

PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

COURSE GUIDE

U P P E R S C H O O L



Graduation Requirements

Course	College Preparatory	Distinguished*
English	4	4
Mathematics	4	4
Lab Science	4	4
History	4	4
World Language	2	3
Bible	4	4
Life Calling	0.5	0.5
Speech	0.5	0.5
Technology	1	1
Fine Arts	1	1
Physical Education	1	1

*4 Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement Course Offerings

Biology	United States History	Spanish Language and Culture
Calculus AB	United States Gov and Politics	Statistics
Calculus BC	Microeconomics* (Online and In Person)	Art: 2-D Art and Design
Physics 1	Macroeconomics* (Online and In Person)	Studio Art: 3-D Art and Design
Physics C	Art History*	Art: Drawing
Chemistry	Computer Science A	Computer Science Principles
English Language and Comp (11th)	World History Modern	
English Literature and Comp (12th)	Human Geography	

*Course offered through PCA Online

Honors Course/ Dual Credit Offerings*

English I-IV	Spanish II-IV*	Choir, PCA Singers
Creative Writing II	French II-III*	Adv Band
World History I-II	French IV	Film and Broadcast II-III
US History	Biology	Art
Economics	Chemistry	Ceramics; Sculpture
Government	Physics	Drawing; Painting
Algebra I-II	Engineering Physics	Technical Art III-IV
Geometry	Anatomy & Physiology	Future Problem Solvers
Pre-Calculus*	Theatre III-IV	Computer Science II
Lion Scholar	Mock Trial	Intro. to Philosophy*
Science Olympiad	Media Communication	Competitive Speech & Debate
Business Analysis/Calculus*	Newspaper/Yearbook	Theater Art III-IV
		Intro to Business Principles

*Dual Credit through John Brown University and Dallas Baptist University

Prestonwood Christian Academy PCA Plano Campus Experience

Code of Honor: Drawn from the school's motto, Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam, (all things to the glory of God) the Code of Honor is a standard of excellence by which all members of the school community conduct themselves to cultivate an environment of self-governance and integrity.

Senior Capstone: Graduation from PCA requires every student to produce an interdisciplinary body of work – a "Capstone." As a faculty, adviser-led, research project, the Capstone demonstrates the student's scholarship, biblical worldview, critical and creative thinking, and communication skills.

Lions Scholar Program: Lions Scholar Program (LSP) intentionally equips students to enter the most prestigious universities of America. LSP students focus on the great books and significant literature considered classical studies. Students are required to complete research and participate in Socratic debate including an in-depth research paper presented publicly.

STEM Honors Program The PCA Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math program is an interdisciplinary sequence of AP level courses, jury reviewed project based innovation, science fair participation, and summer studies. Students are required to complete two research design courses.

Student Leadership Institute: The Student Leadership Institute (SLI) is designed to assist young people in the development of their leadership philosophy and skills during a yearlong multifaceted program. SLI meets weekly to research and discuss current issues. The program focuses on individual and institutional commitments to becoming selfless and other-centered.

Minimester: Ministering through missions is a priority and integral part of the culture, curriculum and character of Prestonwood Christian Academy. By facilitating local and global mission opportunities during Minimester, the week before Spring Break, students are able to serve and learn in a variety of geographic and topical areas.

Biblical Worldview Conference: Biblical Worldview Conference is a dynamic two-day training seminar covering important categories such as Christian Ethics, Heritage, Mindset/Discernment, Creation vs. Evolution, Current Cultural Trends, Doctrine and more for students and faculty.

School Affiliations and Accreditations

Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
AdvancedED®
National Assoc of College Admission Counselors (NACAC)
Texas Assoc of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS)
Texas Assoc of College Admission Counseling (TACAC)
North American Coalition for Christian
Admissions Professionals (NACCAP)
The College Board
National Association of Christian Schools (NACS)

PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Vision Statement

To advance a Christian school of excellence through Kingdom education so that the generations to come will know the truth of God's Word and not forget His works, nor be taken captive by the vain philosophies of their day.

Mission Statement

In pursuit of excellence in education the mission of Prestonwood Christian Academy is: To assist Christian parents by helping equip students to embrace biblical truth, strive for academic excellence and model Christ-like leadership to influence their homes, churches and communities for Christ.



Course Guide Directory

[Bible and Theology](#)

[English/Humanities](#)

[History](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Science](#)

[World Languages](#)

[Upper School Electives](#)

[Communication Arts](#)

[Fine Arts](#)

[Physical Education](#)

[STEM](#)

[Technology](#)

[Non-Departmental Electives](#)

[International Student Courses](#)

[Appendix: Dual Credit Information](#)

[Upper School Virtual Courses](#)

Graduation Core Course Requirements*

	9th	10th	11th	12th
English	Eng I	Eng II	Eng III	Eng IV
History	W Hist I	W Hist II	US Hist	Econ/Gov
Math	Alg I	Geometry	Alg II	Math Elective
Science	Bio	Chem	Physics	Science Elective
Bible	Systematic Theo	Logic/W View	Apologetics	Intro Phil/Ethics

**Courses selected from the table above may be College Prep, Honors, or AP.*



Bible and Theology

Two semesters (1 credit) of Bible for each year a student is attending PCA are required for graduation. Students must be enrolled in a Bible class each year at PCA.

Christianity 101

Upper School Students New to PCA (except those who are Seniors)

Two Semester Course Credit 1.0

This introduction to Christianity's beliefs, practices, and principles helps prepare students new to PCA for future Bible learning. The course will begin by clarifying the central teaching of Christianity, the Gospel, and teach students how to read and understand the Bible.

Systematic Theology

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

This course provides a foundational understanding of Christian theology by exploring key theological topics through systematic, biblical, and historical lenses. Students will study bibliology (the study of the revelation of God), theology proper (the doctrine of God), anthropology (the doctrine of humanity), hamartiology (the doctrine of sin), Christology (the doctrine of the person and work of Christ), ecclesiology (the doctrine of the nature and mission of the Church), and eschatology (the doctrine of last things). By examining these topics through systematic, biblical, and historical theology, students will gain a deeper understanding of how Christian beliefs are shaped by Scripture, tradition, and reason, while also discovering practical ways to apply them in daily life.

Logic and Worldviews

Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

During the fall semester of this tenth-grade Bible course, the students use the principles of logic to distinguish true statements from false statements. The students learn the rules of logic and apply them in evaluating beliefs. This prepares the student to evaluate the various worldviews that are studied the following semester. During the spring semester, students trace the major worldviews of theism, deism, naturalism, nihilism, existentialism, pantheism, and postmodernism from a historical dynamic. The students learn the basic questions that define a worldview and evaluate the worldviews according to these important questions. The standard of God's truth is emphasized.



Apologetics

Eleventh Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

The eleventh-grade Bible course systematically examines a rational defense of the basic elements of the Christian faith, including the existence of God, the reliability of the Bible, the claims of Christ, and the historicity of the resurrection. The course is designed to explain how to present a reasoned defense of the Gospel: the student is exposed to the various attacks that have typically been leveled at the Bible and Christianity, whether religious, historical, or scientific. An overview of world religions and cults is included. Rebuttals to the challenges and the evangelistic opportunities they present are demonstrated.

Introduction to Ethics/Philosophy (with Dual Credit Introduction to Philosophy option)

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Bible Credit: 1.0

Dual Credit: *There is a fee for taking this course, paid to John Brown University. Students pay JBU \$315.00 per semester for course fees.*

This is a two-semester course taught by a single instructor; therefore, students must remain in the same class period for both semesters to maintain instructional continuity.

The Introduction to Ethics spring semester course examines ethical philosophy and theory as well as case studies of contemporary ethical issues. Students are taught the major theories of ethics, including divine command theory, utilitarianism, egoism, relativism, and virtue theory. A brief historical survey of ethical thought is covered. After establishing a firm foundation for ethical thinking and a process for ethical decision-making, the students analyze various moral issues. The case studies include abortion, reproductive technologies, genetic therapy, cloning, euthanasia, capital punishment, war, and legislating morality.

Introduction to Philosophy guides students toward a maturity of intellect and Christian faith. Teaching careful analysis and logic guides students to think responsibly and creatively about their worldview in light of their Christian faith. Students explore the major areas of philosophical inquiry with reference to both historical and contemporary thought. Developing critical thinking, cultivating awareness of worldviews, developing a positive Christian appreciation of the life of the mind, and exploring the relationship of philosophy to other disciplines are all goals of this course.



Bible Exposition

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course Credit 1.0

This course examines the significance of the Old and New Testaments in the Christian religion and develops the students' ability to interpret the meaning and significance of the biblical texts. The first portion of the class examines the basis of the authority of the biblical texts within Christian beliefs. This basis gives the student the background information necessary to develop their skills in interpreting the biblical text as a historical piece of literature. The many genres of the biblical text are explored in order to enable the students to interpret any biblical text in the Old or New Testament. The goal of the course is to prepare students to interact intelligently with a primary source of revelation in Christianity for personal growth in the Christian faith. This course is offered every other year, alternating with Christianity and Contemporary Culture.

Christianity and Contemporary Culture

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Elective, Male Students Only

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

This Bible elective examines a series of topics spanning across all areas of life. Students are exposed to different influences in Western culture and then compare and contrast those influences to a Christian theistic worldview. The students also participate in a service project during the course to expose them to different life circumstances, expanding the students' perspectives on the world around them. This course is offered every other year, alternating with Bible Exposition.

World Religions and New Religious Movements

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course Credit 1.0

This course surveys the major world religions and new religious movements (NRM). The history of religions is covered, with an emphasis on current beliefs. This course provides an introduction to religions and NRM by examining the historical development and contemporary practice of today's major religions from a distinctively Christian and Evangelical perspective. Other topics covered are the nature of religion, tribal religions, and alternatives to religion. Students will look at both the chronological appearance and beliefs of various religious movements. A philosophical assessment is covered, including the origins, conflicting claims, ethics, and current issues concerning religion.



Perspectives on the World Christian Movement

Tenth - Twelfth Grade Elective

Pass/Fail

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

This is a night course offered through Prestonwood Baptist Church

Prerequisite: None

The Perspectives course helps believers from all walks of life see how they can get threaded into God's story of redeeming people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to Himself. From Genesis to the prophets, Jesus Christ to the early church, and Constantine to today, you see how God has been moving, how the global Church has responded, and what the greatest needs in world evangelization remain today. It isn't a class about missions but a course on how every believer can be intimately woven into the story of God using His people to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth.

Perspectives is a 15-week course designed around four vantage points, or "perspectives"—Biblical, Historical, Cultural, and Strategic. Each one highlights different aspects of God's global purpose. The Biblical and Historical sections reveal why our confidence is based on the historic fact of God's relentless work from the dawn of history until this day. The Cultural and Strategic sections underscore that we are in the midst of a costly but very "doable" task, confirming the Biblical and Historical hope.

Students are required to complete the certificate-level course offered through Prestonwood Baptist Church to earn Upper School credit for the course. Once the course is completed, the student must submit their certificate to the PCA Guidance Office. This course is not calculated into the student's PCA GPA but is indicated as pass/fail credit on the PCA transcript for the course.



English/Humanities

Eight semesters (4 credits) of English are required for graduation. Students must be enrolled in an English class each year at PCA.

English I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

This ninth-grade course is designed to lay the foundation for all other literature courses. Students read from different literary genres—primarily the short story, novel, poetry, and drama—covering a variety of time periods from classical to contemporary. Students also learn foundational skills in writing (including MLA format), grammar, and vocabulary.

Honors English I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite:

- *70th percentile or higher on English placement assessment*
- and one of the following:
- *Teacher recommendation*
 - *A grade of 90 percent or higher in English 8*

This ninth-grade course is designed to lay the foundation for all other literature courses. Students read from different literary genres—primarily the short story, novel, poetry, and drama—covering a variety of time periods from classical to contemporary. Students also learn foundational skills in writing (including MLA format), art of discussion, grammar, and vocabulary predominantly conducted through class discussions and poetry and prose literary analysis writing. Students in Honors are taught to analyze and write about literary elements and techniques used by authors. They are prepared for upper-level Honors and AP® courses by learning the required terminology and practicing timed writings.

English II

Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

This tenth-grade course is designed to survey outstanding works of literature and heroes of the Western world. Students read examples of tragedy, comedy, and epic. Students continue honing their literary analysis through the crafting of journal entries, in-class essays, and research papers.



Honors English II

Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite:

- *70th percentile or higher on English placement assessment*
- and one of the following:
- *Teacher recommendation*
 - *A grade of 90 percent or higher in English I or 85 percent or higher in Honors English I*

This tenth-grade Honors course is designed to survey great works of literature and heroes of the Western world. Students read examples of tragedy, comedy, and epic, evaluating them through the lens of Aristotle's Poetics. In Honors English II the emphasis is on close reading, which requires students to notice details, images, diction, aspects of point of view, tone, and syntax. Furthermore, poetry and rhetorical analysis are taught, providing students opportunities to demonstrate their skill through class presentations. Timed writing and reflective critical essays are completed quarterly. The student enrolled in this course should have the desire to work, read, write, and think at an accelerated pace in preparation for Honors III or AP® English III.

