

MERCY  
Academy

2020  
-  
2021

PROGRAM  
OF  
STUDIES



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## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

*Mercy Academy  
four-year university, pre-college curriculum requirements:*

English	4 credits
Algebra 1	1 credit
Geometry	1 credit
Algebra 2	1 credit
Math Elective	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
Theology	4 credits
Technology	1 credit
Electives	5 credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>28 credits</b>

*Mercy Academy's credit requirements fulfill and exceed the Kentucky Pre-College Curriculum. All students seeking unconditional admission to state universities are required to have two credits in a world language.*

## MERCY ACADEMY ACADEMIC LEVELS

At Mercy, we develop each student to her greatest potential by providing her with an environment for maximum growth, at a level commensurate with her individual abilities. We offer six academic course levels to benefit students from all levels of learning.

<b>Advanced Placement (AP)</b>	College-level course for students with exceptional abilities, independent learning styles, intrinsic motivation and strong desire for challenging work. Students who earn a score of three or higher on the AP exam receive college credit.
<b>Dual Credit (DC)</b>	Advanced coursework that allows students to simultaneously earn high school and college credit through exposure to intellectually demanding tasks and instruction.
<b>Advanced</b>	Independent and fast-paced classroom that focuses on conceptualization and critical thinking skills.
<b>Honors 1</b>	Rigorous college-prep curriculum that challenges students considering advanced, DC or AP coursework in the future.
<b>Honors 2</b>	Individualized college-prep curriculum that challenges students to meet the demands of the 21 <sup>st</sup> century by focusing on collaboration and problem solving.
<b>Academic</b>	Highly structured classroom that provides the scope and depth of content to meet the learners at a pace that best matches their ability.

## COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES

Mercy offers 31 courses that allow students to earn college credit simultaneously while enrolled in Mercy courses.. Dual Credit (DC) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered in every subject area.

<p><b>Business and Technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC Business and Professional Communication</li> <li>• DC Introduction to Law</li> <li>• DC Advanced Accounting</li> <li>• AP Macroeconomics</li> <li>• AP Microeconomics</li> </ul>	<p><b>World Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC French 3</li> <li>• DC French 4</li> <li>• DC Spanish 3</li> <li>• DC Spanish 4</li> <li>• AP French Language and Culture</li> <li>• AP Spanish Language and Culture</li> <li>• AP Spanish Literature and Culture</li> </ul>
<p><b>Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP Biology</li> <li>• AP Chemistry</li> <li>• AP Computer Science Principles</li> <li>• AP Physics I</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social Studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP Psychology</li> <li>• AP US Government and Politics</li> <li>• AP United States History</li> </ul>
<p><b>Math</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC College Algebra</li> <li>• DC Precalculus</li> <li>• AP Calculus AB</li> <li>• AP Calculus BC</li> <li>• AP Statistics</li> </ul>	<p><b>English</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC English 101</li> <li>• DC English 102</li> <li>• AP English Language</li> <li>• AP English Literature</li> </ul>
<p><b>Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP Art and Design</li> <li>• AP Music Theory</li> </ul>	<p><b>Theology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DC World Religions</li> </ul>

# MERCY ACADEMY **STEM** CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Mercy's formalized STEM program provides students with unmatched educational experiences through an interdisciplinary curriculum in science, technology, engineering and math. 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 unique opportunities.

## **Mercy's STEM curriculum includes the following course offerings:**

### **STEM partners:**

- Advanced Renewable Materials Biochemical Engineering Lab
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
- Air Force Association
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Bellarmine University
- Bowman Field Air+Space Academy
- Dow Corning
- Falls of the Ohio State Park
- Friends of Mammoth Cave
- General Electric
- Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana
- Jewish Hospital
- Kentucky Girls STEM Collaborative
- Kentucky Science Center
- Louisville Gas & Electric
- Louisville Metro Office of Performance Improvement & Innovation
- Mammoth Cave
- Metropolitan Sewer District
- National Parks Department
- Speed Engineering School
- University of Kentucky
- University of Louisville
- Western Kentucky University

### **International Travel Research Opportunity:**

- Costa Rica Field Research

### **STEM program highlights:**

- Conduct forensic investigations, simulate infectious disease testing, and practice genetic screening with DNA equipment.
- Create and program autonomous vehicles capable of executing hypothetical search and rescue missions.
- Debate privacy law while designing, building and coding fully functional drones.
- Design, develop and create 3-D-printed therapeutic toys in consultation with pediatric occupational therapists.
- Design independent biology research projects and travel internationally to perform experiments in the field.
- Explore biomaterials and medical advances by replicating surgical procedures.
- Serve as mentors in the community, teaching middle school students about STEAM principles.
- Study next generation prosthetics using 3-D bio-printers and design software.
- Uncover never-before-seen waterways and marine wildlife utilizing submersible robots.

