

CONTENTS

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Assessment of Academic Practices</u>	4
<u>Scheduling Process</u>	5
<u>Course Offerings Overview</u>	6
<u>Course Descriptions by Department</u>	7
• <u>Art & Design</u>	7
• <u>English</u>	10
• <u>Health & Physical Education</u>	12
• <u>Mathematics</u>	14
• <u>Music</u>	18
• <u>Religion</u>	21
• <u>Science</u>	24
• <u>Social Studies</u>	29
• <u>Technology, Business and Other</u>	33
• <u>Theatre</u>	35
• <u>World Languages</u>	38
• <u>Educational Services Program</u>	45

GENERAL INFORMATION

Saint Ursula Academy is a college-preparatory school that offers an intensive four-year program in the fields of religion, English, social studies, mathematics, science, French, Spanish, Latin, as well as art, design, music, and theatre. All courses are college-preparatory. Some subjects offer an honors level, and there are Advanced Placement and College Credit Plus courses. The Vice Principal for Academics and school counselors plan the program of each freshman by considering her elementary school achievement and her performance on the entrance examination. Each year the individual student's program is reviewed, evaluated, and directed according to her abilities and interests. A student is encouraged to select a program that includes subjects taught at different levels of difficulty. Certain upper-level courses, however, demand that the student has attained a particular average in the lower-level courses of the same field or approval of the department.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students prepare for a baccalaureate program in order to receive a college-preparatory diploma upon completion of a minimum of 24.00 units of credit including the following:

Religion	4
English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
World Language	3
Social Studies	3
Health/Physical Education	1
Fine Arts	1
Elective Courses	1

Additional units of credit may be taken in English, mathematics, technology, science, world languages, the fine arts, social studies, and other electives. Required mathematics courses are Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry. Required science courses are Biology, Chemistry, and Physics the Class of 2028 and beyond. A student must take three years of the same world language. Students in the Educational Services program are required to take two years of the same world language. Required social studies courses are World History, U.S. History, American Government, and Economics. Religion is required each year. One 1-semester health course and two 1-semester PE courses are required.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

Students must be recommended by the appropriate teacher/department to enroll in an Advanced Placement course. Students who elect to take AP courses will be billed an additional amount for the exam through the FACTS account. The College Board determines the fee for the exam. Students who are enrolled in AP courses are required to take the AP exam for that course. AP Courses offered at Saint Ursula Academy are listed below.

Biology	English Literature	Latin Literature*	Statistics
Calculus AB	Environmental Science	Macroeconomics	Studio Art
Calculus BC	European History	Physics C	US Government and Politics
Chemistry	French Language*	Psychology	US History
Computer Science Principles	Human Geography	Spanish Language	World History

* Not offered in the 2025-2026 school year.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS (CCP) COURSES

College Credit Plus (CCP) is a program through the Ohio Department of Education to allow Ohio high school students the ability to take college courses for both high school and college credit. The purpose of this program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a variety of options to college-ready students. At this time, Saint Ursula Academy has established a partnership with the University of Cincinnati and offers the following CCP classes on campus. Saint Ursula students can also take CCP classes at the hosting university.

Essentials of Entrepreneurship

Foundations of Engineering Design Thinking I

Students must follow the application instructions given by the Ohio Department of Education. The student must apply to the college and be accepted. Once accepted, a student must file the Non-Public Student Funding Application by the required due date. Students are not guaranteed to receive funding from the State of Ohio.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (ES) PROGRAM

Saint Ursula Academy offers a program for college-bound, highly motivated young women with dyslexia and other learning disabilities. Students in the Educational Services Program are mainstreamed into the regular college-preparatory curriculum. However, program participants benefit from a number of special modifications and services that demonstrate Saint Ursula's commitment to providing a successful college preparatory experience for learning disabled students. The special modifications and services include tutoring, course-work support, diagnostic testing, textbooks on CDs, Kurzweil reader, AP tests administered orally, PSAT, SAT and ACT available digitally, extended examination and testing periods, oral examinations and tests read by tutor, and the use of a digital recorder to record class notes. Students enrolled in the Educational Services Program will be billed additional fees for participation in the program.

GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM (GSP)

Saint Ursula Academy, in collaboration with [The Ursuline Education Network \(UEN\)](#), offers the Ursuline Global Scholars Certificate to graduating students who have demonstrated a strong interest in global citizenship by successfully completing curricular studies with a global focus and engaging in co-curricular activities and experiences that foster the development of [global competencies](#). The elective courses that count towards the global scholar curriculum are designated in our curriculum guide by the globe image.

MINIMESTER COURSES

Saint Ursula Academy is thrilled to offer minimester courses starting in the 2025-2026 school year. A minimester is an experiential learning course offered twice a year, in December and May, providing students with a dynamic, hands-on educational experience. Each minimester lasts for 12 consecutive school days and earns students a half credit, totaling one full credit by the end of the school year. Saint Ursula Academy's faculty has developed over 40 course options, allowing students to explore diverse interests through inquiry and project-based learning. Experiential learning, which emphasizes learning by doing through student action and reflection, is at the core of these courses. Students will engage in real-world activities, many of which will take place both on and off campus, making the learning environment more interactive and engaging than a traditional classroom.

ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC PRACTICES

GRADING

Any system of grading is at best a relative measure of a student's progress in a particular area of study. It is important that both students and their parents understand this relativity so that they neither weigh the grades too heavily nor ignore them altogether. It is also important that they understand the alpha system of grading used at Saint Ursula Academy. Honors, AP, and CCP courses at Saint Ursula Academy are weighed at a higher point value than the college-preparatory courses. Additionally, half credit and quarter credit courses are weighted appropriately in computing a grade point average. The following system is used (the numeric equivalents are given for comparison purposes):

Grade Value	Numeric Equivalent	College Prep CP	Honors H	Advanced Placement AP/CCP
A+	97-100	4.33	4.83	5.33
A	93-96	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	90-92	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+	87-89	3.34	3.84	4.34
B	83-86	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80-82	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+	77-79	2.34	2.84	3.34
C	73-76	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70-72	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+	68-69	1.34	1.84	2.34
D	65-67	1.00	1.50	2.00
F	0-64	0.00	0.00	0.00

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Grades from all courses are weighted and averaged for the GPA and the honor roll. The GPA takes into account the amount of credit a course receives as well as any honors or AP/CCP weighting. The exam grade is included in the final grade for each course. Summer school courses (enrichment or remedial) are not included in the GPA. A failing grade in a course is counted in the GPA. Credit is awarded for a successful make-up course, but make-up work is not counted in the GPA. Any grade earned in an approved Saint Ursula Academy Flex Credit is included in the GPA.

CLASS RANK

Saint Ursula Academy does not report class rank because of our selective population. Class rank is useful in comprehensive high schools in which the entire range of abilities is present. Such is not the case in schools like Saint Ursula who only accept students in the college preparatory curriculum.

SCHEDULING PROCESS

SCHEDULING

Each year the individual student has the opportunity to review and evaluate her academic program with her teachers and counselor. During the second semester, the student prepares her list of requests for the following school year and enters it into Powerschool with her counselor. The students' requests do not guarantee placement as other considerations impact Saint Ursula Academy's final master schedule. The Vice Principal of Academics confers with the head of each department (as needed) to confirm placement of students. Counselors are consulted as changes are planned. Certain upper-level courses require that the student has attained a particular average in the lower-level courses of the same discipline. In order to schedule an Honors/AP course, the student must have permission from the required teacher/department and her counselor. The Vice Principal of Academics oversees the student scheduling process and gives the final approval to all schedules.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

- Course selection is an important process for SUA students and requires meaningful thought and serious commitment. Curriculum and staffing decisions are based on student course selection; therefore, schedule changes can only be made at assigned times and for significant reasons.
- Students who will be applying to college in the fall should consider what courses will be needed to gain admission to a college before completing their course requests.
- After course requests are submitted in the spring, schedules will only be changed upon the approval of the Vice Principal of Academics and the student's counselor. Naturally, all changes are contingent on course availability and class size.
- If a student is approved and scheduled for a course, she will be expected to complete the course.

COURSE OFFERINGS OVERVIEW 2025-2026

Art & Design

Art 1
Design Foundations
Art 2
Art 3
Art 4 Honors
Design 2
Design 3
Design 4 Honors Portfolio Class
AP Art
Sculpture

English

Literary Genres
Literary Genres Honors
British Literature
British Literature Honors
American Literature
American Literature Honors
World Literature
AP English Literature & Composition

Health & Physical Education

Health
Cont. Issues in Women's Health
Physical Education
Team Sports
Lifetime Sports
Personal Fitness

Mathematics

Advanced Algebra 1
Advanced Algebra 1 Honors
Geometry
Geometry Honors
Algebra 2
Algebra 2 Honors
Algebra 3/Trigonometry
Precalculus
Precalculus Honors
AP Statistics
Calculus Honors
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
Accounting

Music

Chorus
Chorus Honors
Vocal Techniques
Vocal Ensemble Honors
Beginning Guitar
Intermediate/Advanced Guitar
Guitar Ensemble
Introduction to Orchestra
Orchestra Honors
Listening to Music
Music Theory and Comp. Honors
Beginning Piano
Intermediate/Advanced Piano

Religion

Intro to Catholicism and Scripture
Understanding Church and Sacs.
Morality
Catholic Social Teaching
Vocations, Discernment and
Merician Spirituality
Prayer
Healing and Hope
World Religions

Science

Biology
Biology Honors
Chemistry
Chemistry Honors
Physics
Physics Honors
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Physics C Mechanics
AP Environmental Science
Anatomy & Physiology
Foundations of Engineering
Design Thinking CCP
Explorations in Engineering
Robotics
Forensics
Organic Chemistry Honors
Cooking with Chemistry

Educational Services Program

ES Bell

Social Studies

Human Geography
AP Human Geography
World History
AP Modern World History
United States History
AP United States History
American Government
AP United States Government
AP European History
AP Psychology
History of the Holocaust
Psychology
Economics
AP Macroeconomics

Technology, Business and Other

AP Computer Science Principles
Essen. of Entrepreneurship CCP
Freshman Seminar
Practical Latin
Wellness Bell

Theater

Freshman Acting
Fundamentals of Acting
Fundamentals of Dance and
Physical Storytelling
Scene Study
Directing Lab Honors^
Styles of Acting
Principles of Technical Theatre
Music Theatre Workshop Honors^

World Languages

French 1
French 2
French 3
French Writing and Conversation
French 4 Honors
AP French Language and Culture
Senior French Seminar Honors
Latin 1
Latin 2
Latin 3
Honors Latin 4
AP Latin
Practical Latin
Spanish 1
Spanish 2
Spanish 3
Spanish Writing and Conversation
Spanish 4 Honors
AP Spanish Language and Culture
Senior Spanish Seminar Honors

Refer to the Curriculum Guide for the number of terms and prerequisites.

