



HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION

2026

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Dear OWIS Students, Parents and Guardians,

It is with great joy and anticipation that I welcome you to a new school year in our high school community. Whether you are returning to continue your journey with us or joining our family for the first time, this moment marks an important chapter in a story we are writing together—a story filled with learning, growth, challenges, and triumphs.

High school is a unique and transformative time. It is a season of discovery—where young people not only deepen their academic knowledge, but also uncover their passions, develop resilience, and build the character that will guide them beyond these years. The road is not always easy, but every step, both the smooth and the difficult, shapes who our students become. As educators, our greatest privilege is to walk alongside them, celebrating their successes and supporting them through the inevitable moments of challenge.

We know that this journey is not one our students take alone. It is a shared endeavor between school and home, a partnership built on trust, open communication, and a shared commitment to helping each student flourish. Parents and guardians, we are deeply grateful for the role you play. Your encouragement, guidance, and presence in your child’s life are invaluable, and together, we can ensure that every student feels seen, supported, and inspired to reach their potential.

As we look to the year ahead, we do so with optimism and a steadfast belief in the capabilities of our students. The future holds endless opportunities, and our mission is to prepare each of them to meet it with courage, curiosity, and compassion. I invite you to engage fully in this journey—attend events, join conversations, and be part of the vibrant life of our school.

On behalf of our entire high school team, welcome to an exciting year ahead. Let us embrace this chapter with open hearts, confident that together, we will create an environment where every student can thrive.

With warm regards,

Shannon Pipes
Principal, OWIS Riyadh



OWIS HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Curriculum

At One World International School (OWIS) Riyadh, we offer a dynamic and future-focused American curriculum based on the California Common Core State Standards. Students who successfully complete our comprehensive program earn an accredited American High School Diploma, opening doors to leading universities around the world.

From Grades 9 to 12, students engage in academically challenging, college - preparatory courses that foster critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication, all skills essential for success in higher education and beyond. To further elevate their academic journey, students also have the opportunity to enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) courses, experiencing university-level learning while still in high school.

Our academic pathways are personalized to reflect each student's:



Academic interests and aspirations

Academic performance and strengths

Career and higher education goals

Unique skills, talents and passions

At OWIS Riyadh, we believe education extends beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to participate actively in a wide range of co-curricular and extracurricular programs designed to inspire leadership, service, and global citizenship. Universities recognize the value of well-rounded individuals, and our programs ensure students stand out as confident, engaged learners.

Throughout their journey, students are empowered to take ownership of their growth, supported by a close partnership between teachers, counselors, and families. Together, we nurture academic excellence, character development, and a lifelong love of learning.

At OWIS Riyadh, every student is prepared to thrive, wherever their future leads.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program at One World International School (OWIS) Riyadh provides motivated high school students the opportunity to take rigorous, college-level courses while still in high school. Offered through the US College Board, AP courses challenge students to engage in complex discussions, apply critical thinking, collaborate with peers, and develop strong academic writing and analytical skills. Successful performance in AP courses can lead to college credit, advanced placement, and strengthened university applications.

Advanced Placement Eligibility

AP courses at OWIS Riyadh are designed for high-achieving students in Grades 10, 11 and 12 who are prepared for the demands of college-level study.

Eligibility and Enrollment Guidelines

- Students in Grade 10 may enroll in a maximum of one AP course with teacher recommendation which is AP Biology.
- Students pursuing the full American High School Diploma are eligible and encouraged to enroll in AP courses depending on prerequisite grades being met.
- AP courses require specific prerequisite knowledge to ensure students are well-prepared for the rigor and expectations of college-level coursework.
- Priority enrollment is given to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12 based on academic readiness and space availability.
- Students enrolled in multiple AP courses must demonstrate strong academic standing and time management skills to balance their course load successfully.

At OWIS Riyadh, AP offerings include AP Calculus AB, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, and AP Physics. Students are supported through structured guidance to ensure appropriate course selection aligned with their academic goals and future university pathways.

GRADUATION PATHWAYS

At One World International School (OWIS) Riyadh, AP courses are an optional component of the academic program and are not required for graduation under the American High School Diploma pathway.

American High School Diploma Pathway

- Students following the US High School Diploma pathway may choose to enroll in AP courses to enhance the rigor of their academic program and better prepare for university-level study.
- Although AP courses are not mandatory, they count towards graduation credit requirements in their respective subject areas.
- An AP course may replace a standard grade-level course (for example, AP Calculus AB in place of Grade 12 Math) or may be counted as an elective, depending on the subject and graduation requirements.
- Students are encouraged to select AP courses aligned with their academic strengths, future university plans, and career aspirations.

Notes on Enrollment

- Students must meet the prerequisite criteria and obtain teacher recommendation for AP course enrollment.
- Students may combine AP courses with their regular high school coursework, but they are advised to manage their course load carefully to maintain academic balance and success.