### **Science:**

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Biology
- Biomedical Science
- Chemistry
- Criminology and Forensic Science
- Physics
- Exploring Aviation
- Flight and Aircraft Systems

### **Technology & Engineering:**

- Broadcast 1 & 2
- Digital Marketing Design
- Engineering Design
- Technology 1/Introduction to STEM
- Yearbook 1 & 2

### **Math:**

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

### **AP:**

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

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Business and Technology

#### Technology 1/Introduction to STEM

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Required for freshmen**

This course introduces fundamental computer concepts, programming, robotics and STEM career exploration. Students use 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to build, program and test creative solutions through the use of Lego MindStorm EV3 robotics sets, and they 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 2-D drawings to create 3-D models, brainstorm and troubleshoot designs, and use mathematical concepts such as estimation and measurement of distance, time and speed through scientific and technical lenses.

#### Accounting / Entrepreneurship

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

Accounting: This semester course focuses on the basics of small business accounting and money management. Students will apply the accounting cycle and related skills to record business transactions, prepare financial documents, generate payroll, prepare taxes, and communicate accounting information. Students will formulate and interpret financial information for use in management decision making, and use financial software to connect concepts to real world applications.

Entrepreneurship: This semester course provides the opportunity to explore the rewards and risks of business ownership. Emphasis is given to becoming successful entrepreneurs as they deal with planning, organizing, and maintaining a business. Students focus on 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.

## Advanced Accounting – DC Option

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.  
*Note: This course has dual credit opportunity through Western Kentucky University or the University of Kentucky. Please see your counselor for more information.*

## Business and Professional Communications – DC Option

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

Students taking this course gain practical experience in workplace communication through the study of business writing, such as emails, letters, memo and resumes. This course introduces students to the strategies used by successful professionals when handling a variety of situations. Students learn techniques for writing informational, persuasive, sales, employment, good news and bad news communications. They also learn how to analyze their audience effectively to communicate both inside and outside of the workplace.

*Note: If enrolled in dual credit through Spalding, successful completion of this course gives students three 3 hours of transferable college credit in COM 233.*

## Introduction to Law – DC Option

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

This course develops an understanding of legal rights and responsibilities in both personal and business law. Students gain an understanding of the American legal system by analyzing case law, preparing written and oral arguments, and drafting legal documents. Topics include criminal, family and employment law, as well as government regulation of business, consumer protection and contract law.

*Note: If enrolled in dual credit through Spalding, successful completion of this course gives students three hours of transferable college credit for BA 385 – Legal Environment of Business.*

## Personal Finance

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

This course is designed to inform students how personal financial choices directly influence occupational choices and future earning potential. Real-world topics covered include income, money management, banking, spending and credit, purchasing cars and homes, budgeting, saving and investing.

## AP Macroeconomics

AP Credit

**Prerequisite: Fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

This course 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. The course includes outside events that provide opportunities for students to partner with professionals in STEM fields. Students are required to take the AP exam.

*Note: This course is offered in alternating years and will be offered in 2020-21.*

## AP Microeconomics

AP Credit

**Prerequisite: Fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

This course introduces students to the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers. It also develops students' familiarity with the operation of product and factor markets, distributions of income, market failure, and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students learn to use graphs, charts and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. Students are required to take the AP exam.

*Note: This course is offered in alternating years and will be offered in 2021-22.*

## Broadcast 1/Speech

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Teacher interview**

**Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors**

Broadcast 1: This semester 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.

Speech: This semester 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.

## Broadcast 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisites: Broadcast 1 and teacher recommendation**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

This course explores the director role within the studio system. Students develop the knowledge and skills in studio multi-camera production. Students also cultivate performance skills for broadcasting including interpretation of copy and news casting, as well as ad-lib announcing and narrative scripting.

## Yearbook 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. This is accomplished through the use of photography, graphics writing, technology and interviews. Students in the class are expected to sell ads to help finance the yearbook. Second-year students have additional leadership responsibilities.

