

A student with long hair, wearing safety goggles and a white lab coat over a dark sweater, is focused on a task in a laboratory. She is holding a glass beaker with one hand and a pipette with the other, carefully transferring liquid. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with shelves and equipment. The entire image has a blue color cast.

MERCY
Academy

*CLASSES IN PROBLEM-SOLVING
AND CRIME-SOLVING.*

PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2017-2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Graduation Requirements	3
Kentucky Pre-College Curriculum	4
Academic Levels	5
STEM Curriculum Framework	6
Course Descriptions	
Business and Technology.....	7
English.....	12
Fine Arts.....	16
Health and Physical Education.....	20
Mathematics.....	21
Science.....	26
Social Studies.....	33
Theology.....	40
World Languages.....	43

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements for the State of Kentucky are as follows:

English	4 credits
Algebra 1	1 credit
Geometry	1 credit
Algebra 2	1 credit
Math Elective	1 credit
Biology	1 credit
Physics or Chemistry	1 credit
Science Elective	1 credit
World Civilization	1 credit
U.S. History	1 credit
Social Studies Elective	1 credit
Health and Physical Education	1 credit
Fine Arts	1 credit
Electives	6 credits

Total	22 credits
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Mercy Academy requires students to earn the following additional credits to receive a diploma:

Theology	4 credits
Technology	1 credit
Elective	1 credit

Total	28 credits
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KENTUCKY PRE-COLLEGE CURRICULUM

*Kentucky Department of Education
four-year university pre-college curriculum requirements:*

English	4 credits
Algebra 1	1 credit
Geometry	1 credit
Algebra 2	1 credit
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Health	½ credit
Physical Education	½ credit
Arts Elective (visual or performing)	1 credit
World Language (two consecutive years of the same language)	2 credits
Electives (five rigorous)	7 credits
Total	24 credits

Students must take math all four years of high school. The fourth math class can be counted as an elective. Rigorous electives should have academic content at least as challenging as the courses required in the minimum diploma requirements. Electives should be in social studies, science, math, language arts, arts and humanities, world language, and above the introductory level in agriculture, industrial technology, business, marketing, family and consumer sciences, health sciences, and technology education and career pathways. Electives in physical education and health are limited to one-half unit each.

MERCY ACADEMY ACADEMIC LEVELS

At Mercy, we develop each student to her greatest potential by providing an environment for maximum growth, at a level commensurate with her individual abilities.

AP Advanced Placement (AP) classes are college-level courses available for students with high ability and a strong desire for highly challenging work.

Advanced Focuses on higher order thinking skills and abstraction while requiring more independence and initiative in a fast-paced environment.

Honors I Emphasizes a rigorous college-prep curriculum that challenges interested students considering Advanced or AP coursework in the future.

Honors 2 Challenges students through an individualized college-prep curriculum that meets the demands of the 21st century.

Academic Utilizes content mastery and essential skills in a highly structured, individualized classroom.

MERCY ACADEMY **STEM** CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Mercy's formalized STEM program provides students with unmatched educational experiences inside and outside the classroom through an interdisciplinary curriculum in science, math, technology and engineering subjects. The program exposes students to fields that most do not experience until college, by preparing them for an in-demand, male-dominated STEM job market through community partnerships and extended day opportunities.

Mercy's STEM curriculum includes the following course offerings:

Science:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Ecology
- Forensics
- Biomedical Science

STEM partners:

- Bowman Field Air+Space Academy
- Dow Corning
- General Electric
- Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana
- Jewish Hospital
- Kentucky Science Center
- Louisville Gas & Electric
- Mammoth Cave
- National Parks Department
- Speed Engineering School
- University of Kentucky
- University of Louisville
- Western Kentucky University
- Metropolitan Sewer District

STEM program highlights:

- Build and program robots to test solutions to real-world problems
- Code hummingbird robots to create computer-based simulations of ecological problems
- Communicate using scientific and technical language used in STEM fields
- Conduct forensic investigations, simulate infectious disease testing and genetic screening using DNA equipment used in the field
- Debate privacy law while designing, building and coding fully functional drones
- Explore STEM careers through job shadowing
- Simulate surgical interventions and explore prototype development in prosthetics
- Uncover never-before-seen waterways and marine wildlife utilizing submersible robots
- Utilize 3-D printers to translate two-dimensional drawings into 3-D models

Math:

- Algebra 1
- Algebra 2/Trigonometry
- Geometry
- College Algebra
- Pre-Calculus

Engineering and Technology:

- Engineering Design
- Digital Media Design
- Technology 1/Intro to STEM

AP:

- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Physics
- AP Statistics

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Business and Technology

Accounting 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to juniors and seniors

This course focuses on the accounting principles dealing with double entry accounting. Activities are based on the steps of the accounting cycle and include preparing worksheets, recording in journals, posting to ledgers, and preparation of financial statements, as well as topics such as payroll and taxes. All work is done using financial software.

Advanced Accounting

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Open to juniors and seniors

This course is an introduction to the principles and practices of financial information, interpretation, and analysis. It also focuses on the concepts of planning and control in decision making, manufacturing and cost accounting, product pricing, allocating of scarce resources, and budgeting.

Advanced Economics

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Open to juniors and seniors

This course studies the branch of economics that focuses on the economy as a whole, as well as the branch of economics that focuses specifically on how decisions are made by individuals, firms, and government units, with emphasis being placed mainly on market structure. The course includes outside events that provide opportunities for students to partner with professionals in E-STEM fields.

AP Economics

AP Credit

Prerequisite: Fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to juniors and seniors

Macroeconomics focuses on the economy as a whole. It is concerned with the overall level of economic activity rather than with detailed individual choices. Topics include inflation, unemployment, business cycles, taxation, and fiscal and monetary policy. Microeconomics focuses specifically on how decisions are made by individuals, firms, and government units, with emphasis being placed mainly on market structure. The course includes outside events that provide opportunities for students to partner with professionals in E-STEM fields. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Business Law

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to juniors and seniors

This course develops an understanding of legal rights and responsibilities in both personal and business law. Application activities are applied to the everyday role of consumers, citizens, and workers. Students gain an understanding of the American legal system, including both civil and criminal law.

