

Sioux Central High School
Course Catalog (2024-2025)
“Your Pathway to the Future”



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Purpose of the Course Catalog

The purpose of this catalog is to outline how students can become better prepared for life after high school, whether that includes post-secondary (college) education or jumping straight into the workforce. This catalog can ensure students and their parents that students are taking the right courses, signing up for the right tests, and completing necessary forms and tasks aligned with their future plans. This catalog is designed to give basic information to help guide and advise students and their parents as they prepare for their future. For answers to individual questions, please contact the School Counselor or Principal.

While some courses are required, other courses are electives and students get to choose which electives they want to take. It is important for students to explore different elective departments that Sioux Central has to offer, including: Agriculture, Art, Business, Computer Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, Industrial Technology, and Music. By exploring these different departments, students are able to gain a better understanding of what interests them most. Students are also encouraged to take classes that would help better prepare them for post-secondary (college) education and/or pertain to their interested career fields.

Sioux Central Graduation Requirements

Students need 52 credits to graduate. To achieve this, students need a minimum of 13 credits each year to be on track. This would include 6 classes (6 credits) plus a PE class (0.5 credits) each semester. **The following credit requirements must be included to graduate:**

- 8 English (English I & II, Speech)
- 6 Math (Varies by Math level)
- 6 Science (Physical Science, Biology)
- 6 Social Science (World History, US History, US Gov't)
- 4 Physical Education (1 class/semester)
- 2 Other (Child Development, Young Adult Living)

It is important to note that students need to pass their classes to receive credits. If they get behind in credits, they will have to make up those credits through our Credit Recovery Program by taking online courses while managing a full load of in-person courses. If they do not catch up, they may not graduate on time. All courses taken will count towards a student's cumulative GPA.

Grade Classification

10th Grade: 13 Credits

11th Grade: 26 Credits

12th Grade: 39 Credits

Sioux Central's Grading Scale

A = 93-100%	C = 73-76%
A- = 90-92%	C- = 70-72%
B+ = 87-89%	D+ = 67-69%
B = 83-86%	D = 63-66%
B- = 80-82%	D- = 60-62%
C+ = 77-79%	F = 0-59%

Early Graduation

Students who meet the graduation requirements set by the Board prior to the end of their senior year may apply for early graduation. Students must apply **at least one semester** prior to the completion of the graduation requirements. In order to graduate early, students must have the approval of the Principal and Superintendent and appear before the School Board for its approval.

Agriculture

**To be an active Sioux Central FFA member, you must enroll in at least one semester of agriculture taught at Sioux Central during the school year.*

Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (Agriculture Education I)

Grades 9-12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisite: None

Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) will serve as the beginning course for the high school Sioux Central agriculture program. In addition to a brief overview of animal, plant, natural resource, and agricultural technology systems, Students embark on their high school FFA membership, including opportunities for personal growth, premier leadership, and career success. The course integrates reading, science and math within hands-on agricultural applications. All students complete a Foundational SAE program and plan their Immersive SAE program.

Agricultural Science (Agriculture Education II)

Grades 10-12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Agriculture Education I

The sophomore-level course is structured to provide a variety of experiences overviewing agricultural science. Topics include plant production and products anatomy, physiology, nutrition, reproduction, health, selection, and marketing. Throughout the course, students consider the perceptions and preferences of individuals within local, regional, and world markets. All students continue Foundational and Immersive SAE programs.

Agriculture Leadership

Grades 10-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Ag Ed I

The purpose of this course is to enhance student leadership. Students learn the fundamentals of communication, teamwork, and servant leadership within agricultural contexts. We will focus on understanding leadership, communication skills, leading individuals and groups, managerial leadership, personal development, and transitioning to work skills. Career options in these areas will also be explored by continuing Foundational and Immersive SAE programs. This course may be completed as an independent study elective.

Technology Integration

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Agriculture I & II

Beginning with the engineering design process, students apply the problem-solving framework to a variety of agricultural applications. Throughout the course, students explore robotics, sensors, GPS technology and precision agriculture, and energy and biofuel production. Career options in these areas will also be explored by continuing Foundational and Immersive SAE programs.

Agricultural Biotechnology

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Ag Ed I & II

This class provides students with experiences related to plant and animal agriculture. Particular topics will include genetics, reproduction, immunological assays, and genomics for improving crops and animals. Students learn skills such as micropipetting, bacterial cultures and transformations, electrophoresis, and polymerase chain reaction. Students demonstrate scientific principles and concepts through discussions, hands-on experiments, and projects. Career options in these areas will also be explored by continuing Foundational and Immersive SAE programs.

Food Science and Safety

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Ag Ed I & II

Through this course, students explore the supply chain links related to food products in the U.S. Course topics focus on food chemistry, food processing, consumer preferences, and food safety. Students learn skills related to laboratory work, sensory evaluation, nutrient testing and function, and interpreting food labels. Students demonstrate scientific principles and concepts through classroom work, discussions, hands-on experiments, and projects. Career options in these areas will also be explored by continuing Foundational and Immersive SAE programs.

Environmental and Natural Resources Management

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit) Offered 2024-25

Prerequisites: Ag Ed I

Within this course students investigate the implications of, and evaluate the natural and man-made effects on, soil, water, air, wildlife, fish, and other ecosystem components. Students research and construct a plan for natural resource management. This class will explore environmental concerns, wildlife, fish, soils, and conservation. Career options in these areas will also be explored by continuing Foundational and Immersive SAE programs.

Principles of Crop Production*

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit) Offered 2024-25

Prerequisite: Ag Ed I

This course is equivalent to Agronomy 114 at Iowa State University. This course is a study of principles of plant, soil and climate relationship and their impact on crop production and animal food supply worldwide. Other topics covered are plant identification, anatomy and growth, as well as tillage and planting, pest control, harvesting and storage. Each unit will utilize a critical thinking exercise. Career options in these areas will also be explored by continuing Foundational and Immersive SAE programs.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: AGA-852 (3 Credits)*

Horticulture

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Ag Ed I

This course will introduce students to areas and concepts involved in Horticulture. Students demonstrate scientific principles and concepts through discussions, hands-on experiments, and projects. This course will give students a better understanding of the growing environment, and plant classification and identification to apply to floral and landscape design, hydroponic and aquaponic growing mediums, and turf and garden care. Career options in these areas will also be explored by continuing Foundational and Immersive SAE programs.

Survey of the Animal Industry*

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit) Offered 2025-26

Prerequisite: Ag Ed I

The course explores issues impacting the United States and the international animal industry. The main emphasis of the course is on different breeds, basic management, and marketing of farm animals. The animals include beef and dairy cattle, companion animals, horses, poultry, sheep, swine, and their products. Career options in these areas will also be explored by continuing Foundational and Immersive SAE programs.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: AGS-113 (3 Credits)*

Introduction to Agricultural Business*

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Ag Ed I

This class will examine many aspects that apply to the business of agriculture and the unique characteristics that make ag different from other industries. We will examine ag sales techniques, marketing, and advertising of agricultural products. During the second semester, students apply basic business management skills in planning a business expansion or a new business. Career options in these areas will also be explored by completing Foundational and Immersive SAE programs.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: AGB-133 (3 Credits)*

Agriculture Capstone

Grade 12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Ag I & Ag II

Agriculture Research: This class is an opportunity for students interested in agriscience research or new product development in the agricultural field. Students learn methodology, statistics, and data collection techniques required to successfully perform research. Participation in a professional research project will showcase your research or development project. Career options in these areas will also be explored by completing Foundational and Immersive SAE programs.

Art

Art I

Grades 9-12

Semester Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

Students will develop an understanding of the basic elements of art and principles of design by examining historical and contemporary works of art and experimenting with a range of mediums that include graphite pencil, color pencils, marker, chalk/oil pastels, acrylic paint, watercolors, and collage materials. Students will also acquire knowledge of the historical and cultural development in the visual arts. In addition to classroom projects, a sketchbook or notebook will be required to keep track of their thoughts and ideas. Art I is a prerequisite to additional class.

Drawing

Grades 10-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Art I

Drawing is a course that provides an introduction of various drawing techniques using a variety of drawing mediums to become more skilled artists. Students will continue to strengthen understanding of the elements and principles of design.

Painting

Grades 10-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Art I

Painting is a course to further understand painting by increasing student techniques, and skills. This course will be focused on the use of color and mixing to match colors. Students will have exposure to historical artists which they will create a project using that artist painting style. This painting course will help students continue to build an art portfolio.

3-D Art

Grades 10-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Art I

This class provides the study of methods in sculpture, and ceramics. Students will explore different methods of three dimensional art by building with their hands while learning terms and techniques. The class is going to teach more about how to be safe while working with tools and clay.