**Prerequisites: Yearbook 1 and approval from teacher**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

This course is open to students who have successfully completed Yearbook 1 and would like to take on the extra rigor associated with an advanced-level course. In addition to the expectations of Yearbook 2 students, students in Advanced Yearbook 2 will be assigned to be yearbook editors. Advanced Yearbook 2 students are expected to spend at least two hours a week working on the yearbook outside of class time, including regular meetings with the instructor and the other editors and producers.

## English

### English 1 – Academic

Academic Credit

**Prerequisites: None**

**Open to freshmen**

Students increase their understanding of literature and the writing process through reading a wide variety of texts. Special emphasis is given to organizational and writing skills to allow students to excel across the curriculum.

### English 1 – Honors 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisites: None**

**Open to freshmen**

Students work on honing their 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**

**Open to freshmen**

Students engage in a more sophisticated exploration of literary genres (poetry, drama, fiction and nonfiction prose) and composition. Students learn the 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 level. Students 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**

**Open to sophomores**

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

## English 2 – Honors 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: English 1 – Honors 2 or department recommendation**

**Open to sophomores**

Students continue to participate in performance tasks that require analysis and critical thinking from the perspective of American literature. They develop their understanding of how a specific time period influenced 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**

**Open to sophomores**

Students take the study of American literature to a more challenging level. They 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 influenced the literature produced at the time and build on the techniques of authentic literary analysis, research and argumentative writing.

## English 2 – Advanced

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: English 1 – Advanced or department recommendation**

**Open to sophomores**

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 influenced 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.

## AP English Language

AP Credit

**Prerequisites: English 1 – Advanced, department recommendation and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria**

**Open to sophomores**

AP English Language students study a wide spectrum of essays, speeches, advertising and other non-fiction texts as they conduct research into American writing. This course offers students who are interested in rhetoric and composition 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 understanding how to craft and analyze powerful arguments. Students are required to take the AP exam.

## English 3 – Honors 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: English 2 – Honors 2 or English 2 - Academic**

**Open to juniors**

Students study literature in the British tradition, with a focus on poetry and prose from the beginning of the English language to present day. Special emphasis is placed on the effect of 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 – Honors 1**

**Open to juniors**

Students take the study of literature in the British tradition to a more challenging level, 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: AP English Language or English 2 – Advanced**

**Open to juniors**

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 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: English 3 – Honors 2**

**Open to seniors**

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 close reading of texts.

## English 4 – Honors 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: English 3 – Honors 1**

**Open to seniors**

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 close reading of texts. In addition, sophisticated discussion techniques and independent learning methods are used to prepare students for higher-level English studies in college.

## English 4 - Advanced

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: Advanced English 3 or department recommendation**

**Open to seniors**

Students will respond to different rhetorical situations and develop effective writing processes. Students in this high-level course should expect to write and revise essays in multiple genres, and compose four to six papers, totaling 18-25 pages, per semester. Each essay should establish a clear purpose and sense of the writer's presence and position; later in the course, students will create and answer questions through research and writing that draws upon other texts and sources.

## English 4 – DC

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: English 3 – Advanced, English 3 – Honors 1 and DC criteria**

**Open to seniors**

English 101: The focus is recognizing and responding to different rhetorical situations and developing effective writing processes. Students write and revise essays in multiple genres. Each essay should establish a clear purpose and sense of the writer's presence and position. Students write four to six papers during the term.

English 102: The focus is creating and answering questions through research and writing that draws upon written texts and other sources. Students create research questions, find relevant information to answer those questions, and write longer essays that use the information to create and support a clearly defined position on the topic involved. Four to six papers are written during the term, including at least one extended research essay.

*Note: Successful completion of this course gives students six hours of transferable college credit. Students must have a minimum of 3.0 GPA and a composite ACT score of 20 or higher to enroll for dual credit.*

## AP English Literature

AP Credit

**Prerequisite: Fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria**

**Open to seniors**

AP English Literature students study a wide spectrum of plays, poems and novels as they analyze literary works, compose original essays, and discuss critical interpretations. This course offers students who are interested in literature and writing a unique opportunity to explore texts from a variety of voice at a deeper level than they might be able to in the typical English course. Special emphasis is placed on the development of argument in the defense of original thought. Students are required to take the AP exam.

**Prerequisite: None****Open to 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](http://nanowrimo.org)) each November.