Entrepreneurship

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to juniors and seniors

This course provides the opportunity to explore the rewards and risks of business ownership. Emphasis is given to successful entrepreneurs as they deal with planning, organizing, and maintaining a business. Students deal specifically with managing a retail business; supervision of employees; the efficient use of personnel, time, facilities, and finances; promotional material; communication; marketing; and human relations. Students learn first-hand through the use of integrated computer software that simulates real-life business situations.

Broadcast 1 & 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisites: Approval from English and social studies teachers

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This course teaches students the skills required to create and produce broadcast programs and news stories. Students learn about the power of journalism and its effect on contemporary mass media. Students are required to create a daily news broadcast using state-of-the-art Tricaster equipment.

Yearbook & Online Journalism 1 & 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Approval from teacher

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This course is designed to teach the basics of print and non-print journalism through the production of the yearbook and an on-line newspaper. This is accomplished through the use of photography, graphics writing, technology, and interviewing. Although all of these skills are important, creativity is essential. Students in the class are expected to sell ads to help finance the yearbook. Second year students have additional leadership responsibilities.

Advanced Yearbook & Online Journalism 2

Advanced Credit

Prerequisites: Journalism 1/Yearbook and Online Newspaper and approval from teacher

Open to juniors and seniors

This course is an option for those students who have taken the first year of Yearbook and are willing to take on the extra rigor associated with an advanced-level course. In addition to the typical expectations of Journalism 2 students, students in Advanced Journalism 2 must take on the duty of yearbook editor. In the spring, after they have expressed interest in Advanced Journalism 2, the students meet with the instructor, who assigns them to the editor role. It is also expected that Advanced Journalism 2 students spend at least an average of two hours a week working on the yearbook outside of class time. Included in this are regular meetings with the instructor and the other editors and producers.

Journalism 3/Multi-Media

Honors Credit

Prerequisites: Two years of journalism courses and approval from the teacher

Open to seniors

This course is open to seniors who have successfully completed either Broadcasting 1 and 2 or Yearbook and Online Journalism 1 and 2. Students should be interested in pursuing a career in some area of journalism. Work varies depending on previous journalism courses taken, but students are expected to complete tasks that have much responsibility and must be able to work independently on projects.

Speech and Communications

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This course is designed to strengthen communication skills through public speaking. Students explore interpersonal communication including verbal and nonverbal messages and develop speeches for a variety of purposes and audiences. Research and technology are incorporated in preparing both individual and group presentations.

Technology 1/Introduction to STEM

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Required for freshmen

This performance-based course introduces fundamental computer concepts, robotics, STEM career exploration and introduction to coding and programming. Students use 21st century skills to build, program and test creative solutions through the use of Lego MindStorm EV3 robotics sets. Students collaborate through hands-on experiences using an array of sensors, motors, and intelligent units. Throughout the course, students practice workplace software applications, understand and interpret two-dimensional drawings to create three-dimensional models, brainstorm and troubleshoot designs, and use mathematical concepts such as estimation and measurement of distance, time, and speed through a scientific and technical lens.

Prerequisite: None

Open to all sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This performance-based course introduces students to multi-channel marketing strategies. This is achieved through the use of web and mobile design, photo-editing software, 3-D drawing, database management software, social networking tools, search engine optimization and legal/ethical concerns as they relate to the promotion of a business. Students develop skills to effectively use various digital media platforms in order to effectively promote a product or service.

English

English 1 – Academic

Academic Credit

Prerequisites: None

Required for freshmen

In this course, students increase their understanding of English grammar and the writing process through the reading of a wide variety of texts. Special emphasis is given to organizational and writing skills that allow students to excel across the curriculum.

English 1 – Honors 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisites: None

Required for freshmen

In this course, students work on honing the writing and reading abilities they developed in middle school. This course prepares students for success in the classroom through improving reading comprehension and writing skills. Students develop critical thinking and research skills through exploration of texts from a wide variety of traditions, and focus their study of literature on the areas of theme, plot structure, and characterization.

English 1 – Honors 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisites: None

Required for freshmen

In this course, students engage in a more sophisticated exploration of literary genres (poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction prose) and composition. Students learn techniques of literary analysis, research, critical thinking skills, and argumentative writing through the reading of various texts.

English 1 – Advanced

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Open to freshmen

This course presents students with a challenging assortment of texts and performance tasks that prepare them for studying literature at the highest levels. Students in the advanced band of study within the English Department encounter additional novels and plays to further develop their ability to argue positions convincingly using both the written and spoken word.

English 2 – Academic

Academic Credit

Prerequisite: English 1

Required for sophomores

In this course, students focus on further developing both their comprehension and composition abilities through the study of American literature. Students will develop their written and communication skills through literary analysis. This class also prepares students to move into the Honors program in their junior year.

English 2 – Honors 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: English 1 – Honors 2 or department recommendation

Required for sophomores

In this course, students continue to participate in performance tasks that require analysis and critical thinking from the perspective of American literature. Students develop their understanding of how a specific time period can have an influence on the literature produced at the time. Students continue to build on the techniques of literary analysis, research, and argumentative writing.

English 2 – Honors 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: English 1 – Honors 1 or department recommendation

Required for sophomores

In this course, students take the study of American literature to a more challenging level. Students have more choice in the selection of performance task topics, which encourage them to create their own view of the literary world. Students identify and analyze how a specific time period can have an influence on the literature produced at the time. Students build on the techniques of authentic literary analysis, research, and argumentative writing.

English 2 – Advanced

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: Advanced English 1 or department recommendation

Open to sophomores

In this course, students take the study of American literature to the highest level. Students are challenged through various performance tasks, which require them to use critical thinking and analysis skills in order to support their thinking using both the written and spoken word. Students analyze and argue how a specific time period can have an influence on the literature produced at the time. Special focus is given to authentic literary research and argumentative paper development in order to create their own view of the literary world.

English 3 – Honors 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: English 2

Required for juniors

In this course, students study literature in the British tradition. From the epic poem *Beowulf* to the novel of DuMaurier, students focus on poetry and prose from the beginning of the English language to the present day. Special emphasis is placed on the effect of the history and place, on literature, and the evolution of the English language. Students continue to build written and communication skills using literary analysis and argumentative writing.