English III

Eleventh Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit 1.0

This eleventh-grade course is designed to challenge juniors to apply a wide range of strategies as they grow in their understanding of American prose, poetry, and drama from the American settlement to modern times. The literature and nonfiction readings enable students to examine several aspects of the American experience, including freedom and independence, judgment, dream vs. reality, and racial/cultural issues. Students focus on the elements of style in writing and the use of persuasion and rhetoric. Students are also required to write a major research paper, and projects are assigned that require outside preparation.



Honors English III

Eleventh Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite:

- *70th percentile or higher on English placement assessment*
- and one of the following:
- *Teacher recommendation*
 - *A grade of 90 percent or higher in English II or 85 percent or higher in Honors English II*

This eleventh-grade course is designed to challenge juniors to apply a wide range of strategies as they grow in their understanding of American prose, poetry, and drama from the American settlement to modern times. The student enrolled in this course should have the desire to work at an accelerated pace. The literature and nonfiction readings enable students to examine several aspects of the American experience, including freedom and independence, judgment, dream vs. reality, and racial/cultural issues. Students focus on the elements of style in writing and the use of persuasion and rhetoric. Students are also required to write a major research paper, and projects are assigned that require outside preparation. The student enrolled in this course should have the desire to work, read, write, and think at an accelerated pace in preparation for Honors English IV or AP[®] English courses.

AP[®] English Language and Composition (AP[®] English III)

Eleventh Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite:

- *70th percentile or higher on English placement assessment*
- and one of the following:
- *Teacher recommendation*
 - *A grade of 90 percent or higher in Honors English II*

To understand the American culture, its politics, and ethos, students read pamphlets, speeches, essays, biographies, sermons, and fiction that transcribe the metamorphosis of America. Therefore, the majority of the readings, both fiction and nonfiction, are American. However, there is some non-fictional European prose read to deepen a student's awareness of rhetoric and the function of language. Through close reading and frequent writing, both mimetic and original, the students understand the purpose and strategy behind language, how to employ language to express their opinions and beliefs, and how to argue for truth. The remainder is a college-level course with high performance expectations. Due to this very demanding curriculum, students must have performed well in Honors English II to be admitted to the course. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement Language and Composition Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.



English IV

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

The twelfth-grade course presents a survey course of prose, poetry, and drama from an array of eras and cultures. Students write in response to selections, review grammar, and solidify vocabulary. Students should have the foundational skills necessary to do research and are responsible for researching and writing the literary Capstone during the course of the year. The major focus of this course is to prepare students for college coursework by helping them understand literature and refine their argumentation in writing through the framework of a Christian worldview.

Honors English IV

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite:

- *70th percentile or higher on English placement assessment*
- and one of the following:
- *Teacher recommendation*
 - *A grade of 90 percent or higher in English III or 85 percent or higher in AP® or Honors English III*

The Honors English IV course presents a survey of prose, poetry, and drama from an array of eras and cultures. Students write in response to selections, review grammar, and solidify vocabulary. Students should have the foundational skills necessary to do research and are responsible for researching and writing the literary Capstone during the course of the year. Using the selected works, students analyze the human experience through a biblical lens. Class is predominantly conducted through discussions in which all students are expected to actively participate and contribute. Tests, papers, and quizzes chiefly consist of responding to essay prompts aimed at soliciting literary analysis supported by clear and well-presented textual evidence. The student enrolled in this course should have the desire to work, read, write, and think at an accelerated pace.



AP[®] English Literature and Composition (AP[®] English IV)

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite:

- 70th percentile or higher on English placement assessment and one of the following:
- Teacher recommendation
- A grade of 90 percent or higher in Honors English III or 85 percent or higher in AP[®] English III

The AP[®] English Literature and Composition course challenges students to read and analyze literature from a variety of genres, eras, and cultures. Students write in response to selections, review grammar, and solidify vocabulary. Students should have the foundational skills necessary to do research and are responsible for researching and writing the literary Capstone during the course of the year. Using the selected works, students analyze the human experience through a biblical lens. Class is predominantly conducted through class discussions in which all students are expected to actively participate and contribute. The focus in surveying prose, poetry, and drama is to help students deepen their understanding of the tools and methods writers use to communicate meaning and to equip students to evaluate the effects of these tools and methods through writing. By evaluating a myriad of texts, students learn to analyze rhetorical devices and literary elements that contribute to the reading experience. Writing accounts for 55% of a student's score on the English Literature and Composition AP[®] Exam, and because this class has the potential of replacing up to two semesters of college English, the class is taught as an introductory college English course, requiring excellent reading, researching, and writing skills. The student should exhibit the ability to think critically and logically, to write with ease and clarity, and to work at an accelerated and challenging pace. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.

Creative Writing

Tenth - Twelfth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: *English I*

Creative Writing is designed to help students develop skill in fiction, poetry, and nonfiction narrative writing. Students begin by reading and mimicking the writing of outstanding authors while developing ideas of their own. By working together in a workshop-style atmosphere, students hone their craft by reading and discussing the work of their peers.



Honors Creative Writing

Tenth - Twelfth Grade Elective

One Semester Course Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: *English I, Creative Writing*

Honors Creative Writing is designed as a continuation of the skills learned in Creative Writing. Students focus on mastering strong writing skills and creating a portfolio that showcases their best work.

Honors Film as Literature

Eleventh - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course Credit 1.0

Prerequisite: *English I*

Film as Literature is a course designed to enhance students' analytical skills through the study of various films. Taking both a theoretical and historical approach, the course examines American cinema from 1895 to the present, with a focus on analyzing films through cultural and historical lenses. Students will develop skills in interpreting films, examining film adaptations alongside their original literary source material, engaging in critical discussion, and evaluating films as both literary works and reflections of the cultures and time periods in which they were created.

Christianity 101

Upper School Students New to PCA (except those who are Seniors)

Two-Semester Course Bible Credit 1.0

This introduction to Christianity's beliefs, practices, and principles helps prepare students new to PCA for future Bible learning. The course will begin by clarifying the central teaching of Christianity, the Gospel, and teach students how to read and understand the Bible.



Introduction to Ethics/Philosophy (with Dual Credit Introduction to Philosophy option)

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Bible Credit: 1.0

Dual Credit: *There is a fee for taking this course, paid to John Brown University. Students pay JBU \$315.00 per semester for course fees. See the Dual Credit Appendix for details.*

This is a two-semester course taught by a single instructor; therefore, students must remain in the same class period for both semesters to maintain instructional continuity.

The Introduction to Ethics spring semester course examines ethical philosophy and theory as well as case studies of contemporary ethical issues. Students are taught the major theories of ethics, including divine command theory, utilitarianism, egoism, relativism, and virtue theory. A brief historical survey of ethical thought is covered. After establishing a firm foundation for ethical thinking and a process for ethical decision-making, the students analyze various moral issues. The case studies include abortion, reproductive technologies, genetic therapy, cloning, euthanasia, capital punishment, war, and legislating morality.

Introduction to Philosophy guides students toward a maturity of intellect and Christian faith. Teaching careful analysis and logic guides students to think responsibly and creatively about their worldview in light of their Christian faith. Students explore the major areas of philosophical inquiry with reference to both historical and contemporary thought. Developing critical thinking, cultivating awareness of worldviews, developing a positive Christian appreciation of the life of the mind, and exploring the relationship of philosophy to other disciplines are all goals of this course.



History

Eight semesters (4 credits) of History are required for graduation. Students must be enrolled in a history class each year at PCA.

World History I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

The World History I course examines man's development from Creation through the Middle Ages. A biblical worldview is used as a filter as students analyze ancient civilizations and the Middle Ages in order to evaluate the geographic, political, social, and economic characteristics of people groups from Creation through the mid-1400s. Our course of study begins with a foundational study of biblical versus non-biblical worldviews.

Honors World History I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements*

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in 8th grade American History
- PSAT EBRW at 80th percentile or higher
- Department recommendation

The Honors World History I course examines man's development from Creation through the Middle Ages. A biblical worldview is used as a filter as students analyze ancient civilizations and the Middle Ages in order to evaluate the geographic, political, social, and economic characteristics of people groups from Creation through the mid-1400s. Our course of study begins with a foundational study of biblical versus non-biblical worldviews. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex reading assignments and assessments in preparation for future AP® courses.

World History II

Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

The World History II course examines man's development from the Renaissance through the early 21st century. A biblical worldview is used as a filter as students analyze people groups and nations in order to evaluate the geographic, political, social, religious, and economic characteristics from the Renaissance through the early 21st century.



Honors World History II

Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements*

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in World History I or 85 percent or higher in Honors World History I
- PreACT Reading and English at 80th percentile or higher or PSAT EBRW at the 80th percentile or higher
- Department recommendation

The Honors World History II course examines man's development from the Renaissance through the early 21st century. A biblical worldview is used as a filter as students analyze people groups and nations in order to evaluate the geographic, political, social, religious, and economic characteristics from the Renaissance through the early 21st century. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex reading assignments and assessments in preparation for future AP® courses.

AP® World History: Modern

Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements*

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in World History I or 85 percent or higher in Honors World History I
- PreACT Reading and English at 80th percentile or higher or PSAT EBRW at the 80th percentile or higher
- Department recommendation

In AP World History: Modern, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement World History: Modern Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.

US History

Eleventh Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

The United States History course focuses on the history of our country from the beginnings to the early 21st century. Students study the major events, people, and culture in the development of our nation. This course is designed to encourage thinking about our Christian heritage and foster a respect for our American leaders and influential persons. Students are also encouraged to analyze choices leaders have made and the effects of those choices.



Honors US History

Eleventh Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements*

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in World History II class or 85 percent or higher in a Honors World History II
- PreACT Reading and English at 80th percentile or higher or PSAT EBRW at the 80th percentile or higher
- Department recommendation

The Honors United States History course focuses on the history of our country from the beginnings to the early 21st century. Students study the major events, people, and culture in the development of our nation. This course is designed to encourage higher-level critical thinking about our Christian heritage and foster a respect for our American leaders and influential persons. The Honors course requires analysis of historical documents and places a greater emphasis on interpretation of historical themes and issues. Historical research is also required. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex reading assignments and assessments in preparation for future AP[®] courses.

AP[®] United States History

Eleventh Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

The Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course

Prerequisite: *Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements*

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in Honors World History II
- PreACT Reading and English at 80th percentile or higher or PSAT EBRW at the 80th percentile or higher
- Department recommendation

This course is designed to equip students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. Students learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Included and emphasized in this study are the biblical roots of representative government as it was conceived by the founding fathers. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement United States History Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.



AP® Human Geography

Eleventh - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Student must meet 2 of 3 requirements*

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in World History II or 85 percent or higher in Honors World History II
- PreACT Reading and English at 80th percentile or higher or PSAT EBRW at the 80th percentile or higher
- Department recommendation

AP® Human Geography is an introductory college-level human geography course. Students cultivate their understanding of human geography through data and geographic analyses as they explore topics like patterns and spatial organization, human impacts and interactions with their environment, and spatial processes and societal changes.

Economics/Government

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

This is a two-semester course taught by a single instructor; therefore, students must remain in the same class period for both semesters to maintain instructional continuity.

Economics is a fall course and connects concepts in government with economic policies and procedures. In Economics, the focus is on the basic principles concerning the production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services in the United States. Students analyze the interaction of supply, demand, and price and study the role of financial institutions in a free enterprise system. Personal finance and stewardship are addressed in practical real-life situations with insight from a certified Kingdom financial advisor. The impact of a variety of factors, including the federal government, economic ideas from important philosophers, historic documents, and technological innovations, on the national economy and economic policy is an integral part of the course.

The spring semester United States Government course is designed to give the students an in-depth understanding of the structure and function of the U.S. Government. Throughout the course, students examine and evaluate institutions of government, those who influence these institutions, the public policies made by these institutions, and the influences of the electorate on policies. In addition, students are able to connect concepts in government with economic policies and procedures.



Honors Economics/Honors Government

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: *Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements*

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in US History or 85 percent or higher in Honors/AP US History
- ACT Reading and English at 80th percentile or higher or SAT/PSAT EBRW at 80th percentile or higher
- Department recommendation

This is a two-semester course taught by a single instructor; therefore, students must remain in the same class period for both semesters to maintain instructional continuity.

In Honors Economics, the focus is on the basic principles concerning the production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services in the United States. Students analyze the interaction of supply, demand, and price and study the role of financial institutions in a free enterprise system. Personal finance and stewardship are addressed in practical real-life situations with insight from a certified Kingdom financial advisor. The impact of various factors, including the federal government, economic ideas from important philosophers, historic documents, and technological innovations, on the national economy and economic policy is an integral part of the course.

Honors Government is designed to give the students an in-depth understanding of the structure and function of the U.S. Government as well as the basics of micro- and macroeconomics. Throughout the course, students examine and evaluate institutions of government, those who influence these institutions, the public policies made by these institutions, and the influences of the electorate on policies. In addition, students are able to connect concepts in government with economic policies and procedures. Students in Honors Government understand the need for active participation and the purpose of government in our everyday lives. Students realize that political phenomena rarely resemble the trite reductions projected by the media but rather are complex matrices of power composed of diverse pressures and competing interests.