## Fine Arts

### Art 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to all students**

Students explore and develop their artistic abilities and begin to build a portfolio of work for the future. This course develops students' skills in observation, drawing, painting and sculpture techniques by exploring a variety of subject matter. 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 sophomores, juniors and seniors**

This course is for students who have previous experience in art and wish to further pursue and develop their skills and knowledge. Students work with a variety of materials including paper, paint, clay and more. In addition to creative work, students learn about various artists, styles and schools, and continue to objectively critique artwork for continuous growth.

### Art 3

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: Art 2 or teacher recommendation based on portfolio submission**

**Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors**

This course is for students who wish to grow as artists and have the option to build their art portfolio for college or scholarships. Students develop more advanced skills in composition, concept and craftsmanship learned in Art 1 and 2. In this course, students create studio assignments in various mediums and styles, integrate art history, participate in critiques, create a class collaborative artwork for Mercy's campus, enter an art contest, and display their work year-round in school hallways and at Mercy's spring art show.

## Art 4

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: Art 3**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

This course is for students who wish to grow as artists and build their portfolio for college and scholarships. Students continue to build on their composition, concept and craftsmanship skills. Students create an artwork series, explore various styles of art, display their work in Mercy Academy's Literary Magazine, participate in critiques, explore art history, and display their work year-round in school hallways and at Mercy's spring art show.

## AP Art and Design – 2D

AP credit

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

**Open to seniors**

AP Art and Design is an intensive college-level course in two-dimensional art. Students are required to complete an AP Portfolio issued through the College Board. Students submit a 20-piece portfolio divided into the categories of Sustained Investigation and Selected Works.

*Note: Interested students must submit a portfolio to Mercy's AP Art and Design instructor and complete the application form to receive consideration for this course.*

## Choral Music 1, 2, 3, 4

Honors credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to all students**

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 performance.

## Advanced Choral Music

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisites: Teacher interview and audition**

**Open to all students**

This course is designed for students that desire to study singing at an advanced level. In addition to the activities described in Choir 1, 2, 3 and 4, advanced students are eligible to audition for all-state performance opportunities. This course focuses on both traditional vocal literature and acapella pop music. Performances include a Christmas show, Spring show and an a capella festival.

*Note: The audition for this course assesses music reading ability, singing technique, and a desire to study singing at an advanced level.*

## AP Music Theory

AP Credit

**Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation**

**Open to 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.

## Theatre Arts 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to all students**

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.

## Theatre Arts 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Theatre 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 as well as try different acting styles. The course also takes a more in-depth look at theatre history.

## Technical Theatre 1

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 mentor them as guest designers. Classes are primarily production-oriented.

## Technical Theatre 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Technical Theatre 1**

**Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors**

Technical Theatre 2 is for students interested in the non-performance side of theatre. They focus on design and construction in several areas. Units include set design, set construction and painting, lighting design, hang and focus, costume design and construction, stage makeup and sound design. As part of the class, each student will choose an area of specialization and design an area in the Fall, Spring and student directed shows.

## Digital Marketing Design

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors**

This course introduces students to graphic design skills and marketing strategies necessary for a business to creatively promote their products/services. Students explore marketing and design aspects for use on various platforms, such as web and mobile design, photo-editing, 3-D drawing, social networking and search engine optimization. Students manipulate digital imagery through software for advertisements, brochures, logos, social media campaigns and websites.

## Health and Physical Education

### Physical Education & Health

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Required for sophomores**

Physical Education: The goal of this course is to encourage students to incorporate fitness and exercise as a part of a healthy lifestyle. Students assess their personal fitness levels and plan ways to improve upon them. 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.

Health: The goal of this course is to raise student awareness in health topics. Students participate in classroom activities designed to promote wellness and healthy lifestyles. Prevention activities and social issues are integrated throughout the course. Topics include nutrition, diseases, fitness, relationships, basic anatomy, drug and alcohol education, stress management and other related issues.

### Women's Health Issues & Fitness

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to seniors**

Women's Health Issues: 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.

Women's Fitness: 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 exhibit community health advocacy, as well as promote a lifestyle of wellness.

## Mathematics

### Integrated Math

Academic Credit

**Prerequisite: Department recommendation**

**Open to freshmen**

This course is designed to cover foundational algebra concepts for students who need additional instructional time. The emphasis of this course is on problem-solving techniques and graphing.

