Culture

Science

9th Grade	Biology
10th Grade	Chemistry
11th Grade	Physics AP Physics 1: Algebra Based
11th-12th Grades	AP Biology AP Chemistry* Engineering, Mechanics & Robotics** Environmental Science**

* In two years, we will start offering AP Biology and AP Chemistry on a rotating basis: AP Biology will be offered in 2028-29 and AP Chemistry will be offered in 2029-30. Rising 11th graders interested in taking AP Physics, AP Biology and AP Chemistry before they graduate must therefore register for both AP Physics and AP Chemistry in 2026-27 and then take AP Biology in 2028-29.

** We can only offer Engineering or Environmental Science this year. Students interested in these classes will be asked to rank and choose their selections. We will run the course with the most interest.

Mathematics

Recommended Continuum

- Algebra 1 / Accelerated Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Algebra 2
- Pre-Calculus
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC

Additional Option

- Statistics and Financial Literacy

World Languages

Spanish

- Spanish I
- Spanish II
- Spanish III
- Advanced Spanish Seminar 1
- Advanced Spanish Seminar 2

Latin

- Advanced Latin

Note: Students taking Advanced Spanish Seminar 2 can elect to prepare for the AP Spanish Language exam as well.

Fine and Performing Arts

Fine Arts

- Intro to Ceramics (minor)
- Advanced Ceramics (major)
- AP 3-D Art and Design (major)
- Intro to Studio Arts (minor)
- Advanced Studio Arts (major)
- AP 2-D Art and Design (major)
- Yearbook Design (minor)

Performing Arts

- Concert Band (minor)
- Jazz Ensemble (minor)
- Choir (minor)
- Drama (minor)

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Upper School English students learn to be strong communicators and deep thinkers, with a particular focus on the development of writing skills, both analytical and creative. Through the study of important works of literature, students hone their analysis skills and learn to communicate their thoughts effectively. We hone writing skills in particular by assigning frequent interpretive paragraphs and personal responses in addition to multi-draft essays that involve students in writing workshops throughout the year.

Our small classes and emphasis on seminar style discussion allow students and teachers to build strong relationships and help every student make their voice heard. We supplement this development through our yearly Poetry Out Loud competition, which allows us to see and celebrate the growth of our students' oral communication skills. The curriculum - an intentional and thoughtful blend of canonical texts and contemporary, crucial works - requires students to grapple with issues of character and essential questions about the human experience. Ultimately, when students look back on their English education at Doane, they will remember an experience in which they confronted life's most difficult questions and gained the confidence to strive to answer them.

English 9: Coming of Age Narratives

- Grade level: 9th Grade
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors Option: Yes

In English 9, students will build a community of critical readers, writers, and thinkers in conversation with great literature. As a community, they will explore big-picture essential questions such as: How do we form our own identities despite other people trying to define us? What does it mean to grow up and when does childhood end? What does it mean to have power? How can power be used or abused? And more. To anchor discussions of these larger questions, students will practice close reading of specific textual details. This kind of sustained analysis will allow students to develop and support their ideas, both in seminar-style discussions and in written work. Texts are drawn from across genres, cultures, and time periods: The reading list includes texts such as *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, *Antigone* by Sophocles, *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi, *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, and *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng, as well as related short stories by authors such as Amy Tan and Jamaica Kincaid. Central themes that tie these diverse texts together are war and personal conflict as they shape the process of growing up.

Honors Requirements: Students may work towards achieving “Honors” on their transcript by further engaging the texts and their classmates’ ideas via enrichment projects such as additional journal assignments, class leadership exercises, and “deep dives” into cultural and historical background for the texts.

English 10: American Literature

- Grade Level: 10th Grade
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors Option: Yes

In this survey of American literature from the nation's founding to the present day, students will explore, define, and challenge American tradition, American problems, and the American identity. Course texts will introduce students to disparate American landscapes, from the injustices of American slavery to the glaring opulence of 1920s New York society mansions. They will engage the radically different voices that emerge from each of the Americas we study and, in conversation with other critics, develop writerly voices of their own. Students will write critically, reflectively, and creatively in a variety of genres and forums. Our approach to composition as conversation will emphasize peer-sharing and responding to feedback as crucial parts of the writing process. It will also insist that writing never happens in a vacuum. When students pose arguments about texts, they will acknowledge and engage the critical conversation existing around those texts, both within our class and beyond it. The course will resemble a college literature seminar, requiring every member's thoughtful participation. Texts may include Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of a Slave*, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, August Wilson's *Fences*, Nella Larsen's *Passing*, and selected stories by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Amy Tan.

Honors Requirements: Honors students will further engage the texts and their classmates' ideas via additional journal assignments, formal peer critiques of written work, and class leadership exercises.