Advanced Art

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Art I, Drawing & Painting or 3-D/Sculptures

Students will further develop their knowledge and skills of visual arts through completion of advanced projects. This class is treated like an independent study and the students will create their own pieces with the help of prompt. Students will continue to refine their skills and techniques while working towards developing their own artistic style.

Art Studio**Grade 12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: All Art classes*

Students will further develop their knowledge and skills of visual arts through completion of advanced projects, this class is treated like an independent study and the students will create their own collection. Students will continue to refine their skills and techniques while working towards developing their own artistic style. Students will deepen their historical and cultural knowledge of the visual arts by continuing learning about artists. In addition to classroom projects, a sketchbook or a notebook will be required.

Automotive

The automotive program is offered to Sioux Central students and consists of college classes through Iowa Central where students can earn both high school and college credit. Automotive students will go to Iowa Central's Storm Lake campus to take these courses. All courses total to 18 college credit hours.

Auto I: Introduction to Transportation Technology*

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective/2 Class Periods (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

This introductory course provides an introduction to the many facets of the automotive industry, to include: careers affecting the automotive industry, environmental concerns affecting the automotive industry, basic automotive hand tools, specialty tools, precision measuring tools, power tools and shop equipment, using service and shop manuals, and shop safety. This course will help students refine their critical thinking skills as they evaluate various topics and concepts while searching for underlying connections between the concepts, which is a skill that should be beneficial in any/all types of careers. The students will increase their mechanical aptitude that can be used in many aspects of their life.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: AUT-108 (3 Credits)*

Auto I: Automotive Engine Repair*

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

This course will consist of classroom and lab instruction covering the theory of operation, disassembly, measurement, and reassembly of internal combustion gasoline and diesel power plants. When possible, power plants will be operationally tested prior to disassembly and after assembly.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: AUT-164 (4 Credits)*

Auto I: Automotive Brake Systems*

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

The course covers the latest procedures of inspecting, measuring, diagnosing, and the repairing of drum and disc brakes. Classroom and lab instruction will be utilized to teach students the latest procedure for inspecting, measuring, diagnosing, and repairing the modern brake systems in use today. This course will help students refine their critical thinking skills as they evaluate various topics and concepts while searching for underlying connections between the concepts, which is a skill that should be beneficial in any/all types of careers. The students will increase their mechanical aptitude that can be used in many aspects of their life.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: AUT-503 (3 Credits)*

Auto II: Introduction to Diesel Technology***Grade 12***Semester Elective/2 Class Periods (2 Credits)**Prerequisites: Auto I*

Intro to diesel technology will introduce students to the world of the diesel engine. It will get them familiar with the different engine manufactures and the different engine and power train systems used today. Shop safety and the tools and fasteners of the diesel industry will be covered. Students will learn how to safely use shop equipment like jacks and presses. Shop skills like drilling, tapping, torching, and welding will be covered in the lab. Fine skills like precision measuring will be extensively covered.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: DSL-323 (3 Credits)*

Auto II: Automotive Electrical I***Grade 12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Auto I*

This introductory course covers basic electronic theory and utilization of electrical measuring instruments. Emphasis will be placed on the application of Ohms Law and the proper utilization of electronic test equipment including instrument selection, interpretation of results, and maintenance of equipment. Students will receive classroom and lab instruction on the diagnosis and repair of batteries, starting and charging systems.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: AUT-610 (4 Credits)*

Auto II: Automotive Lab I***Grade 12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Auto I*

This course provides a review and analysis of the many facets of the Automotive Industry. To include established diagnostic procedures and routines, environmental concerns affecting the automotive industry; proper utilization of specialty tools, precision measuring tools, and shop equipment; utilization of service and shop manuals, and shop safety. This course will concentrate on reviewing the service areas in the automotive technology field to include operating in a simulated shop environment.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: AUT-879 (1 Credit)*

Business

Introduction to Business I

Grades 9-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

The business world is an exciting and always changing adventure. This class consists of numerous real-life activities in order to give students a foundation in the business world. Topics addressed in this course include things such as the basic economic concepts: The Economy and You (basic economic concepts, resources, activity, and business ethics and social responsibility), Owning and Operating a Business (introductions to the management and business world), Influences on business (global business, government and business, and financial institutions), and basic marketing concepts.

Introduction to Business II

Grades 9-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Business I

This course will introduce students to additional business concepts to further their knowledge of the business world. Real world concepts addressed in this course include: payroll calculation, forms, and taxes; computation of income tax; stock market principles and the relationships to the economy; and entrepreneurship. Students will work through the steps to create an individual business of their choosing while following the proper procedures for starting a business. Students will understand the risks and rewards involved, market analysis, profit/loss, marketing strategies, writing a business plan, and presenting the final business plan to an audience.

Marketing

Grades 10-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

This course covers the design of business strategies and its implementations in marketing plans. As organizations have become more customer oriented, marketing strategy and planning has developed into a critical managerial activity. This course will also study branding, brand associations, consumer behavior, pricing, distribution, promotion, product strategies and the influence of external factors. Students will apply their learning to school-related promotional projects.

Business Law

Grades 10-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of our legal system, including statutes and regulations that affect businesses, families, and individuals in a variety of ways. Knowledge of business law is particularly useful because all students eventually assume the role of citizen, worker, and consumer in society. Areas of focus include ethical and legal conflicts, sources of law, criminal law, civil law, and torts, which are all explored through current events, discussions, in-class activities, projects, and a mock trial.

Introduction to Accounting***Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Business I & II*

The general objectives of the accounting course are as follows:

- Accounting is an essential subject, for everyone needs some sort of financial records.
- Accounting can also be used as a vocational or professional subject by the students.
- To develop usable accounting fundamentals for the students.
- To provide an accounting background so that the student may operate his own business.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: ACC-111 (3 Credits)*

Human Relations***Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: None*

This course introduces students to the importance of people skills and personal strategies needed for anyone working in business today. By focusing on working with others in a business setting: coworkers, consumers, and vendors, the students will learn the dynamics occurring at every level of organizations by examining the people, practices, and events that make the world of business what it is today and will be tomorrow.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: BUS-161 (3 Credits)*

Business Communication***Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: None*

Introductory course designed to help you develop and refine the skills necessary to communicate effectively in a professional business environment. The focus will be on communicating clearly, concisely, considerately, and correctly, both orally and in writing. You will learn to plan, compose, and evaluate business documents, including letters, memos, and business reports; to use technology to communicate, including email and discussion boards; and to prepare and deliver oral presentations. The course will also contain an introduction to employment communication, including resume, application letters, and interview skills. Emphasis throughout the course will be placed on intercultural communication and the ethics of communication. Teaching/learning methods will include reading, close analysis of business and professional documents in class writing and oral exercises, brief lectures, formal writing assignments, group projects, and examinations.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: BUS-121 (3 Credits)*

Computer Science

Computer Science Principles

Grades 9-12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

This course looks at the fundamental concepts of computer science. Students will learn how information is processed and stored in the first unit and then progress through ten total units throughout the year using the code.org website. The units will include topics such as "The Internet," "Intro to App Design," "Functions," and "Cybersecurity." This course can prepare students for a computer science career or be used to understand the technological world around us.

CSA

Grades 10-12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Computer Science Principles

CSA invites students to learn programming using Java and can be taken after completing Computer Science Principles. In this course, students will learn: "object oriented programming" in the first unit and progress through "class structure/design," "arrays and algorithms," "conditions and logic," "two dimensional arrays," "array lists and string methods," "method decomposition and recursion," and finally "searching and sorting." This class builds off of the Principles course through the same website.

First Tech Challenge

Grades 10-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Computer Science Principles

This course will focus on building and coding a semi-autonomous robot. Students will create a robot and utilize tools for self-growth in technical skill development and engineering design. Students will use block coding to "steer" their robot through courses during the semester. This semester course culminates in an event where students present what they've learned and use their robot to compete in a class mini-game.

Computer Fundamentals

Grades 9-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to refine students' skills in using Google Apps, such as Gmail, Drive, Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Students will produce documents that can be used in their academic and personal activities. Upon completion students will have acquired an understanding of Google Docs basics, basic editing and formatting, controlling text, graphics, and organizing a document. This course is also designed to refine students' skills in using Google Sheets and Slides. With Sheets, students will learn how to set up spreadsheets, use graphs and charts, use mathematical formulas, among other topics. In Slides, students will use various tools such as text, graphics, clipart, and animation to create effective presentations that will grab and maintain an audience's attention. Students will reinforce their learning through realistic applications using hands-on tutorials.