AP® Macroeconomics

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: A grade of 90 percent or higher in Algebra II or 85 percent or higher in Honors Algebra II

AP Macroeconomics is a college-level course that introduces students to the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination. It also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Students learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. AP Macroeconomics is equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course in economics."



AP® Microeconomics

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: A grade of 90 percent or higher in Algebra II or 85 percent or higher in Honors Algebra II

AP Microeconomics is a college-level course that introduces students to the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers. The course also develops students' familiarity with the operation of product and factor markets, distributions of income, market failure, and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. AP Microeconomics is equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course in economics.

AP® United States Government and Politics/Economics

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Student is responsible for purchasing the AP Government textbooks for this course.

Prerequisite: *Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements.*

- Grade of 85 percent or higher in Honors/AP US History
- ACT Reading and English at 80th percentile or higher or SAT/PSAT EBRW at 80th percentile or higher
- Department recommendation

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics provides a college-level introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. Underpinning the required content of the course are several big ideas that allow students to create meaningful connections among concepts throughout the course. Students will also engage in skill development that requires them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics Exam in early May to possibly qualify for college credit.



History of the Holocaust

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Elective (Tenth Grade with teacher approval)

One Semester Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: *World History I and II*

The History of the Holocaust course is a structured inquiry into Holocaust history that yields critical lessons through investigating human behavior. In this course, students will realize that democratic institutions and values are not automatically sustained but need to be appreciated, nurtured, and protected. Additionally, an understanding of the effects of silence and indifference to the infringement of rights on any individual or society will be developed as students learn that individuals, organizations, and governments made choices that not only legalized discrimination but also allowed prejudice, hatred, and ultimately mass murder to occur. A study of the Holocaust also provides the opportunity to examine what it means to be a responsible Christian citizen with an understanding that all rights are God-given.



Mathematics

Eight semesters (4 credits) of math are required for graduation. Students must be enrolled in a math class each year at PCA. Students new to PCA will be required to take a placement test to ensure readiness for honors-level math courses. All new PCA students are required to purchase the TI-84 CE calculator.

Algebra I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Pre-Algebra*

The Algebra I course is designed to provide the foundation for more advanced courses in mathematics and to develop problem-solving skills. Emphasis is placed on solving equations, relations, functions, slopes, inequalities, polynomials, factoring, roots, rational expressions, and quadratics.

Honors Algebra I

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Pre-Algebra*

- 70th percentile or higher on MAP math test or math placement test
- and one of the following:*
- Teacher recommendation
 - A grade of 90 percent or higher in Pre-Algebra

Honors Algebra I is a course within the Honors program that prepares students for AP Calculus concepts at the Algebra I level. This course moves at a faster pace and has a higher level of difficulty. In addition to the Algebra I curriculum, this class covers quadratics and rational expressions in much greater depth. Critical thinking skills are emphasized in order to develop competence in problem solving. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex assignments and assessments in preparation for future AP® courses.



Geometry

Ninth and Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Algebra I*

The Geometry course is taken between Algebra I and Algebra II. Skills mastered in earlier courses are applied to the study of points, lines, and planes. Students use logic and algebraic skills to solve problems involving geometric concepts. A formal logic of definitions, postulates, and theorems is used in the construction of proofs. The course also covers polygons, parallels, similarity, proportions, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, constructions, areas, surface area, volumes, fractals, and tessellations.

Honors Geometry

Ninth and Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite for current 8th graders:

- 70th percentile or higher on MAP math test or math placement test
- and one of the following:
- Teacher recommendation
- A grade of 85 percent or higher in Honors Algebra I

Prerequisite for current 9th graders:

- 70th percentile or higher on MAP math test or math placement test
- and one of the following:
- Teacher recommendation
- A grade of 90 percent or higher in Algebra I, or 85 percent or higher in Honors Algebra I

Honors Geometry is a course that prepares students for AP Calculus concepts at the Geometry level. This course works at a faster pace and integrates higher-level algebra skills. In addition to the topics covered in Geometry, the students also have a much deeper exposure to formal proofs and study right triangle trigonometry and the law of sine and cosine. Critical thinking skills are emphasized to develop competence in problem-solving. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex assignments and assessments in preparation for future AP[®] courses.



Algebra II

Tenth and Eleventh Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: *Algebra I, Geometry*

The Algebra II course is designed to continue the study of the structure of algebra and provide the foundation for the application of these skills in other scientific and mathematical fields of study. A high emphasis is placed on functions, graphical analysis, and problem-solving. The main topics that are discussed are solving skills, absolute value equations and inequalities, polynomials, factoring, quadratics, complex numbers, systems, rational expressions, conics, and exponential and logarithmic functions. Critical thinking skills are emphasized in order to develop competence in problem solving.

Honors Algebra II

Tenth and Eleventh Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Algebra I and Geometry*

- 70th percentile or higher on MAP math test or math placement test
and one of the following:
- Teacher recommendation
- A grade of 90 percent or higher in Geometry, or 85 percent or higher in Honors Geometry

Honors Algebra II is a course that prepares students for AP Calculus concepts at the Algebra II level. This course moves at a faster pace and covers problems with a higher level of difficulty. In addition to the topics covered in Algebra II, this class emphasizes critical thinking skills to develop mastery of problem-solving. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex assignments and assessments in preparation for future AP[®] courses.

Intermediate Algebra

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

This course may not be taken after Pre-Calculus or Honors Algebra II.

Prerequisite: *Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II*

- Grade of 70-75 in Algebra II
- Department recommendation

The Intermediate Algebra course is for seniors who need to improve their algebra skills in preparation for a basic college math requirement. This class consists of the core Algebra II topics, including, but not limited to, polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, systems of equations and inequalities, conics, and radicals.



Pre-Calculus

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II*

- Grade of 75 or higher in Algebra II

The Pre-Calculus course consists of one semester of algebra review, including function analysis and transformations, polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, and solving techniques necessary for an introductory college math course. The second semester focuses on the study of trigonometry, which prepares students for business math courses or calculus.

Honors Pre-Calculus (with Dual Credit option)

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II*

- 70th percentile or higher on MAP math test or math placement test
and one of the following:
- Teacher recommendation
- A grade of 90 percent or higher in Algebra II, or 85 percent or higher in Honors Algebra II

Dual Credit: *Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks and software for this course. There is a fee for taking this course, paid to Dallas Baptist University (DBU). Students pay DBU \$300.00 per semester for this two-semester dual credit course.*

- *The PCA prerequisite requirements are the same as those for Honors Pre-Calculus.*
- *A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above*
- *Required College Entrance Exam Scores. Students must meet one of the following:*
 - o *ACT Math score of 21*
 - o *SAT Math score of 520*
 - o *eMAT score of 46*

The Honors Pre-Calculus course is designed for the college-bound student or as a prerequisite for Calculus. This class takes an integrated approach to trigonometry and analytic geometry and emphasizes functions and graphing as well as exponential and logarithmic functions. Various topics essential to AP Calculus are included. This course is intended for students planning on taking AP Calculus AB or BC. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex assignments and assessments in preparation for future AP[®] courses.



Statistics

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Two-Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Algebra II*

The Statistics course is designed to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data as in a typical college statistics course. This course covers topics such as frequency distributions, graphical representation, measures of central tendency and dispersion, the normal curve, and hypothesis testing confidence intervals.

AP[®] Statistics

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

The students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course.

Prerequisite: *Honors Algebra II*

Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements depending on current grade level:

- Grade of 85 percent or higher in Honors Algebra II
- Eleventh Grade: PreACT or PSAT Math at 80th percentile or higher on the 10th-grade test
- Twelfth Grade: PreACT or PSAT Math at the 85th percentile or higher on 11th grade test
- Department recommendation/mathematics department assessment

The AP[®] Statistics course follows the outline for AP[®] credit through the College Board for AP Statistics. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data (describing patterns and departures from patterns), sampling and experimentation (planning and conducting a study), anticipating patterns (exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation), statistical inference, estimating population parameters, and testing hypotheses. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement Statistics Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.



Honors Business Analysis/Calculus

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Pre-Calculus*

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in Pre-Calculus
- Department recommendation/mathematics department assessment

Dual Credit: Honors Business Analysis (fall semester)

There is a fee for taking this course, paid to Dallas Baptist University (DBU): Students pay DBU \$300.00 for this one-semester dual credit course. Additional fees for textbooks and reading material may apply. See the Dual Credit Appendix for details.

- Same PCA prerequisites as Honors Business Analysis.
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above
- Students must meet one of the following required college entrance exam scores:
 - ACT Math score of 19
 - SAT Math score of 500
 - eMAT score of 43

The Honors Business Analysis/Calculus course is designed to apply precalculus concepts such as algebraic functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, matrices, linear systems, and linear programming to various business applications with emphasis on economic and social sciences. The second semester introduces basic calculus concepts. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex assignments and assessments in preparation for future AP[®] courses.

AP[®] Calculus AB

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course.

Prerequisite: *Honors Pre-Calculus*

Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements depending on current grade level:

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in Honors Pre-Calculus
- Twelfth Grade: PreACT or PSAT Math at the 85th percentile or higher on 11th grade test
- Department recommendation/mathematics department assessment

The AP[®] Calculus AB course is designed to begin the study of calculus and follows the outline for AP[®] credit through the College Board. AP[®] Calculus AB focuses on students' understanding of calculus concepts and provides experience with methods and applications. Through the use of big ideas in calculus (e.g., modeling change, approximation and limits, and analysis of functions), each AP[®] course becomes a cohesive whole, rather than a collection of unrelated topics, and requires students to use definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement Calculus AB Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.



AP[®] Calculus BC

Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course.

Prerequisite: *Honors Pre-Calculus*

Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements depending on current grade level:

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in Honors Pre-Calculus
- Twelfth Grade: PreACT or PSAT Math at the 85th percentile or higher on 11th grade test
- Department recommendation/mathematics department assessment

The AP[®] Calculus BC course is designed to begin the study of calculus and follows the outline for AP[®] credit through the College Board for BC Calculus. Emphasis is placed on limits, differentiation and integration skills and their applications, parametric and polar functions, and power series. Through the use of big ideas in calculus (e.g., modeling change, approximation and limits, and analysis of functions), each AP[®] course becomes a cohesive whole, rather than a collection of unrelated topics, and requires students to use definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement Calculus BC Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.



Science

Eight semesters (4 credits) of science are required for graduation. All students are required to take at least one science course for every year enrolled at PCA. Students must take the three core science courses of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

Biology

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

In Biology, students conduct laboratory investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem-solving. Students study a variety of topics that include structures and functions of cells, metabolism, energy transfers in living organisms, living systems, homeostasis, ecosystems, and plants and their environment. Hands-on labs include dissections of animal hearts and fetal pigs to enhance the study of the various body systems.

Honors Biology

Ninth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements:*

- Grade of 90 percent or higher in the 8th grade science class
- PSAT EBRW at the 80th percentile or higher
- Department recommendation

Honors Biology is an in-depth survey course where students conduct laboratory investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem-solving. Students study a variety of topics that include structures and functions of cells, metabolism, energy transfers in living organisms, living systems, homeostasis, ecosystems, and plants and their environment. Hands-on labs include dissections of animal hearts and fetal pigs to enhance the study of the various body systems. This emphasizes critical thinking skills and the application of concepts. Students learn a variety of laboratory techniques, and formal lab reports are introduced. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex reading assignments and assessments in preparation for future AP[®] courses.



Chemistry

Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: *Biology, Algebra I*

Chemistry is the study of matter and the changes that it undergoes. In this introductory course, students examine a broad range of principles in chemistry and receive experience in a laboratory setting. Topics include dimensional analysis, atomic theory, the periodic table, compounds, the molar concept, equations/reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, gas laws, solutions, acids/bases, and an introduction to nuclear chemistry.

Honors Chemistry

Tenth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Biology, Algebra I*

Students must meet 2 of 3 prerequisites:

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in Biology or 85 percent or higher in Honors Biology
- PreACT Reading and Math or PSAT EBRW and Math: at the 85th percentile and higher on 9th grade test
- Department recommendation

Honors Chemistry is the study of matter and the changes that it undergoes. In this honors-level course, students examine a broad range of principles in chemistry and receive experience in a laboratory setting where students are challenged to think analytically and critically. Topics include dimensional analysis, atomic theory, the periodic table, compounds, the molar concept, equations/reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, gas laws, solutions, acids/bases, and an introduction to nuclear chemistry. Since this is an honors course, students are expected to dig deeper, investigate more clearly, and research more thoroughly. Students learn various laboratory techniques, and formal lab reports are introduced. *Strong math skills are recommended.* Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex reading assignments and assessments in preparation for future AP[®] courses.

Physics

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: *Biology, Chemistry*

Physics is an introductory course that explores a broad range of principles, including introductory kinematics, Newtonian mechanics, projectile motion, conservation of momentum and energy, fluid and wave properties, electromagnetism, and a brief introduction to nuclear physics. Students receive experience in a laboratory setting and are challenged to think analytically, creatively, and critically. Emphasis is placed on how the creation reflects the intelligent and ordered nature of its Creator.