AP denotes Advanced Placement

CCP denotes College Credit Plus

^ Denotes courses offered every other year

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BY DEPARTMENT

ART AND DESIGN

	College Preparatory	Honors/Advanced Placement
Freshmen	Art 1 Art 2 Art 3 Sculpture Design Foundations	
Sophomores	Art 1 Art 2 Art 3 Sculpture Design Foundations Design 2	Art 4 Honors
Juniors	Art 1 Art 2 Art 3 Sculpture Design Foundations Design 2 Design 3	Art 4 Honors AP Art
Seniors	Art 1 Art 2 Art 3 Sculpture Design Foundations Design 2 Design 3	Art 4 Honors AP Art Design 4 Honors

ART 1

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

In Art 1 there is a focus on the fundamental skills of the artmaking process as well as developing an appreciation of what goes into a piece of artwork. All projects can be modified to fit any skill level. Mediums and topics that may be covered in Art 1 are: Pencil, Colored Pencil, Paint, Oil Pastel, Line Drawing, Value, Color, Drawing from a grid, Concept Building, Ceramics/Sculpture, Photography, Impressionism, 2-Point Perspective.

ART 2

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Art 1 or Art Foundations

In Art 2, we build on the fundamentals of the artmaking process learned in Art 1 and learn new processes to making Art. All projects can be modified to fit any skill level. Mediums and topics that may be covered in Art 2 are: India Ink/Watercolor, Printmaking, Chalk Pastels, Street Art, Impasto Painting, Pointillism, Still Life, Ceramics/Sculpture, Concept Building, Spray Paint.

ART 3

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Art 1 or Art Foundations and Art 2

In Art 3, we build on the fundamentals of the artmaking process learned in Art 1, use the new processes learned in Art 2, and work to find a student's own artistic voice. New mediums and ideas will be introduced, but there will be more concept building in working with each student to use their abilities to say something in their work. All projects can be modified to fit any skill level. Mediums and topics that may be covered in Art 3 are: Concept Building, Composition, Space, Street Art, Photography, Ceramics/Sculpture

ART 4 HONORS

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Art 1 or Art Foundations, Art 2 and Art 3

In Art 4, we build on the fundamentals of the artmaking process learned in Art 1, use the new processes learned in Art 2, the concept building from Art 3, and work to push the creativity of the student to force them to work in pretty unconventional ways. Mediums and topics that may be covered in Art 4 are: Packaging Tape, LED lights, Retro Reflective Surfaces, using clay to sculpt a unique canvas to work on, and each student will have the opportunity to write a proposal of what they want to do, and if the proposal is accepted then they will be responsible for creating what was written on their proposal.

AP ART

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Art 1 or Art Foundations, Art 2, Art 3 and Teacher Recommendation

In AP Art, students will be creating a portfolio based upon the requirements established by the AP College Board. The year will be spent in independent study in building and submitting a completed portfolio. Students will be responsible to complete a minimum of 4 completed pieces per quarter.

SCULPTURE

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

No course prerequisites (open to students with or without any previous Art or Design coursework)

In Sculpture we build on the fundamentals of the three-dimensional artmaking process. All projects can be modified to fit any skill level. Mediums and topics that may be covered in Sculpture are: Nylon Sculpture, Pinch Pots, Coil Vessels, Slab Building, Plaster, Plaster Wrap, Air Dry Clay, Sgraffito, Sculpting with a Mold, Slump Bowls, Mixed Media, Assemblage.

DESIGN FOUNDATIONS

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Design Thinking, Elements & Principles: This foundation course teaches the core elements and principles of design. Students will explore line, textures, color, and shape all while getting exposure with the Adobe Creative Suite. Students will leave a base knowledge of some of the many elements and principles of design and be comfortable with knowing how to use and operate Adobe Photoshop.

DESIGN 2

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Design Foundations

Introduction to Digital Media: This course continues the conversation in the foundations course of design elements and principles and expands upon it to begin exploring the process of design thinking and begin to learn how to implement it successfully into their work. A continued focus on the Adobe Creative Suite. Students will learn how to analyze design principles and elements more successfully and integrate it into their work. Students will leave this course with a high proficiency in using Adobe Photoshop and a base understanding of identifying typography.

DESIGN 3

Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: [Design Foundations and Design 2](#)

Applied Digital Media: This upper-level design course directs students to becoming masters of the Adobe Creative Suite. A base understanding of using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator is recommended for this fast-paced project heavy course. Students will explore and expand their knowledge of visual communication spending time in areas such as typography, promotional graphics, and branding. Students will leave this course Masters of Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, and a base understanding of InDesign.

DESIGN 4 HONORS

Grade 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: [Design Foundations](#), [Design 2](#) and [Design 3](#)

Structure and Systems: This advanced course prepares students to study design as her major in college and beyond whether as architecture, interior, fashion, industrial, planning, digital, urban planning, interactive media, or visual communication. Real-life projects will be explored with ideation and analysis utilizing the full understanding of Design-Thinking and appropriately integrating the elements and principles of design. This class will have students leaving with a skill and understanding of design equivalence of a second year college student.

MINIMESTER OFFERINGS

FINE ARTS SAMPLER
Grade 9 (1 minimester, .5 credit, fulfills credit)
INTRO TO GRAFFITI
Grade 9, 10, 11 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

ENGLISH

The following chart shows the required core courses in English. Students take either the courses in the college-prep column or the courses in the honors column, as approved by the Department.

	College Preparatory	Honors/Advanced Placement
Freshmen	Literary Genres	Honors Literary Genres
Sophomores	American Literature	Honors American Literature
Juniors	British Literature	Honors British Literature
Seniors	World Literature	AP English Literature & Composition

LITERARY GENRES

Grade 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

This course is an introduction to the high-school English program. Content includes distinguishing and discussing literary genres, providing a sound basis for correct structure, grammar, and mechanics in analytical writing, and expanding vocabulary. The short story, the novel, poetry, and drama are the main topics of literature study and discussion. Formal essay writing is the main goal of composition instruction, yet students have opportunities for creative writing skills as well. Research skills are introduced. Students present to the class individually and in groups.

LITERARY GENRES HONORS

Grade 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the English Department based on test scores

This course is an introduction to the school's English Honors program. Content includes distinguishing the literary genres of short story, poetry, novel, and drama, as well as writing formal essays that are structurally and stylistically sound. Skills required to write a research paper are introduced. In this course, students are required to read and discuss critically and thoughtfully, to develop vocabulary and critical thinking skills, to experiment with techniques and various kinds of writing, to participate in self-editing and peer response and to practice with standardized test passages. Students present to the class individually and in groups.

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Grade 10 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

The focus in this chronological survey course is to familiarize students with representative works of American authors from the colonial times to the present. Students will be called upon to utilize their knowledge of literary devices and literary genres in the framework of a chronological study of literature. Students will continue to read and discuss literature analytically, to develop critical and expository writing, to expand knowledge of vocabulary, and to practice with standardized test passages. Research skills are further developed. Students present to the class individually and in groups.

AMERICAN LITERATURE HONORS

Grade 10 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the English Department

This course is a chronological survey of American literature with representative readings from colonial times to the present. Content also includes expanding vocabulary, strengthening standardized test taking skills, developing a critical and analytical reading of literature, and developing both breadth and depth in reading and discussion as background for the Advanced Placement course in English Literature and Composition. Skills in writing the expository essay and a research paper will be developed. Students present to the class individually and in groups.

BRITISH LITERATURE

Grade 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

The focus in this chronological survey course is to familiarize students with representative works of British authors from all major periods of British Literature from the Anglo-Saxon times to the twentieth century. Students will be called upon to utilize their knowledge of literary devices and literary genres in the framework of a chronological study of literature. Students will continue to read and discuss literature analytically, to develop critical and expository writing, to expand knowledge of vocabulary, and to practice with standardized test passages. Research skills are further developed. Students present to the class individually and in groups.

BRITISH LITERATURE HONORS

Grade 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the English Department

This course is a chronological survey of British literature from Anglo-Saxon to modern times. Course content includes expanding vocabulary, practicing with standardized test passages, developing critical and analytical reading and discussion skills, and developing both breadth and depth in reading as background for the Advanced Placement course in English Literature and Composition. Students further develop skills in writing the expository essay and the research paper. Students present to the class individually and in groups.

WORLD LITERATURE

Grade 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

The diverse literature that students read in this course provides an opportunity to explore the richness of other cultures and times. Students will read, discuss, and respond to a variety of literary genres, techniques, and themes from around the globe. Students will build upon previously mastered skills as they write formal literary essays and complete a research paper, and read and discuss critically and thoughtfully. Students continue to expand knowledge of vocabulary and to practice with standardized test passages. Students present to the class individually and in groups.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

Grade 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, fulfills senior year graduation requirement)

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the English Department

This course focuses on the development of the skills in critical reading and writing necessary to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination in English Literature and Composition given by the College Board in mid-May. Students are required to experiment with techniques, topics, skills, and kinds of writing and discussion, and to participate in self-editing and peer response. The course incorporates the use of a college level literary anthology and requires a considerable amount of outside reading. Students will present to the class individually and in groups.

MINIMESTER OFFERINGS

DISCOVER THE WILD SIDE OF LITERATURE - ECOLIT ADVENTURE Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
FUTURE FEAR: THE DYSTOPIAN IMAGINATION IN CONTEMPORARY YA LITERATURE Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
THE NEWSROOM: FOUNDATIONS OF JOURNALISM Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
VOICE AND VISION: COMMUNICATING IN CLASS AND BEYOND Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health is primarily a freshman or sophomore course, but some exceptions can be made if approved. Students need to take two semesters of Physical Education to meet the graduation requirement.