Global Mythology

- Grade Level: 11th and 12th Grades
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors Option: No

"Myth is the closest approximation to truth available to the finite human being. And the truth of myth is not limited by time or place. A myth tells us that which was true, is true, and will be true. If we will allow it, myth will integrate intellect and intuition, night and day; our warring opposites reconciled, male and female, spirit and flesh, desire and will, pain and joy, life and death." – Madeleine L'Engle, *Glimpses of Grace*

Using Episcopal author Madeleine L'Engle's conception of myth as an anchor, "Global Mythologies" will explore how stories passed down through culture shape our understanding of the world and the human experience. Students will engage with texts from a range of times, places, and cultures in a way that builds empathy and understanding for diverse perspectives and worldviews. We will explore how myths have transformed over centuries and investigate the relevance of these concepts in contemporary culture, including popular culture, music, and film. How did myths influence culture historically? What do they mean to us nowadays? How does our globalized, modern world make us think of these stories differently? Why do we keep returning to ancient texts to revisit, adapt, and transform them? Texts may include *The Odyssey* (ancient Greece), the *Ramayana* (Indian subcontinent), *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (ancient Mesopotamia), as well as short stories from Egypt, Japan, China, Korea, West Africa, Kenya, Rwanda, the Mayan and Aztec empires, the Hebrew Bible, Indigenous cultures across the world, Irish folklore, Norse mythology, among others.

Honors Requirements: Honors students will further engage the text and their classmates' ideas by reading complimentary texts, researching and presenting historical or cultural background for our texts, and creative projects.

AP English Literature and Composition

- Grade Level: 11th and 12th Grades
- Pre-Requisites: Departmental Recommendation
- Honors: Advanced Placement

This course may be taken in place of World Literature. Students can earn college credit through an arrangement with Rowan College at Burlington County and/or by taking the AP Literature exam in May. In AP Literature, students will practice college-level literary analysis by examining both minute textual details and the larger socio-political forces that position works of literature in our cultural landscape. We will explore universal themes of love, failure, empathy, and mortality, but we will also work to understand texts within the historical moments that produced them. Students will continue to learn the technical terminology of literary criticism and will apply it to a variety of genres, including lyric poetry, short stories, novels, and drama. Authors studied may include Toni Morrison, Shakespeare, Yaa Gyasi, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Kate Chopin, and Zora Neale Hurston. The aim of the course is threefold: to prepare for the AP exam, to prepare for college humanities courses, and to build a foundation for a lifelong love of reading.

Creative Writing (Minor)

- Grade Level: 10th-12th Grades
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors: None

The Creative Writing minor is designed for students who wish to develop their skills and talents in creative writing in a variety of genres, including poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and playwriting. This class will introduce core principles and give students a common language with which to create, analyze, and discuss creative writing within a workshop environment. Subjects covered include specificity, sensory language, symbolic language, character development, vivid scene crafting, organization/structure, and treatment of significance or themes. While this is primarily a writing class, students will study brief texts and excerpts that expose them to various writing styles and provide examples of the successes and strategies of other writers. This course also emphasizes the importance of revision strategies and constructive peer review of work-in-progress.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

The Doane Academy History Department cultivates curious, capable learners who use the study of the past to understand themselves, others, and the world. Rooted in Episcopal values of dignity, belonging, and compassion, we guide students in evidence-based inquiry, empathetic perspective-taking, and courageous dialogue. We prepare informed, ethical citizens who engage complexity with confidence, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

All Doane students are required to complete three history credits for graduation, though many opt to complete more. Freshman students all take Modern World History at the same level, to establish a common foundational understanding of the discipline and research and writing expectations. Tenth grade students take United States History and have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement level. As upperclassmen, students have options for taking a variety of elective courses at the AP and non-AP level.

Modern World History

- Grade Level: 9
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors: No

Modern World History introduces students to the study of history as a discipline while examining major global developments from the early modern period to the present. Through thematic units—including Colonization and Exploitation, Rights and Revolution, Global Conflict and Genocide, and the Cold War to the present—students investigate how political power, economic systems, cultural exchange, and social movements have shaped the modern world. Throughout the course, students explore connections between past and present and consider how historical events continue to influence contemporary global issues.

As the foundational course for the department, Modern World History emphasizes the development of essential historical thinking and academic skills. Students learn to analyze primary and secondary sources, evaluate historical interpretations, and construct evidence-based arguments in writing and discussion. Through research projects, collaborative inquiry, and structured debates, students practice chronological reasoning, engage with multiple perspectives, and build the critical reading, writing, and discussion skills that prepare them for upper-level history courses.

United States History

- Grade Level: 10
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors Option: No

United States History examines the political, social, and economic development of the United States from its earliest histories through the present. Students investigate how competing ideas about freedom, power, and opportunity have shaped the nation over time. Through key events and enduring debates, the course explores themes such as the development of American identity, the expansion and limits of democratic rights, the impact of economic change and technological innovation, and the ways individuals and communities have challenged inequality and worked to expand opportunity.

Building on the skills developed in ninth grade, students continue to strengthen the practices of historical inquiry. They analyze primary and secondary sources, evaluate competing interpretations, and construct clear, evidence-based arguments in writing and discussion. Through projects, simulations, research, and collaborative learning, students deepen their ability to interpret historical evidence, consider multiple perspectives, and engage thoughtfully with complex questions about the American past and its continuing influence on the present.

AP United States History

- Grade Level: 10
- Pre-Requisites: Department Recommendation
- Honors Option: Advanced Placement

AP United States History examines the political, social, cultural, and economic development of the United States from approximately 1491 to the present. Students investigate major events, movements, and debates across nine historical periods, exploring themes such as American and national identity, politics and power, work and economic exchange, migration and settlement, culture, and the United States' role in the world. Through these themes, students consider how ideas about freedom, citizenship, and opportunity have evolved and been contested throughout American history.