Honors Physics

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: *Biology, Chemistry*

Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements:

- A grade of 85 percent or higher in Chemistry or 80 percent or higher in Honors Chemistry
- Eleventh Grade: PreACT Reading and Math or PSAT EBRW and Math: at 85th percentile or higher on 10th grade test
- Twelfth Grade: PSAT: at 85th percentile or higher on 11th grade PSAT
- Department recommendation

Honors Physics is an introductory course that explores a broad range of principles, including introductory kinematics, Newtonian mechanics, projectile motion, conservation of momentum and energy, fluid and wave properties, electromagnetism, and a brief introduction to nuclear physics. Students receive experience in a laboratory setting and are challenged to think analytically, creatively, and critically. In this honors-level class, an emphasis is placed on developing math skills to solve real-world problems. Students also investigate how the creation reflects the intelligent and ordered nature of its Creator.

AP[®] Physics 1

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course

Prerequisites: *Biology, Chemistry, at least one honors-level science course, concurrently in Honors Pre-Calculus or higher*

Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements:

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in Chemistry or 85 percent or higher in Honors Chemistry
- Eleventh Grade: PreACT Reading and Math or PSAT EBRW and Math: at 85th percentile or higher on 10th grade test
- Twelfth Grade: PSAT: at 85th percentile or higher on 11th grade PSAT
- Department recommendation

AP Physics 1 is an introductory physics course that is equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics. It is designed to prepare students for a first-year calculus-based physics course at the university level (whether taken as an Advanced Placement class or on a college campus). Terminology and concepts covered are consistent with the AP Physics C (calculus-based) course offered to seniors. Due to the mathematical nature of physics, students in AP Physics 1 must have a strong background in math and must have received credit for or be enrolled concurrently in Honors Pre-Calculus. Topics of study include the following seven content areas: kinematics; Newton's laws of motion; work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; circular motion and rotation; oscillations and gravitation; and fluids. Students are challenged to think creatively and critically with an emphasis on the practical and experimental aspects of science. They will examine how the creation reflects the intelligent and ordered nature of its Creator. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement Physics 1 exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.



AP® Physics C

Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course

Prerequisite: *AP Physics 1, must be concurrently enrolled in AP Calculus AB or BC*

Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements:

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in AP Physics 1
- PSAT EBRW and Math at 85th percentile and higher on 11th grade test
- Department recommendation

AP Physics C is a second-year course that covers material from two courses—Physics C: Mechanics and Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, each corresponding to approximately a semester of college work. Physics C: Mechanics covers the following six content areas: kinematics; Newton's laws of motion; work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; circular motion and rotation; and oscillations and gravitation. Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism covers the following five content areas: electrostatics; conductors, capacitors, and dielectrics; electric circuits; magnetic fields; and electromagnetism. Both courses use introductory differential and integral calculus throughout. The small class size is conducive to the student-centered instruction and discussion, extensive inquiry-based laboratory investigations, group problem-solving, and other practices to foster creative and critical thinking skills. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement Physics C: Mechanics Exam or the Advanced Placement Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.

Anatomy and Physiology

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Biology, Chemistry*

Anatomy and Physiology is a laboratory-intensive senior-level course exploring the topics of homeostasis, histology, and the anatomy of the human body systems with concurrent study of the physiology of those systems. Each system is studied utilizing technology, anatomical models, and preserved specimens. Case studies of current medical issues are reviewed in order to enhance learning of the systems. A series of short-term dissections on a variety of specimens will be required.



Honors Anatomy and Physiology

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Biology, Chemistry*

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A grade of 80 percent or higher in any level of Biology and Chemistry
- Department recommendation

Honors Anatomy and Physiology is recommended for students who have a strong interest in human physiology and are planning to pursue a career in the life sciences or health-related professions. Students will explore the structural and functional relationships of the organ systems and how they dynamically work together to sustain life. In addition, how the human body responds to pathophysiological imbalances and ultimately maintains homeostasis will be studied. Participation in a long-term, in-depth cat dissection will be required for completion of this course.

Forensic Science

Tenth - Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Biology and Algebra I*

Forensic Science combines topics from math, chemistry, biology, physics, psychology, and earth science into a single course. Thought-provoking activities and strong applications help students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students learn to utilize information on the analysis of fingerprints, chemicals, and trace evidence. Analytical thinking is used to solve crimes.

AP® Biology

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course

Prerequisites: *Biology, Chemistry, at least one honors-level science course is required*

Students must meet 2 of the 3 requirements:

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in at least one Honors science course
- Eleventh Grade: PreACT or PSAT: at 80th percentile or higher on the 10th-grade test
- Twelfth Grade: PSAT: at 80th percentile or higher on 11th grade test
- Department recommendation

AP® Biology is an upper-level, advanced placement course intended for those students seeking further science preparation for college. It is the equivalent of a college freshman course in general biology. The course features a biochemical approach to the study of life functions and includes an intense laboratory program that stresses graphing and analysis of data. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement Biology Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.



AP® Chemistry

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course

Prerequisite: *Biology, Honors Chemistry*

- A grade of 90 percent or higher in Honors Chemistry
- Eleventh Grade: PreACT or PSAT Math at 8th percentile or higher on the 10th-grade test
- Twelfth Grade: ACT, SAT, or PSAT Math at 80th percentile or higher on 11th grade test
- Department recommendation

AP® Chemistry is designed to be the equivalent of the first two semesters of general college chemistry. It includes classroom and laboratory work and involves higher-level thinking. Topics include atomic theory, electronic structure, periodic trends, chemical bonding, thermochemistry, chemical kinetics, equilibria, and electrochemistry. This class prepares students for a rigorous university chemistry course. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement Chemistry Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.

Honors Engineering Physics

Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: *Geometry, Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry*

Students must meet 2 of 3 requirements:

- A grade of 85 percent or higher in Physics or Chemistry, 80 percent or higher in Honors Physics or Chemistry, credit for AP Physics 1
- PSAT Math at 85th percentile or higher on the 11th-grade test
- Department recommendation

In this survey course, the emphasis will be on learning what engineering is, the type of work and applications for various engineering disciplines, the design process, how to effectively communicate design solutions, and working through implementing a solution from paper in the real, non-ideal world. Students will be designing and evaluating systems, effectively collaborating and communicating with team members, and considering constraining factors when designing a final solution. There is considerable group work and projects in this course that require meeting, collaborating, and communicating with group members outside of class. Projects will investigate the practical application of math and science content from previous courses. Students will be problem-solving, using creative and critical thinking, and utilizing technology to communicate their solutions.



World Languages

Four semesters (2 credits) of the same language are required for graduation; six semesters (3 credits) of the same language are required for a Distinguished Diploma.

French I

Ninth - Eleventh Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

The French I course develops the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students learn the present tense of both regular and irregular verbs and are introduced to the immediate future structure. Vocabulary is also emphasized to provide the student a basis for communicating. In addition to the actual study of the language, a secondary goal is to further enrich the student's knowledge of the culture, history, and geography of the French-speaking world.

French II

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *French I*

The French II course continues the development of the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students learn passé composé and imperfect tenses along with increasing their vocabulary. In addition to the actual study of the language, a secondary goal is to further enrich the student's knowledge of the culture, history, and geography of the French-speaking world.

Honors French II (with Dual Credit option)

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *French I*

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A grade of 90 percent or above in French I
- Department recommendation

Dual Credit: *There is a fee for taking this course, paid to John Brown University. Students pay JBU \$315.00 per semester for course fees. See the Dual Credit Appendix for details.*

The Honors French II course proceeds at a faster pace than French II with more extensive assignments. The course continues from French I with the development of the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students learn passé composé and imperfect tenses along with increasing their vocabulary. In addition to the actual study of the language, a secondary goal is to further enrich the student's knowledge of the culture, history, and geography of the French-speaking world. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex reading assignments and assessments in preparation for future Honors or AP® courses.



Honors French III (with Dual Credit option)

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Honors French II*

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A grade of 80 percent or above in Honors French II
- Department recommendation

Dual Credit: *There is a fee for taking this course, paid to John Brown University. Students pay JBU \$315.00 per semester for course fees. See the Dual Credit Appendix for details.*

This is an accelerated class that continues the development of the four basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Vocabulary and grammar continue to be emphasized. Reading skills are reinforced by selected readings of short stories, poems, newspapers, periodicals, and text materials. Writing is controlled for accurate language usage. The class is conducted in French for an immersive experience and proceeds at a faster pace. Students are expected by year's end to read, write, speak, and comprehend in the past, present, and future tenses as well as have an introduction to the conditional tense and the subjunctive mood. In addition to the actual study of the language, a secondary goal is to further enrich the student's knowledge of the culture, history, and geography of the French-speaking world. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex reading assignments and assessments in preparation for future Honors or AP® courses.

Honors French IV

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Honors French III*

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A grade of 80 percent or above in Honors French III
- Department recommendation

This is an accelerated class that continues the development of the four basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Vocabulary and grammar continue to be emphasized. Reading skills are reinforced by selected readings of short stories, poems, newspapers, periodicals, and text materials. Writing is controlled for accurate language usage. The class is conducted in French for an immersive experience and proceeds at a faster pace. In addition to the actual study of the language, a secondary goal is to further enrich the student's knowledge of the culture, history, and geography of the French-speaking world. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex reading assignments and assessments in preparation for future Honors or AP® courses.



Spanish I

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

The Spanish 1 course centers on nurturing the essential language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Thematic units guide the language curriculum at each level, and instruction is delivered with a focus on strategic skills to enable effective communication for students. The course places emphasis on constructing a solid foundation in vocabulary and language structure, contributing to enhanced language proficiency. In addition to linguistic studies, the program seeks to instill survival skills by immersing students in the culture, history, and geography of the Spanish-speaking world, providing a comprehensive understanding of the language and its broader context.

Spanish II

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Spanish I*

The Spanish II course continues to build on the foundation of Spanish I by advancing language proficiency and delving deeper into the development of essential skills of effective communication: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Thematic units guide the language curriculum at each level, and instruction is delivered with a focus on strategic skills to enable increasing communication for students. The course emphasizes foundational vocabulary and language structures that contribute to language proficiency. In addition to linguistic studies, the program seeks to immerse students in the culture, history, and geography of the Spanish-speaking world with the goal of providing a comprehensive understanding of the language and its broader context.

Honors Spanish II

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Spanish I*

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A grade of 90 percent or above in Spanish I
- Department recommendation

The Spanish II course continues to build on the foundation of Spanish I by advancing language proficiency and further emphasizing the development of essential skills of effective communication: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Thematic units guide the language curriculum at each level, and instruction is delivered with a focus on strategic skills to enable increasing communication for students. The course emphasizes foundational vocabulary and language structures that contribute to language proficiency. In addition to linguistic studies, the program seeks to immerse students in the culture, history, and geography of the Spanish-speaking world with the goal of providing a comprehensive understanding of the language and its broader context. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex reading assignments and assessments in preparation for future Honors or AP® courses.



Spanish III

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: *Spanish I & II*

The Spanish III course builds upon the foundation established in Spanish II by advancing language proficiency through a deeper exploration of essential skills for effective communication, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Thematic units guide the language curriculum at each level, and instruction is delivered with a focus on strategic skills to enable increasing communication for students. The course emphasizes foundational vocabulary and language structures, contributing to enhanced language proficiency. In addition to linguistic studies, the program seeks to immerse students in the culture, history, and geography of the Spanish-speaking world, providing a comprehensive understanding of the language and its broader context. Further benefits of continued world language study include stronger cognitive development, increased creativity, and divergent thinking. Students who successfully complete a Level 3 World Languages course are eligible for the Distinguished Diploma.

Honors Spanish III

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Honors Spanish II*

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A grade of 80 percent or above in Honors Spanish II
- Department recommendation

The Spanish III course builds upon the foundation established in Spanish II by advancing language proficiency through a deeper exploration of essential skills for effective communication, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Thematic units guide the language curriculum at each level, and instruction is delivered with a focus on strategic skills to enable increasing communication for students. The course emphasizes foundational vocabulary and language structures, contributing to enhanced language proficiency. In addition to linguistic studies, the program seeks to immerse students in the culture, history, and geography of the Spanish-speaking world, providing a comprehensive understanding of the language and its broader context. Further benefits of continued world language study include stronger cognitive development, increased creativity, and divergent thinking. Students who successfully complete a Level 3 World Languages course are eligible for the Distinguished Diploma. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex reading assignments and assessments in preparation for future Honors or AP® courses.



Honors Spanish IV

Eleventh - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit 1.0

Prerequisites: *Spanish III*

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A grade of 80 percent or above in Honors Spanish III or 90 percent or above in Spanish III
- Department recommendation

This is an honors class that continues the development of the four basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Vocabulary and grammar continue to be emphasized. Reading skills are reinforced by selected readings of short stories, poems, newspapers, periodicals, and text materials. Writing is controlled for accurate language usage. The class is conducted in Spanish for an immersive experience and proceeds at a faster pace. In addition to the actual study of the language, a secondary goal is to further enrich the student's knowledge of the culture, history, and geography of the Spanish-speaking world. Students taking honors-level courses will have additional opportunities and expectations to develop deeper understanding through more complex reading assignments and assessments in preparation for future Honors or AP® courses.