At OWIS Riyadh, we are committed to providing flexible academic pathways that allow students to challenge themselves, build their university profiles, and achieve their fullest potential.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS AND EXAM FEES

AP Exam Fees

All AP courses at OWIS Riyadh culminate in an external Advanced Placement (AP) exam administered by the College Board. AP exams are subject to an annual fee set by the College Board.

- Families are responsible for paying the AP exam fee directly to OWIS Riyadh during the first semester of the academic year.
- Enrollment in an AP course at OWIS Riyadh automatically indicates the student's commitment to sit for the AP final exam.
- Any changes in exam registration made after the College Board's initial registration deadline may result in additional late fees, which are the responsibility of the family.

Enrollment in a Course Outside of OWIS Riyadh

- OWIS Riyadh strongly encourages students to enroll in AP courses offered within the school rather than pursuing self-study options.
- Students typically demonstrate higher achievement when guided by a qualified AP instructor.
- AP exams for courses not offered at OWIS Riyadh are not encouraged and require prior approval with a formal study plan.

Impact of Advanced Placement Courses on OWIS Transcripts and University Admissions

- A weighting of 0.25 is added to each AP course grade when calculating the GPA for students enrolled in AP classes.
- AP courses are internationally recognized, and universities view successful AP course completion as evidence of a student's ability to succeed in rigorous academic environments.
- Many universities offer college credit or advanced placement to students who achieve a score of 4 or 5 on AP exams, allowing students to save on tuition costs and progress more quickly through university studies.

AP International Diploma (APID)

The AP International Diploma (APID) is a prestigious, globally recognized certificate awarded by the College Board to students who demonstrate exceptional achievement across multiple academic disciplines. Designed for students applying to universities outside the United States, the APID recognizes outstanding academic excellence with a strong global perspective.

Important Notes

- The APID is not a substitute for a high school diploma; students must still meet all OWIS graduation requirements to receive their American High School Diploma.
- Students do not need to apply for the APID. It is automatically awarded by the College Board when all eligibility criteria are met.
- Students will be notified by email once the award has been conferred, and they can print the APID certificate directly from their AP Scores account.
- At OWIS Riyadh, the AP Coordinator monitors eligibility and identifies students who qualify for the APID based on official College Board AP Scholar Reports. 10
- Full details regarding the eligibility requirements and subject areas required for the APID can be found on the College Board website: AP International Diploma.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses Offered at OWIS Riyadh

AP course offerings at OWIS Riyadh are reviewed annually and are subject to change based on student interest and staffing availability. While every effort is made to meet student course requests, inclusion of an AP course in the Program of Studies does not guarantee that it will be offered in a given academic year.

At OWIS Riyadh, students have access to a carefully curated selection of AP courses across multiple disciplines. These courses provide students with the opportunity to pursue rigorous academic challenges and prepare for college-level work.

Course	Grade Level(s)
AP Calculus AB	12
AP Biology	10, 11, 12
AP Chemistry	11, 12
AP Physics (Calculus-based)	12

Please note: Students must meet specific prerequisite and grade performance criteria to enroll in AP courses at OWIS Riyadh. Detailed course descriptions and prerequisites are available through the College Board website and the OWIS High School Academic Counseling Office.

At OWIS Riyadh, we encourage students who are prepared for the academic challenge to pursue AP courses, strengthening their college applications and developing skills for future success.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students at OWIS Riyadh enroll in courses aligned with the American High School Diploma graduation requirements, their academic abilities, interests, and future educational goals. Students earn credit upon successful completion of a course with a minimum passing grade of 60% (D) or higher.

At OWIS Riyadh, one full credit typically represents the successful completion of a full-year course, equivalent to approximately 120 instructional hours. Courses are divided into two distinct semesters for grading purposes, with each semester representing 0.5 credits.

A minimum of 27 credits (or 25 credits excluding Islamic Studies for non-Muslim students) is required for graduation.

It is the responsibility of students and families to conduct thorough research regarding university-specific entry requirements, including credit requirements for universities in the United States, Saudi Arabia, and internationally.

Subject	Required Credits	Notes
English	4	Core requirement
Mathematics	4	Integrated Math 1, 2, Pre-Calculus and Calculus/AP Calculus
Science	4	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, General Science (Lab Science designation)
World Language	4	Arabic A (Native), Arabic B (Non-Native)
Social Studies	3	Geography, World History, Economics/ Psychology, Sociology/Psychology
Islamic Education	2	Mandatory for Muslim students (Non-Muslims enroll in TAP or Research Project)
Physical Education/Health	2	PE in Grades 9-12
Visual and Performing Arts	0.5	Music, Drama, or Art
Electives	3.5	Range of academic, career and technical courses

Total Required for Graduation: 27 credits (25 credits excluding Islamic Studies)

Special Notes:**Arabic and Islamic Studies:**

- Arabic A is mandatory for all Saudi and Arab Nationals.
- Islamic Studies is mandatory for Muslim students.
- Non-Arabic speakers and Non-Muslim students follow alternative pathways (Arabic B & TAP/Research).

Lab Science Definition:

- Laboratory science courses (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) must include significant lab components to qualify as Lab Science for university admissions purposes.