### Algebra 1 – Honors 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Department recommendation**

**Open to freshmen**

This course provides students 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.

### Algebra 1 – Advanced

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: Department recommendation**

**Open to freshmen**

This course is designed to provide students 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 – Advanced

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisites: Algebra 1 – Advanced or Honors 1, or department recommendation**

**Open to freshmen and sophomores**

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.

## Algebra 1 - Academic

Academic Credit

**Prerequisite: Integrated Math**

**Open to sophomores**

This course expands on the concepts covered in Integrated Math and includes the essential components of algebra. Emphasis is placed on the development of critical thinking skills.

## Geometry - Honors 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Algebra 1 – Honors 2 or department recommendation**

**Open to sophomores**

This course covers the concepts of Euclidean Geometry both in planes and in space, including an introduction to logic, reasoning and the skills needed to write proofs. An emphasis is placed on geometric figures and their properties and relationships, while focusing on the development of these skills from a real-world perspective.

## Geometry - Honors 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Algebra 1 – Honors 1 or department recommendation**

**Open to sophomores**

This course covers the 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 while understanding geometric figures, their properties and relationships.

## Algebra 2/Trigonometry – Advanced

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: Geometry - Advanced or teacher recommendation**

**Open to sophomores and juniors**

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 quadratic, polynomial and trigonometric functions.

## Geometry – Academic

Academic Credit

**Prerequisite: Algebra 1 – Academic 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 logic, reasoning and the skills needed to write proofs. 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.

## Algebra 2/Trigonometry – Honors 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Geometry – Honors 2**

**Open to juniors**

This course further expands 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.

## Algebra 2/Trigonometry – Honors 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Geometry – Honors 1**

**Open to juniors**

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.

## College Algebra – Advanced – DC option

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisites: Algebra 2/Trigonometry – Advanced or Honors 1 and teacher recommendation**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

College Algebra - Advanced covers advanced topics in algebraic and rational expressions and factoring, and polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions and applications.

*Note: If enrolled in dual credit through U of L, successful completion of this course gives students three hours of transferable college credit towards the U of L general education requirement for mathematics. Students must have a minimum of 3.0 GPA and a mathematics ACT score of 21 or higher to enroll for dual credit.*

## Precalculus – DC option

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisites: Algebra 2/Trigonometry – Advanced or teacher recommendation**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

This course covers advanced topics in algebraic and rational expressions, factoring exponents and radicals. It also covers the theory of equations and inequalities, functions, analytic geometry, and trigonometry.

*Note: If enrolled in dual credit through U of L, successful completion of this course gives students four hours of transferable college credit towards the U of L general education requirement for mathematics. Students must have a minimum of 3.0 GPA and a mathematics ACT score of 23 or higher to enroll for dual credit.*

## AP Calculus AB

AP Credit

**Prerequisites: Precalculus and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria**

**Open to juniors and 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.

## Algebra 2/Trigonometry – Academic

Academic Credit

**Prerequisite: Geometry – Academic**

**Open to seniors**

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.

## College Algebra – Honors 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Algebra 2/Trigonometry – Honors 2**

**Open to seniors**

This course begins with a review of basic topics from Algebra 2. It then explores the more advanced concepts of polynomials, functions, trigonometry and logarithms. Additional reinforcement is provided in the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

## College Algebra – Honors 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Algebra 2/Trigonometry – Honors 1**

**Open to seniors**

This course begins with a review of basic topics from Algebra 2. It then explores the more advanced concepts of polynomials, functions, trigonometry and logarithms. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and application.

## AP Calculus BC

AP Credit

**Prerequisites: AP Calculus AB and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria**

**Open to seniors**

This course, which covers the first and second semester of college calculus, extends content learned in Calculus AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequences and series. The AP course covers 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: AP Calculus AB and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria**

**Open to seniors**

This course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns and statistical inference.

*Note: 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 freshmen**

This course introduces students to biology, the study of the living world. Topics include the nature of science, ecology, cell biology and basic genetics. An emphasis is placed on understanding 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 freshmen**

This course focuses on the major themes of the living world. Topics 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. 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 freshmen**

This course covers all topics studied in Biology – Honors 2, but with greater depth and at an increased pace. This 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, and students are expected to respond to open inquiry with their own well-designed experimentation.

## Biology – Advanced

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to freshmen**

Students build upon a strong foundation of science knowledge to take a deeper look at the living world. Topics include a more detailed approach to those covered in Biology – Honors 1, 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.