AP® Spanish Language and Culture (AP® Spanish)

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course

Prerequisites: *Spanish I, Honors Spanish II & Honors Spanish III*

Students must meet the following requirements:

- A grade of 80 percent or above in Honors Spanish III or 90 percent or above in Spanish III
- Department recommendation

The AP® Spanish Language and Culture is equivalent to an intermediate-level college course in Spanish. Students cultivate their understanding of Spanish language and culture by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations as they explore concepts related to family and communities, personal and public identities, beauty and aesthetics, science and technology, contemporary life, and global challenges. It is expected that students take the Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.



UPPER SCHOOL ELECTIVES

Communication Arts

One semester (0.5 credit) of **Speech and Communications** or **Introduction to Speech and Debate** or (1.0 credit) of **Mock Trial** is required for graduation.

Speech and Communications

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 Speech credit

In this one-semester course, students learn and practice the principles of speech writing and public speaking as tools of communication. Students become proficient in thoroughly researching, outlining, and effectively delivering a speech. They study the communication model and understand the importance of all types of communication. Additionally, they practice vocal technique and breathing to gain confidence in the area of public speaking. The types of speeches covered in the course include impromptu, informative, persuasive, small group, and demonstration speeches.

Introduction to Speech and Debate

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 Speech credit

This one-semester course introduces students to the fundamentals of competitive speech and debate, developing advanced communication, critical thinking, and performance skills through structured training and practice. Students explore both individual speech events and debate formats, learning how to analyze topics, construct arguments, perform literature, and communicate persuasively in competitive settings.

In individual events, students study and perform prose, poetry, dramatic interpretation, humorous interpretation, and duo interpretation, while also developing original speeches in oratory, informative, and extemporaneous speaking. Emphasis is placed on research, script selection, interpretation, characterization, audience adaptation, and effective delivery techniques.

In debate, students are introduced to multiple formats, including Congressional Debate, Extemporaneous Debate, Public Forum, and World Schools Debate. They learn the fundamentals of argument construction, evidence usage, refutation, cross-examination, and collaborative teamwork.

Throughout the course, students strengthen interviewing, interpersonal communication, leadership, and critical listening skills while building confidence, professionalism, and competitive readiness. This course serves as a prerequisite for students who wish to compete on the speech and debate team or advance into the Honors course.



Honors Competitive Speech and Debate

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0 Speech credit

Prerequisite: Introduction to Speech and Debate or instructor approval

In this two semester course, students will learn the value of and skills as speakers, debaters, and performers. This course is designed for those wanting to further their skills in a competitive environment through speech and debate, and all students in this course will be required to compete in a minimum of two tournaments per semester. Students will select two event styles from speaking, debate, or interpretive events to improve skills through in-class engagement in exercises, methods, and philosophies. An additional fee of \$350 is required to cover tournament entry fees and National Speech and Debate Association Honor Society membership. Students must interview for the speech and debate course, and a parent signature in the PCA Speech and Debate Team Handbook is required.

Film and Broadcasting I

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 Technology credit

In Film and Broadcasting I, students learn the techniques and equipment necessary to create an immersive and engaging broadcast production through content creation for events such as All School Worship and varsity football games. This course also provides an understanding of the introductory concepts of digital production, workflow, and editing for public media consumption. During the course students are expected to participate in the production of events occurring outside the average school day to produce content from school assemblies and sporting events.

Film and Broadcasting II

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 Technology credit

Prerequisites: Film and Broadcast I and teacher approval

In Film and Broadcasting II, students focus on the production process through writing, planning, and creating original, short-form content for release in locations such as PCA online mediums and the PCA Film Festival. Work in this course may include fictional narratives or documentary works, as approved by the instructor. This class requires students to shoot video for their projects outside of class time as needed. *Students in this course are required to film outside of the class day. Requirements include varsity football games, chapel, All School Worship, and participation in the PCA Film Festival, along with any other opportunities that arise. This class requires teacher approval.*



PCA Student Broadcast Media

Tenth - Twelfth Grade, Ninth Grade *with teacher approval*

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0 Technology credit

Prerequisites: *Film I, application, and teacher approval*

In news reporting, students learn the techniques to run a newsroom and conduct and plan a video journalism broadcast. We will broadcast multiple sports live, featuring in-game interviews and post-game reports. Students will manage Instagram posts as well as content on the YouTube channel. Students utilize digital video equipment to practice these techniques in authentic ways at live sports and school events. They will conduct sideline and locker room interviews, run weekly coaches' shows, and script and air a weekly podcast dealing with current events and local PCA News. Students also learn the concepts of digital editing and production while staying current with video protection techniques for web-based videos and social media content. During this class, students are expected to participate outside class time in filming and production for school assemblies, as well as local PCA and sporting events. This class requires an application and teacher approval.

Honors Media Communications

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0 Honors Technology Credit

Prerequisites: *Film and Broadcasting 2, instructor approval*

Production students will build the skills associated with the creation and a critical understanding of film, television, and digital, screen, and broadcast media. Practical, technical, and professional skills essential to careers in media production are developed as students create original works. Students also learn to identify and employ emerging technologies to create products for multiple purposes for a variety of audiences. An appreciation for film history is fostered through a biblical worldview. Students will produce a college-ready portfolio and reel for submitting to film/broadcast/communications programs.

Honors Mock Trial

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0 Speech credit

Prerequisite: *Instructor approval based on audition and interview. Limit to class size per team.*

Mock Trial is a national high school competition developed by the Dallas Bar Association that introduces students to the American adversarial judicial system. Cases are written by the Dallas Bar Association and alternate between civil and criminal legal actions. Students analyze the legal arguments within the case, prepare witnesses for direct and cross-examination, and present opening statements and closing arguments. Through this process, students develop critical thinking, public speaking, and analytical skills. Scrimmages with area schools are held throughout the year in preparation for the competition held in late January and early February. There is a \$200 activity fee associated with the class and team.



Newspaper

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Honors credit is earned for Editor, Managing Editor, Social Media Editor, and Photo Editor

0.5 Credit Technology and 0.5 Credit Fine Arts per year

Prerequisite: *Graphic Design, Digital Photography, Photoshop or Film & Broadcasting, Computer Science, instructor approval*

The Newspaper course provides students with the opportunity to oversee the publication of the school newspaper, *Lion Nation Online*. Students develop and refine their journalism skills, including writing news and feature articles, while gaining hands-on experience in newspaper production. The course begins with instruction in basic journalism principles, which students then apply as they research, gather facts, and photograph PCA events. The goal is to deliver timely, accurate, and relevant reporting on events and issues impacting the student body. This course requires an application for enrollment and includes a commitment to attend PCA events outside of class hours to ensure comprehensive coverage.

Yearbook

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Honors credit is earned for the editor, managing editor, design editor, and photo editor.

0.5 Credit Technology and 0.5 Credit Fine Arts per year

Prerequisite: *Digital Photography, Photoshop, Graphic Design, Computer Science, instructor approval*

Yearbook is an Upper School course that oversees publication of the school yearbook, *The Lion's Lair*. Students are taught basic journalism skills and then research, gather facts, and photograph PCA events to chronicle the year for the student body. They use publishing software widely used for graphic design and publishing to design and publish the book. Application required. *Students in this course have a requirement of attending PCA events outside of the class day.*



Fine Arts

Two semesters (1 credit) of Fine Arts electives are required for graduation.

Art I: Studio Art A

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Art I: Studio Art A and B may be taken out of order. However, both Studio Art A and Studio Art B must be taken to progress to level II art courses.

Art I: Studio Art A is an introductory-level, two-dimensional design course with an introduction to three-dimensional design for the Upper School student. The curriculum focus is on creativity with perspective and shallow space design. Emphasis is placed on developing compositions using the elements/principles of design and critiquing major projects. Homework is required, and a semester exam is given for this course. Participation in art contests is encouraged and available. Biblical integration is included throughout the curriculum.

Art I: Studio Art B

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Art I: Studio Art A and B may be taken out of order. However, both Studio Art A and Studio Art B must be taken to progress to level II art courses.

Art I: Studio Art B is an introductory-level, three-dimensional design course with an introduction to three-dimensional design for the Upper School student. The curriculum focus is on creativity with perspective and shallow space design. Emphasis is placed on developing compositions using the elements/principles of design and critiquing major projects. Homework is required, and a semester exam is given for this course. Participation in art contests is encouraged and available. Biblical integration is included throughout the curriculum.

Art II: Ceramics

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: Honors Eighth Grade Art or Art I: Studio Art

This course introduces students to three-dimensional art through ceramic design and sculptural methods. Students explore hand-building techniques, the use of the potter's wheel, and the properties of clay, glazing, and firing, including stoneware. The course also expands into foundational sculpture techniques such as modeling, construction, and carving, using a variety of media including stone, wood, metal, plaster, paper, and found objects. Art history, research, critique, and biblical integration are integral components. Homework, sketchbook assignments, and a research paper are required.



Art III: Honors Ceramics

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Art II: Ceramics*

This course is a continuation of ceramic design and methods covered in Art II: Ceramics. It includes hand-building techniques with an emphasis on advanced methods and processes. There is a concentration of either thrown, hand-built, functional, or sculptural pieces. Use of the potter's wheel is required with more advanced thrown pieces. Students explore clay, glazing, and firing techniques. Art history, research, and biblical integration are part of the course. Homework and sketchbook assignments are required.

Art IV: Honors Ceramics

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Art III: Honors Ceramics*

This course is a continuation of ceramic design and methods covered in Honors Art III: Ceramics, with an emphasis on creative expression and a concentration of a body of work. Students explore clay, glazing, and firing techniques. Use of the potter's wheel is required. Art history and biblical integration are part of the course. Homework and sketchbook assignments are required.

Art II: Drawing

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Honors Eighth Grade Art or Art I: Studio Art*

This course is designed for the art student who has a desire to develop strong drawing skills. Drawing techniques are explored, and the students have an opportunity to experience many different mediums. Some homework and an art history research project are required.

Art II: Painting

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: *Honors Eighth Grade Art or Art 1: Studio Art*

This course is designed for the art student who has a desire to develop painting skills. It is an introductory course that explores various painting mediums, surfaces, tools, and techniques broadly. Some homework and an art history research project are required.



Art III: Honors Drawing

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Art II: Drawing*

This one-semester course is designed for the serious art student who has shown a desire to develop further technical skills in drawing. Focus is continued on the elements and principles of design with heavy emphasis on creating unique, complex compositions and building personal content into the work. Various media are integrated. Art history and biblical truths are integrated into the curriculum. The creative process is further developed through in-depth process journaling. Homework is expected throughout.

Art IV: Honors Drawing

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: *Art III: Honors Drawing*

A semester course that explores and places emphasis on imagination and technique and the development of a personal drawing style that should result in a portfolio of creative and personal drawings. Students use various drawing mediums and techniques to develop a concentration of work. The creative process and concept is fully explored and applied. Participation in art competitions and festivals are encouraged. Biblical truths and art history are integrated into the curriculum. Lab work is required as well as outside work.

Art III: Honors Painting

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Art II: Painting, or Art III: Honors Drawing*

This course further introduces the technical processes of painting with various painting media. Students are introduced to the different materials and techniques used in painting. The student develops painting skills with an emphasis on creative interpretation of assigned problems. The goal of this course is to develop the students' vocabulary by introducing various techniques and approaches to painting as well as color theory. Further investigation in painting media by the students and discovery of various methods and materials are associated with the medium through Art History and exercises that stretch the student in craft, creativity, and concept. Biblical truths are integrated into the curriculum, and students learn how to incorporate these truths organically into their artwork. Homework is expected as well as outside work.



Art IV: Honors Painting

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Art III: Honors Painting*

This is an advanced painting class. Students concentrate on developing stronger skills in various painting media. Students begin to create a cohesive body of work with a central message and begin to learn how to develop their own individual process for creating work. The students learn to apply advanced color theory to their work along with conducting critical analysis of past works and studying masterworks throughout Art History related to painting mediums. Participation in art competitions and festivals is encouraged. Biblical truths are integrated into the curriculum, and students learn how to incorporate these truths organically into their artwork. Homework is required as well as outside work.

AP® Drawing

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course

Prerequisites: two semesters of Art I, two semesters of Art III. This must include two semesters of 2-D art courses or portfolio review/college classes and the recommendation of the Department Head.

The AP ® Studio Design course is designed for the purpose of advancing serious art students to produce a solid portfolio that shows mastery in concept, composition, and the execution of 2-D design. Students should expect the course to be rigorous in nature. The course works through a body of studio work that is submitted to the College Board for grading. This is done through the submission of 15 slides and five actual works from each of three aspects of sustained study: Sustained Investigation, Written Evidence, and Selected Works. The 2-D design portfolio may include traditional or experimental approaches to 2-D design. The portfolio may be rendered in any of the following media: drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, collage, photography, or digital media. As a department, we believe that art is a process that stresses thinking creatively, skill development, and critical analysis. Students learn to take inventive and informed risks. To be prepared for the program, the artist should take two years of 2-D art (drawing, printmaking, painting), as well as the one-year foundational art class. This challenge also allows them to use successful work from previous years in their portfolio. Summer work is required prior to entry into the course. It is expected that students submit the Advanced Placement 2-D Art and Design Portfolio in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.