University Equivalency and Requirements:

- Students intending to pursue higher education in Saudi Arabia or other regions must ensure they meet any national or Ministry of Education-specific requirements for graduation, attestation and university equivalency.

Transfer Students:

- Students transferring into OWIS must ensure that all credits earned elsewhere meet OWIS standards for graduation and align with American diploma credit structures.

CLASS NAMES AT OWIS RIYADH

At One World International School (OWIS) Riyadh, the following terminology is used to refer to students by grade level:

Grade Level	Nomenclature
Grade 9	Freshman
Grade 10	Sophomore
Grade 11	Junior
Grade 12	Senior

COURSE SELECTION PROCESS

Each spring, OWIS Riyadh students participate in the course selection process for the following academic year. This process is guided by administrators, teachers, and school counselors who provide students with information about:

- Graduation requirements
- Available course offerings
- Strategies for making informed academic decisions
- College and career readiness planning

Students are encouraged to reflect carefully on their future goals, investigate course content, and seek advice from teachers and counselors. The completion of a Four-Year Academic Plan is highly recommended to help students map their progression through high school.

A well-developed academic plan allows students to:

- Set clear personal and academic goals
- Strategically select courses that align with university admission requirements
- Understand how their academic performance supports their future pathways
- Take ownership of their educational journey

Parental Involvement

Parents are expected to actively participate in the course selection and Four-Year Plan discussions with their children to ensure thoughtful and realistic academic planning.

Prerequisites

A prerequisite is required before a course can be taken. Examples of prerequisites may include a course, skill level, minimum grade, experience, or instructor approval. Prerequisites are listed in course descriptions, and students should be aware of them before making course selections.

Course Changes at OWIS Riyadh

At One World International School (OWIS) Riyadh, course changes are managed carefully to support student success, academic balance, and well-being.

Elective Courses: Once elective course selections have been made, changes are not permitted.

Course Change Policy: After the first ten days of the semester, no course changes will be considered under any circumstances.

In rare and exceptional cases, changes may be reviewed only if they are recommended by a teacher, counselor, or administrator due to one of the following:

- Serious student well-being or mental health concerns
- A significant change in the student's graduation pathway or academic goals
- Other exceptional factors that directly impact academic success

All requests must be discussed with the school Career and Wellbeing counselor and require approval from the academic administration team.

OWIS Riyadh is committed to ensuring that any course adjustments are made in the best interest of the student's long-term success and overall well-being.

2025/26 PATHWAYS AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS DESCRIPTIONS (2025–2026)

Credit: English		
Course Description	Credit	Grade Level(s)
English Grade 9	1.0	9
English Grade 10	1.0	10
English Grade 11	1.0	11
English Grade 12	1.0	12
Speech and Debate	0.5	9, 10, 11, 12
English Literature	0.5	9, 10, 11, 12
Jorunalism	0.5	10, 11, 12

English 9

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

English 9 builds a strong foundation in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills. Students analyze a variety of literary and informational texts, including novels, plays, poetry, and nonfiction articles. They develop structured academic essays, practice narrative and argumentative writing, and build research skills aligned to CCSS W.9-10 standards. Emphasis is placed on citing textual evidence (RI.9-10.1), analyzing author's craft (RL.9-10.4), and developing coherent arguments (W.9-10.1). Speaking and listening activities promote collaboration and formal presentation skills.

English 10

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 10

Prerequisite: English 9

Course Description:

In English 10, students deepen their analytical reading and writing skills through the study of world literature, informational texts, and persuasive media. Focus areas include evaluating claims and arguments (RI.9-10.8), comparing themes across cultures (RL.9-10.2), and producing sustained research projects (W.9-10.7). Students refine writing techniques such as counter-argument, synthesis, and commentary development. Oral presentations and debates enhance communication and collaboration abilities. Instruction emphasizes preparation for more advanced academic reading and writing expectations.

English 11 (American Literature)

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 11

Prerequisite: English 10

Course Description:

English 11 explores major works of American literature from the colonial period to contemporary times, with a focus on thematic development, historical context, and authorial style (RL.11-12.2, RL.11-12.3). Writing instruction emphasizes argumentative essays, rhetorical analysis (RI.11-12.6), and synthesis writing aligned to college readiness expectations. Research skills include evaluating sources, integrating quotations, and applying MLA formatting (W.11-12.8). Students also engage in Socratic seminars, debates, and formal presentations to develop academic discourse skills. Additionally, one period per week is dedicated to TOEFL and IELTS preparation.

English 12 (Global Perspectives)

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 12

Prerequisite: English 11

Course Description:

English 12 prepares students for post-secondary success through the exploration of global literature and contemporary issues. Emphasis is placed on analyzing complex texts for nuanced meaning (RL.11-12.5), developing independent arguments (W.11-12.1), and conducting extended research projects. Students produce analytical essays, reflective writing, and argumentative pieces that demonstrate sophisticated reasoning and voice. This capstone English course also focuses on oral communication, project-based learning, and critical engagement with real-world issues. Additionally, one period per week is dedicated to TOEFL and IELTS preparation.