## 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. Students study the laws of motion, vectors, gravity, energy, structure of matter, states of matter, heat, light, 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 in greater depth and at an increased pace with an integrated application of algebra. Students study the laws of motion, vectors, gravity, energy, structure of matter, states of matter, heat, light, 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.

## Chemistry – Honors 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisites: Biology and Conceptual Physics**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

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

## Chemistry – Honors 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Students must have completed 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 a variety of chemical calculations. Students use laboratory activities to enhance the understanding of the principles they study.

## Chemistry - Advanced

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisites: Students must have completed or be enrolled in Geometry – Advanced or Honors 1, and department approval.**

**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 have completed or be enrolled in Algebra 2 - Advanced, and fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

This course is designed for those students who will be required to take chemistry in college. The first semester begins with a review of Advanced Chemistry topics, adding additional details and a more quantitative approach, and then continues with a deeper look at solution chemistry, equilibrium and acid-base theory. The second semester covers redox reactions, electrochemistry and nuclear chemistry, and introduces the students to organic and biochemistry. Lab skills are developed in greater depth. Students are required to take the AP exam.

## Engineering Design

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Geometry**

**Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors**

This course is an introduction to engineering fields. The course covers concepts and tools used in mechanical, electrical, chemical, civil and biomedical engineering. Students produce both 2-D and 3-D projects, utilizing a broad range of tools from traditional hand-drawn drafting techniques to modern 3-D fabrication equipment (3-D printers, laser cutters, CNC machine) and CAD software. The class is heavily project-based, with major projects based on a real-world need or concern, such as healthcare or search and rescue operations. In addition to engineering concepts, this class also introduces modern project management and rapid prototyping methods, and examines the socioeconomic and ethical impacts of the technologies we use.

## Criminology and Forensic Science

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Students must be enrolled in or have completed a third science course**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

This multidisciplinary course examines the theoretical and practical aspects of crime in our society. In this class, students will combine the application of scientific principles and technological practices with the psychological and sociopolitical study of crime. Students will work to define crime itself, then examine why some people become criminals, as well as how we deal with criminal activity in our society. They will also learn to employ forensic techniques - applying biology, chemistry, physics and math - to solve progressively more complex staged crimes throughout the year. This includes, but is not limited to, analysis of blood spatter, biometric analysis of bones, classification of fingerprint patterns, toxicology studies and behavioral analysis. Learning to approach problems from multiple points of view is crucial to professionals in this field, and students will develop this skill by challenging one another in "law enforcement vs. criminal" scenarios throughout the course.

## 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 it 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.

## Advanced Physics

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: Chemistry - Advanced**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

This course covers the major topics of physics: mechanics, properties of matter, heat, sound, electricity and magnetism, light and atomic and nuclear physics. Students explore problem-solving through laboratory experiments and frequently use complex mathematical skills and analysis. Regular lab experiences and demonstrations are also used to develop 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 application. Students are required to take the AP exam.

## 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.

## AP Computer Science Principles

AP Credit

**Prerequisite: 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 through real-world application of computer science ideas. Creativity is central to this course; students are encouraged to invent computational tools to solve problems with personal relevance. This course uses multiple approaches to teach students to analyze and study data, communicate computational ideas to others, and work both individually and collaboratively. 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.

## Exploring Aviation

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to all students**

The course provides the foundation for advanced exploration in the areas of flying, aerospace engineering and unmanned aircraft systems. Students learn about engineering practices, problem-solving and the innovations and technological developments that have made today's aviation and aerospace industries possible. Students also learn about the wide variety of exciting and rewarding careers available to them in the field of aviation.

## Flight and Aircraft Systems

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Exploring Aviation**

**Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors**

This second-year course allows students to take a closer look at the aircraft they may one day operate, along with career skills necessary in the field of aviation. Students begin with an exploration of the types of aircrafts in use today before learning how aircrafts are made and how they fly. Students also gain an in-depth understanding of the forces of flight - lift, weight, thrust and drag - including how to make key calculations. Students study aircraft design and categorization, as well as construction techniques and materials.

**Prerequisite: none**

**Open to all students**

This research opportunity is an international trip to Costa Rica during the summer months, where students perform college-level biology field research under the supervision of university professors. Students are guided in developing their own research question, which is then explored in the rainforest and beach ecosystems of beautiful, ecologically-rich Costa Rica. This 10-day trip occurs in partnership with Trinity High School and Lexington Catholic High School, and involves an additional cost above tuition. This half-credit course does not replace requirements for graduation.