AP® 2-D Art and Design

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course.

Prerequisites: Two semesters of Art II, two semesters of Art III. This sequence must include two semesters of 2-D art courses or portfolio review/college classes and a recommendation from the department head.

The AP® Studio Design course is designed for the purpose of advancing serious art students to produce a solid portfolio that shows mastery in concept, composition, and the execution of 2-D design. Students should expect the course to be rigorous in nature. Students complete the course by submitting a body of studio work to the College Board for grading. This procedure is done through the submission of 15 slides and five actual works from each of three aspects of sustained study: Sustained Investigation, Written Evidence, and Selected Works. The 2-D design portfolio may include traditional or experimental approaches to 2-D design. The portfolio may be rendered in any of the following media: drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, collage, photography, or digital media. As a department, we believe that art is a process that stresses thinking creatively, skill development, and critical analysis. Students learn to take inventive and informed risks. To be prepared for the program, the artist should take two years of 2-D art (drawing, printmaking, painting), as well as the one-year foundational art class. This format also allows them to use successful work from previous years in their portfolio. Summer work is required prior to entry into the course. It is expected that students submit the Advanced Placement 2-D Art and Design Portfolio in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.

AP® 3-D Art and Design

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course.

Prerequisites: two semesters of Art II, two semesters of Art III. This must include two semesters of ceramics or sculpture, course or portfolio review/college classes, and a recommendation from the department head.

The AP® Studio Design course is designed for the purpose of advancing serious art students to produce a solid portfolio that shows mastery in concept, composition, and the execution of 3-D design. Students should expect the course to be rigorous in nature. Students complete the course by submitting a body of studio work to the College Board for grading. This is done through the submission of 15 slides and five actual works from each of three aspects of sustained study: Sustained Investigation, Written Evidence, and Selected Works. The 3-D design portfolio may include traditional or experimental approaches to 3-D design. The portfolio may be rendered in any of the following media: drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, collage, photography, or digital media. As a department, we believe that art is a process that stresses thinking creatively, skill development, and critical analysis. Students learn to take inventive and informed risks. In order to be prepared for the program, the artist should take two years of 3-D art (drawing, printmaking, painting), as well as the one-year foundational art class. The advanced placement program also allows them to use successful work from previous years in their portfolio. Summer work is required prior to entry into the course. It is expected that students submit the Advanced Placement 3-D Art and Design Portfolio in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.



Independent Study: Honors Art

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *all previous art courses within medium must be completed, and a recommendation from the department head is required.*

The instructor and student work to create specifics of the course and requirements of a portfolio within a specific medium. College Prep or Honors credit is given based upon instructor recommendation.

Fine Arts Appreciation I

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

This course is a survey of visual arts, theatre/dance, and music through an exploration of the history, major artists, artwork, techniques, terminology, and aesthetics of each art form. Emphasis is placed on the evolution of the arts throughout history, the identification of major stylistic periods and artists, and an appreciation and understanding of a variety of art forms through the lens of a biblical worldview.

Fine Arts Appreciation II

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Fine Arts Appreciation I

Students in this course progress in their learning about the visual arts through the study of film as an art form. This course will introduce students to the film genres, the artists involved in creating a film, and history of cinema through the study of classic and contemporary films. Emphasis will be placed on exposing the class to a wide variety of styles and genres as well as formulating and justifying criticisms of the works. Learning to discern whether a film depicts a Christian or other worldview will be a focal point.

Choir

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

The choir course is designed to emphasize vocal performance at a developmentally appropriate level in a choral setting. Students sing a varied repertoire as they develop their vocal skills. Students are expected to match the pitch in order to fully participate in all class activities. Students also learn advanced music theory concepts through rhythm exercises, theory lessons, and written assignments and tests. All Choir students are involved in at least four major performances throughout the year, including participation in choral music festivals at the regional and state levels. In addition to group performances, students are given the opportunity to audition for the private school All-State Choir plus several other solo and ensemble festival events during the year. The goal of the PCA Choir program is to glorify God by training and developing our students' God-given talent in music while instilling a Biblical worldview for the lifelong understanding and enjoyment of music, whether they are performers or consumers of music.



Honors Choir

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: Successful completion of one year of Upper School choir and approval from the choir director.

Students enrolled in Choir for Honors Credit are required to participate in and fulfill all the requirements of Choir class. In addition, students must learn more advanced theory material, including the theory of scales and keys. Students are required to learn the All-State audition repertoire and participate in the audition process. Students who are selected for All-Region or All-State Choir must participate in the ensemble in January of the spring semester. Honors Choir students must perform the All-State Audition repertoire for the teacher and fellow classmates in the fall semester. Students must attend another PCA School Concert as well as an approved professional vocal performance (solo artist or vocal ensemble) and submit a detailed written critique of each. Students receive Honors credit for this course.

Honors PCA Singers

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: Successful completion of one year of high school choir. Admittance to PCA Singers is by audition.

PCA Singers is a course designed for students interested in advanced vocal performance and musical leadership opportunities. Students enrolled in PCA Singers are required to participate in and fulfill all the requirements of choir class. PCA Singers perform with the choir and as a separate ensemble. Students must learn the TPSMEA All-State audition repertoire and participate in the audition process. Students who are selected for the All-Region or All-State Choir must participate in the ensemble in January of the spring semester. Students prepare and perform a major solo each quarter. Students must learn more advanced theory material, including the theory of scales and keys. Students are required to meet outside of regular class time to prepare for All-School Worship services as a soloist or as a member of the Praise Team. Students are also required to prepare the national anthem and perform at PCA athletic events as needed and attend another PCA school concert as well as an approved professional vocal performance (solo artist or vocal ensemble) and submit a detailed written critique of each. Participation in PCA's annual spring musical is strongly encouraged. Students receive Honors credit for this course.



Advanced Band

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Each year a student is enrolled in band, they may either receive 1.0 credit for Fine Arts or split the credit with 0.5 being awarded to PE and 0.5 to Fine Arts.

Prerequisites: Enrolled in Band the previous year and permission from the Director.

The Advanced Band class is offered to PCA students beginning in the ninth grade. This class concentrates on performance activities that are divided into four sections during the school year: early fall—marching band for football games and competitions; late fall—Christmas concert and All-State preparation; winter—contest/festival preparation; spring—contest/festival/concert performances. Advanced Band members are required to possess a strong desire to contribute to the excellence of this program. Students in this class must attend all performances and trips during the year. A detailed schedule of performance activities is provided during the first week of the school

year. In addition to group performances, students in the Advanced Band are given the opportunity to audition for the private school All-State band and other solo and ensemble festival events during the year. Students enrolled in this class must be available to participate in the TPSMEA concert and additional events that may be decided by the band director during the spring semester. The goal of the PCA band program is to glorify God by training and developing our students' God-given talent in music while instilling a Biblical worldview for the lifelong understanding and enjoyment of music, whether they are performers or consumers of music.

Honors Advanced Band

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: Successful completion of one year of advanced band and approval from the band director.

Students enrolled in Advanced Band for Honors Credit are required to fulfill the requirements of Advanced Band and complete the following additional requirements to receive Honors credit:

- Students must learn to play major scales. They must also learn the theory of scales and keys.
- Students must learn the All-State audition repertoire and participate in the audition process. Students who are selected for All-State Band participate in the ensemble in the early part of the spring semester.
- Students are required to attend and submit a detailed written critique of an approved professional ensemble performance (e.g., Dallas Symphony, Dallas Wind Symphony)
- Students must participate in a solo and ensemble festival. The student learns solo or small ensemble literature specific to their instrument and is adjudicated by a live judge
- Students must complete other specific requirements assigned by the director specific to the student's primary instrument.

The goal of the PCA band program is to glorify God by training and developing our students' God-given talent in music while instilling a Biblical worldview for the lifelong understanding and enjoyment of music, whether they are performers or consumers of music.



Theatre Arts I

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

The Theatre I course is an introductory course for Upper School students. It covers the basic foundations of theatre: improvisation, comedy, tragedy, theatre history, musical theatre, classical theatre, monologues, and scene work. Students also gain experience in writing scripts and basic directing.

Theatre Arts II

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: *Theatre Arts I or Middle School Theatre I and II*

In the Theatre II course, the students build upon the basic writing and performing skills developed in Theatre I. In addition, students learn about theater production. The class performs and produces a children's theatre production.

Honors Theatre Arts III

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Theatre Arts II and permission of the instructor*

A student enrolled in Theatre Arts III for honors credit is required to complete the following additional requirements. Students must learn about dramatic history and theory, plays and playwrights, and design elements and develop an in-class presentation in relation to each. Students must learn how to audition and present their work correctly for the various theatrical venues, such as college auditions, state competitions, and main stage productions, including comedies, dramas, and musical theatre, as well as playwriting and design presentations. The student must prepare an audition or presentation for a regional, state, or national competition. Students are required to attend and submit a detailed written critique of an approved professional theatrical performance. Membership and active participation in the International Thespian Society and meeting all the requirements of our school troupe before entering the Honors Theatre program. It is expected that students be involved in at least one PCA theatre production a year in some capacity (onstage or behind the scenes).

Honors Theatre Arts IV: Production

Tenth - Twelfth Grade *Audition Only*

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Honors Theatre Arts III and Audition*

The Honors Theatre IV is designed for the advanced student interested in a more hands-on production experience. The students rehearse, produce, and perform a full-length play in the Black Box Theater. Each student accepted into the class performs an onstage role and works in a production area as well. All rehearsals are during class time except for the dress/technical rehearsals and the performances. Auditions are held in the spring prior to the school year in which the course takes place.



Theatre Practicum

Eleventh - Twelfth Grade

Pass/Fail

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Honors Theatre Arts III and permission of the instructor*

The Theatre Practicum course is designed for the student looking for practical application in the theatre arts. The student is required to work in some capacity on a PCA Theatre production. This can include things like set and costume design, hair and make-up design, theatre marketing, stage management, set construction, and choreography, among others. ITS Officers may also enroll in this course for their work on the annual ITS Revue Show.

Technical Theatre Arts I

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

In Technical Theatre Arts I, students learn technical theatre organization, scenery construction, scenic painting, lighting, audio, and properties at an introductory level.

Honors Technical Theatre Arts II

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Technical Theatre Arts I and permission of the instructor*

In Honors Technical Theatre Arts II, students advance their technical theatre skills to include stage management, lighting design, set design, advanced construction techniques, and theatre marketing. Students enrolled in this course are required to take on a major responsibility in the technical area of either the fall or spring production. To receive the Honors credit, the student is required to participate in PCA's ITS troupe and prepare a technical theatre entry for the State Festival.

Honors Technical Theatre Arts III

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Honors Technical Theatre Arts II and permission of the instructor*

Honors Technical Theatre Arts III is a guided independent study with a focus on the student's specific area of interest. Students enrolled in this course must take on a major responsibility in the technical area of either the fall or spring production. Students are required to participate in PCA's ITS troupe and prepare a technical theatre entry for the State Festival.



Physical Education

Two semesters (1.0 credit) of P.E. are required for graduation. Participation in a season of a sport counts toward P.E. credit.

PE or Conditioning

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Pass/Fail

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

The purpose of the conditioning period is to develop all aspects of strength and explosiveness combined with sport specific movements and skill development for the athlete as well as healthy lifestyle training for the non-athlete. Time is spent developing athletic ability, increasing athletic performance and developing the habits to live a healthy

lifestyle. Components of conditioning include weight room safety, proper lifting techniques, flexibility, core training, proper running mechanics, speed training, agility training, and plyometrics.

Introduction to Athletic Training

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester course

Credit: 0.5 P.E. or 0.5 Elective Credit

This course provides an overview of athletic training, focusing on anatomy, injury prevention, evaluation, and rehabilitation. Students will study the skeletal and muscular systems, practice injury assessment methods, and develop essential skills such as taping and wrapping. This class offers students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the profession of athletic training, making it beneficial for those interested in the medical field or a career in sports medicine. During the course, students are expected to participate in athletic events occurring outside the average school day.



STEM

Honors STEM Research Methods

Ninth - Tenth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: For STEM Honors designation, students must be concurrently enrolled in an honors math and/or honors science course.

This is a one-semester course that is required for all PCA STEM Honor Students. It must be completed at some point during the freshman and sophomore years. The objective of the course is to introduce students to the STEM world. The course defines STEM disciplines and careers, beginning with technical writing and research skills and a technical literature review. Students will be enrolled in a study hall to complete the STEM Research assignment curriculum through an independent study module.

Honors STEM Research Project

Eleventh - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: For STEM Honors designation, student must be a member of the PCA STEM Honors Program and have taken STEM Research Methods.

This course is to be completed by all PCA STEM Honors students over the course of their junior and/or senior years, either in class or as an independent study. The objective of the course is to further develop a student's critical thinking skills by selecting a project focus, completing preliminary research, and presenting a project proposal. The research project should incorporate knowledge across disciplines. With the approval of the instructor, students have the option to satisfy course requirements by participating in the Science Olympiad program. Performance/results in the Science Olympiad competitions must reflect an equivalent level of commitment, participation, and achievement. Students will be enrolled in a study hall to complete the STEM Research assignment curriculum through an independent study module.