English 3 – Honors 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: English 2

Required for juniors

In this course, students study literature in the British tradition to a more challenging level. Students explore *Beowulf*, *Canterbury Tales*, *Sir Gawain*, Shakespeare and more while developing a strong sense of how literature is influenced by time. Students participate in Socratic Seminars, original research, close reading of text and analysis of literary critiques. Students continue to build on their written and communication skills using literary analysis and argumentative writing.

Advanced English 3

Advanced Credit

Prerequisites: Advanced English 2 or department recommendation

Open to juniors

In this course, students take the study of the British literary tradition to the highest level. Through the use of gender, historical, and social criticism, students encounter the works of Shakespeare, Milton, and Brontë amongst others. From Socratic Seminars to original research, this course challenges students to think for themselves both about literature and life.

English 4

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: English 3

Required for all seniors

In this course, students spend the year further exploring various literary traditions such as Modern and Post Modern American Literature; the Southern Gothic; and Shakespearean, and Modern tragedies. Special emphasis is placed on college level writing, MLA style, research, and the close reading of texts.

Advanced English 4

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: Advanced English 3 or department recommendation

Open to seniors

In this course, students spend the year further exploring various literary traditions such as Modern and Post Modern American Literature; the Southern Gothic; and Greek, Shakespearean, and Modern tragedies. Emphasis is placed on college level writing, MLA style, research, and the close reading of texts. Special attention is given to the college application process, especially the college application essay.

AP English Literature

AP Credit

Prerequisites: Fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to seniors

AP English Literature students study a wide spectrum of plays, poems, and novels as they conduct research into works and schools of literary thought, compose original sonnets and essays, and debate a wide range of topics. This course offers students who are interested in literature and writing a unique opportunity to explore topics at a deeper level than they might be able to in the typical English course. Special emphasis is placed on the development of argument and voice in the defense of original thought. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Creative Writing

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to all juniors and seniors

Mercy is proud to boast an award-winning creative writing program. Over the past several years, students in the class have won both local and national awards, including the prestigious Actor's Theater New Voices Ten Minute Play Competition. Students in this course write creatively and expressively in a wide variety of forms including poetry, narratives, short stories, and plays. Students are also encouraged to participate in the annual National Novel Writing Month (nanowrimo.org) each November.

Fine Arts

Art 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to all students

This course is for students who are interested in the fine arts. Art 1 students simply may intend to explore and develop their artistic abilities or may want to begin building a portfolio of work for the future. Art 1 develops students' skills in observation, drawing, printmaking, and painting different styles and subjects. In addition to creative work, students also learn about various artists, styles, and schools, as well as begin to critique artwork in an objective rather than subjective way.

Art 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Art 1

Open to all sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This course is for students who have previous experience in art and wish to further pursue and develop their artistic skills and knowledge. Students work with a variety of material including cut paper, paint, clay, and more. In addition to creative work, students learn about various artists, styles, and schools, as well as continue to critique artwork in an objective way.

Art 3

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: Art 2

Open to all juniors and seniors

This course is for students who wish to build a portfolio for college, scholarships, or themselves. Students develop more advanced skills in using style, technique, and materials learned in Art 1 and 2, as well as complete works to include in their portfolio. In addition to creative work, students also learn about various artists, styles, and schools, as well as continue to critique artwork in an objective rather than subjective way.

Art 4

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: Art 3

Open to all seniors

This course is for developing fine artists interested in integrating a high school art experience. Students work in new and past media, finalize her portfolio, and prepare to study art in the future if she wishes. Continued study of art history and criticism is included.

AP Studio Art

AP credit

Prerequisites: Art 3, teacher recommendation, and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

AP credit: open to seniors

Advanced Placement Studio Art is an intensive college-level course in the visual arts. This course is intended for students who wish to earn college-level credit in a high school environment. Students are required to complete an AP Art portfolio issued through the College Board. Each student interested in AP Studio Art is required to fill out an application and submit a portfolio for review to determine if the student is eligible to enroll in this course. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Choral Music 1, 2, 3, 4

Honors credit

Prerequisite: none

Open to all freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Choir is a performance-based ensemble structure with an emphasis on the student's aesthetic experience with music. Daily rehearsals focus on singing technique, music theory, and sight-reading; thereby enhancing the student's ability to experience music to its fullest intent. Repertoire (music) sung reflects a wide variety of genres and styles. Each semester ends in a culminating performance.

Advanced Choral Music

Advanced Credit

Prerequisites: Teacher interview and audition

Open to all sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This course is designed for Mercy Academy's acapella group, *The Stilettones*. It is intended to challenge the student with advanced musical training and skill. In addition to the activities described in Choir 1, 2, 3 and 4, the advanced students will attend an acapella festival and may audition for state performance opportunities. The audition for Advanced Choral Music is designed to assess music reading ability, signing techniques, and desire to study singing at an advanced level.

AP Music Theory

AP Credit

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation

Open to all juniors and seniors

AP Music Theory corresponds to two semesters of a typical introductory college music theory course covering topics such as musicianship, theory, musical materials, and procedures. Students develop the ability to recognize, understand, and describe basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. Development of aural skills is a primary objective. Students understand basic concepts and terminology by listening to and performing a wide variety of music. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Engineering Design

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to all students

This course is for all students interested in the creative process utilized in engineering, technology and design fields. Students produce both 2D and 3D projects, utilizing state of the art design 3-D equipment and CAD software. Students use various manufacturing techniques seen in multiple STEM fields from traditional printing, to laser cutting and 3-D printing. Through the study and implementation of Stanford University's Design Thinking Process, students demonstrate an understanding of industry standard styles and processes to solve real-world problems.

Theater Arts 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Theatre Arts offers an experiential approach to drama. Students study theatre history, costuming, and staging methods, as well as acting and improvisation skills. The class develops technical skills by assisting with two drama productions. The goal of this course is to provide students with an appreciation for drama through personal experience.

Theater Arts 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Theater Arts 1

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

In Theatre Arts 2, students study various acting and directing styles. The course culminates with a One Act play directed by students. Students develop scenes in class and hone their improvisation skills. The course also takes a more in-depth look at theatre history.