The course emphasizes the analytical skills used by historians, including close reading of primary and secondary sources, evaluating historical interpretations, and constructing clear, evidence-based arguments. Students practice historical reasoning through comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. Because the course is designed to mirror the pace and expectations of a college-level survey, students are expected to complete significant nightly reading and note-taking in preparation for class discussions and activities. Through document analysis, debates, essays, and research-based assignments, students deepen their understanding of the American past while preparing for the AP examination.

International Relations

- Grade Level: 11-12
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors Option: No

International Relations explores the complex interactions between nations, international organizations, and global communities. Students examine key concepts such as diplomacy, conflict and cooperation, global security, economic development, human rights, and international law. Through case studies and analysis of contemporary events, the course investigates how countries pursue their interests, respond to global challenges, and work through institutions such as the United Nations to address issues that transcend national borders.

The course emphasizes critical thinking, collaborative problem-solving, and evidence-based discussion. Students analyze global case studies, evaluate competing perspectives, and develop arguments about international policy and decision-making. A central component of the course is a semester-long interactive simulation in which students represent countries and make decisions about trade, economic development, and national and human security, shaping the evolving international system through their

choices. Students also study the structure and processes of the United Nations, including how resolutions are negotiated and adopted, making the course particularly valuable for those interested in participating in Doane's Model UN Club.

History in Popular Culture

- Grade Level: 11-12
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors Options: No

History in Popular Culture examines how films, television, and other forms of media shape public understanding of the past. Students explore how historical stories are selected, interpreted, and presented for modern audiences, considering questions such as: Which histories are told, and whose perspectives are emphasized or omitted? How do filmmakers balance storytelling with historical accuracy? How do films and other media shape our understanding of the present moment and our visions of the future? Through the analysis of historically themed films and media students investigate how narratives about the past influence ideas about identity, politics, and culture.

The course emphasizes critical media literacy and historical analysis. Students evaluate films as historical sources, examining questions of accuracy, authenticity, perspective, and interpretation. Through structured discussion, written analysis, and research projects, students analyze how filmmakers construct historical narratives and how those narratives reflect the values and debates of the time in which they were produced. Units of study include evaluating sources in historical films, the relationship between politics and historical storytelling, and the challenges of portraying historical figures through biographical films.

AP African American Studies

- Grade Level: 11-12
- Pre-Requisites: Departmental Recommendation
- Honors Option: Advanced Placement

AP African American Studies is an interdisciplinary course that examines the history, culture, and experiences of African Americans within the broader context of Africa and the African diaspora. Students explore key topics ranging from early African societies and the transatlantic slave trade to the development of African American communities, cultural expression, political activism, and contemporary issues. Through these topics, the course highlights the diversity of Black experiences and the central role African Americans have played in shaping the history and culture of the United States and the wider world.

The course emphasizes inquiry through multiple forms of evidence, including historical documents, literature, visual art, music, and data. Students develop skills in historical analysis, interpretation of texts and images, and evidence-based discussion and writing. A central component of the course is an individual research project in which students investigate a topic of their choice through the analysis of multiple sources and present their findings. This interdisciplinary project deepens students' understanding of their chosen topic while strengthening the analytical and research skills required for the AP examination.

AP United States Government and Politics

- Grade Level: 11-12
- Prerequisites: Departmental Recommendation
- Honors Option: Advanced Placement

AP United States Government and Politics provides a college-level introduction to the ideas, institutions, and processes that shape the American political system. Students examine the foundations of the U.S. constitutional system and explore how political institutions—including Congress, the presidency, the courts, and the bureaucracy—interact with political parties, interest groups, the media, and the public. The course also investigates core themes such as constitutionalism, civil liberties and civil rights, political participation, and the ways public policy is developed and debated.

The course emphasizes critical analysis of political texts, data, and contemporary issues. Students read and interpret foundational documents, analyze Supreme Court decisions, evaluate political data and visual sources, and develop evidence-based arguments about the role and functioning of government in American society. In addition to preparing for the AP examination, students complete a political science research or applied civics project that encourages them to connect course concepts to real-world political processes and civic engagement.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Doane Academy's Science department seeks to engage students in the practice of doing science as a means of engaging scientific theory. Our inquiry-based approach to curriculum design challenges students to explore concepts through experimental design, projects, tinkering, data modeling, and more. We firmly believe that students learn best by doing. As such, we emphasize hands-on, real-world experiences which encourage our students to understand the nature of scientific inquiry and how it applies to their daily lives.

The department seeks to provide opportunities for students to participate in interdisciplinary lessons that encourage them to blend content from various subject areas in pursuit of their personal interests. Thus, students are taught through their lab experiences to include what they've learned in their other classes as a part of the scientific process. They will explore how scientific breakthroughs have changed the course of history, use concepts learned to inspire artistic representations, apply statistical methods to manipulate data, and take advantage of available technology to enhance their laboratory experience.

Between our robust selection of electives and our core laboratory science curriculum, students graduating from Doane Academy will have learned that true scientific inquiry is not about having the right answers, but instead about asking challenging questions which propel them toward new understandings about their surrounding world

Biology

- Grade Level: 9
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors Option: Yes

This required laboratory science explores the foundations of cellular biology and the origins of life on earth. Students will develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills as they explore concepts mastered in Biology in further detail including: evolution, cell structure, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, DNA, protein synthesis, mitosis/meiosis, and genetics; through data analysis, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts across content domains.