Multimedia

Grades 9-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

To compete and succeed in today's digital world, high school students must have the opportunity to learn how to design, create and present a host of multimedia projects. Today's students must be proficient with a variety of multimedia outlets. Multimedia is a course designed to educate students on the ever-changing digital world, as well as to provide hands-on experience with various projects. This hands-on course applies publishing and presentation concepts through the development of business documents and media projects. These documents may include brochures, reports, programs, newsletters, flyers, graphs, web pages, presentations, video productions, graphic design, animation, audio production, and web design. Equipment such as computers, iPads, scanners, digital cameras, video cameras, and printers will be utilized. Formatting, editing, page layout, and design concepts will be focused on in every project. Students will develop communication skills, problem-solving techniques, cooperative learning, and interpersonal skills.

Photoshop I*

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

Get a thorough grounding in Adobe Photoshop and Adobe ImageReady, the must-have digital imaging programs for today's web and print designers. Hands-on projects include working with layers, making selections, incorporating color technique, creating special effects with filters and more. Create complex web graphics such as rollovers and animations.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: CIS-265 (3 Credits)*

Photoshop II

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Photoshop I

How well do you know Photoshop, the design world's favorite application? If you've got a good grasp of the basics but you're itching to learn more, this course is for you. In this project-based class, students will learn about adjusting colors, using clipping masks, paths, and shapes, transforming type, liquifying an image, performing total makeovers, creating comprehensive projects, and much more. Students will prepare portfolio-level pieces and gain a deeper understanding of CS6.

News Production/Yearbook

Grades 11-12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Instructor's Approval

This course will rely on students' desktop publishing skills to prepare the annual and programs for school events. Students will develop skills in writing and editing stories, headlines and captions. Students will also learn the basics of production design, layout, and the printing of a publication. Students may take only one semester with the Instructor's approval. Students will be required to spend a substantial amount of time outside of the class period to accomplish their tasks. These tasks include soliciting sponsorship and taking pictures at school events.

Driver's Education

Driver's Education

Grades 9-12

Offered in the Summer (0 Credits)

Prerequisites: Must have a valid permit

The primary objectives of driver's education are to prepare students for the serious task of driving in our complex society today. The specific goals are:

- To develop the physical and mental skills necessary to operate a motor vehicle safely and economically.
- To inform students of laws governing the operation and ownership of a motor vehicle.
- To acquaint students with driving techniques and strategies for dealing with emergencies and for avoiding collisions.
- To build students' perceptual and decision-making skills.
- To make students aware of their responsibility for safe vehicle operation, including the importance of safety belts and the dangers involved in mixing driving with the use of drugs and/or alcohol.
- To encourage an attitude of cooperation with other highway users including pedestrians, motorcyclists, and other drivers.

The course will also be designed to meet the State of Iowa requirements of:

- At least 30 classroom hours.
- Minimum of 6 hours behind the wheel with the instructor.
- At least 6 hours of observation.

**Note: Available to students at least 14 years of age when the class starts who have completed 8th grade and hold a valid permit. This course is offered only in the summer. An elective fee is required and no academic credit is given.*

English/Language Arts

English I

Grade 9

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

English I gives students an overview of literature types and genres. Speaking skills, formal writing, creative writing, and vocabulary skills are integrated into the literature units. This is a **required** course for all Freshman.

English II

Grade 10

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: English I

This course encourages the development of communication and interpretation skills by offering a variety of reading, writing, and speaking opportunities. The course empowers students to demonstrate literacy through a variety of technologies and across various platforms. Students will analyze and interpret numerous forms of communication. This is a **required** course for all Sophomores.

English Composition/American Literature

Grade 11

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: English I & II

Composition: Papers are written in composition class that prepare students for college and make a connection to students' lives. All four writing genres are covered: expository, persuasive, narrative and descriptive. Writing may include short stories, summaries, persuasive essays, research papers, and literary evaluations. Vocabulary is also stressed. Recommended for Juniors planning to attend college.

American Literature: Students will study a variety of literary forms which will include poetry, short stories, essays, novels and drama. Emphasis will be on major American authors and their works as we work our way through the literature and time periods that formed not only America but American authors as well. Recommended for Juniors planning to attend college.

Essentials of Reading and Writing

Grade 11

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: English I & II

This course will include writing experiences needed for daily life. These will include resumes, job applications, letters, technical writing, and instructions. There will also be studies in proper use of punctuations and style. The course will also include reading instruction and techniques for technical, non-fiction, and fiction texts of varying lengths and difficulty. Literacy content is inspired from current events, daily life experiences, workplace situations, and college readiness experiences. Recommended for Juniors who would benefit from reading and writing instruction to help improve proficiency or reach proficiency. This class may be taken for either one or both semesters.

Creative Writing

Grade 12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: English I & II

The students learn creative writing techniques in the areas of poetry, short stories, and one-act plays. The class is designed in a writing lab format and students are required to create several original writings in each area. Students incorporate all forms of communication including, but not limited to: writing, speech, art, design, and animation. Students are part of a blogging community using technology to connect, to publish, and to empower their work. The class also partners with an elementary course serving as blogging mentors. Students contract for an independent study project during the second quarter of the course. This course is helpful for college-bound students, for those interested in exploring writing as a profession, or for those who would like to explore their own creativity.

Novels

Grade 12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: English I & II

Students will study a variety of contemporary and classic novels. Emphasis of this course will be on literary analysis and interpretation of the social implication through themes, characters, symbols, and settings. Students will have access to literature (English, American and World), science fiction, contemporary novels, autobiographies, and biographies. The class will include student/teacher conferences to discuss these elements on an individual basis to support the student's individual reading. Students will use their reading as inspiration for their Reading Aware project: read something, be inspired, do inspire others. Students will use a blog to reflect and connect. Students and teachers will contract reading based on difficulty of choice reading, length of choice reading, and reading level.

Critical Thinking & Media Literacy

Grade 12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: English I & II

This English elective will introduce and develop media literacy in order to develop active consumers of news and information. Media literacy is the ability to question, understand, interpret, analyze, and evaluate the content, intent, strategies, and effects of mass media. Being media literate means that the consumer controls the interpretation of the media rather than it controlling the consumer. Students will become aware of the principles, myths, and techniques in media, as well as media literacy terms and concepts. We will analyze apps, websites, TV shows, movies, music, commercials, and literature. Learning different persuasive techniques used by the media will be emphasized. The skills of summarizing, differentiating, and expressing one's own opinion effectively will be evaluated. Censorship will be a potential topic of the culminating activity.

Speech/Public Speaking

Grade 12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: English I & II

Speech does more than train students for public speaking. An emphasis is placed on improving self-confidence and the ability to express thoughts and feelings in a variety of communication situations as well as develop good listening skills. Some time is spent looking at the nonverbal side of communication and the effects it can have as well. Some of the units and speeches covered include informative, demonstration, a variety of social speeches, the commencement speech, and technology-aided presentations. Students are required to present to audiences other than their classmates and teacher.

Advanced Placement (AP) English Composition

Grade 11

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: See course description

The AP English Language and Composition course is designed to help students become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and to become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. As in the college course, the purpose of the AP English Language and Composition course is to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers." The course will explore purpose, argument, and analysis teaching students to examine texts and visuals critically. As interest continues, students will connect their learning by taking part in a Fantasy Supreme Court League making educated predictions on court cases heard during the year and blogging in response to prompts provided by the Fantasy Supreme League. Students will also participate in a service learning writing project volunteering time, and then writing inspired from the work. To enter the course, students must complete the required summer reading prior to the start of class.

**Prerequisites: A combination of Teacher recommendation, ISASP score, GPA, successful completion of English/Language Art courses, and Counselor and/or Principal approval.*

**Note: This is an Advanced Placement (AP) course. AP courses are college-level courses that require an exam at the end of the course. If you do well enough on the exam, college credit is earned.*

Family and Consumer Science

Introduction to Family and Consumer Science

Grades 9-12

Semester or Full Year Elective (1-2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

This is an introductory course which begins with self discovery, goal setting, decision making skills, and resource management. The remainder of the first semester is a study of nutrition and food preparation. Second semester contains units on clothing selection, an introduction to textiles, and the construction of a simple sewing project. Students are responsible for providing fabric and notions for their projects. The last quarter focuses on the study of families and childcare and interior design.

Food and Nutrition

Grades 10-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Intro to FCS

This course highlights nutrition, consumer skills, and basic food preparation skills and techniques. Students will spend the first quarter studying nutrition, consumer skills, cooking and baking techniques and etiquette. The second nine weeks, students will work in lab groups planning labs, practicing techniques and preparing food in the kitchen. This course will highlight nutrition as a lifestyle and students will be encouraged to use this way of thinking as they plan their cooking labs.

Clothing and Sewing

Grades 10-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Intro to FCS

This course is centered on the study of textiles, their care and uses, the history of clothing, wardrobe planning, and the consumer skills for clothing purchases. The fourth quarter will be entirely clothing construction. Students may choose from personal clothing projects or non-clothing projects such as quilting. Students are responsible for providing fabric and notions for their projects.