HEALTH

Grades 9, 10 (1 semester, .5 credit, required)

Health class guides students to explore a variety of resources to make informed decisions regarding personal health. Units include, but are not limited to, mental and emotional health, family life and healthy relationships, tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs, nutrition and eating disorders, stress management, first aid, CPR and AED training. Guest speakers explain real-world experiences in a variety of health fields giving students an opportunity to ask important questions. Learning to analyze personal health needs and risks will help each student develop strategies for positive lifetime health habits.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

Grades 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Health

Contemporary Issues in Women's Health extends opportunities for students to further explore health topics learned from Health class. Students will research and discuss current news stories that pertain to women's health, participate in magnified giving around a health topic, view documentaries, and hear from guest speakers about life experiences. For their final exam, students will choose a Health topic to research and help bring awareness to the cause. This course **does not** satisfy the Health requirement for graduation

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade 9 (1 semester, .25 credit)

Physical Education I is designed for freshman students and will satisfy half of the PE graduation requirement. This class focuses on both team and lifetime sports as well as personal fitness. A fee is required as students will take field trips throughout the semester. This course fulfills half of the PE requirement.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: TEAM SPORTS

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .25 credit)

Team Sports is a class to learn rules, skills, and strategies of competitive sports that are played at the high school level. The class focuses on volleyball, basketball, flag football, soccer, hockey and softball and a variety of other sports. Cardio activities and strength training will be a component of this course. A fee is required as students will take field trips throughout the semester. This course fulfills half of the PE requirement.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: LIFETIME SPORTS

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .25 credit)

Lifetime Sports is a class to learn rules, skills and strategies of individual sports. The class focuses on tennis, golf, bowling, badminton, pickle ball and a variety of other sports. Cardiovascular activities and strength training will be additional components of this course. A fee is required as students will take field trips throughout the semester. This course fulfills half of the PE requirement.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: PERSONAL FITNESS

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .25 credit, elective)

Personal Fitness is open to any sophomore, junior, or senior. This class will focus on learning the benefits of regular participation in physical activity to help each student achieve lifetime fitness. A pre and post test is given so individual goals can be measured and evaluated throughout the semester. Activities include, but not limited to, cardiovascular fitness, circuit training, strength training, flexibility and core exercises. Running is a part of this class as students may jog up to four miles by the end of the semester. A fee is required as students will take field trips to various studios. This course fulfills half of the PE requirement.

MINIMESTER OFFERINGS

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The following table shows possible class sequencing for a student in mathematics. Four credits of high school level math are required for graduation, 3 of which must include Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry.

College Preparatory

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Freshman	Advanced Algebra 1	Advanced Algebra 1	Advanced Algebra 1
Sophomore	Geometry	Geometry	Geometry and Algebra 2
Junior	Algebra 2	Algebra 2	Precalculus
Senior	Algebra 3/Trig	Precalculus	Calculus Honors AP Statistics

Honors/Advanced Placement

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Freshman	Advanced Algebra 1 Honors	Advanced Algebra 1 Honors	Geometry Honors
Sophomore	Geometry Honors	Geometry Honors and Algebra 2 Honors	Algebra 2 Honors
Junior	Algebra 2 Honors	Precalculus Honors	Precalculus Honors
Senior	Precalculus Honors	AP Calculus AB and/or BC Calculus Honors AP Statistics	AP Calculus AB and/or BC Calculus Honors AP Statistics

ADVANCED ALGEBRA 1

Grade 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

The goal of Advanced Algebra 1 is to continue to develop and extend problem-solving techniques, to recognize different situations and to apply appropriate methods to problem solving that are introduced in middle school and junior high school Algebra curriculum. Grouping, distribution, factoring, exponential laws, and radical properties are applied to simple and complex equations and inequalities, including exponential and quadratic equations. Graphing in terms of x and y in the Cartesian plane are developed for linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. Throughout the course, the material is integrated into problem solving situations. *A graphing calculator is required.*

ADVANCED ALGEBRA 1 HONORS

Grade 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

This course is designed for those students with a high aptitude in math and a strong background in the Algebra concepts introduced in middle school and junior high school Algebra curriculum. The focus is on deeper understanding of algebraic theory and its application to problems. The pace is deliberately quicker than the college-prep class. In addition to the topics taught in Advanced Algebra I, students will be expected to use real number properties and axioms in rigorous proofs of various properties, use quadratic equations to find maximum and minimum values, solve linear systems of equations and understand exponential functions. Real world applications and problem solving are stressed throughout the course. *A graphing calculator is required.*

GEOMETRY I

Grades 9, 10 (1 semester, .5 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1; must be taken before Geometry II Minimester

This college-prep course includes the topics of classical geometry: relationships in triangles, right triangles (including trigonometry), classification of polygons, congruence and similarity of polygons, angles associated with circles, symmetry, constructions with compass and straightedge or software, rotations, translations, reflections, dilations, areas of plane figures, and volumes of solid figures. The material will be used to solve a variety of problems, including algebraic. The emphasis will be on developing an axiomatic system of mathematics in order to further develop the student's logical thinking skills. To this end, proofs of theorems will be an important component of this class. Students will use a variety of software. *A calculator with trigonometric functions is required.*

GEOMETRY HONORS I

Grades 9, 10 (1 semester, .5 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and teacher recommendation; must be taken before Geometry Honors II Minimester

This course will include all of the topics covered in College Prep Geometry but will move at a more rapid pace. The student will also be expected to complete more difficult problems and proofs. A variety of software will be used in order for students to make inductive discoveries in geometry. *A calculator with trigonometric functions is required.*

ALGEBRA 2

Grade 10, 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and a teacher recommendation; can be taken concurrently with Geometry

This course reviews and extends the concepts of Algebra 1. Linear and quadratic functions are re-emphasized, and polynomial, rational, and radical functions are introduced. Other topics include complex numbers, trigonometry, exponents, and logarithms. A greater emphasis is placed on interpreting the relationship between an equation and its graph. *A graphing calculator is required.*

ALGEBRA 2 HONORS

Grade 10, 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and a teacher recommendation; can be taken concurrently with Geometry Honors

This course continues the advanced preparation of students with high math aptitude and interest. It reviews and extends the concepts of Algebra 1 Honors. The focus is on a deeper understanding of functions and their applications, but will also stress the relationship of equation to graph. Successful students should not only have aptitude but interest and commitment. Emphasis will be placed on application problems involving previously studied functions. In addition, behavior and applications of exponential, logarithmic, polynomial, and rational functions will be developed. *A graphing calculator is required.*

ALGEBRA 3/TRIGONOMETRY

Grade 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

This class is for seniors who wish to continue in their mathematics education but do not wish to take Precalculus. The course will continue to develop the algebra skills necessary for college, concentrating on linear equations, linear functions, polynomial functions, rational functions, exponential functions, logarithmic functions and applications of these. The course will continue with a study of trigonometric functions and their applications. Students who take this course are not eligible to take Precalculus later.

PRECALCULUS

Grade 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

This college-prep course prepares the student for a transition to college-level mathematics courses. The course will cover two main topics—Analytic Geometry & Trigonometry. In the analytic geometry portion, the students will learn about the characteristics of the graphs of several basic function types including polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic. The student will also learn about the applications of these functions. In the trigonometry portion, the student will learn about the six trig functions, including characteristics of the graph of these functions, right triangle definitions, unit circle definitions, and applications of both right and non-right triangles. *A graphing calculator is required.*

PRECALCULUS HONORS

Grade 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 and teacher recommendation

This is a very demanding course both in content and amount of work involved. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to rise to the demands of the Advanced Placement Calculus class. This course will take all of the concepts in the college prep Precalculus class and examine them in more detail. Special emphasis will be given to the trigonometric functions, their inverses, and applications of these. In addition, students will be expected to apply functions to actual situations through the use of written projects. Additional topics include polar coordinates and regression analysis. *A graphing calculator is required.*

CALCULUS HONORS

Grade 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Precalculus Honors and teacher recommendation or CP Precalculus with an A average and teacher recommendation.

This course is intended to provide an introduction to the concepts of Calculus that would be found in a college course. The student will learn the various techniques of differentiation and applications of the derivative. In addition, some of the techniques of integration will be explored, along with applications to area and volume of non-regular figures. This course will provide a background in calculus so that students will have some exposure to the basic ideas before they take a college level course. *A graphing calculator is required.*

AP STATISTICS

Grade 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 Honors and teacher recommendation or CP Algebra 2 with an A average and teacher recommendation; can be taken concurrently with Precalculus

This elective course is offered as an alternative to AP Calculus or in addition to it. This course is *not* an alternative to Precalculus and may be taken concurrently with Precalculus. Students will be introduced to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will also be exposed to exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Time will be spent studying the theory and analysis of statistical results in order to prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam. This course follows the curriculum and requirements established by the College Board for Advanced Placement courses.

AP CALCULUS AB

Grade 11, 12 (2 bells in the Fall Semester, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Precalculus Honors and teacher recommendation

Corequisite: AP Calculus AB Lab or AP Calculus BC Lab

This course is designed for those students who have completed the honors program and have demonstrated aptitude, interest, and commitment. The course follows the AP Calculus AB syllabus, as published and revised by the College Board. Differential calculus is introduced with the concept of the instantaneous rate of change of functions as it is used to define the derivative. Derivative rules are developed for various functions and compositions of functions. The concepts of differentiability and continuity are developed. Wide ranges of applications of the derivative are explored. Integral calculus seeks to reverse the differentiation process. Integration techniques are developed and applied to the definite integral to find areas, volumes, and average values. All students will take the AP Calculus (AB or BC) Exam in May. *A graphing calculator is required.*

AP CALCULUS AB LAB

Grade 11, 12 (1 bell in the Spring Semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB

This semester course may be taken after AP Calculus AB and will continue with topics in calculus that will be tested on the AP Calculus AB Exam.

AP CALCULUS BC LAB

Grade 11, 12 (1 bell in the Spring Semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB

This semester course may be taken after AP Calculus AB and will continue with topics in calculus that will be tested on the AP Calculus BC Exam. These include: additional techniques of integration, arc length, surface area, parametric, polar, and vector functions, improper integrals, logistic differential equations, and polynomial approximations and series. *A graphing calculator is required.*

ACCOUNTING

Grades 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

This course is an introduction to the principles and methods of accounting. The course will emphasize the underlying, basic procedures used in setting up and operating a small business accounting system. Students will explore accounting concepts such as double-entry accounting, account classification, creation of a trial balance, creation of financial statements, reconciling cash, calculating depreciation and amortization of a loan. Other topics will include corporate funding, current events, and following the stock market. Excel spreadsheets will be used in a variety of applications. This course cannot be used to satisfy the math graduation requirement.

MINIMESTER OFFERINGS

Careers in STEM

Grade 9, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)

Geometry II: Experience Dimensional Geometry Through Housing Design

Grade 9, 10 (1 minimester, .5 credit, fulfills required core credit)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Saint Ursula Academy offers a full four-year Music program. The chart below outlines the sequence of courses and the various options a student may choose.