Technical Theater

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to all students

This course focuses on the technical aspect of theatre, including costumes, set, props, sound, and lights. Students learn about each area and assist with each production throughout the year. Students also have an opportunity to work alongside professional technicians who will mentor students as guest designers. Classes are primarily production-oriented.

Health and Physical Education

Physical Education & Health	Honors Credit
<p>Prerequisite: None Required for sophomores</p> <p><u>Physical Education:</u> The goal of physical education is to encourage students to incorporate fitness and exercise as a part of a healthy lifestyle. Students assess their personal fitness level and plan ways to improve upon this. Through participation in recreational games, sports, individual fitness, and other exercise, students are exposed to activities designed to motivate them to continue to pursue physical fitness throughout their lives.</p> <p><u>Health:</u> The goal of this course is to raise student awareness in health topics. Students participate in classroom activities designed to promote wellness and healthy life-styles. Prevention activities and social issues are integrated throughout. Topics include nutrition, diseases, fitness, relationships, basic anatomy, drug and alcohol education, stress management, and other related issues.</p>	

Women's Health Issues & Fitness	Honors Credit
<p>Prerequisite: None Semester course: Open to all seniors</p> <p><u>Women's Health Issues:</u> This course examines health issues particular to women. It includes an in-depth view of overall wellness, including physical, emotional, mental, intellectual, spiritual, and occupational health. Within the course, students examine social issues and their impact on healthy relationships. Students develop health literacy to deepen understanding of topics such as: body image, stress, mental health, sports-related injury, and more.</p> <p><u>Women's Fitness:</u> In this course, students learn how to balance, integrate, and coordinate various aspects of health into their everyday living. Students obtain information on personal health status through various assessments and use this to develop a physical fitness plan for overall health and wellness. Students are expected to participate in two 5k runs to exhibit community health advocacy, as well as to promote a lifestyle of wellness.</p>	

Mathematics

Algebra 1 (Part 1)

Academic Credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Open to freshmen

This course is designed to cover traditional Algebra 1 in a two-year period for students who need additional instruction time. It covers all the essentials of basic algebra. The emphasis in this course is on basic problem-solving techniques and graphing.

Algebra 1 (Part 2)

Academic Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (Part 1)

Open to all freshmen

This course is the second part of the sequence which is designed to cover traditional Algebra 1 in a two-year period of time. (See Algebra 1 [Part 1] for more information.)

Algebra 1 – Honors 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Open to freshmen

This course provides students with a strong foundation in algebra, graphing, and problem-solving, while providing additional reinforcement in the development of these skills. Emphasis is placed on real world application.

Algebra 1 – Honors 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Open to freshmen

This course prepares students with a strong foundation in algebra, graphing, and problem-solving skills with emphasis on real world applications.

Advanced Algebra 1

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Open to freshmen

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth level of instruction at an accelerated pace. The course guides students in the development of critical thinking skills and algebraic problem-solving skills which provide the foundation for real-world problem-solving. It is targeted to highly motivated students with previous algebra coursework.

Geometry - Academic

Academic Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Open to sophomores and juniors

This course covers the basic concepts of Euclidean Geometry both in planes and in space. An emphasis is placed on geometric figures and their properties and relationships, while providing additional reinforcement to the development of these skills from a real-world perspective.

Geometry - Honors 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 – Honors 2 or department recommendation

Open to sophomores and juniors

This course covers the basic concepts of Euclidean Geometry both in planes and in space. An emphasis is placed on geometric figures and their properties and relationships, while providing additional reinforcement to the development of these skills from a real-world perspective.

Geometry - Honors 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or department recommendation

Open to sophomores and juniors

This course covers the basic concepts of Euclidean Geometry both in planes and in space, including an introduction to proof and analytical thinking. An emphasis is placed on real-world applications when understanding geometric figures, their properties and relationships.

Advanced Geometry	Advanced Credit
<p>Prerequisites: Advanced Algebra 1 and department recommendation</p> <p>Open to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors</p> <p>Designed for the advanced-level student, this course covers the standard content of Euclidean geometry, but with greater intensity and emphasis on proof and analytical thinking.</p>	

Algebra 2/Trigonometry – Academic	Academic Credit
<p>Prerequisite: Geometry</p> <p>Open to juniors and seniors</p> <p>This course incorporates the remediation of concepts covered in Algebra 1 while exploring the Algebra 2 concepts of quadratics and polynomials. Emphasis is placed on shifting from remediation to practical application.</p>	

Algebra 2/Trigonometry – Honors 2	Honors Credit
<p>Prerequisite: Geometry</p> <p>Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors</p> <p>This course further explains on the content covered in Algebra 1, while exploring the concepts of quadratics, polynomials and trigonometry. While emphasis is placed on application, additional reinforcement is provided in the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills.</p>	

Algebra 2/Trigonometry – Honors 1	Honors Credit
<p>Prerequisite: Advanced Geometry and teacher recommendation</p> <p>Open to sophomores and juniors</p> <p>This course further expands on the content covered in Algebra 1, while exploring the concepts of quadratics, polynomials and trigonometry. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills and real world application.</p>	

Advanced Algebra 2/Trigonometry

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: Geometry

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This course provides an in-depth level of instruction at an accelerated pace, providing the foundation for success in higher-level math courses. Focus is on functions including quadratic, polynomial and trigonometric.

Honors College Algebra

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry and teacher recommendation

Open to seniors

This course begins with a review of basic topics from Algebra 1 and then covers more advanced material, such as quadratic equations, functions, and trigonometry. An emphasis is made on graphing and applications.

College Algebra – Advanced

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: Advanced or Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry and teacher recommendation

Open to juniors and seniors

Designed for the advanced-level students, this course prepares students for college algebra through an in-depth study and expansion of algebra concepts. The focus is on rational functions, quadratic relations, periodic functions and trigonometry, and logarithms and exponential functions.

Precalculus

Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra 2/Trigonometry and teacher recommendation

Open to juniors and seniors

Designed for advanced-level math students, this course prepares students for the study of calculus by providing an in-depth study and expansion of the concepts learned in Algebra 2/Trig. The focus is on polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, analytical trigonometry and geometry, polar functions, and probability.