English Electives

Speech & Debate

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

This elective sharpens students' public speaking, debate, and argumentation skills. Students learn techniques for persuasive and expository speaking, research methods, logical reasoning, and rhetorical strategies (SL.9-12.4). Through formal debates, extemporaneous speeches, structured presentations, and Model United Nations (MUN) simulations, students build confidence in speaking before audiences and crafting clear, compelling arguments.

English Literature (Honors Elective)

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: Strong performance in core English

Course Description:

Students explore classical and modern works of British, American, and world literature. Emphasis is placed on critical literary analysis, thematic interpretation, and comparative literature (RL.11-12.7). Students produce analytical essays, engage in text-based discussions, and complete creative response projects. The course encourages students to deepen their appreciation for literary artistry and prepares them for higher-level English coursework.

Journalism

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 10-12

Prerequisite: English 10 recommended

Course Description:

Journalism introduces students to the fundamentals of news writing, investigative reporting, editorial writing, and media literacy. Students practice journalistic ethics, interview techniques, research, and AP (Associated Press) style writing (W.11-12.4). They create articles, opinion pieces, feature stories, and multimedia content for school publications. The course also explores the impact of journalism in a democratic society and prepares students for communication roles in university and beyond.

MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (2025–2026)

Credit: Mathematics		
Course Description	Credit	Grade Level(s)
Integrated Mathematics I	1.0	9
Integrated Mathematics II	1.0	10
Statistics and Probability 1 & 2	1.0	11 - 12
Pre - Calculus	1.0	11 - 12
Calculus (non - AP)	1.0	12
AP Calculus AB	1.0	12

Integrated Mathematics I

Credit: 1.0 | **Grade:** 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Integrated Mathematics I introduces students to foundational algebraic concepts, linear relationships, basic geometry, and statistical reasoning. Students solve linear equations and inequalities (CCSS: A-REI.3), work with functions (CCSS: F-IF.1), explore properties of geometric figures (CCSS: G-CO.1), and analyze data sets (CCSS: S-ID.1). Emphasis is placed on real-world problem solving, mathematical modeling, and communication of mathematical ideas. This course builds essential skills for success in higher mathematics.

Integrated Mathematics II

Credit: 1.0 | **Grade:** 10

Prerequisite: Integrated Mathematics I

Course Description:

Integrated Mathematics II extends students' understanding of quadratic functions, complex numbers, coordinate geometry, and probability. Students work with quadratic expressions and solve systems of equations (CCSS: A-REI.7), study transformations and congruence (CCSS: G-CO.2), and apply probability rules to real-world situations (CCSS: S-CP.1). Emphasis is placed on deeper critical thinking and more complex multi-step problems to prepare for higher-level courses.

Statistics and Probability 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0 | **Grade:** 11–12

Prerequisite: Integrated Mathematics II

Course Description:

This course develops students' ability to collect, analyze, and interpret real-world data. Students explore concepts such as probability distributions, inference, and hypothesis testing (CCSS: S-ID.6, S-IC.2). Students design experiments and surveys, use simulations to model chance behavior, and interpret statistical findings in a real-world context. Emphasis is placed on project-based learning and preparing for careers in social sciences, business, and health sciences.

Pre-Calculus

Credit: 1.0 | **Grade:** 11–12

Prerequisite: Integrated Mathematics II

Course Description:

Pre-Calculus prepares students for advanced mathematics and AP Calculus AB. The course covers polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions (CCSS: F-IF.7, F-TF.5). Students explore sequences, series, limits, and parametric equations. Emphasis is placed on graphing, transformations, solving complex equations, and mathematical reasoning. This course strengthens critical thinking and modeling skills needed for success in STEM fields.

Calculus (Non-AP)

Credit: 1.0 | **Grade:** 12

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

Course Description:

This introductory calculus course focuses on understanding limits, derivatives, and integrals conceptually and applying them to solve real-world problems. Students explore the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus (CCSS: Calculus Pathway Standards) without the depth or pace required by AP standards. The course is ideal for students pursuing science, economics, social sciences, or technical majors in college who require a strong, practical understanding of calculus.

AP Calculus AB

Credit: 1.0 | **Grade:** 12

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus (Minimum B/83%)

Course Description:

AP Calculus AB offers students a rigorous, college-level foundation in differential and integral calculus. Topics include limits, continuity, derivatives, definite and indefinite integrals, and applications of integration (aligned to College Board AP Calculus AB standards). Students develop skills in graphical, numerical, and analytical representations of mathematical concepts. Successful completion of the AP Exam may earn students university credit and/or advanced placement in college mathematics courses.