Honors Requirements: Honors students are expected to delve deeper into the concepts mastered during class by completing Honors-level assignments and tackling more difficult problems on graded assessments. In addition to this, Honors students will complete additional projects related to topics being covered in class.

Chemistry

- Grade Level: 10
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors Option: Yes

The course explores the foundations of general chemistry, including atomic theory, stoichiometry, chemical reactions, properties of matter, organic chemistry, and nuclear energy. Additionally, students gain exposure to how topics studied affect their daily lives through problem solving, projects, and explorations of modern

developments in related fields. Lab work is an integral component of the course. Where appropriate, students are given agency over the structure and focus of labs and projects.

Honors Requirements: Honors students are expected to delve deeper into the concepts mastered during class by completing weekly Honors-level homework assignments and tackling more difficult problems on graded assessments. In addition to this, Honors students will complete one project per semester related to a topic covered during that semester.

Physics

- Grade Level: 11
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors Option: No

This laboratory science course introduces students to the fundamental principles that govern motion, energy, forces, and interactions in the physical universe. Through investigation, modeling, and quantitative reasoning, students develop an understanding of how physical systems behave and how scientific models can be used to explain and predict those behaviors. Major topics include: kinematics, Newton's laws of motion, energy, momentum, circular motion, gravitation, waves, electricity, and modern physics concepts.

Students regularly engage in laboratory investigations, data analysis, and collaborative problem-solving activities that emphasize the development of scientific reasoning and the use of mathematical models to defend claims about physical systems. Throughout the course, students practice interpreting graphs, constructing explanations from evidence, and applying conservation principles to analyze real-world phenomena.

AP Physics 1: Algebra Based

- Grade Level: 11-12
- Prerequisites: Algebra 2; Pre-Calculus (can be taken at the same time as AP Physics 1) and Departmental Recommendation
- Honors Option: Advanced Placement

This course is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore these topics: kinematics; dynamics; circular motion and gravitation; energy; momentum; simple harmonic motion; torque and rotational motion; electric charge and electric force; DC circuits; and mechanical waves and sound. Students will also become proficient in the scientific practices which enable them to collect evidence and develop testable explanations and predictions. Students will be prepared to take the College Board's Advanced Placement Test.

Engineering, Mechanics and Robotics

- Grade Level: 10-12
- Prerequisites: None
- Honors Option: No

Our STEAM curriculum is as much about learning the engineering design process as it is about providing our students with the opportunity to test their own ideas in an environment that allows them to dream, make mistakes, refine designs, and create a product which addresses the complexity of any problem.

Students will explore lab and equipment safety; the engineering design process; robotics and coding basics; and ethics in engineering design. The class allows students to design and build robotics systems while developing an understanding of torque; mechanical advantage; and gear ratios. The final portion of the class will be dedicated to a cumulative design challenge.

Environmental Science

- Grade Level: 10-12
- Prerequisites: None
- Honors Option: No

Environmental Science is a field that is continually changing and adapting as we learn more about our planet and the impact of population dynamics over time. This course will include aspects of Earth Science, History, Natural Resource Management, Sustainability as well as Social Justice & Service Learning. Students will also be introduced to mapping software in support of a culminating project at the end of the year.

AP Biology

- Grade Level: 11-12
- Pre-Requisites: Biology and Departmental Recommendation
- Honors Option: Advanced Placement

This science elective is the equivalent of an introductory college course in Biology. Students will develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills as they explore concepts mastered in Biology in further detail through data analysis, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts across content domains. Students enrolled in this course are expected to take the AP Biology exam administered in May.

AP Chemistry

- Grade Level: 11-12
- Pre-Requisites: Biology, Chemistry and Departmental Recommendation
- Honors Option: Advanced Placement

This science elective is the equivalent of an introductory college course in chemistry. A strong emphasis is placed on constructing models, real-world applications, and visual learning as students explore concepts mastered in General Chemistry. Students enrolled in this course are expected to sit for the AP Chemistry exam administered in May.

Note: In two years, we will start offering AP Biology and AP Chemistry on a rotating basis: AP Biology will be offered in 2028-29 and AP Chemistry will be offered in 2029-30. Rising 11th graders interested in taking AP Physics, AP Biology and AP Chemistry before they graduate must therefore register for both AP Physics and AP Chemistry in 2026-27 and then take AP Biology in 2028-29.

MATH DEPARTMENT

The Mathematics department at Doane Academy is dedicated to the advancement of the mathematical reasoning skills critical for fostering quantitative and deductive thinking abilities in our students. We strive not just for competency with concepts necessary for effective citizenship, but also for recognition that mathematics is a vibrant field of study that can serve as a powerful and exciting tool in this ever-evolving world. We seek to develop students who are courageous in mathematics, unafraid to work collaboratively and take intelligent risks while developing their problem solving skills.