AP Calculus AB

AP Credit

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to seniors

This course covers the first semester of college calculus. Students learn limits, differentiation, integration, and their applications. The AP test is comprehensive and rigorous, so students should expect a fast-paced course with a significant amount of practice problems. Additional time outside of the regular class period may be necessary and is arranged by the teacher and student if needed. Students are required to take the AP exam.

AP Calculus BC

AP Credit

Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to seniors

This course covers the first and second semester of college calculus and extends content learned in Calculus AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequences and series. The AP course cover topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. Students learn how to use technology to solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions. Additional time outside of the regular class period may be necessary and is arranged by the teacher and student if needed. Students are required to take the AP exam.

AP Statistics

AP Credit

Prerequisites: Calculus and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to seniors

This course is offered through an accredited virtual high school. Students are responsible for the additional cost of the course. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Science

Biology – Academic	Academic Credit
Prerequisite: None Open to all freshmen This course introduces students to biology, the study of the living world. Topics to be covered include the nature of science, ecology, cell biology, and basic genetics. An emphasis is placed on an understanding of the parts of the scientific method, and laboratory experiences are used to enrich and strengthen concepts and necessary skills.	
Biology – Honors 2	Honors Credit
Prerequisite: None Open to all freshmen Biology is the study of living organisms, and this first-year course focuses on the major themes of the living world. Topics to be covered include the nature of science, ecology, cell biology, genetics, classification/taxonomy, and evolution. Laboratory experiences, such as quantitative experimentation, microscope usage, and dissection, are used to enrich learning and teach skills. An emphasis is placed on the application of the scientific method to the world around us.	
Biology – Honors 1	Honors Credit
Prerequisite: None Open to all freshmen This course covers all topics studied in Biology – Honors 2, but with greater depth and an increased pace. This more demanding course has a stronger emphasis on problem-based thinking and the application of the scientific method. Laboratory experiences are also employed to support content and teach basic skills, but students are expected to respond to open inquiry with their own well-designed experimentation.	

Biology – Advanced

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to freshmen

Advanced Biology is the most rigorous first-year science course. In this class, students build upon a strong foundation of science knowledge to take a deeper look at the living world. Topics to be covered include a more detailed approach to those covered in biology, with the addition of biochemistry, metabolism, and applied genetics. Advanced laboratory experiences are used to support course content, and an emphasis is placed on scientific writing and problem-based thinking. Assessments in this fast-paced course challenge students to think critically and exhibit content mastery.

Biomedical Science

Advanced Credit

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, and department recommendation

Open to juniors and seniors

The goal of the biomedical science course is to lay the foundation for college-level biology coursework with an in-depth survey of biological topics through the lens of human medicine in the context of STEM. In this course, students learn advanced biological concepts with a focus on diagnosis and treatment of disease. Students learn the necessary communication and problem solving skills involved in the medical profession through the study of radiology, infectious disease and surgical intervention. Hands-on collaborative lab experience and dissection enhance the understanding of the principles studied through real-world experiences.

AP Biology

AP Credit

Prerequisites: Advanced Chemistry and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to juniors and seniors

AP Biology is the equivalent of a first-year college biology course. Guided by the major principles of evolution, homeostasis, biological interaction, and cellular genetics, students develop an appreciation for the study of life and identify and understand unifying principles within a diversified biological world. A major focus of this course is the process of inquiry, as students apply data analysis, mathematics, and questioning skills to a range of problems in the investigative laboratory component of the curriculum. Lab experiments and preparation for the AP exam may require time outside of class. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Conceptual Physics – Honors 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to sophomores

This course covers the major topics of physics with an integrated application of algebra when studying basic laws. Students study the laws of motion, vectors, gravity, energy, structure of matter, states of matter, heat, light and sound, electricity, and magnetism with an emphasis on the Scientific Method. Lab experiences and demonstrations are used to develop course concepts.

Conceptual Physics – Honors 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to sophomores

This course covers the major topics of physics with greater depth and an increased pace with an integrated application of algebra when studying basic laws. Students study the laws of motion, vectors, gravity, energy, structure of matter, states of matter, heat, light and sound, electricity, and magnetism with an emphasis on the Scientific Method. This high-demand course has an emphasis on problem-based thinking. Student-designed laboratory experiments are employed to support content and teach skills.

Advanced Physics

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to juniors and seniors who have not had Conceptual Physics

This course covers the major topics of physics: mechanics, properties of matter, heat, sound, electricity and magnetism, light, and atomic and nuclear physics. Although a "conceptual physics" text is used, it is supplemented with problem solving and laboratory enhancements. The challenge level of the supplementary materials is well above conceptual physics, with frequent mathematical problems and enhanced laboratory analysis. Lab experiences and demonstrations are used to develop the concepts.

AP Physics

AP Credit

Prerequisites: Algebra 2, fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria, and department recommendation

Open to juniors and seniors

This course presents, develops, and applies the concepts of mechanics, properties of matter, waves, sound and light, electricity and magnetism, and modern physics using higher-level mathematics. Labs and demonstrations further illustrate these principles with an emphasis on applications. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Chemistry – Honors 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Students must have taken or be enrolled in Algebra 2 – Honors 1/2

Open to juniors and seniors

This course covers the core ideas of chemistry, such as elements in the periodic table, structures of atoms and compounds, and the basic types of bonding. Core content is dependent upon mathematical skills and activities include many types of chemical calculations. Laboratory activities are used to enhance the understanding of the principles studied.

Chemistry – Honors 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisites: Biology and Conceptual Physics

Open to juniors and seniors in Geometry – Honors 1/2, or Algebra 2 – Honors 1/2 or department recommendation

This course focuses on the core concepts of chemistry, particularly those that apply to their daily lives. Students learn how to think about matter from the perspective of atoms and molecules, and make informed decision about chemistry-related issues that they encounter throughout their life experiences. Laboratory activities and other hands-on performance tasks are used to enhance the understanding of the principles studied.