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (2025–2026)

Credit: Science		
Course Description	Credit	Grade Level(s)
Biology	1.0	9
Chemistry	1.0	10
Physics (Calculus-based)	1.0	11 - 12
Geology/Earth Science OR General Science	1.0	11 - 12
AP Biology	1.0	10 - 12
AP Chemistry	1.0	11 - 12
AP Physics	1.0	12
Nutrition & Food Science	0.5	9 - 12
Genetics	0.5	9 - 12
Organic Chemistry	0.5	11 - 12

Biology

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Biology is an NGSS-aligned laboratory science course that explores the study of life through inquiry and real-world applications. Major topics include cell biology, genetics, ecosystems, evolution, and human impact on the environment (NGSS: HS-LS1 to HS-LS4). Students conduct hands-on experiments, analyze data and construct scientific explanations using evidence. Scientific practices such as developing models, engaging in argument from evidence, and designing investigations are emphasized to build critical thinking and scientific literacy.

Chemistry

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 10

Prerequisite: Biology

Course Description:

This standards-based course covers matter and its interactions, chemical reactions, atomic structure, periodicity, thermodynamics, and the role of chemistry in environmental systems (NGSS: HS-PS1). Students engage in lab experiments, construct mathematical models of chemical processes, and develop skills in scientific inquiry, communication, and problem solving. Chemistry at OWIS Riyadh emphasizes real-world applications and experimental design to prepare students for higher-level science study.

Physics (Calculus-Based)

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 11

Prerequisite: Chemistry

Course Description:

Physics provides students with a rigorous, calculus-supported understanding of mechanics, energy, momentum, electricity, and magnetism (NGSS: HS-PS2, HS-PS3). Students apply mathematical reasoning to investigate physical phenomena, model systems, and predict outcomes. Labs, simulations, and engineering design challenges help students develop skills in inquiry, critical thinking, and scientific argumentation aligned to NGSS and college-level expectations.

Geology/Earth Science or General Science

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 12

Prerequisite: Physics

Course Description:

This course examines Earth's systems, including geology, oceanography, atmospheric science, astronomy, and environmental science (NGSS: HS-ESS2, HS-ESS3). Students analyze Earth's dynamic processes, model geologic phenomena, and evaluate human impacts on the environment. Inquiry-based labs and case studies develop scientific practices such as data analysis, modeling, and systems thinking, preparing students for studies in environmental science and geoscience fields.

Advanced Placement (AP) Science Courses

AP Biology

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 10–12

Prerequisite: A– (90% or higher) in Biology & Statistics

Course Description:

AP Biology offers a college-level curriculum emphasizing biological systems, energy dynamics, genetics, evolution, and ecological interactions. Students design and conduct experiments, apply quantitative analysis, and connect biological concepts across scales (aligned to College Board AP Biology and NGSS Life Science standards). Strong emphasis is placed on inquiry, argumentation, and interdisciplinary connections across biology and biotechnology.

AP Chemistry

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 11 or 12

Prerequisite: A- (90% or higher) in Chemistry & Pre-Calculus

Course Description:

AP Chemistry provides in-depth study of chemical principles including atomic theory, chemical reactions, kinetics, equilibrium, and thermodynamics. Students engage in college-level lab investigations, modeling of chemical systems, and advanced data analysis (aligned to College Board AP Chemistry and NGSS HS-PS1 concepts). Emphasis is placed on scientific reasoning, communication, and collaborative problem-solving.

AP Physics (Calculus-Based)

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 12

Prerequisite: A- (90% or higher) in Physics & Pre-Calculus

Course Description:

AP Physics offers a university-level exploration of mechanics, energy conservation, rotational motion, electricity, and magnetism through rigorous inquiry, calculus-based modeling, and experimental design (aligned to College Board AP Physics C and NGSS PS Standards). Students develop critical scientific practices such as designing investigations, interpreting data, and constructing mathematical models of physical systems.

Science Core Electives

Nutrition & Food Science

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9–12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

This elective explores the principles of human nutrition, biochemistry of food, health sciences, and food technology. Students evaluate the relationship between diet and disease, design meal plans, and investigate global nutrition issues. Emphasis is placed on evidence-based inquiry and critical evaluation of scientific information, aligned to health science practices.

Genetics

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9–12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Students explore Mendelian genetics, DNA structure and replication, genetic engineering, and biotechnology ethics. Inquiry-based projects and case studies allow students to model inheritance patterns, solve genetic problems, and evaluate modern applications of genetics (NGSS: HS-LS3).

Organic Chemistry

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 11–12

Prerequisite: Chemistry

Course Description:

Organic Chemistry introduces students to the structure, properties, and reactivity of organic molecules. Topics include hydrocarbon structures, functional groups, stereochemistry, and reaction mechanisms. Students engage in laboratory synthesis, modeling of molecules, and analysis of chemical behavior, preparing for pre-medical or chemical engineering pathways.

WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (2025–2026)

Credit: World Languages		
Course Description	Credit	Grade Level(s)
Arabic 9 (Native)	1.0	9
Arabic 10 (Native)	1.0	10
Arabic 11 (Native)	1.0	11
Arabic 12 (Native)	1.0	12
Arabic 9 (Non-Native)	1.0	9
Arabic 10 (Non-Native)	1.0	10
Arabic 11 (Non-Native)	1.0	11
Arabic 12 (Non-Native)	1.0	12
French – Beginner	0.5	9 - 11
French – Intermediate	0.5	10 - 12
Chinese – Beginner	0.5	9 - 11
Chinese – Intermediate	0.5	10 - 12

Arabic (A or B) – Required

Arabic is mandatory for all students. Based on proficiency, students will be placed in Arabic A (native speakers) or Arabic B (non-native speakers).

Note:

Some Middle Eastern universities require Arabic A for admission. Please consult the Career and Wellbeing Counselor before selecting your course.

Arabic A (Native Speakers)

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 9–12 (Arabic A1 to A4)

Prerequisite: None

Curriculum: Saudi Ministry of Education (MOE)

Course Description:

Arabic A is designed for native speakers and follows the official curriculum prescribed by the Saudi Ministry of Education. The course focuses on the development of advanced language proficiency in reading, writing, grammar, listening, and speaking. Students analyze classical and modern texts, engage in expressive writing, and deepen their understanding of Arab heritage, Islamic values, and national identity. Assessments follow MOE guidelines, with an emphasis on comprehension, literary appreciation, and written fluency.

Arabic B (Non-Native Speakers)

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 9–12 (Arabic A1 to A4)

Prerequisite: None

Curriculum: Saudi Ministry of Education (MOE)

Course Description:

Arabic B is intended for students who are not native Arabic speakers. This MOE-aligned course emphasizes foundational vocabulary, everyday conversational phrases, reading simple texts, and writing basic sentences. Students develop language skills through interactive speaking, listening, and cultural activities designed to support second language acquisition and regional communication.

French / Mandarin – World Languages Electives

French and Mandarin are elective courses open to all students interested in learning an additional language. These courses focus on building communication skills, vocabulary, and cultural understanding. Students are encouraged to choose based on interest and future academic or career goals.

French – Beginner

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9–11

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

This entry-level course introduces students to the French language and culture. Students develop basic communication skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Topics include greetings, self-introductions, numbers, daily routines, and simple conversations. Emphasis is placed on pronunciation, vocabulary acquisition, and intercultural understanding. Instruction integrates authentic materials, digital tools, and collaborative tasks aligned with ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) and CCSS goals for language learners.

French – Intermediate

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 10 – 11

Prerequisite: French Beginner or equivalent

Course Description:

French Intermediate expands students' ability to communicate and understand the language in more complex contexts. Students work with present, past, and future tenses and express opinions on familiar topics. Cultural topics are integrated to provide context for language use. Students engage in short written compositions, reading short texts, and interactive dialogues. Instruction promotes real-world application and prepares students for advanced French or standardized language testing.

Chinese – Beginner

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9 – 11

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Chinese Beginner introduces students to Mandarin Chinese using pinyin, simplified characters, and tonal pronunciation. Students build functional vocabulary, learn sentence structures, and practice communication in everyday scenarios such as greetings, school, family, and food. The course also introduces Chinese cultural elements and traditions. Lessons use multimedia tools and project-based learning to enhance engagement and retention.

Chinese – Intermediate

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 10 – 11

Prerequisite: Chinese Beginner or equivalent

Course Description:

This course reinforces and expands Mandarin proficiency through deeper vocabulary, sentence construction, and listening comprehension. Students read short passages, write structured sentences and short paragraphs, and hold conversations on familiar topics. Grammar and writing conventions are introduced gradually, and students examine contemporary Chinese culture, values, and traditions. The course aligns with CCSS World Language Standards and ACTFL proficiency guidelines.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (2025–2026)

Credit: Religious Studies		
Course Description	Credit	Grade Level(s)
Islamic Studies 9	0.5	9
Islamic Studies 10	0.5	10
Islamic Studies 11	0.5	11
Islamic Studies 12	0.5	12
Teacher Assistance Program (non-Muslim students)	0.5	9 - 12
Independent Student Research Project (non-Muslim students)	0.5	9 - 12

VISUAL ARTS AND PERFORMING ARTS DESCRIPTIONS (2025–2026)

Credit: Visual Arts and Performing Arts		
Course Description	Credit	Grade Level(s)
Music	0.5	10, 11, 12
Art	0.5	10, 11, 12

Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) – Grade 9

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

The Grade 9 Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) course provides students with a dynamic, year-long introduction to the arts through a rotating trimester model. In Term 1, students explore the fundamentals of music, including rhythm, melody, and basic composition. In Term 2, they develop visual literacy and artistic skills through art, working with various media and design principles. In Term 3, students engage in drama, building confidence through performance, improvisation, and stagecraft. This course fosters creativity, collaboration, and self-expression while aligning with the California State Standards for Visual and Performing Arts.

Art

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 10 – 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

The Art course allows students to explore various visual media, techniques, and creative processes. Students build a foundational understanding of the elements and principles of design while expressing themselves through drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media. Emphasis is placed on developing creativity, craftsmanship, and critical reflection. Projects are rooted in both individual and collaborative studio practice. The course is aligned with California State Standards for Visual Arts.