	College Preparatory	Honors/Advanced Placement
Freshmen	Chorus Orchestra (SUASO) Beginning/Intermediate Guitar Guitar Ensemble	Vocal Ensemble Honors (SUAVE) Advanced Honors Guitar
Sophomores	Chorus Vocal Techniques Orchestra (SUASO) Beginning/Intermediate Guitar Guitar Ensemble Beginning/Intermediate Piano Listening to Music	Vocal Ensemble Honors (SUAVE) Advanced Honors Guitar Advanced Honors Piano
Juniors	Chorus Vocal Techniques Orchestra (SUASO) Beginning/Intermediate Guitar Guitar Ensemble Beginning/Intermediate Piano Listening to Music	Vocal Ensemble Honors (SUAVE) Music Theory and Composition Honors Advanced Honors Guitar Advanced Honors Piano Chorus Honors Orchestra Honors
Seniors	Chorus Vocal Techniques Orchestra (SUASO) Beginning/Intermediate Guitar Guitar Ensemble Beginning/Intermediate Piano Listening to Music	Vocal Ensemble Honors (SUAVE) Music Theory and Composition Honors Advanced Honors Guitar Advanced Honors Piano Chorus Honors Orchestra Honors

CHORUS

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

This class is available to students of every grade level. Vocalists will learn proper vocal and choral techniques, as well as how to sight-sing and read music. Repertoire in two, three, and four parts is studied through a variety of styles of music including classical, jazz, a cappella, and contemporary. This class performs at the Christmas and Spring Concerts. No experience is necessary and no audition is required.

CHORUS HONORS

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Two semesters of any of the performance-based music classes including choir, orchestra, guitar or piano

This class is available to students of every grade level. Vocalists will learn proper vocal and choral techniques, as well as how to sight-sing and read music. Repertoire in two, three, and four parts is studied through a variety of styles of music including classical, jazz, a cappella, and contemporary. This class performs at the Christmas and Spring Concerts. No experience is necessary and no audition is required.

VOCAL TECHNIQUES

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

In this course, students will learn the anatomy of the voice and how to manipulate their voices to sing in various styles such as country, pop, musical theatre, gospel, R&B and more. Students will research the origins of each style, what makes it unique, and what type of vocal techniques are needed to sing the style authentically. The course will end with a final showcase.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE “SUAVE” HONORS

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (all year, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Audition

Recommended: Membership in Music Department Ensemble (Concert Choir recommended for incoming students)

This class meets Monday through Thursday from 3:10—4:00 PM

The Saint Ursula Academy Vocal Ensemble (SUAVE) is a select ensemble of 9-15 vocalists. SUAVE performs a variety of music for the Christmas Concerts and Spring Concerts, and tours in the Tri-State area. The ensemble also participates in music festivals or competitions out-of-town each year. Students selected for membership in this award-winning group are expected to be serious choral singers with well-developed sight-singing and basic musicianship skills. They must be willing to devote numerous hours to rehearsing and performing. Private voice lessons are highly encouraged for students who are members of SUAVE. Auditions for this class are held in the Spring of each year for the next school year.

INTRO TO ORCHESTRA “SUASO”

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

SUA Orchestra is available to students of every grade who want to learn to play an instrument, including strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The course focuses on developing good ensemble technique, and the study of music representing a wide variety of styles and genres. The SUA Orchestra performs in the Christmas Concert and the Spring Concert, as well as other special SUA events.

ORCHESTRA “SUASO” HONORS

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Two semesters of any of the performance-based music classes including choir, orchestra, guitar, or piano

SUA Orchestra is available to students of every grade who play or want to learn an instrument, including strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The course focuses on developing good ensemble technique, and the study of music representing a wide variety of styles and genres. The SUA Orchestra performs in the Christmas Concert and the Spring Concert, as well as other special SUA events.

GUITAR - BEGINNING

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Beginning Guitar is a course that will introduce the basics of guitar playing. Students will learn how to read traditional music notation, as well as guitar tablature and chord symbols. Both pick-style and finger-style techniques will be used to play popular songs, folk songs, and classical music. Students will also learn to play in small ensembles, and will perform in a concert at the end of the semester. Guitars are provided for students to use during class time; students will also need to have a guitar at home to practice with, preferably a 6-string (nylon or steel-string) acoustic guitar.

GUITAR - INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED HONORS

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Beginning Guitar or Permission of Instructor

These are continuing courses for students who have already taken Beginning Guitar, or for students who have had previous experience playing guitar. This course builds on students' prior knowledge of music notation and ensemble playing skills developed in the Beginning Guitar course. There is a greater emphasis on playing popular songs of the students' choosing, as well as on the further development of guitar technique. The primary focus of the course is on playing in small ensembles and working toward performances, including both classical chamber music and popular music arrangements.

GUITAR ENSEMBLE

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (all year, 1 credit, elective)

This group meets after school.

The Saint Ursula Academy Guitar Ensemble is a performing ensemble made up of students of all levels, from beginners to advanced players. The ensemble performs at the Christmas Concert and the Spring Concert, as well as all-school masses and pep rallies. Repertoire ranges from arrangements of classical music, to music composed for guitar ensembles, to arrangements of popular songs. The Guitar Ensemble performs on both acoustic and electric guitars, as well as electric bass guitars.

PIANO - BEGINNING

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

This course is designed for students who wish to learn to play the piano. Students will learn fundamental playing techniques as well as how to read musical notation. A variety of musical styles will be studied while learning the basic principles of music construction. Students will learn to play solos as well as in ensembles and will perform in a recital at the end of the semester.

PIANO - INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED HONORS

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Beginning Piano or Permission of the Music Director

This course is designed for students who have previous experience playing the piano and who wish to advance their playing skills. Students will be challenged with more challenging technique and piano repertoire as soloists and in ensembles. All students will perform in a recital at the end of the semester.

LISTENING TO MUSIC

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

This class is available to students who are interested in learning to listen to music of various styles throughout history, from the Middle Ages to the present time, including Western European art music and American popular music styles of the 20th century. Students will learn about the elements of music, and will study the history of musical styles, focusing on listening to the most important musical styles, composers, and forms of each era.

MUSIC THEORY & COMPOSITION HONORS

Grades 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Beginning Piano, Beginning Guitar, Guitar Ensemble, Vocal Ensemble, or Permission of instructor

In this course students will learn about the basic organizational structures of music, with an emphasis on understanding how music works and composing music. The course will focus on understanding harmony, musical forms, and counterpoint. Several different software programs will be used for writing musical notation, for ear training, and for recording music. This class is highly recommended for students who desire a greater depth of understanding of music, and for students who plan to study music in college.

MINIMESTER OFFERINGS

FINE ARTS SAMPLER
Grade 9 (1 minimester, .5 credit, fulfills credit)
MY SONGWRITING ERA
Grades 9, 10, 11 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

The following chart shows the sequence of courses for the Religion Department. Four Religion credits are required for graduation.

	College Preparatory Required	Electives
Freshmen	Intro to Catholicism and Scripture	None
Sophomores	Understanding the Church and Sacraments	None
Juniors	Morality Catholic Social Teaching (can be taken junior or senior year)	Healing and Hope Prayer World Religions
Seniors	Vocations, Discernment and Merician Spirituality Catholic Social Teaching (can be taken junior or senior year)	Healing and Hope Prayer World Religions

INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM AND SCRIPTURE

Grade 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

This course will begin with an exploration of the basic teachings of Catholicism, including: prayer and liturgy, the Trinity, the Paschal Mystery, basic principles of morality and the saints. This section of the course will wrap up with an Introduction to St. Angela Merici and our Ursuline Identity. Then students will shift their focus to studying the Scriptures in order to come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. In learning to interpret the Bible from a contextualist perspective, students will be guided by the teaching and tradition of the Church. They will also learn to focus on the religious truths contained in the biblical stories and they will be helped in applying those truths to their own faith journeys. Having acquired the skills for praying with the Scriptures in both their personal lives and in the Church's liturgy, students will come to see how the Bible is an essential place for drawing near to God. Through their study of the Scriptures, students will be encouraged to deepen their current level of discipleship, and they will be invited to enter into a fuller personal relationship with Jesus.

UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH AND SACRAMENTS

Grade 10 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

In Religion II, students will understand that the Church is a continuation of Salvation History, which they first examined in Religion I and the importance of the Sacraments in the life of the Church. The course is designed to help the student define what the Church is and to identify its role in the modern world. Through this course, students will come to understand how the risen Christ can be encountered through the community of the Church and how each member of the Church is called to participate in the life and mission of the Church, thus preparing the student to exercise leadership in the Church in a changing world. By studying the history of the Catholic Church, students will understand the significance of major events and how they continue to affect the Church today. Students will also explore sacramental theology and practice, developing a deeper awareness of God's presence in their lives and of the ritual and meaning of each of the Sacraments. They will see that not only are the Sacraments a means for encountering Christ and God's gifts through the Church; the sacraments are also central to the call to live as disciples in the Church. The study of the Sacraments will also aid the students in developing the dispositions necessary for full, conscious and active participation in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

MORALITY

Grade 11 (1 semester, .5 credit, required)

Students will explore the Catholic understanding of the human person, created by and made in the likeness of God and exemplified in the humanity of Jesus Christ. They will also study God's law and its role in both natural law and in the civil laws of our country and our world today. The students will examine important sources for developing an informed conscience: including the moral teachings of Jesus, the 10 Commandments and Catholic Church teachings. Students will analyze the impact of sin in their own lives and in society, recognizing the importance of making moral decisions. By the end of the course, students will be able to articulate their position on moral issues in relation to Catholic Church teaching, living as a person rooted in the love of God, neighbor and self.

VOCATIONS, DISCERNMENT AND MERICIAN SPIRITUALITY

Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, required)

This required senior year course explores how the student can live a life of faith, integrity and courage as a Christian disciple in the modern world. Students will explore the meaning of the "universal call to holiness," and the means for discerning their life vocation, while exploring the meaning of each vocation. Students will learn that discernment involves the prayerful examination of her life in light of the witness offered by Jesus Christ and ways to go about this examination, including St. Angela Merici's method for discernment. They will also study St. Angela's spirituality in greater depth, learning how they can apply her spirituality to their lives as alumnae of Saint Ursula Academy. Through this course, the students will come to a fuller understanding of the Christian witness and be strengthened in prophetically living out this witness in the world.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, required)

Both the semester and minimester options of this course will fulfill this requirement.

One must not only struggle with her own moral choices, she must also critically study, evaluate, and respond to the many issues of injustice in society. Following the Biblical call to bring about justice and rooted in the documents of the Catholic Church, students will learn the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and how these teachings are integral to living Catholic life. With this basic understanding, students will then be able to develop skills for analyzing current social issues and identify ways to bring about a more just world. Through participation in a service learning experience, students are encouraged to examine social issues in the community and see how they can engage in activities that promote justice. By recognizing and appreciating the dignity and self-worth of each individual, students will begin to see the commonality of all humanity and their responsibility to help create a more just world.