Advanced Food & Nutrition

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Food and Nutrition

An introduction to professional food services is the basis of this class. In this class, you will learn and practice the fundamentals of food preparation, kitchen safety and sanitation, knife skills, and preparations of fruit, vegetables, salads, sauces and meats. You will have the opportunity to explore foods in other cultures as you practice these new skills. During the last part of this semester we will operate a bake shoppe which will include candies, pies and pasties.

Food Preparation Internship

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Food and Nutrition & Teacher Approval

Available to select students who are looking for hands-on work experience in the food preparation field. Shopping, selling, packing and distributing sack lunches for after school sports, practicing kitchen safety and sanitation, and taking shifts serving students in our school food service. This is an excellent extension for those interested in culinary arts, or who may consider a job in the food service industry.

Food Practicum (Restaurant)**Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Advanced Food Preparation*

This class offers students a practical view of the professional restaurant business. Students actually operate a student-run restaurant, Delish Central, where they are in charge of menu planning, serving, planning, baking/cooking, budgeting and cleaning up. Students will act as managers, bookkeepers, employees, and owners of their own business. Collaborating as a group, effective planning, evaluation of product and process, employability skills, and effective communication will be topics discussed and implemented in this class. Students will apply for a position in this class by filling out an application and interviewing. Limited openings.

Advanced Clothing and Sewing**Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Clothing and Sewing*

Students will develop skills in clothing construction, quilting, or implement ideas using recycled fabrics. Students may also select individual projects using other sewing techniques. This is a project-based class where students set goals and work to achieve them. Students will also display their finished products at Fine Arts Night. Students are responsible for providing fabric and notions for their projects.

Child Development**Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: None*

The class will include dating and making decisions regarding family planning, pregnancy, prenatal development, childbirth, and physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of children. Good parenting skills will be stressed. The class will include a variety of types of learning tools including the “Baby Think It Over” doll simulation, “Empathy Belly” simulation, and a field trip to the Obstetrics division of the hospital. **Required** for all students and available to 10th grade students with Teacher and Principal approval.

Child Development II**Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Child Development I*

Child Development II is a course with emphasis placed on learning about physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of children from preschool age to teens. It teaches practical techniques to guide children through a variety of daily experiences in safe, educational ways. Students will have the opportunity to observe children in various grade levels, and do some hand-on learning in various classrooms. This is a course for those interested in careers in medicine, teaching, childcare, social work, psychology, and recreation.

Foreign Language

**Note: All students planning to attend a 4-year college or university should take 2-4 years of foreign language in high school.*

Spanish I

Grades 9-12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

Spanish I is an introductory level course to Spanish and Latin American culture instructed mostly in Spanish. This course is designed for students with little to no previous study of Spanish. Course units introduce students to the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, in a cultural context. Students will be able to form basic conversations in the present tense including: greetings, introductions, stating likes or dislikes, describing objects/placement, and teaching elementary students Spanish.

Spanish II

Grades 10-12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Spanish I

Spanish II focuses on four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, in a cultural context. Students are instructed mainly in Spanish. They will review grammar, vocabulary and culture from Spanish I. In addition, they will interact in mini conversations, be introduced to past tense, differentiate between verbs with the same meaning which have specific uses, and teach elementary students Spanish.

Spanish III

Grades 11-12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Spanish II

Spanish III builds on the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, in a cultural context. Students will strengthen their knowledge of culture, support their understanding of grammar and from Spanish I and II, which will be primarily instructed in Spanish. They will converse in present and past tense, as well as be introduced to future and conditional tenses. Additionally, students have the opportunity to attend BVU Spanish Language Fair and teach elementary Spanish lessons.

Spanish IV

Grade 12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Spanish III

Spanish IV will be instructed in Spanish and immerse themselves in the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, in a cultural context. Students will work towards mastery of conversing, as well as experience/explain culture and grammar for better understanding. They attend the BVU Spanish Language Fair, design Day of the Dead Activities, and teach elementary students Spanish.

Industrial Technology

Introduction to Manufacturing

Grades 9-12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

Are you ready to develop skills in working with tools and materials? Can you accept the challenge of planning and making a product yourself? Would you like to work with others and put together several products (mass production)? Or how about making some products to sell to others? Taking this course, you will learn good work habits around machines, how to work together in a safe atmosphere, and how to perform with woodworking tools, metal working tools and more. Projects will be mainly constructed from wood and metal through individual production. Textbooks, workbooks, hand tools, power tools, and safety tests will be used. We will cover the basic elements and concepts of drafting while providing many experiences that help the students make the transition from traditional drafting to CAD comfortably. Freshmen are given priority to enrolling in this course. To be enrolled in the second semester, students *must* be enrolled in the first semester.

Introduction to the Built Environment

Grades 10-12

Full Year Elective (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Intro to Manufacturing

This is a course that will be an introduction to the carpentry industry. We will cover many of the different jobs and trades that would be involved in carpentry. Safety of power tools, building materials, careers, and more are just some of the areas that will be covered during class. With this class, there will also be lab work that will include some basic woodworking and cabinet making techniques that will be done in the shop. This is an exciting course with wood projects where you can enjoy working with other students and good tools. To be enrolled in the second semester, students *must* be enrolled in the first semester.

Advanced Woodworking

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Intro to the Built Environment

Students will have a full semester of the enjoyment of constructing individual advanced production projects in the area of wood and metals. The student will draw up plans on AutoCAD, make out a bill of material and plan of procedure, construct a working calendar, and contract a due date for completion of production. This is a great course designed to allow the student to put together all the different skills they have gained from past industrial technology courses.

Shop Operations*

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Intro to Manufacturing

Students will be able to receive one high school credit and one college credit for shop operations in the area of manufacturing technology. Students will learn the basics of the metal shop with areas of instruction in shop safety, proper usage of metal hand tools and equipment, fasteners, tap and die, spot welders and acetylene torch operations. There will be a small unit on CNC operations. Production material will be of plastic, metal and wood. Limited to 8 students per class.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: IND-127 (1 Credit)*

Introduction to CAD***Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Intro to Manufacturing (Recommended)*

This is a one semester program working with AutoCAD up-to-date software. The student is shown the importance of the computer files, word processing to prepare documents, and AutoCAD to create engineering drawings. Students will experience production projects. The course is designed for students to learn how the CAD program works. Students will also read and interpret machine drawings along with communicating symbolically using standard industry representations. Limited to 10 students per class.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: CAD-101 (3 Credits)*

Solid Modeling I***Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Intro to Manufacturing*

The students will be introduced to the principles of parametric design using computer aided design software. Students will construct digital models by use of elements of geometry, modeling theory, and parametric workflow. Topics will include sketching, constraining, feature construction, combination modeling methods and mating. Solid Works will be the main program used.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: CAD-164 (2 Credits)*

Beginning Welding***Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Intro to Manufacturing*

This course is a beginning welding course designed to give students proficiency in the theory and operation of AC and DC welding. Students will learn blueprint interpretation, safety as applied to the AC and DC welders, and mathematics used in welding operations. Joints and drafting will be incorporated into the production of individual projects. This is an exciting course for young welders.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: WEL-122 (2 Credits)*

Gas Metal Arc Welding***Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Beginning Welding*

This course is a beginning welding course designed for students to learn Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW) and Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW) with application to blueprinting, welding symbols, safety and metallurgy. Drawing and design of welding projects are examined and practiced. Spot welding along with sheet metal production projects will be included. Lab joint mathematics and drafting will be incorporated into production of individual projects.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: WEL-181 (2 Credits)*

Introduction to Residential Construction***Grades 11-12***Semester Elective/2 Periods (2 Credits)**Prerequisites: Intro to the Built Environment*

Students will be introduced to basic residential construction history, terminology, materials and basic construction techniques. This course will cover basic information and develop manual skills needed to begin construction of a new home. Limited to 10 students per class. Admission based on previous industrial technology coursework.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: CON-102 (2 Credits)*

Concrete Theory***Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Intro to the Built Environment*

Understanding concrete and its relationship to residential construction will be discussed along with concrete safety and testing techniques. Limited to 10 students per class. Admission based on previous industrial technology coursework.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: CON-130 (1 Credit)*

Site Layout and Blueprint Reading***Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: Intro to the Built Environment*

This course will train students to interpret and use working drawings and blueprints. It includes an understanding of construction symbols and building specifications. Students will develop a site layout for various projects utilizing lasers, builders levels, construction calculator, blueprints, and site plans. Limited to 10 students per class. Admission based on previous industrial technology coursework.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: CON-131 (1 Credit)*

Advanced Manufacturing Program at Northwest Career Academy**Grades 11-12**

The Northwest Career Academy, sponsored by Iowa Central Community College, is located in the old Laurens-Marathon High School building and offers career and technical training in the areas of Welding and Industrial Machining. These programs are combined into an Advanced Manufacturing strand that exposes students to both areas of the industry. Students have the choice of returning for a second year to participate in one of two Department of Labor approved Apprenticeship programs, which includes several Work-Based Learning courses, which encompasses on-the-job training at a local industry, along with advanced courses in their field. The two Apprenticeship programs are Welding Apprenticeship and CNC Machining Apprenticeship. Interested in learning more? Check out the [Career Academy's website](#).