Advanced Chemistry

Advanced Credit

Prerequisites: Students must enroll in Geometry – Honors 1 or Advanced Geometry, Algebra 2 – Honors 1 or Advanced Algebra 2, or Pre-Calculus.

Department approval required.

Open to sophomores and juniors

This course covers the basic concepts of atomic structure and periodicity, and then continues with a detailed study of chemical bonding, molecular geometry, chemical reactions and equations, stoichiometry, the effects of heat in chemical changes, and the states of matter. Lab experiences and demonstrations are used throughout the course to strengthen concepts and build lab skills. This course serves as a precursor to AP chemistry.

AP Chemistry

AP Credit

Prerequisites: Advanced Chemistry, students must enroll in Pre-Calculus or Advanced Algebra 2, and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to juniors and seniors

This course, designed for those students who will be required to take chemistry in college, will have a heavy quantitative emphasis. The first semester begins with finishing the states of matter, but in more detail, and then continues with solution chemistry, equilibrium, and acid-base theory. The second semester covers redox reactions, electrochemistry, nuclear chemistry, and introduce the students to organic and biochemistry. Lab skills, including titration techniques, are developed in greater depth. Students are required to take the AP exam.

AP Computer Science Principles

AP Credit

Prerequisites: Fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to juniors and seniors

This course introduces students to central ideas in computer science, and does not require any prior programming experience. It delves into methods and practices of computational thinking and places computer science ideas into the student's world at many levels from personal hobbies to world concerns. Creativity is central to this course, with students encouraged to invent computational artifacts to solve problems with personal relevance. This course uses multiple tools to teach students to analyze and study data, communicate computational ideas to others, and work both individually and collaboratively to generate computational tools. Two of the performance tasks from this course are submitted for the AP Computer Science Principles exam. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Anatomy & Physiology

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to juniors and seniors

This course focuses on the systems of the body, their structure, and function. It is enhanced by laboratory experiences and activities and culminates with a detailed dissection of the rat. Any student who is considering a career in medicine is advised to take this course, as well as any student interested in advancing her knowledge of the human body.

Prerequisites: Biology, Conceptual Physics or Chemistry, or currently enrolled in Chemistry

Open to juniors and seniors

Ecology: This course focuses on the interaction of organisms with their environments, with an emphasis on engineering solutions to current problems. Topics may include the spread of epidemic disease (such as Ebola), the causes and ecological effects of climate change, ecological effects of introducing genetically engineered organisms into the wild, the importance of biodiversity, population dynamics in a community (such as predator-prey relationships), and investigating the human microbiome (how we human beings interact with the trillions of microorganisms living in and on us). Evaluation is based on real-world tasks such as oral arguments (debates), writing position papers and lab reports, programming computer simulations of ecosystems, extending parts of the simulations into robotics using Arduino-based controllers and 3d-printed parts, and genetic engineering techniques. The semester final (midterm) consists of performing and presenting original research.

Forensic Science: Forensic science is the application of scientific principles and technological practices to solve crimes in the pursuit of justice. It is a multidisciplinary science, ranging from the physics and geometry involved in analyzing the trajectory and shape of blood spatter droplets to biometric analysis of bones, to the chemical analysis of trace materials, to DNA processing and analysis. Students will learn both the theory behind and the practical application of these and other forensic techniques in solving progressively more complex staged crimes. An important thread in modern criminal investigation is DNA evidence, and students will use PCR (polymerase chain reaction) to amplify trace amounts of DNA for forensic identification. Learning to approach problems from multiple points of view is crucial to professionals in this field, and students will develop that skill by challenging one another in "law enforcement vs criminal" scenarios. Evaluation is strongly geared towards problem-solving skills and proper application of forensic techniques.

Social Studies

Human Geography/Civics – Academic Academic Credit

Prerequisite: None

Required for freshmen

Human Geography: This semester-long course is an overview of the underlying principles and concepts of the social science of human geography. Human geography asks how human activity influences or is influenced by the Earth. Students use performance-based assessments to explore the critical issues that face the world as they relate to population, immigration, women, culture and more.

Civics: The primary content for this semester-long course is an overview of the principles, functions, and organization of government; the origins of the American political system; the roles, rights, responsibilities of United States citizens; and methods of active participation in our political system.

Human Geography/Civics – Honors 2 Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Required for freshmen

Human Geography: This semester-long course focuses on the underlying principles and concepts of the social science of human geography. Human geography asks how human activity influences or is influenced by the Earth. Students use critical-thinking skills to develop real world solutions to problems being faced around the world today relating to overpopulation, immigration, culture and much more.

Civics: This semester-long course focuses on the United States government, ones' individual role in government, and what one can do to participate and get involved with local, state and federal government. Topics for this course include the branches of government, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, elections, political parties and much more. Students have the opportunity to learn about modern issues facing the United States today and will work critically to discuss and debate solutions to these problems.

Prerequisite: None

Required for freshmen

Human Geography: This semester-long course focuses on the underlying principles and concepts of the social science of human geography. Human geography asks how human activity influences or is influenced by the Earth. This course will emphasize the development of 21st Century skills including collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving, effective oral and written communication, assessing and analyzing information, and curiosity for the world's people and places. Students use these skills to develop real world solutions to problems being faced around the world today relating to overpopulation, immigration, culture and much more.

Civics: This semester-long course focuses on the United States government, ones' individual role in government, and what one can do to participate and get involved with local, state and federal government. Topics for this course include the branches of government, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, elections, political parties and much more. Students have the opportunity to learn about modern issues facing the United States today and will use higher-order thinking skills to discuss and debate solutions to these problems.

Human Geography/Civics – Advanced

Advanced Credit

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Open to freshmen

Human Geography: This semester-long course focuses on the underlying principles and concepts of the social science of human geography. Human geography asks how human activity influences or is influenced by the Earth. Students use higher-order skills to develop real world solutions to problems being faced around the world today relating to overpopulation, immigration, culture, and much more. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking skills for advanced placement.

Civics: This semester-long course focuses on the United States government, one's individual role in government, and what one can do to participate and get involved with local, state and federal government. Topics for this course include the branches of government, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, elections, political parties and much more. Students have the opportunity to think critically about modern issues and use higher order-thinking skills to create possible solutions for problems being faced in our world today.