Algebra I

- Grade Level: 8 - 9
- Pre-Requisites: Pre-Algebra
- Honors Option: No

Algebra I is where students begin to build the conceptual knowledge base necessary for conquering complex problems using mathematical reasoning. By connecting to previous pre-algebra concepts, students will build a foundation of mathematical knowledge and problem solving techniques that will help them in future math classes and beyond. Beginning with a thorough review of complex linear equations and inequalities, students will expand to systems of linear equations and inequalities. This leads the way to polynomial operations and solving quadratic functions. Additional concepts include statistical analysis and radical functions.

Accelerated Algebra I

- Grade Level: 9
- Pre-Requisites: Pre-Algebra and Departmental Approval
- Honors

Accelerated Algebra I provides an in-depth and fast-paced study of foundational algebraic concepts for students prepared for advanced mathematical challenges. Students build on Pre-Algebra knowledge while developing strong problem-solving skills and mathematical reasoning. Topics include complex linear equations and inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, polynomial operations, and quadratic functions, along with introductory work in statistical analysis and radical functions. The course emphasizes conceptual understanding, multiple solution strategies, and the application of algebra to real-world problems, preparing students for advanced coursework in mathematics.

Geometry

- Grade Level: 8 - 10
- Pre-Requisites: Algebra I
- Honors Option: Yes

Geometry students are challenged to examine the world around them and deconstruct it into the geometric structures that form the building blocks of their daily experience of “space.” Students will learn to apply mathematical logic when doing so, assembling logical progressions of facts that prove the fundamental theorems they will utilize throughout their explorations of triangles, polygons, congruence, similarity,

trigonometry, circles, and polyhedra. Students will also build on the skills gained in Algebra I by analyzing geometric problem sets with algebraic concepts. As a heavily visual course emphasizing the development of spatial reasoning skills, students can expect to be frequently challenged to apply their conceptual understanding of course material to a variety of topics including art, science, architecture, and more.

Honors Requirements: Honors students are expected to delve deeper into the concepts mastered during class by completing weekly Honors-level homework assignments and tackling more difficult problems on graded assessments. In addition to this, Honors students will complete one project per semester related to a topic covered during that semester.

Algebra II

- Grade Level: 9 - 11
- Pre-Requisites: Algebra I
- Honors Option: Yes

Algebra II calls upon all of the previous material learned in Algebra 1 in order to explore various functions and models: quadratics, exponentials, logarithms, radicals, and more. Students are expected to apply learned concepts to both novel situations in a pure mathematical framework as well as to real-life applications. By the end of this course, students will have completed the traditional sequence of high school mathematics classes and thus be prepared to pursue most upper level Math and Science courses offered at Doane.

Honors Requirements: Honors students are expected to delve deeper into the concepts mastered during class by completing weekly Honors-level homework assignments and tackling more difficult problems on graded assessments. In addition to this, Honors students will complete one project per semester related to a topic covered during that semester.

Pre-Calculus

- Grade Level: 10 - 12
- Pre-Requisites: Geometry, Algebra II
- Honors Option: Yes

Pre-Calculus serves a dual purpose as a mathematics course: first, it covers content not encountered in previous math courses at Doane; most notably trigonometry, vectors, and analytic geometry. Second, it introduces students to concepts in calculus, such as continuity, limits, and derivatives. This full-year elective expects mastery of content from previous mathematics courses. As such, students enrolling in this course should anticipate a vigorous and challenging exploration of topics that will pull from content mastered throughout their mathematics careers. Upon completion of this class, students will be ready to take their first steps in Calculus in college or at Doane.

Honors Requirements: Honors students are expected to delve deeper into the concepts mastered during class by completing weekly Honors-level homework assignments and tackling more difficult problems on graded assessments. In addition to this, Honors students will complete one project per semester related to a topic covered during that semester.

Honors Calculus 1

- Grade Level: 11 - 12
- Pre-Requisites: Pre-Calculus
- Honors Option: Honors

Calculus is the foundation of modern mathematics and physics, and its concepts enable us to make sense of motion, forces, and a host of other phenomena. This course - the equivalent of one semester of college level Calculus - provides an in-depth look at core Calculus concepts, including limits, derivatives, differentiation, and integrals with an emphasis placed on “real world” problems involving optimization, related rates, and motion. The course curriculum is designed to develop a deep understanding of the theorems which are critical to success in advanced Calculus courses. Students enrolled in this course may opt to take the AP Calculus AB Exam in May, but will need to complete significant work outside of class in order to prepare to do so.

Honors Requirements: All students enrolling in Honors Calculus 1 do so at the Honors level. Thus, they are expected to demonstrate the motivation, work ethic, and initiative commensurate to the course workload.

AP Calculus AB

- Grade Level: 11 - 12
- Pre-Requisites: Pre-Calculus Honors and Departmental Approval
- Honors Option: Advanced Placement

AP Calculus AB builds upon the content mastered in high school mathematics courses and delves into topics which equate to one semester of college level Calculus. Students will explore core Calculus concepts, including limits, derivatives, differentiation, and integrals. Students enrolled in this course are expected to take the AP Calculus AB exam administered in May.

Honors Requirements: All students enrolling in AP Calculus AB do so at the AP level. Thus, they are expected to demonstrate the motivation, work ethic, and initiative commensurate to the course workload.