Mathematics

Algebra I Part I

Grades 9-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

This course will provide students with the same problem-based curriculum as Algebra I but only the first half of the content and at a slower pace. The students will dig deeper into each concept enabling them to solve algebraic problems. Major topics of study include: one-variable statistics, linear equations, inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, two-variable statistics, and functions. This course is available to students who have not taken Algebra I. Placement in this class will be determined by the Teacher.

Algebra I Part II

Grades 9-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Algebra I Part I

This course will provide students with the same problem-based curriculum as Algebra I but only the second half of the content and at a slower pace. The students will dig deeper into each concept enabling them to solve algebraic problems. Major topics of study include: functions, exponential functions, quadratic functions, and quadratic equations. This course is available to students who have taken Algebra I Part I.

Algebra I

Grades 9-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

This course will provide a comprehensive teaching of the fundamental aspects of problem solving. The use of problem-based core curriculum is focused on content and practices standards to enhance learning and achievement. Major topics of study include: one-variable statistics, evaluation of algebraic equations, exponent rules and manipulation, polynomials, solving and graphing linear equations, solving and graphing two variable inequalities, solving systems of equations, two-variable statistics, radicals, word problems, solving and graphing quadratic equations, and factoring.

Geometry

Grades 9-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Geometry is a course that deals with geometric figures (lines, angles, and polygons) in the plane and in space. The properties of geometric figures are studied and these properties are used in problem solving. The course is an aid in logical thinking as considerable time is spent on the development of the deductive and inductive methods of reasoning.

Algebra II

Grades 10-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Algebra I & Geometry

Algebra II is a course that improves problem-solving skills. Topics studied include equations, functions, inequalities, linear programming, matrices, graphs, use of graphic calculators, logarithms, sequences, trigonometry, probability, and statistics. This course is a higher-level math course. Students entering into this course need to apply their prior math knowledge to complete more complex problems. Some study outside of class will be required.

Consumer Math

Grades 11-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

This class is set around the Dave Ramsey high school course, “Foundations in Personal Finance”. Topics will include budgeting, saving money, credit and debt, college planning, financial services, insurance, taxes, and several other topics. Each lesson is filled with vocabulary, everyday application, and an activity. Consumer Math is useful for all students as they approach adulthood. This class is available to Juniors and Seniors.

Introduction to Statistics I

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Algebra I & Geometry

This is a one semester class that will introduce many facets of the statistics world in which we see every day. The applications span a range of topics that include business, sports, health, architecture, education, entertainment, political science, demographics, eating habits, and travel and leisure. Many different types of careers require an understanding in statistics or even require classes in college and this class will give you the foundation you need to succeed. Completion of Algebra II is recommended before taking this course but not required.

Introduction to Statistics II

Grades 11-12

Semester Elective (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Introduction to Statistics I, Algebra II

This one-semester class is a continuation of Introduction to Statistics I. It is a requirement for students to complete Introduction to Statistics I to take this course. Topics discussed include displaying and describing data, the normal curve, regression, probability, statistical inference, confidence intervals, and hypothesis tests with applications in the real world. Students also have the opportunity to analyze data sets using technology.

Technical Math I***Grades 11-12***Semester Elective (1 Credit)**Prerequisites: None*

This is an in-depth applied mathematics course, which will teach or reinforce and apply basic mathematical skills that will be applied to the real life problems of today's world. Students will use the necessary skill to measure, analyze and make precise adjustments to industrial equipment.

**Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: MAT-743 (3 Credits)*

Advanced Placement (AP) Precalculus**Grades 11-12***Full Year Course (2 Credit)**Prerequisites: Algebra I & II, Geometry*

This is a course in precalculus and trigonometry. Precalculus is a study of functions, their inverses and composites, topics of analytic geometry, and other topics important to the study of calculus. Trigonometry contains an orderly development of trigonometric functions and their inverses, identities, trigonometric equations, graphs, solutions of triangles, complex numbers, and polar coordinates. Graphing calculators are used extensively in this course. Students enrolling in this class should plan on spending significant time outside of class on course material.

**Note: This is an Advanced Placement (AP) course. AP courses are college-level courses that require an exam at the end of the course. If you do well enough on the exam, college credit is earned.*

Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB**Grade 12***Full Year Course (2 Credits)**Prerequisites: Precalculus*

This is a first course in integrated calculus and analytic geometry. The concepts of analytic geometry are studied as they apply to calculus. The calculus concepts covered include the rate of change of a function, limits, derivatives of algebraic, logarithmic, trigonometric, and inverse trigonometric functions, applications of the derivative, and an introduction to integration and its applications. Students will solve problems using technology. Students enrolling in this class should plan on spending significant time outside of class on course material.

**Students must double up in Algebra 1 and Geometry freshman year to fit AP Calculus in their math sequence.*

**Note: This is an Advanced Placement (AP) course. AP courses are college-level courses that require an exam at the end of the course. If you do well enough on the exam, college credit is earned.*

Music

Band

Grades 9-12

Semester or Full Year Elective (0.5-1.0 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

Instruction from beginning notation and symbols to advanced rhythms and chord structures. Individual development of musical style and playing proficiency is encouraged above all else. Opportunities abound for the performing and appreciation of all styles of music. Individual performers are encouraged to participate no matter what their ability. Desire and effort is all that is required. Individuals are encouraged to start in the elementary grades, but anyone with an interest to participate is invited to begin. Performing opportunities include: marching band, concert band, pep band, jazz band, combos, honor band, solo and ensemble contest, All-State Auditions, All-State Jazz Band Auditions, and individual lessons. General requirements of the course are:

- Each student is required to have a weekly lesson.
- Each student will participate in marching band and pep band. Exceptions are made for student athletes. There are no conflicts between Band and athletics.
- The Concert Band performs four general concerts: October, December, March, May)
- Each student will participate in Solo/Ensemble and Large Group Contests

Choir

Grades 9-12

Semester or Full Year Elective (0.5-1.0 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

The following concepts and performance skills will be studied: intonation, balance and blend, proper breathing, expression, rhythm, diction, and sight singing. Materials used range from classical choral literature to pop/rock and spirituals for SAB and SATB choirs. This group performs at four concerts during the school year and also performs at State Large Group Contest, the community Baccalaureate service and at Graduation. All choir members are required to take vocal lessons with the vocal instructor. Students will attend lessons during study halls, although special arrangements may be made for a lesson before/after school if the student has a scheduling or academic conflict. Lessons range from 10-15 minutes in length each week. Choir members have the option to participate in singing the National Anthem at home Varsity Volleyball, Basketball, Bowling and Wrestling events. All students have the option to participate in the IHSMA Solo/Ensemble contest in the spring. Entries for State Solo/Small Ensemble include solos, duets, trios, quartets, sextets, Chamber Choir, etc. The entire Mixed Choir participates in the State Large Group Contest in May. Literature for both contests will be of classical style and should present a challenge for the students. There is also the opportunity to be involved in the High School Fall Musical Production which occurs on odd numbered years.

**Note: Band and Choir share an extended class period (6th period) and meet Monday-Friday. Choir students are released for lunch early and attend Choir from 12:40-1:13pm. Band starts at 1:13pm and ends at 1:52pm. For students who are in Choir but not in Band, they report to study hall from 1:13-1:52pm.*

**Note: One semester of Band and/or Choir is 0.5 credits. If you take Band and/or Choir for a full year, you will receive 1.0 credit for each.*

Physical Education (PE) & Health

Students must be enrolled in a PE class each semester and can choose between Weight Training, Lifetime Sports/Team Sports, and Extreme Fitness. Students involved in 2 athletic activities during the school year may waive one semester of PE each year with Principal approval.

The main objectives of physical education at the high school level are to:

- Further development of the team sports skills started at the junior high level.
- Expose the student to a variety of lifetime sports and activities that they may use in their leisure time now and during their adult years after graduation.
- Provide a weight-lifting program that builds muscular strength and endurance.
- Provide activities to develop fitness while also providing information so that students can maintain their fitness during their future years.
- Allow the student time for relaxed social interaction with their peers.

