



Frequently Asked Questions

(CURRENT SDA 9th, 10th, and 11th grade Students)

Completing Course Selection	
How do I sign up for classes in Aeries?	Click here for step-by-step directions on how to do this. Or watch this tutorial video . Or Instrucciones en Español
Can I take less than 8 classes?	Yes, with parent permission, students may sign up for an unscheduled period. All students must have a total of 3 classes per semester. The majority of SDA students take 8 classes.
Do I really need to give 5 alternate courses?	Yes! Otherwise your counselor may need to select an elective for you!
What do I have to do during the course selection process?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select your courses online in AERIES portal Opens Jan 20 at 4pm Closes Jan 31 at 4pm 2. Complete your "Course Selection Contract" <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Write in the Course ID numbers, Course Names b. Need Student signature c. Need Parent signature 3. Submit your "Course Selection Contract" <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. All 2nd period classes will be escorted by their 2nd periodo teacher to the Counseling Office. Each student will meet with their counselor and at that will submit their signed "Course Selection Contract" to counselor
What if I want to make a class change after March 18, 2024?	Monday, March 18 is the last day to make any changes to your courses until August. Students and families need to email their counselor directly to make any changes to their courses in August

Physical Education	
How do I sign up for Independent Study Physical Education (ISPE)?	Go to the district website for the latest information and application. Application available beginning Feb 13. There is a hard deadline, so do not miss it.
Can I earn Physical Education/Athletic Credits for playing a sport at SDA?	A student can earn 5 PE credits per season with a maximum of 20 credits earned through participation on a SDA sports team. The option is available to grades 10-12 students.
I'm going to be in 10th grade. Do I have to sign up for PE?	<p>All 10th graders must complete some form of PE. There are three options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select one of the PE courses from the list 2. If you plan to play a sport at SDA in 10th grade you can earn Athletic Credit. (see note above) 3. Independent Study PE (ISPE) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Select a PE class b. Complete the ISPE application by the deadline. c. Upon approval, ISPE will be added to the schedule to replace the selected PE course.
Math	
What math class do I sign up for?	View the SDUHSD Math Placement and Pathway Chart for your next math course.
Do I take 1 or 2 math classes a year?	The main reason you would take 2 math classes is because you want to get further in math. We recommend you do at least one math course each of the 4 years of high school, so you may not want to hurry through. Many students take 1 math course per year.
Language other than English	
Do I have to take a Language Other Than English? Is this a graduation requirement? How many do I take in a year?	<p>Language Other Than English (LOTE) is not a SDUHSD graduation requirement. It does count as high school elective credits though. Many students elect to take a LOTE to learn a new language or to meet college admissions requirements. The UC's and CSU's require that students take 2 years of a LOTE to meet minimum admissions requirements.</p> <p>If students elect to take a LOTE, they can start in ninth grade or wait to start later in their high school career. If they do elect to take a LOTE, students at SDA take these classes back-to-back. For example French 1 in the fall and French 2 in the spring. Then the next school year they could go on to French 3 in the fall and French 4 in the spring.</p>

Social Science	
What is the difference between taking AP US Humanities (Cohort) & APUSH + AP English Language?	Students can either sign up for both AP English Language & AP US History or the AP US Humanities (Cohort) which includes both of these classes. The difference is in how they are scheduled. Cohort will combine the classes into one period that a student will take the entire school year (August-June). You will take each course every other day. For example, APUSH Monday, APEL Tuesday, APUSH Wednesday, etc. Signing up for them separately would schedule them like any other class.
Miscellaneous	
Can I have a free period?	Yes. You must be enrolled in at least 3 classes each semester. But you should only have a free period for a good reason: job, helps you manage your sports and classes, you try some challenging courses and need more time to maintain a healthy balance in your life.
I do not see a certain class on my grade level sheet that I know is offered at SDA, why is that?	Not all courses are offered at each grade level. Please review the courses on your grade-level specific Course Selection Contract.
How do I find out more about a class?	Check out the Course Profiles page of the website. There is a description of every course being offered, including the recommended prerequisites.
Should I sign up for College Prep or Honors/AP level?	<p>To help you make a decision, check out the following resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP/Honors Presentation -recording • AP/Honors Presentation -powerpoint • Overview Sheet