

MVLA
2025-2026
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

Course Title: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Freshmen

School: Los Altos High School

UC/CSU requirement: Yes/Yes G

MVLA Graduation requirement: No

Textbook and/or other learning resources: non-fiction and college preparation materials

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to help you pursue excellence in academics, leadership, and service so you will be competitively prepared for a four-year college/university upon graduation. All class activities focus on developing college readiness through WICOR (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading) strategies. AVID Freshman is an introduction to LAHS and college. You will learn about resources and opportunities at LAHS as well as high school graduation and college entrance requirements, and develop a four-year plan for a successful high school career. You will learn about different types of colleges and begin developing college readiness skills. You will develop study skills, such as note-taking, test-taking, and time management. You will develop your critical reading and thinking skills, focusing on Costa's Levels of Inquiry and metacognition. You will also develop your research, writing, and presentation skills as you explore cultural and contemporary issues. Twice a week, you will actively participate in the tutorial inquiry process to develop conceptual understanding by clarifying points of confusion.

Course Outline/Units of Study:

First Semester Units:

Growth Mindset Unit
College Study Skills/Intellectual Interest
Courage Project

Second Semester Units:

Value of College Unit
College Research
Financial Literacy

Assessment and Grading: To ensure that ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:

- 10%: Academic Habits (planner, organization, notes, self-assessments)
- 30%: Class Work (class activities, college-related tasks, etc.)
- 20%: Major Assignments (essays, projects, presentations)
- 40%: Tutorial (Tutorial Request Forms, participation, notes, and reflections)

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:

Students will be informed of the aligned quantity, weight, and due dates of assignment/assessments in each grading category as much in advance as possible.

3. Grading scales:

A+	99-100	A	93-98	A-	90-92
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	63-66	D-	60-62
F	50-59				

4. Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)):

Students must complete their Tutorial Request Form pre-work before every tutorial session (twice a week). AVID work can usually be completed during class time so you can focus on excelling in your academic classes. As an AVID student, you are expected to study a minimum of two hours a night for your four to five academic classes. You are expected to maintain organized binders/digital folders for all classes with daily focused

notes.

5. Excused absence make up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):
If you have an excused absence, check with a reliable classmate for what you missed. It is your responsibility to find out about make-up work. In general, you have one day to make up missed assignments for every day of excused absence, unless otherwise arranged with your teacher.
6. Academic integrity violation practices ([LAHS Academic Integrity Policy](#) / [MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)):
Honesty, trust and integrity are vital components of the education process. The Governing Board believes that academic honesty and personal integrity are fundamental components of a student's education and character development. The Board expects that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize or commit other acts of academic dishonesty. Students and families should understand and act upon the values of academic integrity and should encourage the highest standards of academic behavior from themselves and their peers. It is expected that all work completed for a class is original work created for that class, for a specific assignment. Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with in a manner consistent with the MVLA-LAHS Academic Integrity Policy.
7. Late work practices:
Be on time and do not cut class. You may not make up work missed for tardies or unexcused absences, including quizzes and presentations. There will be a one letter-grade penalty for work submitted late. More than one major assignment turned in late in a semester will almost certainly lower a semester grade one full letter grade. This could have a very significant effect on one's college options upon graduation.
8. Revision practices:
Students can revise one major assignment per semester. Before completing a revision, students must request a conference with the teacher to go over the assignment and plan for revision.
9. Extra credit practices:
Extra credit is offered only for teacher-selected outside-of-class enrichment activities to which all members of the class have equal access.
10. Additional grading practices:
Students will submit major assignments to Turnitin.com. This will provide a greater opportunity for peer review and timely feedback from peers and teachers, experience with digital submissions, accountability for original work, and feedback regarding appropriate citations.
11. LMS Used: Canvas

Instructors' email addresses:

jonathan.kwan@mvla.net, laraine.ignacio@mvla.net, alissa.saylor@mvla.net

Additional information:

- AVID is for students who are serious about succeeding in high school and college. Your success depends on your individual determination and responsibility. AVID students, tutors, and teachers are committed to working together to create a positive learning environment, based on mutual respect and supporting academic excellence. AVID students are expected to maintain good citizenship, respect every student's right to a safe learning environment, and avoid disciplinary issues. If behavioral issues continue to be a persistent problem, a student may be dropped from the AVID program.
- Immediately inform your AVID teacher if any problems affect your academic progress. To remain in AVID, you must be on-track to complete a-g requirements (ideally, with at least a 3.0 academic GPA and above the minimum 15 a-g courses by graduation).
- You must participate in extra tutoring if you have less than a C- in any academic class. Expectation: 2 hours weekly for each D/F. Students with a D/F or GPA below 3.0 any quarter are on AVID probation and may be dropped from the course.