Sage Creek High School

Course Syllabus

AVID Senior Seminar
The “g” in A-G Requirements

2026-2027

Course Title

AVID Senior Seminar (AVID 12)

Purpose of the Course

AVID is a college prep class designed to assist students that are most underrepresented in the 4-year college system, work toward college acceptance. AVID students will learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and inquiry based learning, get academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities (such as guest speakers and university field trips) that make college more attainable. AVID students strive to become academically successful leaders and role models for other students. To remain in good standing, AVID students must maintain appropriate grades, behavior, and school attendance.

All AVID seniors must:

-Complete the FAFSA by the teacher's designated deadline
-Apply to a four year university
-Apply for at least one scholarship
-Fulfill all other aspects of the Sage Creek AVID Contract

Prerequisite

All students enrolled in AVID Senior Seminar must have taken AVID 10 and AVID 11 and completed all of the required college prep assignments in order to continue to AVID Senior Seminar.

Corequisite

All students enrolled in AVID Senior Seminar must enroll in AP Psychology during senior year.

Course Materials - all materials are provided to all AVID students

3 Ring Binder
Dividers for each class
Pencil pouch
Pens, pencils, highlighters
Planner

Grading Formula

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

Assignment Values Fall Trimester

Tutorials/Study Groups- 15%
Binder Checks/Organization-35%

Classwork/Homework-35%
Notes Checks- 15%

AERIES Expectations

Please check AERIES on a regular basis for assignments in AVID as well as your other classes; assignments are also posted on Google Classroom. I will try to respond to emails within 24 hours (not including weekends and holidays).

Academic Assistance

Support is available daily in the AVID elective and as needed when requested by the student. Every Thursday, students participate in tutorials that support their academic classes; they have the help of peer and college tutors. Students are also expected to attend tutoring in their academic classes if needed.

Late Work/Absent Policies:

Because there is rarely homework in AVID, there will be no late work accepted. It is up to the teacher to accept late work for partial credit if there are extenuating circumstances.

Curriculum Overview

WICOR Framework

Our curriculum is based on **WICOR**, the foundation of AVID methodology:

- **W**riting: Learning through writing across all subject areas
- **I**nquiry: Using questioning and close reading to deepen understanding
- **C**ollaboration: Working effectively with peers to support learning
- **O**rganization: Developing systems to manage academic and personal responsibilities
- **R**eading: Building critical reading and analytical skills

Throughout the year, students will develop and practice these essential skills in all aspects of the course.

Course Units

Focused Note-Taking

Students will review and refine college-level note-taking strategies, including:

- Cornell Notes and other formats
- Graphic organizers and text annotation
- Processing notes through reflection and summary
- Connecting learning across subjects

Senior Tutorials

Students participate in collaborative tutorials every Thursday to support their academic classes:

- Present points of confusion from core classes
- Use Socratic dialogue to assist peers through inquiry
- Work with peer and college tutors
- Lead their own tutorial groups with minimal facilitation
- Document problem-solving processes and reflect on learning

Organizational Skills

Students refine organizational systems for college success:

- Effective planner use
- Maintaining an organized binder system
- Time management strategies

College Preparation

Students finalize their college applications and transition plans:

- **Applications**: Finalizing UC Personal Insight Questions, Activities and Awards Chart, and Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) short essays in addition to scholarship applications and essays
- **Letters of Recommendation**: Learning how to request letters of recommendation appropriately
- **Financial Aid**: Completing the FAFSA, researching scholarship opportunities, learning how to read financial aid packages, and comparing packages across schools
- **Transition Planning**: Preparing for first-year challenges, especially for first-generation college students; researching resources available at the university they will be attending

AP Psychology Support

All AVID seniors are required to take AP Psychology. Dedicated time in AVID will be provided each week to support students in this course. Students must bring the AP Psychology Test Prep Workbook that was provided to them on review days. AP Psychology is similar to a college-level class and provides an excellent opportunity to practice:

- College-level note-taking strategies
- Applying psychological concepts to real-world scenarios
- Higher-level analysis and critical thinking
- Study skills for rigorous coursework

Course Readings

***The Naked Roommate* by Harlan Cohen**

Students will read selected chapters and excerpts:

- Chapter 1: Arriving on Campus
- Chapter 2: Residence Halls
- Excerpts from Chapter 3: Roommates

- Chapter 4: Finding Friends
- Chapter 5: Getting Involved on Campus
- Chapter 6: Greek Life
- Chapter 7: Life Inside the Classroom
- Excerpts from Chapter 8: Dating and Relationships
- Excerpts from Chapter 12: Money
- Excerpts from Chapter 13: Things Not Mentioned in the College Brochure

***CRACK THE CODE: A Guide to College Success for First Gens* by Susan Lieberman**

Students will receive a copy and read this guide in class throughout the year.

Supplemental Articles

Additional articles and readings may be assigned to supplement course topics.

Trimester Goals & Reflection

Fall Trimester

- Students set personal and academic goals for the trimester
- Regular goal check-ins
- **Final Project**: Podcast reflecting on the first trimester experience

Winter Trimester

- Students set new goals and review fall progress
- Regular goal check-ins
- **Final Project**: Reflective writing piece

Spring Trimester

- Students set final goals and review year-long progress
- Regular goal check-ins
- **Final Project**: Podcast reflecting on entire high school journey and looking forward to college

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Community Building

Select Fridays are dedicated to community-building activities to strengthen classroom culture and peer relationships.