HEALING AND HOPE: THEOLOGY OF GRIEF

Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

The Healing and Hope course explores the complexity of death and loss through the lens of the Catholic faith while emphasizing the importance of the Paschal Mystery in our journey of hope and healing. The importance of finding hope through experiences of suffering and death is supported by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Lumen Fidei* (June 29, 2013), when he stated, "Christians know that suffering cannot be eliminated, yet it can have meaning and become an act of love and entrustment into the hands of God who does not abandon us; in this way it can serve as a moment of growth and faith and love." Healing and Hope will take you on a journey through the studies of the physical, philosophical, personal, psychological, cultural, historical, religious and moral aspects of suffering and loss.

PRAYER

Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

This course is designed to help the student explore the possibility of a deeper spiritual life and a closer relationship to God through prayer and the Catholic tradition. Content will include a study of what prayer is, kinds of prayer, relating to God, prayer styles, and techniques and methods in prayer. Some examples would include music, art, writing, exploring nature, etc. Emphasis in this course will be on student input and experience, with much time given to reflection, discussion, various student and teacher planned prayer experiences, and student presentations. An openness to a belief in God and appreciation and respect for Catholic and Christian traditions are prerequisites for this course.

WORLD RELIGIONS



Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

This course explores the role of religion in the lives of human beings by examining the major religious traditions of the world. In doing so, students will be able to articulate the spiritual truths that are common to all religions and the ways in which Catholicism is distinctive from the other traditions. They will also see the value of interreligious dialogue. Through a brief study of religions such as the various forms of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Indigenous Traditions, and other religions, students will seek to understand why human beings need religion and spirituality in their lives. Students taking this course must be interested in reflecting and building upon their own religious experience, as well as listening to the experience of others.

MINIMESTER OFFERINGS

CONTEMPORARY ETHICS



Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN FILM



Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: URBAN PLUNGE



Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

COURAGEOUS HEARTS, WOMEN IN THE CHURCH'S PAST

Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

HEALING AND HOPE IN CATHOLIC THEOLOGY

Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

WORLD RELIGIONS: EASTERN TRADITIONS



Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

WORLD RELIGIONS: WESTERN TRADITIONS



Grade 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

[*Back to Table of Contents*](#)

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The following chart shows the sequence of courses for the Science Department. Biology, Chemistry and Physics are required for graduation.

	College Preparatory	Honors/Advanced Placement
Freshmen	Biology	Biology Honors
Sophomores	Chemistry (10) <i>Electives</i>	Chemistry Honors <i>Electives</i>
Juniors	Anatomy & Physiology Chemistry (11) Physics AP Environmental Science <i>Electives</i>	Chemistry Honors Physics Honors AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science <i>Electives, including Engineering Design Thinking CCP</i>
Seniors	Physics Anatomy & Physiology AP Environmental Science <i>Electives</i>	Physics Honors AP Physics C AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science <i>Electives, including Engineering Design Thinking CCP</i>

BIOLOGY

Grades 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Biology is designed to provide students with a broad view of the biological sciences, and to help them develop an appreciation of life in its oneness and variety. Inquiry based learning fosters an increased awareness of the complexity and beauty of human life in itself and in its multiple relationships with other life and the environment. Laboratory activities facilitate the development of critical thinking and sound laboratory skills. Biology includes the following topics: scientific method, molecular evolution of life, cytology and bioenergetics, genetics, survey of living things, and ecology. The course emphasizes molecular and evolutionary aspects as unifying themes.

BIOLOGY HONORS

Grades 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: [Permission of the Department](#)

Biology Honors covers the same topics as Biology. The course differs in that topics are pursued to a greater depth and at a more rapid pace and the expectations placed on the honors student are greater.

CHEMISTRY

Grades 10, 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: [Biology for Class of 2028; Physical Science and Biology for the Class of 2027](#)

Chemistry 10 presents the structure and changes that occur in matter along with the associated energy changes. It studies the basic theories and laws of chemistry and topics such as stoichiometry, atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical bonds, nomenclature, Kinetic Molecular Theory, energy, thermodynamics, molecular geometry, the structure of solids, liquids and gasses, changes in state, kinetics and solutions. Through laboratory work, students develop safe laboratory techniques and formal laboratory reporting. In the laboratory, direct observation and measurement lead to the discovery, development and further understanding of basic principles discussed in class. The use of mathematical and graphical means to analyze laboratory results is an important part of this course.

Chemistry 11 is designed for students who have already explored physical science as freshmen allowing further exploration of the structure and changes that occur in matter along with the associated energy changes. With this background, students are able to work through the material at a quicker pace. Laboratory work reinforces concepts through observation, measurement, and analysis, emphasizing safe techniques, formal reporting, and mathematical interpretation of results.

CHEMISTRY HONORS

Grades 10, 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: [Biology Honors or Permission of the Department](#)

Chemistry Honors is an accelerated course. The course covers the same topics as College Preparatory Chemistry as well as advanced topics such as electrochemistry. Information is given in greater depth and the mathematical concepts are more complex.

COOKING WITH CHEMISTRY

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisites: [Biology and Chemistry](#)

This one-semester course uses students' knowledge from general chemistry and other science courses to explore the chemical processes involved in cooking. Students will learn about chemical oxidation, fermentation, and the role of proteins, fats, sugars, and leavening agents in food, among other topics. Students will perform food chemistry-based experiments and be able to explain what is happening at the atomic level.

EXPLORATIONS IN ENGINEERING

Grades 10, 11 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisites: [None](#)

This course is project-based, exploring various fields of engineering through hands-on investigations. Students will practice teamwork as they work together to recognize, design, and build solutions to real-life problems. Students will be expected to challenge themselves, using tools and technology (e.g. 3D printing) with which they might not be familiar. Areas of exploration can include Civil Engineering (bridges, structures, buildings, roads), Mechanical Engineering (machines, cars, boats, manufacturing), Chemical/Materials Engineering (consumer products, manufacturing and building processes), Aerospace Engineering (airplanes, spacecraft), and Biomedical Engineering (medicine, prosthetics). Students will leave this course with an understanding of the Engineering process and more confidence in dealing with physical problems.

FORENSICS

Grades 9, 10, 11 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

This elective will develop hands-on laboratory skills. It will involve using problem solving skills, the collection of data, and analysis of data based on crime scene scenarios. Students will use techniques and lab methods found in chemistry, biology, physics and anatomy in their investigations.

ROBOTICS

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: [Biology](#)

This will be a hands-on course in the building, design and programming of robots to prepare students for engineering and programming courses in college. The course will cover basic electronics as well as basic programming in the use of sensors, solar cells, and motors. Students will also develop skills in programming, using language based and icon based software. The course will be hands-on, challenge based, and individually paced, so that students can develop their own robot designs and programming goals. Students can explore their interest in detail redesigning and improving their robots, or move on to more advanced topics as their interests and skills develop.

FOUNDATIONS OF ENGINEERING DESIGN THINKING I CCP

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Chemistry and Physics I/Physics Honors I or concurrently with Physics/Physics Honors

This course introduces you to the CEAS professions through multidisciplinary, societally relevant content. You will learn how to develop approaches for comprehending engineering systems and generating and exploring creative ideas and alternatives. You will be introduced to concepts in creativity, innovation, engineering fundamentals, and problem solving methodologies. You will learn, through experience, the process of design and analysis in engineering including how to work effectively on a team. Finally, you will develop skills in project management, sustainability, written, oral and graphical communication, logical thinking, and modern engineering tools (e.g., Excel, Python, LabVIEW, MATLAB, Visual Basic, CAD, Rapid Prototyping). This is a College Credit plus course through the University of Cincinnati, and students would then need to adhere to the CCP funding timeline and guidelines as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education.

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY HONORS

Grades 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Chemistry Honors

Carbon containing compounds are the structures underpinning all life. As a result organic chemistry has a huge impact across a wide variety of fields; from biochemistry to medicine and pharmaceuticals. This course provides a study of the fundamental principles and techniques of organic chemistry. Topics include nomenclature, structure, reactions, and mechanisms of hydrocarbons, alkyl halides, alcohols, and ethers; further topics include isomerization, stereochemistry, and spectroscopy.

AP BIOLOGY

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Permission of the Department

AP Biology is designed for students who have successfully completed Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry and provides an in-depth sequence to Biology. The course seeks to further develop inquiry and laboratory skills, to foster individual research, to provide the conceptual framework and factual knowledge needed to understand current developments in the biological field, and to adequately prepare the students for the AP biology exam. Students supplement class material through the use of a variety of textbooks and the reading of current scientific journals. Laboratory exercises emphasize research, teamwork, procedural skills, and clear oral and written reporting.

AP CHEMISTRY

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Permission of the Department

The AP Chemistry course is designed as a follow-up to honors chemistry and follows the College Board curriculum to be the equivalent of a first-year general chemistry course in college. Students will attain a deeper understanding of fundamentals and increased competence in dealing with chemical problems. The course will contribute to the development of the student's abilities to think critically and to express her ideas clearly and logically. Coverage of concepts addressed in honors chemistry is expanded with the aid of mathematical tools and new experimental and spectrometric techniques. New topics, including chemical thermodynamics, electrochemistry, and quantitative treatment of equilibrium and kinetics, are introduced and interwoven with older topics to create a more complete understanding of chemistry.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

This AP course is designed to provide an introductory experience to foster an understanding of the interrelationships of the natural world. This course will examine natural and manmade environmental problems, and study possible solutions for resolving and preventing these problems. This laboratory science course takes an interdisciplinary approach to these topics and is designed to prepare students for the advanced placement examination which may fulfill a basic requirement for laboratory science as first-year college students.

PHYSICS I

Grades 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Biology and concurrent/completion of Algebra 2

Taken prior to Physics Minimester

This course is designed to introduce students to scientific inquiry through the study of mechanics. Students will develop problem solving skills as they build graphical and mathematical models from their laboratory results to explain the world they live in. The emphasis of the course will be on linear motion, forces, and energy. Students will also develop laboratory skills using the scientific method and presentations of laboratory investigations.

PHYSICS HONORS I

Grades 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, required)

Prerequisite: concurrent/completion Chemistry Honors and concurrent/completion of Algebra 2 or Permission of the Department

This course is designed to introduce students to scientific inquiry through the study of mechanics. Students will develop problem solving skills as they build graphical and mathematical models from their laboratory results to explain the world they live in. The emphasis of the course will be on motion, forces, and energy. Students will also develop laboratory skills using the scientific method and presentations of laboratory investigations. Students are expected to have a solid understanding of basic algebraic concepts as the models developed will be applied to complex situations. A successful Honors Physics student is comfortable exploring a topic without explicit knowledge beforehand and has outstanding personal initiative and organizational skills. This course is meant for any student looking to understand the physical world around them, and is especially relevant for students intending to major in a STEM field.