World Civilization – Honors 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Geography – Honors 2 or department recommendation

Required for sophomores

This survey course in world history uses a hands-on, individualized approach to cover the development of human civilizations from the ancient world to the present. The course studies the geographic, economic, political, and cultural forces that have affected human development, in order to draw conclusions about human social behavior that can be applied to modern, real-world issues and events. This course emphasizes the development of 21st century skills including critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, oral and written communication, and media literacy using a variety of activities and performance tasks tailored to individual student learning styles.

World Civilization – Honors 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Geography – Honors 1 or department recommendation

Required for sophomores

This detail-oriented course in world history covers the development of human civilizations from the ancient world to the present. The course studies the geographic, economic, political, and cultural forces that have affected human development, in order to draw conclusions about human social behavior that can be applied to modern, real-world issues and events. This course emphasizes the use of primary source documents and modern digital resources to develop and hone 21st century skills including, critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, effective oral and written communication, media literacy, and access to and analysis of information.

Advanced World Civilization

Advanced Credit

Prerequisites: Advanced Geography and department recommendation

Open to sophomores

Students study the development of world civilizations from approximately 2,500 BCE to the present. Students observe, analyze, and interpret human behavior, social groupings, and institutions throughout world history. The course includes a study of political and economic principles for understanding and applications to daily life. Students develop an in-depth historical perspective by analyzing and interpreting historical events, conditions, trends, and issues through primary and secondary sources. Emphasis includes developing critical and historical thinking skills for advanced placement.

U.S. History – Honors 2

Honors Credit

Prerequisites: None

Required for juniors

This course focuses on the United States from 1856 to the present. Students discuss geographical, economic, political, artistic, religious and cultural forces which have shaped the United States. An exploration of conflict, foreign policy and global independence are included in the development of the course content. This course emphasizes the development of 21st century skills including critical thinking and problem solving, oral and written communication, media literacy and access to and analysis of information. A variety of activities and performance tasks are tailored to the individual learner.

U.S. History – Honors 1

Honors Credit

Prerequisites: None

Required for juniors

This course focuses on the United States from 1856 to the present. Students discuss geographical, economic, political, artistic, religious and cultural forces which have shaped the United States. An exploration of conflict, foreign policy and global independence are included in the development of the course content. This course emphasizes the development of 21st century skills including critical thinking and problem solving, oral and written communication, media literacy and access to and analysis of information.

Advanced U.S. History

Advanced Credit

Prerequisites: Advanced World Civilization and department recommendation

Open to juniors

The development of the United States from 1865 to the present includes a discussion of the geographic, economic, political, artistic, religious, and cultural forces which have shaped the United States. Students develop an in-depth historical perspective by analyzing and interpreting historical events trends and issues.

AP U.S. History

AP Credit

Prerequisite: Fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to juniors

This course is equivalent to a college-level course and covers the development of the United States from the pre-Columbian period to the present. A substantial knowledge of social, cultural, political, economic, diplomatic, and military events relevant to the history of the United States is emphasized. Students develop an in-depth historical perspective by analyzing and interpreting historical events, conditions, trends, and issues through primary and secondary sources. Students are required to take the AP exam.

American Government/
Personal Economics

Honors
Credit

Prerequisite: None

Open to seniors

American Government: This course develops a practical understanding of local, state, and federal governments. Students develop a working, hands-on approach as to how our government affects our lives daily. The court systems, jury duty, jails, prisons, law enforcement, and many other areas of the legal system are covered. Speakers and field trips are included.

Personal Economics: This course is designed to help students understand how they fit into micro and macroeconomics. Practical economic issues faced on a daily basis are covered, such as: taxes, credit cards, balancing a checkbook, investing, purchasing cars and homes, and how to live debt free.

AP U.S. Government and Politics

AP Credit

Prerequisite: Fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to seniors

Students should have mastered the concepts of U.S. History and have above-average writing skills. The study of government and civics equips students to understand the nature of government and the unique characteristics of American representative democracy. Topics include the historical development of power, government structure, and the role of citizens in government. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Psychology/Sociology

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Semester courses: Open to seniors

Sociology: This course is a general introduction to the field of sociology. Students are expected to use the concepts, theories, and methods of sociology to analyze and explain the dynamics of the world around them. Topics to be studied include culture, deviance, social stratification, socialization, and social movements. Special emphasis is placed on practical application of sociological theory.

Psychology: This course is a general introduction to the field of psychology. Students are expected to use the concepts, theories, and methods of psychology to analyze and explain the behavior of humans and animals. Topics to be studied include human development, sensation and perception, learning, memory, psychological disorders, and motivation. Special emphasis is placed on practical applications of psychological theory.

AP Psychology

AP Credit

Prerequisites: Fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria and department recommendation

AP credit: Open to seniors

AP Psychology is the equivalent of a first-year college psychology introductory course. The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. This course includes the study of ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Students use theories methodology, research and schools of thought to analyze behavior, explain motivation and predict human response to stimuli. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Theology

Understanding God Through Scripture

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Semester course: Required for freshmen

Through an introduction to the Bible, students encounter the relationship between God and His people in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). Students learn how to read and interpret Scripture contextually and become familiar with its major sections, books, and literary styles. Through reflection on these sacred stories, they examine their own relationship with God.

Introducing Jesus Through the Gospels

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Semester course: Required for freshmen

This course enriches and deepens students' understanding of God through the person of Jesus Christ. Continuing the contextual approach of the fall semester, students examine the multiple perspectives of each of the four Gospels and the theology of the Blessed Trinity. In studying the Gospel message, students explore who Jesus is calling them to be.

Christology

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Semester course: Required for sophomores

The course examines the mystery of the Incarnation and how it informs our understanding of Christ as both example and savior. Students explore the historical Jesus and how our understanding of His message is influenced by the culture that He experienced. At the same time, we consider the relevance of Christ's message to our own culture and time, the redemptive nature of Jesus' suffering, and the impact of the Paschal Mystery in our dealing with suffering and loss.