AP Calculus BC

- Grade Level: 11 - 12
- Pre-Requisites: AP Calculus AB or Pre-Calculus Honors and Departmental Recommendation
- Honors Option: Advanced Placement

AP Calculus BC builds upon the content mastered in high school mathematics courses and delves into topics which equate to two semesters of college level Calculus. Students will explore core Calculus concepts, including limits, derivatives, differentiation, and integrals. They will then investigate the derivative and integral by examining parametric, polar, and vector functions. Students will also analyze polynomial approximations and series. Students enrolled in this course are expected to take the AP Calculus BC exam administered in May.

Next year, this course will be offered through One Schoolhouse.

Honors Requirements: All students enrolling in AP Calculus BC do so at the AP level. Thus, they are expected to demonstrate the motivation, work ethic, and initiative commensurate to the course workload.

Statistics and Financial Literacy

- Grade Level: 11 - 12
- Pre-Requisites: Algebra II
- Honors Option: No

In Statistics and Financial Literacy, students explore how data is collected, organized, analyzed, and used to draw meaningful conclusions. They develop skills in data exploration, sampling, study design, probability, and statistical inference, while applying these concepts through real-world contexts such as political polling, disease modeling, weather forecasting, sports analysis, and college admissions. Emphasis is placed on the full data process, from exploring and cleaning to visualization presentation, as well as evaluating how statistics are used (and misused) in society. Students will regularly collaborate through projects, discussions, and peer review.

In the second half of the year, the course shifts to Financial Literacy and Planning. Students will engage in hands-on activities and projects focused on budgeting, credit, scams and fraud, housing, banking, loans, and insurance, building on skills for real-world financial decision-making.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

At Doane, students are encouraged to immerse themselves in the Arts, express themselves creatively in multiple ways, and make connections across different artistic disciplines. Arts classes meet as either a major (meeting 4 days a week) or as a minor (meeting twice a week).

Introduction to Ceramics

- Grade Level: 9-12
- Credits: Minor
- Prerequisites: None
- Honors Option: No

Introduction to Ceramics is a hands-on high school art course that introduces students to the creative possibilities of working with clay. Meeting twice a week for one hour, students learn basic handbuilding techniques, introductory wheel throwing, glazing, and kiln firing processes. The course explores ceramic history, cultural traditions, and contemporary practices while emphasizing craftsmanship, creative problem-solving, and personal expression. Students design and create original ceramic works through guided instruction, demonstrations, and studio practice, with occasional outside work for planning and research.

Advanced Ceramics

- Grade Level: 9-12
- Credits: Major
- Prerequisites: Introduction to Ceramics or departmental approval
- Honors Option: No

Advanced Ceramics is an advanced studio practice that is a continuation of Introduction to Ceramics. It is for students seeking to deepen their skills and artistic voice. Meeting four times per week for one hour, students advance their abilities in handbuilding, wheel throwing, surface design, glazing, and firing processes. The course emphasizes more complex forms, experimentation, craftsmanship, and conceptual development through student-driven projects, critiques, and research. Students develop greater independence in the studio and create a cohesive body of work in preparation for advanced study or portfolio development.

AP 3-D Art and Design: Ceramics

- Grade Level: 11-12
- Credits: Major
- Prerequisites: Advanced Ceramics and departmental approval
- Honors Option: Advanced Placement

The AP 3D Design course is available to students who have taken at least one year of Ceramics and have received approval from the Ceramics instructor. The student must work independently and be self-motivated, working consistently and putting in extra time beyond class to complete the AP 3D Design portfolio.

Students will create a portfolio that demonstrates ceramic ability not only with functional forms but also sculptural pieces. Work may be completed over 2 years, but a student can receive AP credit only during the year when their portfolio is completed.

Intro to Studio Arts: Studio Incamminati

- Grade Level: 9-12
- Credits: Minor
- Pre-Requisites: None
- Honors Option: No

The purpose of this visual arts course is to teach the classical principles of life drawing as they are taught at Studio Incamminati in a more relaxed, introductory way, compared to the Advanced Studio Arts course. This course is perfect for the student who may not feel like the best artist (yet), or who just wants to try out what we do. We will go more slowly through the content and cover a more truncated curriculum.

This course will cover charcoal and graphite drawing and will include studies of composition and design. This course will not cover painting.

The instructors of this course are full time working artists who are excited to share a lifetime of hard earned knowledge. Our goal is to make this a dynamic experience in which each student gains not only artistic skills, but an entirely new way of seeing the world.

Advanced Studio Arts: Studio Incamminati – Contemporary Realist Art

- Grade Level: 9-12
- Credits: Major
- Pre-Requisites: Intro to Studio Arts or departmental approval
- Honors Option: No

The purpose of this rigorous visual arts course is to teach the classical principles of life drawing and painting as they are taught at Studio Incamminati. SI is a highly acclaimed atelier, founded by Nelson Shanks, where students are taught high level visual arts skills through a classical realist curriculum. Students at Doane will learn how to properly construct a drawing by understanding how light affects form. Through understanding elements, such as terminators, the hierarchy of light, and effective gesture, students will learn to bring their drawings to life. Perspective, composition, value relationships, creativity, and aesthetic beauty will all be taught.

Mid-year will bring the addition of oil painting to the course. Students will learn the technical underpinnings of paint, as well as safe handling practices through grisaille, or gray scale painting. They will then move to color study, where an exciting and insightful understanding of how the light source and environment affect color will be taught, forever changing how each student perceives color.