PHYSICS HONORS II

Grades 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)

Prerequisite: Physics Honors I or Permission of the Department

This course will provide a solid foundation in the basic principles of electricity and magnetism, including electric fields and forces, electric potential, current and resistance, circuits, magnetic fields and forces. With this knowledge, the students will design, build, and test circuits, explore the fundamentals of voltage, current, and resistance, and gain insight into the world of electromagnetism. Throughout this course, students will apply scientific concepts to real-world scenarios involving electrical circuits, examining the applications of electromagnetic devices in industries, transportation, and everyday appliances. This course is meant for any student looking to understand the physical world around them, and is especially relevant for students intending to major in a STEM field.

AP PHYSICS C MECHANICS

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credits, elective)

Prerequisite: Physics Honors I and Permission of the Department and completion of or concurrent with Precalculus

This elective is offered to students who have demonstrated high interest and ability in both science and mathematics. An intensive course, it is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement examination. The subject matter of the AP Physics C course is primarily mechanics. Strong emphasis is placed on solving problems, some requiring Calculus. As such, some basic principles of Calculus will be taught as part of the course. This course ordinarily forms the first part of a sequence of courses that serves as the foundation of physics for students majoring in science or engineering.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: [Chemistry or concurrent Chemistry](#)

The goal of this course is to discover how the human body works as it maintains the dynamic balance called life. Exploration of the relationship between anatomy (structure), and physiology (function), provide a foundation for the investigation of interactions between body systems. Knowing how body systems work together enables students to understand what it means to be a healthy individual as well as the impact of disease and stress. An integrated view of how the human body works is provided through laboratory investigations, lectures, inquiry-based activities, discussion, direct observation, and dissection. New technologies, therapies, and research are explored and analyzed. Practical applications and everyday examples are also used to show students the relationship between their own bodies and the real world of medicine and science.

MINIMESTER OFFERINGS

HARVEST TO HOME: MASTERING LOCAL FOODS AND PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES Grade 9, 10, 11 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
INNOVATIONS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY: FROM LAB TO LIFE Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
INVERTEBRATE ODYSSEY: EXPLORING THE UNDERWATER WONDERS AND CONSERVATION Grade 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
NATURE'S PALETTE: AN INVESTIGATION OF NATURE THROUGH SKETCHING, ETCHING AND PRINTING Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
PHYSICS IN MOTION: THE SCIENCE OF AMUSEMENT PARK THRILLS Grade 11 (1 minimester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)
PHYSICS OF WAVES: REFLECTION, REFRACTION AND RESONANCE Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)
THE ELEGANT UNIVERSE: IMMERSIVE MODERN PHYSICS Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, fulfills requirement)
THEORY AND PRACTICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
VERTEBRATE VOYAGE: ADVENTURES IN ANIMAL LIFE AND CONSERVATION Grade 10, 11 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The following chart illustrates the required and elective courses offered by the Social Studies Department. Three credits are required to graduate from Saint Ursula Academy.

	College Preparatory	Honors/ Advanced Placement	Electives
Freshmen			Human Geography AP Human Geography
Sophomores	World History	AP Modern World History	History of the Holocaust
Juniors	United States History	AP United States History	History of the Holocaust Psychology AP Psychology AP European History AP Macroeconomics
Seniors	American Government Economics	AP United States Gov & Politics AP Macroeconomics	History of the Holocaust AP European History AP Psychology AP Macroeconomics Psychology

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Grade 9 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

This course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socio-economic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012).

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Grade 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

This course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socio economic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012).

WORLD HISTORY

Grade 10 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

This is a survey course on modern world history and cultures. This course is the basis for later courses in the social studies sequence and the historical thinking and writing skills required for them. It is designed to encourage multicultural awareness, appreciation of art, and knowledge of important contributions to human progress, including the contributions of women.

AP MODERN WORLD HISTORY

Grade 10 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: B+ or higher in Honors Literary Genres or A- or better in CP Literary Genres.

AP World History: Modern is an introductory college-level modern world history course. Students cultivate their understanding of world history from c. 1200 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Grade 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

United States History traces and surveys the chronological development of the American nation since 1850. It is designed to develop in students an appreciation of the contributions of all American people in the building of the nation. It also should give students an appreciation of American democracy, opportunity, progress, and problems.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

Grade 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: AP Modern World History and recommendation of AP Modern World History teacher

AP U.S. History is a college-level course covering U.S. history from 1491 to the present. Students analyze key events, people, and developments while practicing historical skills like source analysis, argumentation, and recognizing patterns of change. The course explores seven themes: American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society. Students also develop analytical and writing skills to prepare for the AP exam in May. This course fulfills the U.S. History requirement.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Grade 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, required)

The students study American government at the federal, state and local levels. Emphasis is placed on the three branches of the government, the Constitution, voting, political parties, the electoral process, civil rights, social problems, foreign policy, and the history of their local area.

ECONOMICS

Grade 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, required)

The American economic system is studied including basic economic concepts, employment, the business cycle, and stabilization policies. In addition, the course provides personal financial literacy skills and fulfills the financial literacy requirement.

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Grade 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the US History teacher.

AP United States Government and Politics is a college-level introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will read and analyze US foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other text and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions between political institutions and behavior. Students will read and interpret data, develop evidence-based arguments, and engage in an applied civics or political research-based project. The course also prepares the students to take the Advanced Placement test to earn college credit in American Government. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Senior Campaign Project. This class fulfills the Government requirement.

AP MACROECONOMICS

Grade 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the World History or US History teacher.

AP Macroeconomics builds upon and develops student analytical and reasoning skills through the use of data, tables, and graphs for an in depth examination of the US economy as a whole and how it functions. After gaining a strong foundation in the economic way of thinking and theory, students will study how economic performance is measured, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Tradeoffs and the impact economic policy and incentives have on the environment, society, and the national budget are also examined and discussed. The course prepares the students to take the Advanced Placement test to earn college credit in Macroeconomics and provides personal financial literacy skills. This class fulfills the Economics and Financial Literacy requirements.

HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 term, .5 credit, elective)

This course will enable students to understand the Holocaust as a significant event in history that continues to have universal implications. In studying the Holocaust and the events surrounding it, students will develop an awareness of the value of diversity in a pluralistic society. Content will include such topics as Nazi Germany, the "Final Solution," Jewish resistance, rescuers, survivors, liberators, perpetrators and bystanders.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the World History or US History teacher.

AP European History is a survey of the significant events, developments, and complexities of European History from the end of the Middle Ages to the present through the lenses of politics, economics, religion, society, ideas, and the arts. Students build upon and advance strong analytical, discussion, presentation, and writing skills to better examine these topics and to understand how they have impacted and shaped the modern world. The course prepares the students to take the Advanced Placement test to earn college credit in European History.

AP PSYCHOLOGY

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Anatomy and Physiology, Honors Biology, or Honors Chemistry

The goal of Advanced Placement Psychology is to provide the student with a course similar to that of an introductory college course. It surveys the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Students learn about ethics and methods, as well as theoretical approaches to behavior and important historical figures in the field.

PSYCHOLOGY

Grades 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

This course will provide exposure to the foundations of Psychology through a study of the basic concepts of the science of the mind and human behavior. Content will include the history of psychology, learning and cognition, memory and thought, sensation and perception, motives and emotions, as well as personality theories.

MINIMESTER OFFERINGS

BAD GIRLS AND UNRULY WOMEN  Grade 9, 10, 11 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
EXPLORING WOMEN'S HISTORY: A JOURNEY THROUGH NEW YORK CITY  Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST  Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
MEDIA LITERACY: INTERPRETING FACT FROM FICTION  Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME – EXPLORING THE QUEEN CITY Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
YEE HAW! THE WEST BEYOND COWBOYS Grade 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

TECHNOLOGY, BUSINESS AND OTHER ELECTIVES

FRESHMAN SEMINAR

Grade 9 (1 semester, .25 credit, non-academic)

Most freshmen are enrolled in Freshman Seminar. The course examines the five [Social Emotional Learning competencies](#): self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, responsible decision-making, and social awareness. Freshman Seminar is designed to ease the transition from middle school to high school, equipping students with the necessary skills to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. A key component of this course is the integration of Social Emotional Learning (SEL), which plays a vital role in fostering a well-rounded education.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES

Grades 10, 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: [Geometry or Algebra 2 or Permission from the Vice Principal for Academics](#)

This course introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science, instilling the ideas and practices of computational thinking and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. With a unique focus on creative problem solving and real-world applications, this rigorous course promotes deep learning of computational content and engages students in the creative aspects of the field. Most of the class materials and assignments are online.

ESSENTIALS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP CCP

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

This course prepares entrepreneurs for the rewards and pitfalls of an entrepreneurial career choice. The content focuses on the essentials of effective management of a start-up company. These topics are also applicable to successfully creating a new product or service within an existing company and as a force for social change. Understanding the positioning of a new company to meet the various marketing, financial, and technological challenges is of central emphasis as well. The course integrates "real-time" decision-making for key management issues as students follow the development of a new venture. Through cases, exercises and discussion students apply course concepts to actual business scenarios in order to practice the broad range of skills required to start and build a company in today's complex world. This is a College Credit plus course through the University of Cincinnati, and students would then need to adhere to the CCP funding timeline and guidelines as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education.

PRACTICAL LATIN: CRITICAL THINKING for TESTING SUCCESS

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

It is estimated that 90% of English words over 2 syllables come directly from Latin or Ancient Greek, while 60% of all English words come from Latin or Ancient Greek, and the ability to understand those root words along with their prefixes and suffixes greatly increases a student's verbal and critical thinking competency. In this course, students will develop the skills necessary to break words down into their prefixes, suffixes, and roots in order to develop a deeper understanding of common words and so that they are better able to discern the meaning of unfamiliar words. Students will expand their ability to think critically and problem solve by being able to determine what information is essential and being able to narrow their focus to important details. No Latin experience is necessary for success in this class. Latin is not required for a student to take this course.

WELLNESS BELL

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 or 2 semesters, no academic credit)

Students can elect up to 2 semesters of a wellness bell during their sophomore, junior and senior years. During their second semester, freshmen will have the opportunity to take a wellness bell. A wellness bell offers students a quiet environment and time during their school day to focus on their academics, develop strong study habits and strengthen their time management skills. Mandatory tutoring or more structured academic support could be assigned during this time based on a student's academic progress.

MINIMESTER OFFERINGS

SENIOR SEMINAR: WHO LET THE DAWGS OUT? Grade 12 (1 minimester, .25 credit, fulfills credit)

[*Back to Table of Contents*](#)

THEATER DEPARTMENT

Saint Ursula Academy offers a full four-year Theater program. The chart below outlines the sequence of courses and the various options a student may choose from. Descriptions below define the prerequisites required for some of the courses.