The Church

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Semester course: Required for sophomores

This course explores Jesus' establishment of the Church through his chosen Apostles. Students examine five models of Church and consider how these models are lived out in the organization of the Church from the parish level to the universal Church. Students also explore the role of the clergy, the religious and lay members of the church in bringing Christ's message to bear on our daily lives and choices and seek to live out our own calling to be the One, Holy and Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Sacraments

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Semester course: Required for juniors

This course is designed to help students encounter Christ today in a full and real way through the sacraments, prayer, and development of their spirituality. Students intellectually and spiritually engage each of the sacraments of the Church. As a result of this course, students learn (and experience) the ways we are transformed into the Body of Christ and become signs and instruments of Christ in the world.

Morality

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Semester course: Required for all juniors

This course lays out the philosophical and theological foundations of Christian Morality, rooted in the teaching of Jesus. It requires students to critically analyze and evaluate moral decisions in the context of their own lives. It equips them with the skills necessary to respond to all moral situations in an authentically human and authentically Catholic way. The course explores contemporary moral topics such as sexual morality and the "consistent ethic of life" (including abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, and other issues).

Social Justice Leadership

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Semester course: Required for all seniors

Students learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and marginalized, is present in Catholic Social Teaching and in the Church's mission. Focus is the Christian call to live justly and to create a just society for all people. Social Justice Leadership is designed with two major goals in mind: 1) To better understand the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and 2) To develop real-world leadership skills that are demonstrated through the successful completion of a Service Leadership Project. Through this unique collaborative approach of joining both content and practice, students emerge from this semester as a true agent of change.

Women of Faith

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Semester course: Open to seniors

This course is the first of two theology electives available in the spring semester of senior year (all are required to take Social Justice Leadership in the fall). Students consider women who have gone before them in faith as well as what it means to be a woman of faith today. Seniors study the role of women religious and feminine spirituality throughout Christian history. It focuses in a particular way on the Sisters of Mercy (RSM), Mother Catherine McAuley, and the charism of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy.

World Religions

Honors Credit

Prerequisite: None

Semester course: Open to seniors

This course is the second of two theology electives available in the spring semester of senior year (all are required to take Social Justice Leadership in the fall). It provides an introduction to the major religions of the world including Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Chinese religions (Taoism and Confucianism). Students investigate the ways in which other systems of belief and practice both differ from and are in harmony with the Catholic faith. As a capstone to the theology curriculum, students consider how the study of other religions may enrich their own faith and how they continue their spiritual journey after graduation.

World Languages

French 1	Honors Credit
Prerequisite: None Open to all students This course is for students who wish to immediately develop the ability to communicate about themselves and their immediate environment using simple sentences containing basic language structures. The class, partially conducted in the French language, offers students real-life application of the target language. This communication is evidenced in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing with emphasis on the ability to communicate orally and in writing. In addition to the basic grammar and vocabulary, students begin to explore and study the themes of personal, family, school, social, and community life.	
French 2	Honors Credit
Prerequisites: French 1 and department recommendation Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors This course is for students who wish to continue to develop their communication skills in the French language. The class is partially conducted in the French language, offers students real-life application of the target language. This communication is evidenced in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing with emphasis on the ability to communicate orally and in writing. In addition to more sophisticated grammar and vocabulary, students continue to experience the presentation of the French language within the contemporary French-speaking world and its culture.	
French 3	Honors Credit
Prerequisite: French 2 and department recommendation Open to juniors and seniors French 3 is a course designed to provide the student the opportunity to use the proficiency skills learned in French 1 and 2. Particular emphasis is placed on the four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking French. The entire class is conducted in French and students are expected to do independent writing and small presentations in French. Language skills are further developed through the basic reading opportunities which examine the contemporary French-speaking world and its culture.	

AP French Language	AP Credit
<p>Prerequisites: French 3, fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria, and department recommendation</p> <p>Open to seniors</p> <p>French students synthesize acquired skills while refining their usage of grammar and vocabulary. Students practice free oral and written expression, exhibiting knowledge of important stylistic subtleties in the language. Culture studies center around the following themes: global challenges, science and technology, contemporary life, family and community, and beauty and aesthetics. Students are required to take the AP exam.</p>	

Spanish 1	Honors Credit
<p>Prerequisite: None</p> <p>Open to all students</p> <p>Spanish 1 stresses the development of communication skills and the acquisition of basic grammatical structures. The class is conducted partially in Spanish. Culture studies focus on Central and South American countries and capitals and famous Hispanic and Latin American cuisine.</p>	

Spanish 2	Honors Credit
<p>Prerequisite: Department recommendation</p> <p>Open to all students</p> <p>Spanish 2 stresses grammar and vocabulary study. Students move toward freer oral expression. Composition is emphasized. Culture studies focus on Latin American women throughout history.</p>	

Spanish 3	Advanced Credit
<p>Prerequisites: Spanish 2 and department recommendation</p> <p>Open to juniors and seniors</p> <p>Spanish 3 emphasizes advanced grammar study through writing and spontaneous oral expression. Selections from classic and contemporary Spanish authors and poets serve as vehicles for broadening vocabulary and increasing cultural awareness. Culture studies focus on provinces of Spain, Spanish customs and traditions, Spanish poetry, and Spanish art.</p>	

AP Spanish Language and Culture

AP Credit

Prerequisites: Spanish 3 and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This course is designed to meet the general objectives of the Advanced Placement Spanish exam. It is equivalent to a college-level course and covers the four basic skill areas emphasized by the AP exam: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Lectures, dialogues, narratives, and selected readings are performed and discussed as part of this course. Students are required to take the AP exam.

AP Spanish Literature and Culture

AP Credit

Prerequisites: Spanish Language and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria

Open to juniors and seniors

This is a literature course designed to prepare students to read, analyze, and interpret literary texts of all genres in Spanish. Students discuss literature, orally and in writing using critical analysis terminology. Complete works by authors such as García Marquez, Borges, and Isabel Allende are read. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Spanish Film Studies

Advanced Credit

Prerequisites: AP Spanish Language and AP Spanish Literature

Open to juniors and seniors

This course is designed to prepare students to interpret and discuss films from different Spanish speaking countries. Students also identify and analyze cinematographic techniques such as mise-en-scène, movement, and basic conflict. Selected readings are used to support and add context to the films' historical and social backgrounds.