The instructors of this course are full time working artists who are excited to share a lifetime of hard earned knowledge. Our goal is to make this a dynamic experience in which each student gains not only artistic skills, but an entirely new way of seeing the world.

Advanced Placement 2-D Art Portfolio

- Grade Level: 11-12
- Credits: Major
- Pre-Requisites: Two years of Studio Incamminati and Instructor approval
- Honors Option: Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement 2-D Art and Design is an extension of the Studio Incamminati course and is only offered to students who have 2 or more years of Studio Incamminati classes and the approval of the instructor. Students will follow the College Board's AP Art 2D: Drawing portfolio, which culminates with the submission of a digital portfolio in early May.

This course offers students who are passionately committed to creating realist art the opportunity to further enhance their skills while working toward college credit. These students will get additional one-on-one time with the instructors and push themselves in a class environment that requires dedication and independence.

Yearbook Design

- Grade Level: 9-12
- Credits: Minor
- Prerequisites: None
- Honors Option: No

In this highly autonomous studio class, students will learn to work together as a real-world print house while creating the school's yearbook from scratch. They will start off learning how to solve visual problems using Adobe Photoshop and Entourage Yearbook's online proprietary program. Students will then work together on traditional book-ladder building, design layouts, and learn to solve all of the problems which arise when creating a complex publication. All students will participate in the following: working with basic magazine-style/layout, type selection, and color and theme selection as related to yearbook production. Additional instruction is given in photography, copywriting and fitting, photo selection and fitting, and page assembly. Each student (and the yearbook team as a whole) is responsible for meeting real-world printer's guidelines and deadlines, creating marketing materials across the school year, and meeting sales goals set by the school. This is, in effect, an experiential class where students are pushed outside of their comfort zones to meet the demands of a work setting.

**Please note that this class requires a substantial commitment to working outside of the regular classroom time, as a photojournalist, on material collection and creation, whether that be to take photographs, interview people, create & complete surveys, attend games, regattas, and/or other after-school, evening, and weekend events.*

Upper School Choir

- Grade Level: 9-12
- Credits: Minor
- Prerequisites: None
- Honors Option: No

Concert Choir is a vocal ensemble that meets twice a week to develop musical talent and cultivate confidence in performing on stage. There is a strong emphasis on community-building and enthusiastic and affirming group rapport. In this course, students learn music from a wide variety of cultures and styles. Students practice healthy vocal technique, the ability to understand and apply basic music theory, and the important skill of reading music, or sight-singing. Singers develop their ability to project, to blend with each other and to become good vocal coaches.

In Choir students prepare music for performances at two annual concerts (Christmas and Spring), as well as occasional performances in chapel services, All-School meetings and venues off-campus (field trip performances). While students work collaboratively as a choral ensemble, they also work individually on developing their ability to perform solo, Open Mic style, singing songs of their own choosing, and focusing on vocal technique and stage presence. Students record their Open Mic performances by making videos, which may then be used for applications and auditions for colleges, jobs, and camps.

Theater: Viewpoints & Devising

- Grade Level: 9-12
- Credits: Minor
- Prerequisites: None
- Honors Option: No

In Viewpoints and Devising, students will begin the year by learning Anne Bogart's acting and design method Viewpoints. By using the 9 Viewpoints, students will explore performance from a physical and experimental angle. Students will then use this method to build an ensemble, create characters and analyze text.

In the second half of the year, students will learn how to devise an original theater piece using skills learned from the first half of the class. Through dramaturgy, long form improv, open viewpoints, and character creation, this class will devise a completely original theater performance in an ensemble based, non hierarchical, workshop environment. The class will culminate with a public reading or performance of their piece at the end of the school year.

Concert Band

- Grade Level: 9-12
- Credits: Minor
- Prerequisites: One year of instrumental music study
- Honors Option: No

In band, the ensemble will study music theory and prepare for numerous performances throughout the year. In addition to attending all rehearsals, students are required to take one music lesson per week given by the band director. Band members are expected to perform in the Winter and Spring Concerts, graduation and other opportunities that come available.

This course is for those who successfully demonstrate the ability to play the music found in Book I of a nationally recognized band method. Students in band must own or rent their own instruments.

Jazz Ensemble

- Grade Level: 9-12
- Credits: Minor
- Prerequisites: Enrollment in Concert Band and audition.
- Honors Option: No

All members of the Jazz Ensemble must be enrolled in Concert Band as their primary performing ensemble. This performance class is an extension of the larger ensemble experience. Students wishing to perform in the Jazz Ensemble must be approved by the director and be proficient on their instrument in at least four sharps and four flats, chromatic scales, and some modes. Percussionists must be able to adequately perform on drum sets and traps in multiple styles, including swing, Latin, rock, funk, and fusion.

The Jazz Ensemble reflects traditional Big Band instrumentation (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and rhythm section). Through listening to recordings, critiquing, analyzing, discussion, and application, students will learn a variety of jazz styles found within this genre. Students will understand the history of jazz and be able to associate specific musicians to distinct types of jazz. This is a performance class; therefore, students are expected to attend all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. Mandatory performances include the Winter and Spring Concerts, graduation, and other opportunities as they come available.