	College Preparatory	Honors/Advanced Placement
Freshmen	Freshman Acting (2 semester course) Fundamentals of Acting (if not in Freshman Acting) Fundamentals of Dance and Physical Storytelling Principles of Technical Theatre	
Sophomores	Fundamentals of Acting (if did not take Freshman Acting) Fundamentals of Dance and Physical Storytelling Scene Study Styles of Acting Principles of Technical Theatre	
Juniors	Fundamentals of Acting Fundamentals of Dance and Physical Storytelling Scene Study Styles of Acting Principles of Technical Theatre	Directing Lab Honors* Music Theatre Workshop Honors*
Seniors	Fundamentals of Acting Fundamentals of Dance and Physical Storytelling Scene Study Styles of Acting Principles of Technical Theatre * Denotes prerequisite(s) exist for this course	Directing Lab Honors* Music Theatre Workshop Honors*

FRESHMAN ACTING: Level I

Grade 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit)

A course designed to develop basic skills in performance, interpretation and criticism of the craft. The student will develop an understanding of the role theatre has played in history and contemporary life. This course will give students experience on stage so that they may understand the demands of rehearsal and performance. By the end of Freshman Acting students will have an understanding of the requirements of the craft of acting and have developed confidence to approach the craft with discipline and success. Each semester will end with a performance exam for family and friends.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ACTING: Level I

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

A one-semester course designed to develop knowledge and basic skills in performance, interpretation and criticism of the craft. This course is open to students who did not take Freshman Acting but wish to begin learning the craft of acting. The student will have an understanding of the role theatre has played in history and in contemporary life. By the end of Fundamentals of Acting, students will have an understanding of the requirements of the craft of acting and have developed confidence to approach the craft with discipline and success. The semester will end with a performance exam for family and friends. *This course is designed for students who did NOT take Freshman Acting. If you took Freshman Acting please look at Scene Study.*

PRINCIPLES OF TECHNICAL THEATRE: Level I

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

In this class students will be introduced to the basics of elements that make up theatrical design and how all those elements work together to form a theatrical production. The disciplines that will be covered include stagecraft/set design, costume design, sound design, light design, properties design, hair & make-up design, stage management, directing & producing. The class will include an informational lecture section, guest speakers, and hands-on activities that put the information learned to practical use. Off-site field trips include up to three different theater spaces to help students identify the technical theatre in many venues.

FUNDAMENTALS OF DANCE & PHYSICAL STORYTELLING: Level I

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

A one-semester course designed to develop basic skills in dance, interpretation, and expression of emotion through physical movement. Students will be exposed to a variety of styles of dance and introduce students to various techniques/choreographers that have paved the way for the way we dance today. By the end of the semester, students will have a deeper understanding and confidence to undergo the creative process of creating choreography as well as a knowledge of the necessity of storytelling/nonverbal emotional expression in our world.

SCENE STUDY: Level II

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Freshman Acting or Fundamentals of Acting

This one semester course is designed to continue the development of performance skills. Students will learn how roles are created, perfected, and sustained. Students will work together in small groups to evolve their character development process using scenes and monologues. The performance exam consists of scenes from scripted plays. **If you've taken Freshman Acting/Fundamentals of Acting this is the next course for you to take.**

STYLES OF ACTING: Level III

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Freshman Acting and/or Fundamentals of Acting and Scene Study

This one semester course is designed to continue the development of performance skills. Students will study and practice radically different styles of acting and characterizations; scene work is presented in a variety of historical periods and performance techniques. Students will also study theatre history and the performance exam will consist of a compilation of scenes in different styles.

DIRECTING LAB HONORS: Level IV

Grades 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Freshman Acting or Fundamentals of Acting, Scene Study and Styles of Acting OR recommendation of instructor

This course will not be offered in 2025-2026 but will be offered in 2026-2027.

This upper level course is designed for the serious and experienced theatre student. The class focuses on the process and responsibilities of the director. Students explore the process of creating a production concept for a piece of theatre they choose themselves. The semester will end with a long semester project where students will use the production concept they created to cast, rehearse, prepare and perform their piece in a Festival of One Acts. **Please note that this course will require outside of school rehearsals. It will require a good deal of outside time for technical rehearsals and performances. Students wishing to take this class should make sure that they have limited other commitments in the month of January which is when performances will take place. Also note the class has limited space.*

MUSIC THEATRE WORKSHOP HONORS: Level IV**Grades 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)****Prerequisite: Freshman Acting and/or Fundamentals of Acting, Scene Study OR recommendation of instructor.****This course will be offered in 2025 - 2026**

This upper level course is designed for the serious and experienced theatre student. The class includes music, dance and acting as well as exploration of the performers, directors, choreographers, composers, and designers whose artistic contributions gave rise to and established the global popularity of the Broadway musical. Students will learn proper musical theatre vocal technique and will explore various types of dance. The semester will end with a two night, evening Musical Theatre Cabaret arranged by the students! **Please note that this course will require minimal outside of school rehearsals. It will require a good deal of outside time for technical rehearsals and performances. Students wishing to take this class should make sure that they have limited other commitments in the month of January which is when performances will take place. Also note the class has limited space.*

MINIMESTER OFFERINGS**FINE ARTS SAMPLER****Grade 9 (1 minimester, .5 credit, fulfills credit)****SUA FILM FESTIVAL****Grade 9, 10, 11 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)**[Back to Table of Contents](#)

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

The chart below represents a typical sequence for students beginning their world language study in high school. Students with previous experience may test into a higher level course. Students are required to have at least three credits of the same world language (French, Latin or Spanish). Students may choose to take additional elective courses.

	College Prep	Honors/Advanced Placement	Electives
Freshmen	French 1 Latin 1 Spanish 1		
Sophomores	French 2 Latin 2 Spanish 2	French 2 Honors Latin 2 Honors Spanish 2 Honors	Practical Latin
Juniors	French Writing and Conversation Spanish Writing and Conversation	French 4 Honors AP French Language and Culture Latin 4 Honors Spanish 4 Honors AP Spanish Language and Culture	Practical Latin
Seniors	French Writing and Conversation Spanish Writing and Conversation	French 4 Honors AP French Language and Culture Latin 4 Honors AP Latin Spanish 4 Honors AP Spanish Language and Culture	Practical Latin Senior French Seminar Honors Senior Spanish Seminar Honors

FRENCH 1

Grade 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

This introductory French course immerses students in authentic French language through engaging stories, visuals, and interactive activities, focusing on building listening comprehension and natural language acquisition while introducing key vocabulary and grammatical structures. Students are actively engaged in real-life conversations and discussions in French talking about their own life and about authentic materials including classic literature, songs, news articles, recipes, videos and Catholic prayers. French 1 provides students with collaborative and interdisciplinary opportunities that ask them to relate to each other and to the Francophone world around them.

FRENCH 2

Grade 9,10 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: French 1

If a student finishes French 1 with less than a C- average, it is strongly recommended that the student seek out professional remedial assistance prior to beginning French 2

French 2 builds upon the communication skills learned in French 1. Various aspects of a variety of French-speaking cultures continue to be explored. Thematic units currently included in French 2 are: Self-Description, Home Life, Foods and Meals and Leisure Time Activities.

FRENCH 2 HONORS 🌐

Grade 9,10 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: A B+ average in French 1 and teacher recommendation based on motivation, consistent performance and a positive attitude

French 2 Honors builds upon the vocabulary, structures and communication skills learned in French I. The Honors course will cover the same topics in greater depth with closer attention to speaking, reading, listening, and writing resulting in enhanced performance. Various aspects of a variety of French-speaking cultures continue to be explored. Thematic units currently included in French 2 are: Self-Description, Home Life, Foods and Meals and Leisure Time Activities.

FRENCH 3 🌐

Grade 10,11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Not offered in the 25-26 school year.

Prerequisite: French 1, French 2

If a student finishes French 2 with less than a C- average, it is strongly recommended that the student seek out professional remedial assistance concurrent with taking French 3

This course is a continuation of French 2 and includes further exploration of the themes of Leisure time Activities and Foods and Meals. City Life and Volunteerism are also introduced. Studying the people and cultures of the French-speaking world continues to be an integral part of French 3.

FRENCH 3 HONORS 🌐

Grade 10,11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Not offered in the 25-26 school year.

Prerequisite: French 1, French 2 Honors

This course is a continuation of French 2 Honors and includes further exploration of the themes of Leisure time Activities and Foods and Meals. City Life and Volunteerism are also introduced. Studying the people and cultures of the French-speaking world continues to be an integral part of French 3 Honors. French 3 Honors builds upon the vocabulary and structures learned in French 2. The Honors course will cover the same topics in greater depth with closer attention to speaking, reading, listening, and writing resulting in enhanced performance.

FRENCH WRITING AND CONVERSATION 🌐

Grade 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: C average or better in French 2 and 3 and teacher recommendation based on motivation, consistent performance and a positive attitude

This upper level elective course concentrates on the continued development of interpretive, interpersonal and presentational communication skills. Building vocabulary and conversational skills, additional grammar instruction and further exploration of a variety of themes and cultural topics are integral to this course.

FRENCH 4 HONORS 🌐

Grade 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: B+ average or better in French 2 and 3 and teacher recommendation based on motivation, consistent performance and a positive attitude

Conducted primarily in French, this course includes continued grammar instruction, reading and discussion of a variety of types of print texts, viewing and discussing short films and videos, writing unified essays, and further exploration of Francophone countries and cultures, including their art, music and history.

AP FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 🌐

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Not offered in the 25-26 school year.

Prerequisites: a consistent B average or better in Honors French 4 and teacher recommendation based on outstanding verbal skills, strong self-motivation, ability to self-instruct as needed, a disciplined work ethic and a positive attitude

In preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in French Language and Culture, this fast-paced, intensive course is designed to develop a high degree of competency in reading and listening comprehension, as well as interpretive, interpersonal and presentational communication skills. There is an extra fee for the AP test.

SENIOR FRENCH SEMINAR HONORS 🌐

Grade 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of French Writing and Conversation, Honors French 4 and/or AP French Language and Culture in grades 10 or 11 and teacher approval

This upper level honors course is designed to be a fast-paced, intensive review of French language and grammar to help prepare students in Grade 12 for the language placement tests they will take at their respective colleges and universities. Students will re-activate their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

LATIN 1 🌐

Grade 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of the Latin language while also exploring Greek and Roman mythology, history, and culture. Students will build their knowledge of Latin through thematic units on topics such as ancient gods, goddesses, heroes, and monsters, Roman holidays, and Roman entertainment. Students will also expand their Latin vocabulary through units on the family, animals, the human body, and other topics of interest.