Weight Training

Grades 9-12

Semester Elective (0.5 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

This class will increase the participant's muscular strength and endurance. This will be done through the National School Fitness Foundation. It will involve both anaerobic & aerobic conditioning. Universal and free weights will be used for the complete program. This course is open to anyone who desires to put forth the effort to achieve his or her goals. Some lifts included are bench press, squat, military press, hang cleans, hip sled, lat pull downs, and jump rope. This class will be given a letter grade using the school grading scale and meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Lifetime Sports/Team Sports

Grades 9-12

Semester Elective (0.5 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

The two classes will be combined and activities in both areas will be done. It is geared for those students who want to learn the skills for group participation in sports to be used throughout their adult lives. Some of the activities include badminton, pickleball, ping-pong, walking, dance, archery, bowling, and frisbee golf. The team sports portion will have more competition between peers in class. The goals include teamwork, cooperation, having fun, and competition while practicing good sportsmanship. Some games include: basketball, volleyball, flag football, ultimate frisbee, soccer, American road tennis, and snowshoeing. This class will be given a letter grade using the school grading scale and will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Note: New legislation requires students to participate in at least 120 minutes of physical activity each week. Students who sign up for Lifetime Sports/Team Sports and are not involved in other athletic activities will need to participate in one additional physical education class each week.*

Extreme Fitness (Earlybird)

Grades 9-12

Semester Elective (0.5 Credit)

Prerequisites: Teacher/Principal Approval

This class will be for students who have a genuine interest in making themselves physically fit. Class will be held from 6:40am to 7:40am. Students will have to apply to get into this course through the Principal and approved by the Teacher.

Health

Grades 9-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

Health science will offer students an overview of health issues involving mental, emotional, and physical health. Students will explore challenges to public health access, strategies for improving personal health, all aspects of mental health, prevention of communicable disease and noncommunicable disease, explore the science of substance abuse, discover personal nutrition needs, learn first aid techniques, and receive an introduction into anatomy and physiology. As the health field is constantly evolving, this course will dig into advocating for better health. This course is great for students interested in living a healthier life or better understanding others, learning more about how our mind and bodies function together, and for future healthcare professionals. This course utilizes hands-on, online, lecture, and imagery to explore the content.

Science

Physical Science

Grade 9

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

Physical science breaks down into 8 unifying themes which are covered: study of physical phenomenon; the relationship between matter and energy; the elements and chemical properties of matter; the changes in phases of matter, force, work, and motion; heat and kinetic energy of molecules; wave properties of light and sound; and the use of electrical and nuclear energy. All of these areas are explored by use of text and laboratory investigations with emphasis on the scientific method. This is a **required** course for all Freshman.

Biology

Grade 10

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Physical Science

This course is designed to investigate the nature of living organisms. It begins by investigating the materials and energy for life, cellular nature, the reproduction of cells and heredity principles, and ends with how organisms interact with each other and the environment. Laboratory work consists of microscopic studies, dissection, and other studies we have the facilities to do. This is a **required** course for all Sophomores.

General Science

Grades 11-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Physical Science & Biology

This integrated science course explores the fundamental concepts of chemistry, physics, and environmental science, connecting the dots between the three disciplines. Students will delve into the structure and behavior of matter, energy, and waves, as well as the interrelationships between these entities and the environment. Through hands-on laboratory experiments, data analysis, and scientific inquiry, students will learn to observe, analyze, and explain scientific phenomena. Topics of study may include atomic structure, chemical reactions, thermodynamics, waves and optics, electricity and magnetism, climate change, sustainable energy, and environmental policy etc.

Chemistry

Grades 11-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Physical Science & Biology

Chemistry is a science which consists of the study of the structure of matter. The course also includes the study of the properties of the elements and the changes that take place when they combine to form other substances. Laboratory work is included as an essential part of the course. This course is aimed primarily at Juniors and Seniors who plan to continue their education beyond high school. In fact, most four year colleges and universities strongly encourage or require students to take chemistry in high school.

**Note: Biology is a prerequisite for this course but can be taken concurrently with Teacher approval.*

Human Anatomy and Physiology

Grades 11-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Biology

This course is designed to help you understand the human body. The following systems will be studied in detail: respiration, muscular, skeletal, nervous, endocrine, circulation, and reproductive. Lab work will include dissection and microscopic studies. This is a great course for students interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field after graduation.

Advanced Placement (AP) Biology

Grade 12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: See course description

The AP Biology course is designed to be equivalent to a two semester college introductory biology course. The class is conducted at the college level and students are expected to work accordingly. AP Biology differs significantly from a traditional high school biology course due to text content, depth of material covered, lab work, and time and effort required to achieve mastery in the subject area. The 3 general areas covered are Molecules and Cells, 25%; Genetics and Evolution, 25%; and Organisms and Populations, 50%. There is also a minimum of 12 multi-faceted laboratory exercises performed.

**Prerequisites: A combination of Teacher recommendation, ISASP score, GPA, successful completion of Biology and Chemistry courses, and Counselor and/or Principal approval.*

**Note: This is an Advanced Placement (AP) course. AP Courses are college-level courses that require an exam at the end of the course. If you do well enough on the exam, college credit is earned.*

Advanced Chemistry

Grades 11-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Chemistry

This course serves as an extension of chemistry. First year chemistry topics are reviewed with a greater emphasis on quantitative aspects. Topics include chemical reactions, acid-base reactions, redox equations, organic chemistry, environmental chemistry, and possibly nuclear reactions. This course is strongly recommended for students who plan on taking chemistry in college.

Physics

Grades 11-12

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: College prep math classes and/or Teacher approval

Physics is an advanced science course being primarily an extension of 9th grade physical science. Topics studied center around energy and its different forms, such as: forces, motion matter, sound, optics, electricity, and electronics. Students gain skills in problem solving using calculators and computers when advantageous. The course is beneficial to the understanding of our technological world.

**Note: A prerequisite includes college prep math classes, including Geometry, Algebra II & Trigonometry.*

Social Studies

Geography

Grades 9-12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

In geography students will explore a mixture of both physical and human geography. This course will help students gain an understanding of how people and their environment have an effect upon each other. This will be achieved through an exploration of how population, culture, conflict, government, agriculture, urbanization, and economics play a role throughout the world. Students will engage in discussions and practice argumentation throughout the course to demonstrate understanding of our increasingly globalized world.

Historical Accuracy in Film/Multimedia

Grades 9-12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

Students in this course will gain an understanding of how authors, movies, and the media portray historical periods and events. Students will use a combination of researching historical events and reading literature (informational and nonfiction) to gain a better understanding of various historical events. Students will analyze if various forms of media (movies, TV shows, podcasts, newspapers, fiction novels, etc) portray historical events accurately. Ultimately, students will evaluate the impact of historical inaccuracies and what is more important: truth or entertainment? College and Career Readiness focus: Students will develop critical thinking skills throughout this course that will help them carefully evaluate the various forms of media they consume on a daily basis. This is an important skill for students in an ever increasing digital world.

World History

Grade 10

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: None

World History covers material in chronological sequence. We begin the course by discussing ancient civilizations. Then we continue on chronologically through the Middle Ages, the emergence of the Modern World, on to the World Wars, and ending with recent history. Occasionally we will put the book aside to discuss events that are currently happening in our world today. This course is **required** for all Sophomores.

US History

Grade 11

Full Year Course (2 Credits)

Prerequisites: World History

The main premise of this course is to study United States history in the 21st Century through reading, research, writing and discussion. This is a student-centered class with an emphasis on inquiry. We will learn, practice, and master critical thinking skills, persuasive and argument writing, as well as interpretation of original documents. Historical Thinking will be stressed as a strategy to use as we research key events of US history. Every activity conducted in class will be done in the group setting in order to foster discussion and different points of view. You will see how events of the past have influenced our present and future as we compare historical events to present day issues. This is a **required** course for all Juniors.

Advanced Placement (AP) United States History

Grade 11-12

Full Year Course

Prerequisites: See course description

The AP United States History course is designed to be equivalent to a two-semester introductory college course in U.S. history. Students will study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped the United States from c. 1491 to the present. You'll analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments. Emphasis will be placed on reading and evaluating primary and secondary sources, analyzing the claims, evidence, and reasoning you find in sources, putting historical developments in context and making connections between them, and coming up with a claim or thesis and explaining and supporting it in writing.

**Prerequisites: A combination of Teacher recommendation, ISASP score, GPA, successful completion of World History courses, and Counselor and/or Principal approval.*

**Note: This is an Advanced Placement (AP) course. AP courses are college-level courses that require an exam at the end of the course. If you do well enough on the exam, college credit is earned.*

Philosophy of Character Development and Leadership

Grades 10-12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

This course is intended for students with various backgrounds and abilities. The elements of character and leadership are designed to motivate reflection, application, and actualization of social, emotional, and educational resilience. Students, along with educators, will address personal influences, expression of opinions, resolution of conflicts, while making informed decisions about their future. Collaboratively, students will be challenged to achieve emotional and personal resilience, demonstrate academic success, and display leadership skills confidently. The academic content of this course is cross-curricular, and involves tasks related to central text readings, role-plays, group discussion, personal reflection, and leadership projects.