Music

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 10 – 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

This music course introduces students to the fundamentals of music theory, performance, and composition. Students explore rhythm, melody, harmony, and form through practical activities such as singing, playing instruments, and using digital tools for music creation. The program fosters self-expression and collaboration while helping students appreciate musical styles across cultures and time periods. Instruction aligns with California State Music Standards.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (2025–2026)

Credit: Social Studies		
Course Description	Credit	Grade Level(s)
Geography	0.5	9
KSA Social Studies / Social Studies	0.5	9 - 12
World History	1.0	10
Psychology OR Economics: Macroeconomics & Microeconomics	1.0	11
Sociology / Psychology OR Advanced Economics	1.0	12

Geography

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

This course explores physical and human geography with an emphasis on spatial relationships, environmental systems, and the interaction between people and their surroundings. Students use mapping tools, case studies, and data analysis to understand global patterns and regional differences. The course aims to build awareness of cultural diversity, sustainability, and geographic literacy.

KSA Social Studies

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9 - 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

This course, aligned with the Ministry of Education (MOE) in Saudi Arabia, develops students' understanding of the Kingdom's history, geography, governance, and national identity. Delivered in Arabic, it promotes cultural appreciation and knowledge of Saudi heritage, with a focus on civic responsibility and national pride.

Social Studies

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9 - 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Social Studies introduces students to foundational concepts in history, geography, economics, and civics through a global lens. Students explore key themes such as migration, cultural identity, governance, and global interdependence. Using project-based learning, inquiry, and primary sources, students build skills in critical thinking, research, and evidence-based writing. The course prepares students for more specialized study in World History and the social sciences while fostering a deeper understanding of current global issues and their historical roots.

World History

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 10

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Literacy in History/Social Studies, World History guides Grade 10 students through a thematic and chronological exploration of global civilizations, from ancient times to the modern era. Students engage in analyzing primary and secondary sources, evaluating historical evidence, and constructing evidence-based arguments. Topics include the development of political systems, revolutions, industrialization, imperialism, global conflicts, and modern global interdependence. Emphasis is placed on developing critical reading, writing, speaking, and research skills essential for college and career readiness.

Psychology

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 11 - 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Psychology is a comprehensive introduction to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Students examine major psychological theories, foundational research studies, and real-world applications. Topics include brain function, learning and memory, developmental psychology, personality, and mental health. Emphasis is placed on inquiry, ethical research, and critical analysis. Aligned with CCSS for Literacy in History/Social Studies, this course supports the development of skills in reading comprehension, analytical writing, and evidence-based reasoning.

Economics: Macroeconomics & Microeconomics

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 11

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

This course introduces students to key economic principles through the lenses of both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Students explore market structures, supply and demand, fiscal and monetary policy, international trade, and economic indicators. Aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Literacy in History/Social Studies, students develop analytical reading, data interpretation, and persuasive writing skills. The course emphasizes practical applications of economic thinking, empowering students to understand the global economy and make informed personal and civic financial decisions. and connect biological concepts across scales (aligned to College Board AP Biology and NGSS Life Science standards). Strong emphasis is placed on inquiry, argumentation, and interdisciplinary connections across biology and biotechnology.

Advanced Economics: Macroeconomics & Microeconomics

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 11 - 12

Prerequisite: NONE (Recommended: Introductory Social Studies or Economics course)

Course Description:

This advanced course offers an in-depth study of economic theory and its real-world applications, focusing on both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Students critically examine topics such as market dynamics, the role of government in the economy, labor and capital markets, economic growth, inflation, unemployment, fiscal and monetary policy, and global trade. Emphasis is placed on analyzing current economic events, interpreting data and trends, and constructing evidence-based arguments.

Aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Literacy in History/Social Studies, this course enhances students' skills in critical reading, data analysis, and academic writing. Through case studies, simulations, and problem-solving tasks, students apply economic reasoning to complex issues, preparing them for future studies in economics, business, or political science. The course cultivates economically literate individuals capable of making informed decisions as global citizens.

Sociology

Credit: 1.0 | Grade: 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Sociology explores the structure and dynamics of human society and how social relationships shape behavior. Students examine topics such as culture, socialization, gender, race, class, deviance, institutions, and social change. Through analysis of case studies, real-world data, and contemporary issues, students develop sociological thinking and understand the impact of social forces on individuals and communities. The course is aligned with the CCSS for Literacy in History/Social Studies and emphasizes critical reading, discussion, and research skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (2025–2026)

Credit: Physical Education		
Course Description	Credit	Grade Level(s)
Physical Education 9	0.5	9
Physical Education 10	0.5	10
Physical Education 11	0.5	11
Physical Education 12	0.5	12

Physical Education 9 and 10

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9 - 10

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

The Physical Education program in Grades 9 and 10 focuses on the development of fundamental movement skills, physical fitness, and cooperative gameplay. Students participate in team sports, individual activities, and fitness routines designed to enhance endurance, flexibility, strength, and coordination. Emphasis is placed on healthy lifestyle habits, goal setting, and personal responsibility. The course promotes a positive attitude toward lifelong physical activity and aligns with the California Physical Education Standards.