LATIN 2 🌐

Grade 9, 10 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Latin 1 or placement via Latin mastery exam

In this course, students expand and build upon their skills in interpreting and producing Latin while continuing their exploration of Classical mythology, history, and culture. This course uses the Latin language to consider cultural topics such as Roman conquest and colonization, travel and piracy, and life events such as marriage and death in the Roman world. Mythological topics vary, but will typically include the Amazons and other women in Greek and Roman myth.

LATIN 2 HONORS 🌐

Grade 9, 10 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: B or better in Latin 1 OR placement via Latin mastery exam OR teacher recommendation based on consistent performance and a positive attitude.

Latin 2 Honors builds upon the vocabulary and structures learned in Latin 1. The Honors course will cover the same topics as Latin 2, but in greater depth and with more attention to developing reading and writing skills, resulting in enhanced performance.

LATIN 3 🌐

Grade 10, 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Not offered in the 25-26 school year.

Prerequisites: Latin 1 and Latin 2

In this course, students will build their interpretive skills, working towards the ability to read original Latin texts. Readings and topics will vary, but will include stories from Greek and Roman myth and Roman history.

LATIN 3 HONORS

Grade 10, 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Not offered in the 25-26 school year.

Prerequisites: Latin 1 and Latin 2 honors OR A average (or better) in Latin 2 and teacher recommendation based on consistent performance and a positive attitude

In this course, students will build their interpretive skills, working towards the ability to read original Latin. Latin 3 Honors builds upon the vocabulary and structures learned in Latin 2. The Honors course will cover the same topics as Latin 3, but in greater depth and with more attention to developing reading and writing skills, resulting in enhanced performance.

LATIN 4 HONORS

Grade 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Latin 1, Latin 2 and Latin 3; B average or better in Latin 3 OR teacher recommendation based on consistent performance and a positive attitude.

This course is designed to allow students to continue their study of Latin in preparation for college entrance. Students will continue to learn about ancient mythology, history, and culture using the Latin language. Topics will vary.

AP LATIN

Grade 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Not offered in the 25-26 school year.

Prerequisite: Latin 1, Latin 2, Latin 3 and Latin 4 Honors; Successful completion of Latin 4 Honors AND teacher recommendation based on consistent performance and a positive attitude.

In this course, students who have completed Honors Latin IV will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary to reading the works of Vergil and Pliny. Over the course of two semesters, we will read from the Advanced Placement syllabus in preparation for the AP Latin examination in May. Along with reading and discussing these selections, students will receive extensive practice in the skills necessary for success on the exam including sight-reading of advanced Latin texts, scanning poetry for meter, observing literary devices in Latin, and critical essay writing.

PRACTICAL LATIN: CRITICAL THINKING for TESTING SUCCESS

Grades 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .5 credit, elective)

It is estimated that 90% of English words over 2 syllables come directly from Latin or Ancient Greek, while 60% of all English words come from Latin or Ancient Greek, and the ability to understand those root words along with their prefixes and suffixes greatly increases a student's verbal and critical thinking competency. In this course, students will develop the skills necessary to break words down into their prefixes, suffixes, and roots in order to develop a deeper understanding of common words and so that they are better able to discern the meaning of unfamiliar words. Students will expand their ability to think critically and problem solve by being able to determine what information is essential and being able to narrow their focus to important details. No Latin experience is necessary for success in this class. Latin is not required for a student to take this course.

SPANISH 1

Grade 9 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

This course is aimed at basic conversational skills and general comprehension of the Spanish language. There is an introduction to Spanish and Latin American culture and civilization including their influence on the United States. The content material covers topics and incidents of everyday life. The course objectives are designed to develop skills in the four areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

SPANISH 2 🌐

Grade 9, 10 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

Spanish 2 builds upon the vocabulary and structures learned in Spanish I. The most important grammar points, verb tenses, idioms and vocabulary will be completed by the end of the second year of Spanish 2. Spanish is spoken more often in Level 2 classes. Throughout the second level of instruction, the student works to increase their vocabulary and improve their communication skills in the four areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

SPANISH 2 HONORS 🌐

Grade 9, 10 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Prerequisite: Spanish 1; A average or better in Spanish 1 and teacher recommendation based on consistent performance and a positive attitude

Spanish 2 Honors builds upon the vocabulary and structures learned in Spanish I. The Honors course will cover the same topics in greater depth with closer attention to speaking, reading, listening, and writing resulting in enhanced performance. The most important grammar points, verb tenses, idioms and vocabulary will be completed by the end of the second year of Spanish 2. Spanish is spoken more often in Level 2 classes. Throughout the second level of instruction, the student works to increase their vocabulary and improve their communication skills in the four areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

SPANISH 3 🌐

Grade 10, 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Not offered in the 25-26 school year.

Prerequisites: Spanish 1 and Spanish 2.

Spanish 3 is a continuation of levels 1 and 2 and is geared toward mastery of the language. The end goal of this course is to speak primarily in Spanish. This includes communication skills in speaking, reading, writing, and listening. More complex grammar and vocabulary is presented while further developing communication skills in all areas.

SPANISH 3 HONORS 🌐

Grade 10, 11 (2 semesters, 1 credit, required)

Not offered in the 25-26 school year.

Prerequisites: Spanish 1 and Spanish 2; A average or better in Spanish 2 and teacher recommendation based on consistent performance and a positive attitude

Spanish 3 Honors is a continuation of levels 1 and 2 and is geared toward mastery of the language. The Honors course will cover the same topics in greater depth with closer attention to speaking, reading, listening, and writing resulting in enhanced performance. The end goal of this course is to speak primarily in Spanish. This includes communication skills in speaking, reading, writing, and listening. More complex grammar and vocabulary is presented while further developing communication skills in all areas.

SPANISH WRITING AND CONVERSATION 🌐

Grades 11,12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: Spanish 1, Spanish 2 and Spanish 3; B+ average or better in Spanish 3 OR teacher recommendation based on consistent performance and a positive attitude

This course is designed to enable students to further develop oral expression and listening skills by means of conversation and to improve their presentational skills in the target language. Thematic vocabulary, current events and culture will be discussed. Students will view various films including a Spanish telenovela. This course will be taught primarily in the target language. Note: This course cannot be taken after completion of Honors Spanish 4, Spanish AP, or Honors Senior Spanish Seminar.

SPANISH 4 HONORS 🌐

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: A average or better in Spanish 3, or A- in Writing and Conversation OR teacher recommendation based on consistent performance and a positive attitude

This course aims to polish the four areas of language acquisition; listening, reading and writing. Students will have the opportunity to engage in conversational practice as well as reading works of literature by famous authors and studying Spanish and Latin American culture. This course is taught almost entirely in Spanish.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 🌐

Grades 11, 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisite: A+ in Spanish 3 and Teacher Recommendation, or A in Writing and Conversation and Teacher Recommendation or A in Spanish 4 Honors and Teacher Recommendation

This course prepares the student to take the Advanced Placement Spanish Language examination for college credit. The goal is to increase student proficiency in the four language skills which will enable them to succeed at the university level. This course is taught entirely in Spanish.

SENIOR SPANISH SEMINAR HONORS 🌐

Grade 12 (2 semesters, 1 credit, elective)

Prerequisites: A in Spanish Writing and Conversation, A in Honors Spanish 4, or A- in AP Spanish Language and Culture AND Teacher recommendation based on consistent performance and a positive attitude

This course is designed to be a fast-paced, intensive review of Spanish language and grammar to help prepare students in Grade 12 for the language placement tests they will take at their respective colleges and universities. Students will re-activate their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Course content will include literature, poetry, current events, and films in Spanish. This will be an honors credit, as we will use intermediate college-level materials. This course will be taught primarily in Spanish.

MINIMESTER OFFERINGS

BEYOND TACOS: COOKING WITH CULTURE, EXPLORING DIVERSE LATIN/HISPANIC RECIPES AND CULTURE 🌐 Grade 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
CLASSICAL INFLUENCES ON AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE: ARE WE ROME? 🌐 Grade 10, 11 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
CLASSICAL MYTH ON FILM 🌐 Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
EXPLORATIONS IN PORTUGUESE 🌐 Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
LATIN AMERICAN POP CULTURE 🌐 Grade 9, 10, 11 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
MAKE YOUR MARK: FRENCH EXPLORED THROUGH ART, DRAMA AND COOKING 🌐 Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
PARIS ON THE POTOMAC: THE FRENCH INFLUENCE ON THE ARCHITECTURE AND ART OF WASHINGTON DC 🌐 Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)

REFLECTIONS OF SOCIETY AND CULTURE THROUGH LATIN AMERICAN CINEMA 🌐 Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)
SPANISH FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE 🌐 Grade 11, 12 (1 minimester, .5 credit, elective)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Saint Ursula's Educational Services (ES) Program exists to serve students with learning needs who benefit from additional services and accommodations as outlined in an IEP or documented service plan. The program offers several individualized support options for students as they complete college preparatory coursework at Saint Ursula Academy. ES Program participants are required to take scheduled ES Bells for which they will receive non-academic credit and a Pass or Fail grade.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE ES PROGRAM

A learning disability and/or difference is a persistent difficulty that significantly interferes with academic achievement. It affects the manner in which an individual with average or above average intelligence takes in information, retains it and expresses the knowledge and understanding she processes. Common learning disabilities and/or differences occur in the areas of language (reading, spelling, and written expression); math computation; and problem solving. Additional challenges can involve organizational skills, time management, spatial organization, attention span and social skills.

Students in Saint Ursula Academy's ES Program take the same College Preparatory, Honors, and AP classes as all other students. The course requirements of students in the ES Program are identical to those of their classmates. Students in the ES Program are expected to produce the same quantity and same quality of work as their peers. Program participants benefit from a number of special accommodations and services that demonstrate Saint Ursula's commitment to providing a successful college preparatory experience for neurodiverse students. The special accommodations and services include, but are not limited to, small group tutoring, coursework support, diagnostic testing, access to audio recordings of books and textbooks, extended examination and testing periods, oral examinations and tests, and tests read by tutor.

ES BELL

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (1 semester, .25 non-academic credit)

ES Bell options allow students in the ES program to receive individualized, customized support based on their learning needs as documented in their IEP/other service plans and their learning goals. All incoming freshmen are required to take two ES bells allowing the ES teachers to provide the support students need to transition into SUA's college preparatory program. For students in grades 10-12, the ES advisors and counselors will work with each student and her family on the appropriate level of service. Options could include continuing with two ES bells or transitioning to one ES bell based on the needs of each individual student. All John Peterson Scholarship recipients are required to take two ES bells as a program requirement.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)