Sociology

Grades 11-12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

Sociology is an elective course that studies human society and social behavior. Positive human relationships are an essential part of a civilized society. Therefore, how we interact with each other is important so that we can find answers to questions and solve problems in our world. This course deals with the social atmosphere that helps to make us who we are and how we behave. This course will introduce you to this science discipline by examining its history, the work of its early and contemporary contributors, essential concepts, research methods, theory and applications. I hope you will see how sociology can help you in improving your understanding of society as we explore the following points: Understand essential terminology and assumptions central to this science; Understand how culture, socialization and social structure impact human behavior; Apply the sociological perspective to a study of social class, deviance, race and gender; Understand how sociologists examine the primary institutions of any society including religion, the economy, political structures, the family and the workforce; Encourage students to apply sociological perspectives to their own lives.

World Issues

Grades 11-12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

World Issues is a unique course designed to teach students about the important events and issues our world is currently facing. Interpreting the events that occur in our world can be difficult, and our goal is exposure to the issues that are important to us while understanding other world issues such as humanism, new age, etc. and how they compare to worldview. Unlike most classes, this course's content may shift dramatically throughout the semester, depending on current events and other important issues that arise. As such, students are encouraged to "stay current" on the news by reading newspapers, magazines, and internet news, listening to radio news, and watching television news programs. Students will also need to develop their ability to read, analyze, and critically judge the media and the news it presents. They will be encouraged to interpret these events in an appropriate way and convey how these events apply to daily life. World Issues will help us to understand the world around us and the complex issues facing Americans and other people around the world while preparing us to be informed, democratic citizens in a modern age. Students will also participate in class discussions and presentations, summaries, and daily journals. Class time will be used for discussion revolving around student presentations of world events in the news, and their examination of world views. From time to time, we will watch presentations on relevant material. Student participation and involvement are mandatory to make the class go!

Holocaust and other Genocides

Grades 11-12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

Students in this course will gain an understanding of the events surrounding the Holocaust and other genocides. They will explore several misconceptions and terms about the Holocaust, as well as subjects such as the Weimar Republic, the use of propaganda, the Nuremberg Laws, among many other pivotal topics. Through examining and comparing the Holocaust to other genocides of the 20th and 21st century such as Rwanda, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Sudan, students will evaluate how they can become "upstanders" rather than being a "bystander." Ultimately, students will learn that humans have the capacity to provide goodness and kindness even in the worst of conditions. College and Career Readiness focus: This class will help students gain a broader perspective on relationships between people and how their actions can affect the greater world. Students will think critically about how each person can impact others, and how they can be a leader throughout their lives which is important for both college and career success.

US Government

Grade 12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

The purpose of this course is to give students an introduction to the history and development of American governmental systems as well as the workings of our own present day system. Students will become aware that federal, state, and local levels of government are at work around us. The federal government is examined extensively attempting to see how it operates and how it affects us personally. This is a **required** course for all Seniors.

Other Courses

Young Adult Living

Grade 12

Semester Course (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: None

This course consists of two 9-week sessions that focus on Financial Literacy and 21st Century Life Skills.

Financial Literacy: This session has an interactive and 9-week comprehensive curriculum designed for Seniors who are preparing to manage their personal and family finances. The overall goal will be to raise the personal financial capabilities of young adults and help consumers make informed financial choices in today's increasingly complex, connected world. The course content is from a holistic approach toward managing family finances including decision making skills, creating spending plans, saving, understanding consumer credit and insurance. Upon completion of the course, students will have an awareness of how financial decisions impact all aspects of their life. In addition, they will be instilled with the knowledge to make sound financial decisions as young adults.

21st Century Life Skills: This course is a 9-week session that focuses on life and career readiness skills, health and wellness, and online safety and ethics. The overall goal is to help young adults successfully transition into adulthood. Upon completion of this course, students will complete a resume, cover letter, and prepare for an interview. Students will be given tools to manage life-long health, wellness, and safety. In addition, students will focus on their roles and responsibilities as a citizen within a community, recognize their leadership qualities and discover ways to share their talents. This is a **required** course for all Seniors.

Student Assistant

Grades 11-12

Semester or Full Year Course (1-2 Credits)

Prerequisites: Counselor or Principal approval

Interested students would have the opportunity to work with an elementary or middle school teacher. Some opportunities for assistants include tutoring, mentoring, working with small groups during the elementary reading block, and assisting teachers in the classroom. This is a pass/fail class. In order to pass, students need to keep a daily log, write a 3-4 page reflection paper about their experience, prove to be responsible and reliable, and perform whatever tasks the supervising teacher asks them to do. If you would like to be a student assistant, indicate this on your course preference sheet. The School Counselor will interview you about your interests and see if we can find a Teacher for you to assist. Interested students could enroll for a semester (every day) or a full year (every day). This class can only be taken twice for a total of 2 credits. It is also possible to participate in this program for community service hours instead of for academic credit. Principal and/or Counselor approval is required for admission into this course.

Introduction to Education*

Grades 11-12

Semester (1 Credit)

Prerequisites: Counselor or Principal approval

Emphasis will be placed on the appraisal of the teaching profession, work and certification of teachers, consideration of administrative organization, instructional procedures and contemporary problems at both the elementary level and the secondary level. It includes a study of the historical and sociological foundations of education.

*Note: This is a concurrent enrollment (college) course - ICCC Course #: EDU-213 (3 Credits)

This course will be offered on an every other year basis starting with the 2024-2025 school year.

Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program

Students are admitted into the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program based on Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) scores, teacher observations, CogAT test scores, and parent input. High school students choosing to participate in TAG will contract to complete an individual project, or they will fulfill part of a team project such as Stock Market, Quiz Bowl, or Mock Trial. Students are encouraged to choose projects in areas in which they have an intense interest or in areas that will give them insight into possible careers. These projects can be completed either in or out of school.

Senior Year Plus (SYP) Program (College Courses)

Senior Year Plus (SYP) is a program which provides students the opportunity to take a rigorous college curriculum and receive, in many cases, both high school and college credit concurrently. The SYP program serves as an umbrella for Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), Concurrent Enrollment (Earlybird) courses, and Career Academies. To participate in the SYP program, students must meet the academic requirements of both Sioux Central High School and the postsecondary institution. At the school district level, students must demonstrate proficiency in each of three academic areas: reading, mathematics, and science. This is primarily determined using the students' most recent scores on the Iowa Statement Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP). At the college level, students must be proficient in SYP requirements and meet any additional assessment requirements of the postsecondary institution. For more information, refer to the Iowa Department of Education's [Senior Year Plus](#) webpage.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level courses offered by high schools. The courses, curriculum requirements, and optional tests are provided by The College Board. Based on the examination score and the postsecondary institution's policies, students may be eligible for college credit or advanced standing at the college or university they later matriculate.

The Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Act allows ineligible students the opportunity to take eligible courses at an Iowa area community college or university and have the cost of tuition, fees and textbook up to \$250 paid by their home school district. Credit earned in the courses will be counted at the home school as well as the college. Students will be granted 1 high school credit for every 3 semester hours of college credit taken. Grades earned from other institutions will be recorded on their transcripts. These grades will be computed in the students' cumulative grade point average (GPA). Students are responsible for supplying the district with official transcripts of courses successfully completed.

An "eligible course" is a course that is not comparable to a course taught in the high school in which the student attends. The purpose of this program is not to supplement the local curriculum, but rather to provide students an expanded program of study in an area of interest. Local school boards determine if the postsecondary courses are comparable to courses taught in the local school district. Speak with the School Counselor on whether or not a course qualifies for this program. This option is available for all 11th and 12th grade students. It is also available to 9th and 10th grade students who have been identified as talented and gifted according to the school's identification procedure.

Note that students can only take PSEO courses if the course is not offered at the high school. These college level courses are only available to those students who meet the criteria set forth by the postsecondary institution for enrollment. The School Counselor will assist students in taking the appropriate assessment to demonstrate a readiness for postsecondary coursework.

Note: Students taking **one online college course must take a **minimum of six** Sioux Central classes. Students taking **two or more** online college courses must take a **minimum of five** Sioux Central classes.*

The **Concurrent Enrollment** program, also known as district-to-community college sharing, promotes rigorous academic or career and technical pursuits by providing opportunities for high school students to enroll in eligible nonsectarian courses at or through community colleges. Per SYP, concurrent enrollment courses are offered through contractual agreements between community colleges and school districts within their service area.

The following is a list of Concurrent Enrollment (Earlybird) courses offered by Sioux Central High School or one of its partners. Credit from these courses will be accepted as a transfer credit to all major colleges and universities, but the class itself may not transfer as a replacement class. It may only be accepted as an elective credit and the course may have to be taken again at that particular institution. Please check to see how the course will transfer with the institution you are planning on transferring to. Check to see if your credits will transfer by using The Iowa Board of Regents [Transfer in Iowa](#) tool.

