DAYTON COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

JONATHAN DAYTON HIGH SCHOOL | SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Dayton Collegiate Academy (DCA) is a selective, academically rigorous program for ninth-grade students who are seeking a challenging and accelerated high school experience. Admission to DCA is competitive and is based on a student's academic performance, readiness for advanced coursework, strong work habits, and demonstrated motivation.

Students accepted into DCA are expected to engage actively in their learning, meet high academic expectations, and contribute positively to the school community. Beginning in ninth grade, DCA students are enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) coursework, providing early exposure to college-level learning and expectations.

In addition to advanced academics, DCA students are encouraged to enhance their experience through participation in academic contests and competitions, interest-based clubs, and leadership opportunities. These experiences help students build collaboration, critical thinking, and leadership skills both inside and outside the classroom.

Students in Dayton Collegiate Academy must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.67 and consistently demonstrate commitment, responsibility, and academic integrity. The program is best suited for students who are highly motivated, prepared for increased academic demands, and ready to contribute in meaningful ways to a culture of excellence. Dayton Collegiate Academy prepares ninth-grade students to become confident scholars and leaders, laying a strong foundation for success throughout high school, college, and beyond

DCA REQUIRED COURSES

FRESHMAN YEAR

STEM Focus	Humanities Focus
• AP Seminar (ELA) • Math (Algebra 1, Geometry Honors, or Algebra II Honors) • Biology Honors • World History Honors • World Language - Level 2 • Introduction to Economics / Intro to Java • PE/Health • Elective	• AP Seminar (ELA) • Math (Algebra 1, Geometry Honors, or Algebra II Honors) • Biology Honors • World History Honors • World Language - Level 2 • Introduction to Economics / Intro to Java • PE/Health • Elective

SOPHOMORE YEAR

STEM Focus	Humanities Focus
• AP Computer Science Principles • AP English Language & Composition • Math (Geometry Honors, or Algebra II Honors, Precalculus) • Chemistry Honors • US History to 1900 Honors or AP Government & Politics • World Language - Level 3 • PE/Health • Elective	• AP Art History • AP English Language & Composition • Math (Geometry Honors, or Algebra II Honors, Precalculus) • Chemistry Honors • US History to 1900 Honors or AP Government & Politics • World Language - Level 3 • PE/Health • Elective

JUNIOR YEAR

STEM Focus	Humanities Focus
• AP Computer Science - Java • AP English Literature & Composition • Math (Algebra II Honors, Precalculus, or AP Calculus) • AP Physics, AP Chemistry, or AP Biology • AP US History • World Language - Level 4 • PE/Health • Elective	• Advanced Computer Science (Data Structures) • AP level Humanities elective • AP English Literature & Composition • Math (Algebra II Honors, Precalculus, or AP Calculus) • AP Physics, AP Chemistry, or AP Biology • AP US History • World Language - Level 4 • PE/Health • Elective

SENIOR YEAR

STEM Focus	Humanities Focus
• DCA Seminar Honors (ELA) • Math (Precalculus, AP Calculus, or Multivariable Calculus) • AP Elective • AP Elective • AP Elective or Academic Elective • AP Elective or Academic Elective • PE/Health	• DCA Seminar (ELA) • Math (Precalculus, AP Calculus, or Multivariable Calculus) • AP Elective • AP Elective • AP Elective or Academic Elective • AP Elective or Academic Elective • PE/Health

DAYTON COLLEGIATE ACADEMY • CHALLENGING MINDS • BUILDING LEADERS

FOUR-YEAR AP COMMITMENT

During the DCA student's four high school years, they will participate in a minimum of (8) AP Courses in total.

DCA SPECIFIC COURSES

AP SEMINAR (ELA)

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. This course is offered exclusively for DCA freshmen.

DCA SENIOR SEMINAR HONORS (ELA)

The Senior Seminar is designed for Dayton Collegiate Academy students who have completed two AP English courses prior to their senior year. Throughout the year, students will explore various literary theories through which to analyze texts, including Semiotics, Psychoanalysis, Feminism, and Postcolonialism, among others. They will read foundational writings from each school of thought and consider the primary concerns of the lenses, identifying the utility and drawbacks of each. Throughout the course, students will face rigorous writing tasks implementing multiple styles and structures, with emphasis on precision, rhetorical design and establishing voice. A consistent focus throughout the course is the consideration of context by situating all work within the tensions of societal forces of culture and history. At the end of the course, students will complete their Capstone project analyzing a text (or texts) of their choice through one (or more) of the theories in depth. This course carries Honor's weighting.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP English 3 and AP English 4, as well as participation in the Dayton Collegiate Academy.

A FOUR-YEAR COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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