WORLD AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

Advanced Latin

- **Grade Level: 12**
- **Prerequisites: Latin V**
- **Honors Option: Advanced**

Advanced Latin will begin with a half-semester-long review of Latin grammar and syntax combined with readings from transitional Latin readers and short poems and prose passages from ancient authors. These readings may include the poetry of Catullus, Ovid, Martial and Phaedrus, and prose passages from Livy, Valerius Maximus, Seneca and Pliny the Younger. For the remainder of the year, this course will focus on two or three different units based on student interests. These units will change from year to year to allow advanced Latin students to repeat the class. These units may focus on a particular Latin author such as Ovid, Vergil, Cicero or Livy; an important historical period such as the Punic wars, the end of the Roman Republic, the Julio-Claudian dynasty or the late Roman Empire; or on a major social, cultural or philosophical topic such as free speech and censorship, slavery, public spectacles and entertainment, or Roman religion and divination.

Spanish I

- **Grade Level: 9**
- **Pre-Requisites: None**
- **Honors Option: No**

Spanish I is the first part of the three-part basic language program. It is designed for students with little or no experience with the language. Using authentic materials, class is conducted entirely in Spanish and students are expected to participate during class in the target language. Students read, write, speak, and develop listening comprehension skills in Spanish, focusing on interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Through the study of topics including food, sports, clothes, classes and extracurricular activities, students develop vocabulary, grammar, and explore cultural comparisons. Students will narrate events in the present tense and express likes, dislikes, and preferences. They will also begin to narrate events in the past.

Spanish II

- **Grade Level: 9-10**
- **Pre-Requisites: Spanish I or successful completion of Middle School Spanish**
- **Honors Option: No**

Spanish II builds on the foundation of vocabulary and structures from Spanish I. Using authentic materials, class is conducted entirely in Spanish. Students continue to refine their communication skills in the target language and further understand Spanish-speaking cultures in relation to their own. Spanish II students are expected to solely communicate in the target language during class with increased attention to interpersonal communication. Students learn and review grammatical structures in context, including reflexive verbs, the preterite and the imperfect tense. While learning these structures, students describe daily routines, speculate about life in the near future, and share various memories from childhood. Students have opportunities to practice narrating in the past. Students focus on both oral and written proficiency by performing interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational tasks throughout the year.

Spanish III

- **Grade Levels: 9-12**
- **Pre-Requisites: Spanish II**
- **Honors Option: No**

In Spanish III, students continue to develop their interpretive, presentational and interpersonal skills in Spanish. Using authentic materials, class is conducted entirely in Spanish. Participation and assignments are also completed exclusively in Spanish. Throughout the year, students develop more nuanced skills, with an emphasis on interpersonal communication. The course emphasizes proficiency with both the present tense and the past tense, as well as narration in the past tense and speculation using the future tense. At the conclusion of the academic year, students should be able to use the indicative and subjunctive moods to discuss past, present, and future events, as well as to comment about and speculate regarding the near and distant future.

Advanced Spanish Seminar: Caribbean Voices from the Margins

- **Grade Levels: 10-12**
- **Pre-Requisites: Spanish III**
- **Honors Option: No**

Upon successful completion of Spanish III, students are eligible to take the Advanced Spanish Seminar. This special topics course is non-sequential and, given that the focus is different every year, students are allowed to take it more than once. The course is taught completely in Spanish and emphasizes mastery and refinement of interpersonal communication (speaking and listening), as well as interpretive and presentational skills (reading and writing). Students are exposed to culture and current events in Spanish-speaking countries through authentic materials. Throughout the year, students will study music, film, short videos and documentaries, as well as literature, pop culture, and history from throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Throughout the course, students will continue to develop and demonstrate cultural literacy within the broader concept of global citizenship. Possible special topics include: “Contemporary Afro-Caribbean Voices,” “Revolutions, Civil Wars and 21st Century Mythmaking” and “Life on the Hyphen: Bilingualism and Identity Throughout the Spanish-Speaking World.”

For 2026-2027, the Advanced Seminar will be “Caribbean Voices from the Margins (Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic).” The seminar will explore marginalized voices in the Spanish speaking Caribbean and diaspora using authentic resources including music, film, literature, and visual arts.

Advanced Spanish Seminar: AP Spanish Language and Culture

- **Grade Level: 12**
- **Pre-requisites: Departmental Approval**
- **Honors Option: Advanced Placement**

Students taking AP Spanish Language & Culture will attend and complete all coursework for the Advanced Spanish Seminar. Additionally, they will have AP-specific work to complete beyond the seminar’s assignments. Students will work to achieve a high level of proficiency within the interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive modes of communication. This course prepares students for the AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam in May. It is recommended that interested students wait until senior year to take AP Spanish Language and Culture.

LEAD ONWARD

Through its Lead Onward program, Doane Academy signals clearly that it views the development of character and leadership qualities in our students as a priority equal in importance to academic achievement. Composed of a series of required grade-level courses in both Middle and Upper School, this program serves as a core pillar of Doane's culture and curriculum. Through it, we ensure that our students graduate knowing themselves, knowing the world, and ready to change both.

We are currently redesigning the curriculum to better align with our goals. College Counseling will remain part of Lead Onward for first semester Seniors and second semester Juniors. Students will be automatically assigned to the appropriate course.