Physical Education 11 and 12

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 11 – 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

PE for Grades 11 and 12 focuses on advanced skill development, leadership, and personal fitness planning. Students explore a range of physical activities including sports, weight training, aerobics, and wellness education. Emphasis is placed on self-directed fitness, injury prevention, and lifelong health goals. The course supports social-emotional growth and the development of responsible decision-making in health-related behaviors, aligned with California Physical Education Standards.

CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS ELECTIVES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (2025–2026)

Credit: Business		
Course Description	Credit	Grade Level(s)
Entrepreneurship	0.5	11, 12
Business Studies 1	0.5	11
Business Studies 2	0.5	12
Accounting	0.5	10, 11, 12
Advance Accounting	0.5	12

Business Studies 1

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 11

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Business Studies 1 introduces students to the foundational concepts of the business world. Topics include business organization, marketing, management, human resources, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Students explore real-world applications through case studies, simulations, and project-based learning. The course fosters critical thinking, decision-making, and communication skills essential for success in both higher education and the workplace. It also supports career readiness and aligns with 21st-century business competencies.

Business Studies 2

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 10

Prerequisite: Business Studies 1

Course Description:

Business Studies 2 builds on the foundation established in Business Studies 1, offering students a deeper exploration into advanced business concepts and practices. The course covers strategic management, financial analysis, business law, global markets, and ethical decision-making. Students engage in case studies, simulations, and the development of a mini business plan. Emphasis is placed on analytical thinking, leadership, and effective communication to prepare students for post-secondary business education and real-world career paths.

Entrepreneurship

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 10

Prerequisite: Business Studies 1

Course Description:

Entrepreneurship provides students with the knowledge and skills to develop, plan, and launch a business. Students explore innovation, opportunity recognition, business planning, marketing strategies, budgeting, and risk assessment. Through case studies, simulations, and hands-on projects, students gain insights into the entrepreneurial mindset and problem-solving in real-world business contexts. The course encourages creativity, resilience, and initiative - core competencies for 21st-century career success.

Accounting

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Accounting introduces students to the fundamental principles and procedures of financial accounting. Topics include the accounting cycle, journalizing transactions, preparing financial statements, and basic bookkeeping techniques. Students learn how to apply accounting practices in personal and business contexts, enhancing their financial literacy and attention to detail. This course is ideal for students interested in business, finance, or entrepreneurship.

Advance Accounting

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 12

Prerequisite: Accounting

Course Description:

Advanced Accounting builds on the foundational skills developed in Accounting. Students deepen their understanding of accounting concepts, focusing on topics such as payroll accounting, inventory management, partnership and corporate accounting, and financial statement analysis. Emphasis is placed on accuracy, ethics, and real-world applications. This course prepares students for advanced business studies and potential careers in finance or accounting.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (2025–2026)

Credit: Information Technology		
Course Description	Credit	Grade Level(s)
Coding and Robotics	0.5	9, 10
Computer Science	0.5	9, 10
Design and Technology	0.5	10, 11
Programming / Coding	0.5	11, 12

Coding and Robotics

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9, 10

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of computer programming and robotics engineering. Students learn to write code using block-based and text-based programming languages such as Python or C++, and apply their knowledge to control and automate robotic systems. Topics include algorithms, loops, sensors, motors, and basic engineering design. Hands-on activities and real-world challenges encourage collaboration, logical thinking, and innovation. This course supports 21st-century skills in STEM and prepares students for more advanced study in computer science and engineering fields.

Computer Science

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 9, 10

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Computer Science introduces students to the foundational concepts of computing and computational thinking. Students explore topics such as binary systems, algorithms, programming structures, data handling, and the ethical impacts of technology. Through interactive projects and coding tasks, they gain experience in problem-solving and logical reasoning using languages such as Python or JavaScript. This course builds digital fluency and prepares students for further study in programming, cybersecurity, and software development. Emphasis is placed on creativity, collaboration, and the responsible use of technology in a global society.

Design and Technology

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 10, 11

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

Design & Technology challenges students to think creatively and solve real-world problems through the design process. Students explore product design, prototyping, and fabrication using a range of materials and digital tools. Topics include user-centered design, sustainability, digital modeling (CAD), and iterative development. The course promotes hands-on learning and innovation while developing technical and collaborative skills. It prepares students for future studies in engineering, architecture, product development, and related design fields.

Programming

Credit: 0.5 | Grade: 11, 12

Prerequisite: Computer Science or Coding & Robotics recommended

Course Description:

Programming provides students with a deeper understanding of coding languages and software development principles. Students build functional programs and applications using Python, Java, or similar languages while learning about data structures, functions, debugging, and object-oriented programming. Through individual and group projects, students develop computational thinking and problem-solving skills in real-world contexts. This course is ideal for students interested in pursuing careers in computer science, app development, or technology innovation.



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