Technology

Two semesters (1.0 credit) of technology electives are required for graduation.

Graphic Design

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

The Graphic Design course equips students with foundational design principles. Topics include graphic design, color theory, branding and identity, publishing with various applications and presentations, Photoshop, and InDesign. This class is designed to prepare students interested in taking Upper School Newspaper or Yearbook courses. Adobe InDesign is also widely used in college classes and in the corporate world for marketing, graphic design, corporate communication, public relations, and art. Students with a desire to major in a field of study in which InDesign is required have a distinct advantage.

Computer Science I

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

This course is intended as an introduction to computer science and computer programming. Using object-oriented programming, this class focuses on building computer programs to solve problems through the use of various important aspects of computer science, including the development and analysis of algorithms, the development and use of fundamental data structures, the study of standard algorithms and typical applications, and the use of logic and formal methods. Students write, run, and debug computer programs and recognize the social and ethical implications of computer use.

Honors Computer Science II

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: *Computer Science I*

This course is intended to continue developing students' understanding of computer science and programming. Using object-oriented programming, this class focuses on advanced data structures, analysis of algorithms, and real-world computer science applications used to solve real-world problems. Students write, run, and debug computer programs and recognize the social and ethical implications of computer use with a focus on preparing them for Advanced Placement Computer Science.



AP® Computer Science Principles

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Computer Science I or Honors Computer Science II*

This course is based directly off the College Board AP Computer Science Principles Framework and utilizes a blended classroom approach. The content is a mix of web-based and physical activities. Students write and run code in a browser and also create websites and digital artifacts. Each unit of the course is broken down into lessons consisting of video tutorials, short quizzes, example programs to explore, written programming exercises, free response exercises, collaborative creation projects, and research projects to prepare students for the AP® Computer Science Principles test. It is expected that students submit the Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.

AP® Computer Science A

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: *Computer Science I or Honors Computer Science II*

This course is based directly on the College Board AP Computer Science A Framework and utilizes a blended classroom approach. The content is fully web-based, with students writing and running code in a web browser. Each unit of the course is broken down into lessons consisting of video tutorials, short quizzes, and example programs to explore, adding up to more than 100 hours of hands-on programming practice in total. Several units include free response questions that require students to consider real-world applications of programming, helping them prepare for the AP® Computer Science test. It is expected that students submit the Advanced Placement Computer Science A Exam in the spring to possibly qualify for college credit.

Digital Photography

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

0.5 Credit Technology or 0.5 Credit Fine Arts

****Note:** Digital Photography will no longer be eligible for Fine Arts credit for students graduating in 2029 and beyond.

Students learn the basics of digital photography, including how to use a DSLR camera properly. In addition to capturing photos with a DSLR, students learn how to take captivating images with their smartphones. Students take photos and learn how to edit images in Photoshop. Students also gain an understanding of both copyright and fair use laws.



Photoshop I

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

The Photoshop I course introduces a student to the basic Photoshop tools. The student learns the skills behind the application, showing understanding on how to apply smart design principles to multimedia products such as graphics, animation, websites, etc. This course provides the student with a sense of adventure and an interest in designing a fun avenue to learn and expand their creativity.



Non-Departmental Electives

One semester (0.5 credit) of Life Calling is required for graduation.

Introduction to Business Principles

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credits: 1.0

Introduction to Business Principles introduces students to the broad principles of business. The course will cover subjects such as the purpose of business, personal promotion, tools for productivity and collaboration, business ethics, management, and marketing. Students will be challenged to apply a biblical worldview to their exploration of the purpose of business and work. Ultimately, this course seeks to build a strong foundation for students looking to take future business and economics courses. This course earns honors credit.

Minimester - Missions

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One credit is required for graduation.

Credits: 0.5-1.0

Credit is determined through the Minimester approval process.

The primary focus of Minimester is service and missions/evangelism. Minimester provides opportunities to build a well-rounded student (Portrait of a Graduate) and enhance students' classroom education with additional opportunities for growth and learning. Minimester is an extension of what the students are learning in the classroom. This invites support and involvement from staff and faculty to build a Kingdom education that extends beyond the classroom walls.



Honors Future Problem-Solving during Activity Period

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course: One day a week during activity period Honors Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: *Student must meet 2 of 3 requirements*

- *Qualify for an Honors or AP English course*
- *PreACT Reading, English or PSAT EBRW at 80th percentile or higher for 9th-12th graders*
- *Teacher recommendation*

Future Problem Solving is an international academic competitive program where gifted and high-achieving students compete in teams of three or four to solve a problem on a given topic based in the future. Throughout the course, students learn how to think, not what to think, as they utilize the FPS thinking skills process to identify and solve the charge in a future scene on each of the assigned topics of study throughout the year. The topics are interdisciplinary, but reading and language arts skills dominate the content of the program. The program develops research, creative thinking, oral and written communication, and critical and analytical thinking skills, in addition to increasing the student's awareness of and interest in the future. Teams qualifying for the Texas State Competition travel for competition in the middle of April, usually the third weekend.

Those who have taken an FPS elective course in Upper School or participated in Middle School automatically qualify to continue in the FPS program through twelfth grade. Students new to PCA must meet the course prerequisites to participate. Upper School FPS classes meet once a week during a designated Upper School zero-hour class. One activity period per week is set aside for athletes. Students are graded on their individual performance, not on what they do collectively as a team. Students receive 0.25 honors-level credit per semester for participating. Teams qualifying for the state competition will complete the second semester's course hours. Students participating in the program can earn the following graduation recognition: 7-Year Award (participating in the course from 6th through 12th grade), 4-6 Year Award (participating in at least 1-2 years of middle school), and State Honor Cord (see requirements on the FPS application).

Life Calling

Tenth Grade Spring or Eleventh Grade Fall

One Semester Course Credit: 0.5

This course focuses on students developing an understanding of the concept of life calling and the discovery of one's God-given design as a basis for this calling. Students are led to understand how work/vocation and individual leadership are best understood from this life-calling perspective. Students will evaluate their foundational values, unique design, and personal mission through an array of assessments, guest speakers, and assimilation exercises.



Learning Lab

Ninth - Twelfth Grade
Non-graded Course

This academic support program requires separate enrollment and can be selected as an elective to receive small group assistance or can include receiving services such as case management and progress monitoring, test taking in the lab, and classroom accommodations. When students attend Learning Lab as an elective, during monitored sessions, they may complete assignments and have extended time for tests. They may also use this time to consult instructors (if available) as to progress on upcoming assignments, tests, or projects, as well as grade status. Students must meet PCA's Learning Lab requirements.

Executive Function

Ninth - Twelfth Grade
Pass/Fail
One Semester Course Credit: 0.5

This academic support program requires separate enrollment and seeks to help high school students build essential skills for academic and personal success, including organization, time management, planning, focus, and self-management. Students will learn practical strategies to manage assignments, reduce overwhelm, and build confidence and independence. By the end of the course, students will have tools they can use immediately in school and everyday life. Students must meet PCA's Learning Lab requirements.

Lion's Scholar Program

Ninth - Twelfth Grade
One Semester: One day a week during Activity Period Honors Credit: 0.25
Prerequisites: *Teacher approval based on academic achievement, application to the course*

The Lion's Scholar Program is designed to provide intensive training in the Christian worldview as it connects with the various disciplines, such as philosophy, literature, science, mathematics, politics, law, art, theater, and the humanities. This program can essentially be summed up by the phrase "scholastic discipleship." Discipling students in various areas of academics to better influence those disciplines from a Christian perspective is the heart of the program. The Upper School LSP program focuses on outstanding books and significant literature. The LSP classes feature classic works, not exams or secondary textbooks. In the Lions Scholar Program, the students dig directly into the classic works of Western literature and Christianity. They learn by reading thoroughly and deeply in preparation for class. They also learn by discussing the texts with other academically motivated students.

Office Aide

Ninth - Twelfth Grade
Non-graded Course
One Semester/Two Semester No Credit

Office aides are assigned to a supervising teacher or staff person to assist them with daily activities. Tasks are at the discretion of each individual supervisor but may include filing, paperwork, using the copier or fax machine, running errands, etc. No credit is given.



PCA Internship

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade

Pass/Fail

One Semester/Two Semester Credit: 0.5/1.0

Prerequisite: *Application required, approval of the Guidance Office*

Internships are based on availability with the Prestonwood Baptist Church staff, St. Timothy or PCA staff, teachers, and extended networks. Students are responsible for finding their internship once approved. Assistance is available if needed. The PCA Guidance Office has applications available and approves students.

Honors Introduction to Psychology

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Elective

One Semester Course Credit: 0.5

In this honors-level course, students learn about the methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition. They examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures. Additionally, students learn to use and critique alternative explanatory systems and theories and they also learn to develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues. Students are also introduced to Christian psychology and its influence.

Honors Science Olympiad

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Credit: 0.5

Students in this course must participate in the Science Olympiad competitions.

The class is designed for the student to explore and apply scientific knowledge and concepts for team competition. Projects involve scientific problem-solving, real-life applications of science concepts, and research and exploration of science concepts. The class helps students learn how to problem-solve as a scientific team in order to complete tasks efficiently and successfully. Competitions include, but are not limited to, the following activities: building and analyzing programmed lab detectors, creating circuits, constructing and testing bridges, designing and testing rockets, and constructing and using a solar-powered vehicle.

Study Hall

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Non-graded Course

One Semester Course No Credit

Students may have one study hall per semester. Juniors are allowed two, one per day. Students are required to be in attendance in their assigned room during study hall. This time should be used to study, prepare for class, and do homework. No credit is given.



International Student Courses

English Discourse

Ninth - Twelfth Grade International Students

Pass/Fail

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

This course provides academic support and individualized learning opportunities for international students in order to improve their language skills and academic adjustment to Western education. Curriculum is personalized for each student based on a needs assessment, English language proficiency test scores, and teacher recommendations. Focus areas include reading comprehension strategies, writing, vocabulary, study skills, conversational speaking, and cultural adjustment. Classes are structured to accommodate different language levels.

Pragmatic Discourse

Ninth - Twelfth Grade International Students

Pass/Fail

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Pragmatic Discourse is the second-level course offered to provide academic support and individualized learning opportunities for international students in order to improve their language skills and academic adjustment to Western education. The curriculum is personalized for each student based on a needs assessment, English language proficiency test scores, and teacher recommendations. Focus areas go deeper into reading comprehension strategies, advanced writing skills, stronger vocabulary, study skills, conversational speaking, and cultural adjustment. Classes are structured to accommodate different language levels.

Western Culture and Discourse

Ninth - Twelfth Grade International Students

Pass/Fail

Two Semester Course

Credit: 1.0

Western Culture and Discourse is the third-level course offered to provide academic support and individualized learning opportunities for international students to strengthen their language skills and academic adjustment to Western education. An advanced curriculum is personalized for each student based on their needs assessment, English language proficiency test scores, and teacher recommendations. Focus areas are presented at a higher level, and students are expected to progress through this course to an independent level utilizing strategies and tools learned in the first two levels. Classes are structured to accommodate different language levels.



Appendix: Dual Credit Information

Below is information governing Dual Credit courses through John Brown University and Dallas Baptist University in connection with Prestonwood Christian Academy.

John Brown University

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks and software for courses.

There is a fee for taking this course, paid to John Brown University (JBU): Students pay JBU \$315.00 per semester.

LS 1113 Elementary French I and LS 1223 Elementary French II

Three credit hours each

A study of the basic skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing the language. Students are taught practical skills such as ordering meals, checking into a hotel or youth hostel, and using public transportation. Frequent dictées are done in class and as homework. Pronunciation is drilled, and students make recordings, which are graded. There is some work on gestures and physical greetings. Textbook-specific videos are used. Some attention is given to Francophone countries besides France.

LS 2213 Intermediate French I and LS 2223 Intermediate French II

Three credit hours each

A review of grammatical topics taught in the elementary course sequence. There is much use of French-language television clips, feature films, songs, and assorted pedagogical videos. LS 2223 includes a unit on France during WWII, focusing specifically on the Holocaust.

RPH 2103 Introduction to Philosophy

Three credit hours

A survey of the main areas of philosophy, including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and philosophy of religion. Students should develop their critical reading skills, their ability to analyze difficult but rewarding philosophical texts, and their ability to advance a single, clear argument on philosophical issues. Additionally, students should become more comfortable speaking about philosophical problems and concerns, and they should know more about the relationship between the Christian faith and contemporary philosophy.



Dallas Baptist University

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks and software for courses.

There is a fee for taking this course, paid to Dallas Baptist University (DBU): Students pay DBU \$300.00 per semester.

- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above
- Required College Entrance Exam Scores. Student must meet one of the following:
 - o ACT Math score of 21 (for MATH 1303) or 19 (for MATH 1307)
 - o SAT Math score of 520 (for MATH 1303) or 500 (for MATH 1307)
 - o eMAT score of 46 (for MATH 1303) or 43 (for MATH 1307)

Honors Pre-Calculus

The Dual Credit Honors Pre-Calculus course is the same course as the Honors Pre-Calculus course, but a student has the opportunity to receive college credit from DBU for College Algebra—MATH 1303 (fall semester) and Trigonometry—MATH 1304 (spring semester). The student receives a grade for Honors Precalculus on the PCA report card that is weighted based on the PCA handbook: 60% tests, 25% quizzes, and 15% daily work. This grade is reported on the PCA report card and transcript as well as calculated into the student's PCA GPA. In addition, the student receives a separate grade for the dual credit course at DBU that is calculated in the same manner as the PCA Honors Precalculus grade. The teacher has the discretion to curve the course, as needed, based on quizzes or homework grades. The test grades from the PCA Honors Precalculus class are documented and recorded within the PCA grade book for the dual credit course and are visible to the students via myPCA. The grade for the dual credit course each semester is not calculated into the student's PCA GPA or reported on the PCA report card or transcript. At the end of the semester, the assigned faculty member reports the grade to DBU for their official transcript.

Honors Business Analysis

The Dual Credit Honors Business Analysis course is the same course as the PCA Honors Business Analysis course, but a student has the opportunity to receive college credit from DBU for Finite Math for Business Analysis—MATH 1307. The student receives a grade for Honors Business Analysis on the PCA report card that is weighted based on the PCA handbook: 60% tests, 25% quizzes, and 15% daily work. This grade is reported on the PCA report card and transcript as well as calculated into the student's PCA GPA. In addition, the student will receive a separate grade for the dual credit course at DBU that is calculated in the same manner as the PCA Honors Business Analysis grade. The teacher has the discretion to curve the course, as needed, based on quizzes or homework grades. The test grades from the PCA Honors Business Analysis class are documented and recorded within the PCA grade book for the dual credit course and are visible to the students via myPCA. The grade for the dual credit course each semester is not calculated into the student's PCA GPA or reported on the PCA report card or transcript.



UPPER SCHOOL VIRTUAL COURSES

*These courses are offered through PCA Online, **and there is an additional fee.** These courses are electives and do not count toward the required graduation requirements except for Virtual Marine Science, which may count as the 4th required science. Current PCA students require approval to take virtual courses.*

Virtual History

Virtual AP[®] Macroeconomics

Twelfth Grade Elective

One Semester Virtual Course Credit: 0.5

This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

AP Macroeconomics is a college-level course designed to instruct students on the *national income, employment, interest rates, exchange rates, and prices*. In other words, macroeconomics is the study of our national and global economy. The purpose of this course is to determine how to better allocate our nation's scarce resources and use them more efficiently. The course requires students to create solutions for tough economic situations by using previous knowledge and critical thinking skills.

Virtual AP[®] Microeconomics

Twelfth Grade Elective

One Semester Virtual Course Credit: 0.5

This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

AP Microeconomics is a challenging course designed to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the function of individual decision-makers, both consumers and producers, within larger economic systems. It places primary emphasis on the nature and function of product markets. It also examines factor markets and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills.



Virtual Mathematics

Virtual Personal & Family Finance

Eleventh -Twelfth Grade Elective

One Semester Virtual Course Credit: 0.5

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II

This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

How do personal financial habits affect our financial future? How can we make smart decisions with our money in the areas of saving, spending, and investing? This course introduces students to basic financial habits such as setting financial goals, budgeting, and creating financial plans. Students learn more about topics such as taxation, financial institutions, credit, and money management. The course also addresses how occupations and educational choices can influence personal financial planning and how individuals can protect themselves from identity theft.

Virtual Liberal Arts Math

Eleventh -Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Virtual Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry

This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

This course enables students to strengthen algebraic and geometric concepts and skills necessary for further study of mathematics.

Virtual Science

Virtual Marine Science

Eleventh -Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Virtual Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: *Biology, Chemistry and Physics*

This course counts as a science credit toward graduation, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

The purpose of the course is to provide an overview of the marine environment. The content includes the nature of science, the origins of the oceans, the chemical and physical structure of the marine environment, the ecology of the various sea zones, marine communities, and the interrelationship between man and the ocean. Students conduct research, perform experiments, gather and analyze data, and discover man's interrelationship with the marine environment. An emphasis is placed on understanding God as the Creator and how to better fulfill his charge to care for and rule over the earth.



Virtual World Languages

Virtual Chinese I

Ninth – Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Virtual Course Credit: 1.0

This course counts as an elective credit only, not as the foreign language credit for graduation, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

This is a beginning-level course that introduces the student to various areas of Mandarin Chinese (Simplified). In this course, the student develops listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through activities that are based on proven methods of foreign language instruction. Throughout the five units of material (Introduction to Chinese, Greetings, Calendar, Weather, and Time), students learn to express themselves using an ever-increasing vocabulary.

Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with various learning styles in mind. Culture is sprinkled throughout the course in an attempt to help the learner focus on the Chinese-speaking world and their culture, people, geographical locations, and histories.

Virtual Chinese II

Tenth – Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Virtual Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: Chinese I

This course counts as an elective credit only, not as the foreign language credit for graduation, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

This course is a continuation of a beginning-level course that introduces the student to various areas of language learning. In this course, the student learns listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through activities that are based on proven methods of foreign language instruction. Students learn to express themselves using an ever-increasing vocabulary, present tense verbs, articles, and adjectives throughout the five units of material (daily routine, animals, hobbies, the body, and descriptions). Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles. Culture is sprinkled throughout the course in an attempt to help the learner focus on the Chinese-speaking world and the people, culture, geographical locations, and histories.



Virtual Chinese III

Eleventh - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Virtual Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: Chinese 1 and II

In Chinese 3, students continue to expand their abilities in various aspects of Chinese Mandarin learning. They continue to build up their knowledge in vocabulary, sentence patterns, and grammar points in communicative contexts, as they become more fluent in sharing God's love and truth with other Mandarin-speaking people. They also enhance their Chinese Mandarin listening and speaking skills, such as pronunciations and intonations. Students learn more in-depth Chinese reading and writing strategies and skills. Their Chinese reading abilities and efficiency are greatly improved, and they are able to write in Chinese in various formats, such as journal, letter, invitation, and essay. Students also enhance and strengthen their knowledge and skills in writing simplified Chinese characters. In this course, students learn more about essential Chinese culture, including the origins, histories, anecdotes, and etiquette for various cultural settings, events, or occasions. They also gain the ability to compare and contrast the Chinese culture with their own cultures in many different aspects so they can communicate God's love and truth not only verbally but in ways that are culturally appropriate. Please review the course syllabus to be sure your student has covered all prerequisite material to be successful. If you have any questions about your student's readiness to take this course, please enroll your student in the placement test. This will provide you with accurate placement information so you can request the appropriate level of course for your student's success. Students who successfully complete Chinese 3 earn honors credit.

Virtual Latin I

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Virtual Course Credit: 1.0

This course counts as an elective credit only, not as the foreign language credit for graduation, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

The purpose of this course is to give you a foundation in the nature of languages through the study of the Latin language and the Roman culture, with an emphasis on Latin grammar and vocabulary. The students develop an understanding of the social and political history of the Romans during the first century A.D. through a study of the Olympic gods and the everyday life of the Roman man-on-the-street.

Virtual Latin II

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Virtual Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Latin I

This course counts as an elective credit only, not as the foreign language credit for graduation, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

The Latin II course continues the study of the Latin language. In addition, students study some of the men who made Rome great, the Roman government, and how Rome grew to rule most of the known world. The Trojan War is studied through Latin texts.



Virtual Latin III

Tenth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Virtual Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Latin I & II

This course counts as an elective credit only, not as the foreign language credit for graduation, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

Through the literature of some of the brightest minds of the Classical World, students learn more about the culture and history of the Romans. Students get a firsthand account of the eruption of Vesuvius through the letters of Pliny the Younger. Works by the great orator Cicero and the poets Martial, Catullus, and Ovid, as well as Roman authors Publius, Vergil, and Naso, are studied, giving the student a rich knowledge of Roman culture.

Virtual Fine Arts

Virtual AP® Art History

Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Elective

Two Semester Virtual Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: *World History*

This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

This course provides students with college-level instruction in the history of art. Students examine major forms of artistic expression from the past and present and from a variety of cultures. Students learn to look at these works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to articulate what they see or experience in light of a Christian worldview. Students are able to identify the presence or absence of biblical truth reflected in art and architecture through the centuries.



Virtual Physical Education

Virtual Personal Fitness (PE)

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Pass/Fail

One Semester Course

Credit: 0.5

This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

In this Personal Fitness course, students are required to participate in weekly cardiovascular, flexibility, and strength and endurance activities. Spiritual application to the physical exercises is made, along with relationships to biblical character qualities to be developed. Students who are unable to participate in such physical exercises are unable to complete the requirements of this course.



Virtual Technology

Virtual Digital Information Technology

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

Two Semester Course

Credit: 0.5 or 1.0

This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

Digital Information Technology is either a one- or two-semester course. This course provides students with the foundational skills needed for exciting careers like game development, military defense, web design, and software engineering. In this course, students explore Microsoft Office online applications, web design, emerging technologies, operating systems, project management, communication methods, information technology careers, and much more while recognizing the value of biblical stewardship.

Virtual Game Design

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Virtual Course

Credits: 0.5

Students are responsible for purchasing/downloading software for this course. This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

Tap into your creative and technical skills as you learn about the many aspects involved with designing video games. With this course, students learn about different video game software and hardware, various gaming platforms, the technical skills necessary to design games, troubleshooting and internet safety techniques, the history of gaming, and biblical principles for game design, and even have the opportunity to create their very own plan for a 2D video game! With the knowledge and skills students gain in this course, they can take a hobby and turn it into a potential career.

Virtual Introduction to Social Media

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Virtual Course

Credits: 0.5

This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

Learning how to interact on various social media platforms is crucial in order to survive and thrive in this age of digital communication. In this course, students learn the ins and outs of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Google+, and more. Students also discover other types of social media they may not have been aware of and how to use them for their benefit—personally, academically, and eventually professionally. If students thought social media platforms were just a place to keep track of friends and share personal photos, this course shows how to use these resources in more powerful ways.



Virtual Non-Departmental Electives

Virtual ACT Prep

Ninth - Eleventh Grade

One Semester Virtual Course Credits: 0.5

Prerequisites: *Algebra I*

This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

Practice, lots of practice, is the key to doing well on the ACT. This ACT Prep course allows the student to prepare for the upcoming ACT exam in an interactive and intriguing way. Students follow a personalized learning path that adapts in real-time, based on their performance in every lesson area. The course content is engaging and supportive, with various searchable video lessons, thousands of practice questions with step-by-step explanations, skill assessments and reviews, and full-length practice tests with personalized score reports. As the student progresses, they have opportunities to explore learning from a biblical perspective, discuss the content, share study tips, and ask questions of their classmates and teacher in the biweekly discussion forums. This course offers the most current, interactive, and organized opportunity for any student to practice and prepare for the ACT.

Virtual Leadership Skill Development I

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Virtual Course Credits: 0.5

This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

God has created each of us with the ability to influence and lead others in a way that glorifies God while taking responsibility for our own choices and goals. In this course, students acquire the skills necessary to succeed in high school, college, and life while influencing others as well. Students learn to take action by pressing their Turbo Button, manage their time by staying in the Lasting Zone, chart their goals by identifying a North Star, and many other proven leadership techniques developed by Mawi Learning, a leadership training organization that has worked with more than one million students. Segment One focuses on personal goal setting and the skills necessary to lead your life in a disciplined way. Segment Two contains a service project focusing on external leadership skills and the power you have to change your world for God's glory. Whether students are struggling or already at the top of their game, Leadership Skills Development gives them new confidence to live a life of godly influence.



Virtual Leadership Skill Development II

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Virtual Course Credits: 0.5

This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

This course is a continuation of Virtual Leadership Development I.

Virtual Psychology

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Virtual Course Credit: 0.5

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course. This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

Understanding the thoughts, emotions, and behaviors of self and others is critical to developing and maintaining interpersonal relationships. The wisest understanding of others and ourselves comes from looking through the lens of Scripture. In this course, students will study the field of psychology from a biblical perspective as they learn theories. This course covers historically significant psychologists who laid the foundation for scientific research and enhanced our understanding of the human mind. This course explores how psychological perspectives influence personality and play a role in human development across the lifespan. Students examine how behaviors are developed, memories are stored, and language is acquired. Students also learn about the symptoms and classifications of psychological disorders, along with the various forms of treatments available. After completing this course, students are equipped with problem-solving strategies and even learn strategies to cope with stress. Practical, everyday application of the content is a focus of this course as students learn to evaluate psychological theory and practice in light of God's Word.

Virtual SAT Prep

Ninth - Twelfth Grade

One Semester Virtual Course Credit: 0.5

Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks for this course. This course counts as an elective credit only, and the grade in this course is not factored into the student's GPA.

This course is designed to help a student prepare for that important SAT exam in an intriguing and interactive way. Students follow a personalized learning path that adapts in real-time, based on their performance in every lesson area. The course content is engaging and supportive, with a variety of searchable video lessons, thousands of practice questions with step-by-step explanations, skill assessments and reviews, and full-length practice tests with personalized score reports. As the student progresses, they have opportunities to explore learning from a biblical perspective, discuss the content, share study tips, and ask questions of their classmates and teacher in the biweekly discussion forums. This course offers the most current, interactive, and organized opportunity for any student to practice and prepare for the SAT.