For a list of concurrent enrollment courses taught either at Sioux Central or at an alternate location, please see the table on the next page.

Concurrent Enrollment courses offered to Sioux Central students

Course Name	Course Number	Location	HS Credits	College Credits
Survey of Animal Industry	AGS-113	Sioux Central	1	3
Intro to Agriculture Business	AGB-133	Sioux Central	1	3
Principles of Crop Production	AGA-852	Sioux Central	1	3
Intro to Accounting	ACC-111	Sioux Central	1	3
Human Relations	BUS-161	Sioux Central	1	3
Business Communication	BUS-121	Sioux Central	1	3
Photoshop I	CIS-265	Sioux Central	1	3
Shop Operations	IND-127	Sioux Central	1	1
Intro to CAD	CAD-101	Sioux Central	1	3
Solid Modeling i	CAD-164	Sioux Central	1	2
Beginning Welding	WEL-122	Sioux Central	1	2

Gas Metal Arc Welding	WEL-181	Sioux Central	1	2
Intro to Residential Construction	CON-102	Sioux Central	2	2
Concrete Theory	CON-130	Sioux Central	1	1
Site Layout and Blueprint	CON-131	Sioux Central	1	1
Introduction to Education	EDU-213	Sioux Central	1	3
Technical Math I	MAT-743	Sioux Central	1	3
Auto I: Intro to Transportation Technology	AUT-108	ICCC: Storm Lake	1	3
Auto I: Automotive Engine Repair	AUT-164	ICCC: Storm Lake	1	4
Auto I: Automotive Brake Systems	AUT-503	ICCC: Storm Lake	1	3
Auto II: Automotive Lab I	AUT-879	ICCC: Storm Lake	1	1
Auto II: Intro to Diesel Technology	DSL-323	ICCC: Storm Lake	1	3
Auto II: Auto Electrical I	AUT-610	ICCC: Storm Lake	1	4
Certified Nurse's Aide (CNA)	HSC-172	Methodist Manor (Storm Lake)	2	3

Career Academies are programs of study offered to high school students through an agreement or contract between their high school and a community college. They bridge high school and community college career and technical education (CTE) programs.

In Iowa, career academics are programs of study that combine a minimum of 2 years of secondary education with an associate degree in a career preparatory program. The career academy is a program of study that is non-duplicative, sequential, and ensures that the course of study is skill standards-based, integrates academic and technical instruction, utilizes work based and work site learning where appropriate and available, utilizes an individual career planning process with parent involvement, and prepares an individual for entry and advancement in a high-skill and rewarding career field.

Sioux Central has partnered with Iowa Central's Northwest Career Academy in Laurens, IA. The career academy offers both a Welding Technology and Industrial Machinist program. Both programs are 2 year programs. For more information on the career academy and the programs/courses offered, check out the [Northwest Career Academy](#) webpage.

Summer College Credit Program

More information will be added as soon as it's available.

Course Recommendations for College Preparation

To ensure that students are ready for college, Sioux Central recommends the following courses:

English	4 years with an emphasis on the communication skills of writing, reading and listening and the analysis and interpretation of literature. In addition, courses in journalism and media literacy will be valuable. Extra curricular activities in debate, speech contest, newspaper, and yearbook will further develop essential competencies.
Math	4 years, once each year of high school. Advanced courses in algebra and trigonometry are optimal. Calculus and statistics courses are also good and will contribute to the development of your higher-level analytical skills.
Science	4 years, once in each year of high school. To be better prepared, take at least one year each of biology, chemistry and physics. These can be taken in any order and may be taught productively in either a separate or an integrated fashion, depending on your school's offerings.
Social Studies	3 years is essential, but four is better. Take at least one year each of US and world history. Additional courses in anthropology, economics, political science, psychology and sociology provide an important understanding of our political, social and economic institutions.
Foreign Language	4 years of a single world language. By taking a world language during all four years of high school, you'll go beyond the basic skills and begin to use the language and reinforce your fluency.
Other Courses	Explore! Courses in the fine arts, performing arts, computers, or technology will help round out your high school experience. Your future field of concentration or career may lie in one of those areas. Follow your interests, talents and the strengths of your school. Remember to choose courses with high academic standards.

**Source: Iowa Board of Regents (2021)*

Information for College-Bound Students

College Placement Tests

Most postsecondary institutions, including community colleges and universities, require some kind of placement test during either the admissions process or before enrolling in certain courses. Types of placement tests include the ACT, SAT, ALEKS, Accuplacer, and more. These tests examine your knowledge in content areas such as math, science, reading and writing.

By following our recommended courses for college preparation, you will be more prepared for college placement tests and will generally score higher on them. Scoring high on college placement tests is crucial not only to the college admissions process, but it also opens up more scholarship opportunities, as some scholarships are academic-based and are awarded based on a high GPA and ACT/SAT score.

Financial Aid Process

Students and their families should not assume that they cannot afford a particular college or university. Financial aid often makes it possible for students to attend colleges they thought were too expensive. There are four types of financial aid: grants, student loans, work study, and scholarships. A grant is money that is given to the student based on financial need. Student loans are money that must be paid back with interest. Work study is money that the student earns through a campus job. Scholarships are money that is awarded because a student is outstanding in some area. Most students will find that financial aid comes in the form of a “package.” A package is a combination of grants, student loans, work study and scholarships. Packages are awarded through the financial aid office, and will vary from college to college. The following are our tips and tasks to complete to receive financial aid:

- In the Fall of senior year, complete the individual financial aid and scholarship application forms for each college that you are applying to.
- Fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after it opens, which is October 1st every year. In addition, have your tax information organized early, as it will be needed to complete the FAFSA. The FAFSA is a federal form that asks for information on income and assets. Within 2 weeks of submitting the FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) that will inform you of your estimated family contribution (EFC). This is the amount they have determined your parents/guardians can afford to pay for your college tuition. If the cost of the college is higher than the EFC, you have a financial need and should be eligible for financial aid. Contact your college’s financial aid office for further information and assistance.
- Attend any financial aid nights and/or meetings that may be offered in your area. You can ask your School Counselor if your school plans to hold a financial aid night.
- Complete the FAFSA regardless of your financial situation, even if you know you will not qualify for any need-based aid because of your income. Colleges and organizations often want it verified that students are not eligible for need-based aid before they award non-need based aid.

Scholarships

There are millions of scholarship dollars that go unclaimed every year. However, at the same time, many students who would be considered “outstanding” may not be able to get a scholarship. This is because while there are thousands of scholarships available, most of these scholarships have very specific eligibility criteria (a student must go to a particular college, be in the top 5% (class rank) of their class and have an ACT score of at least 28, or a student must belong to a particular ethnic group, race, religion, have overcome a great life obstacle, have great leadership skills; a specific major, etc.) When it comes to academic scholarships, students generally must have an outstanding GPA (3.5 or higher), high test scores (27+ ACT or 1200+ SAT), excellent letters of recommendation, and be involved in extracurricular and/or community/volunteer activities. To receive an athletic or talent scholarship, a student must be outstanding. Even though it is not easy to obtain academic or talent scholarships, students and parents who are willing to invest the time and energy may find that their efforts pay off. When searching and applying for scholarships, keep in mind:

- Start early. Begin looking into possibilities during your Junior year. Be ready to locate and complete applications early in your Senior year.
- Finding and applying for scholarships takes time, energy, and persistence.
- Larger scholarships are awarded by the college the student plans to attend. Contact your college’s financial aid office to see what scholarships are available.
- Private colleges are often more generous in awarding scholarships, thus making private colleges competitive in price with public colleges, whose tuition is always cheaper than private colleges.
- Apply for local scholarships. These are generally for smaller amounts (\$100-\$1000) but your odds of being awarded a scholarship is typically better.
- Be aware of deadlines. Scholarship applications become available throughout a student’s Senior year, and sometimes are due only weeks after being publicized.
- Network. Tell everyone (including your School Counselor) that you are looking for scholarships. Check for scholarship opportunities with your place of employment, your church, any organizations to which you belong, etc. Also look for scholarships in the local newspaper.
- Look for free online scholarship directories. These websites will allow you to search for scholarships by different filters (academic, program of study, first generation student, etc.)
- Applying for scholarships can be frustrating. You may not get a response back from a scholarship that you’ve applied for. If you do get a response, you may find that the deadline has passed or that there is no longer funding for the scholarship.
- Be organized. Make sure teachers, your school counselor, and your principal are given plenty of time to prepare letters of recommendation and transcripts. Be aware of deadlines!!
- Remember that students who are not able to get scholarships often are able to get need-based financial aid. Tip: Make copies of everything.