## Social Studies

### Human Geography/Civics – Academic      Academic Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to freshmen**

Human Geography: This semester-long course is an overview of the underlying principles and concepts of 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 and responsibilities of United States citizens and methods of active participation in our political system.

### Human Geography/Civics – Honors 2      Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to freshmen**

Human Geography: This semester-long course focuses on the underlying principles and concepts of 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 more.

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 more. Students have the opportunity to learn about modern issues facing the United States today and discuss and debate solutions to these problems.

## Human Geography/Civics – Honors 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to freshmen**

Human Geography: This semester-long course focuses on the underlying principles and concepts of how human activity influences or is influenced by the Earth. This course emphasizes the development of collaboration, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, effective oral and written communication, assessment and analyzation of 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 more.

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 more. Students have the opportunity to learn about modern issues facing the United States today and 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 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 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 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: Department recommendation**

**Open to sophomores**

This 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 critical thinking and problem-solving skills, collaboration, oral and written communication and media literacy by using a variety of activities and performance tasks tailored to individual student learning styles.

## World Civilization – Honors 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Department recommendation**

**Open to 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 critical thinking and problem-solving skills, collaboration, effective oral and written communication, media literacy and access to and analysis of information.

## World Civilization - Advanced

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisites: Department recommendation**

**Open to sophomores**

Students study the development of world civilizations from approximately 2500 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

**Prerequisite: Department recommendation**

**Open to juniors**

This course focuses on the United States from 1856 to the present. Students discuss geographical, economic, political, artistic, religious and cultural forces that 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 critical thinking and problem-solving skills, 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

**Prerequisite: Department recommendation**

**Open to juniors**

This course focuses on the United States from 1856 to the present. Students discuss geographical, economic, political, artistic, religious and cultural forces that 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 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, including critical thinking and problem-solving, oral and written communication, media literacy and access to and analysis of information.

## U.S. History – Advanced

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisites: World Civilization – Advanced 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 that have shaped the United States. In this course, 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.

## AP Psychology

AP Credit

**Prerequisites: Fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria and department recommendation**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

AP Psychology is the equivalent of a first-year college psychology introductory course. The 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.

## Sociology/Psychology

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**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. Students study 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. Students study human development, consciousness, learning, memory and psychological disorders. Special emphasis is placed on practical applications of psychological theory.

## American Government

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to seniors**

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.

## AP U.S. Government and Politics

AP Credit

**Prerequisite: Fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria**

**Open to seniors**

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 should have mastered the concepts of U.S. History and have above-average writing skills for this course. 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**

This 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, they consider the relevance of Christ's message to our current culture and time, the redemptive nature of Jesus' suffering and the impact of the Paschal Mystery in 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 daily lives and choices and how to seek to live out their own calling to be the One, Holy, 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 juniors**

This course lays out the philosophical and theological foundations of Christian morality, rooted in the teachings 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 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 on 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: to better understand the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and 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 true agents of change.

## Women of Faith

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Semester course: Open to seniors**

This course is one of two theology electives available in the spring semester of senior year. 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. This course focuses on the Sisters of Mercy, Mother Catherine McAuley and the charism of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy.

## World Religions – DC option

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Semester course: Open to seniors**

This course is one of two theology electives available in the spring semester of senior year. It provides an introduction to the major religions of the world, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, 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. Students consider how the study of other religions may enrich their own faith and how they can continue their spiritual journey after graduation.

*Note: If enrolled in dual credit through NKU, successful completion of this course gives students three hours of transferable college credit. Students must have a minimum of 3.0 GPA and a composite ACT score of 20 to enroll for dual credit.*

## World Languages

### French 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to freshmen, sophomores and juniors**

This course is for students who wish to immediately develop the ability to communicate about themselves and their immediate environment using simple sentences in basic language structures. The class, partially conducted in the French language, focuses on the 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 French and focuses on the 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 – DC option

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: French 2 and department recommendation**

**Open to juniors and seniors**

French 3 is a course designed to provide students with the opportunity to use 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 the language. Skills are further developed through reading opportunities, which examine the contemporary French-speaking world and its culture.

*Note: If enrolled in dual credit through U of L, successful completion of this course also gives students three 3 hours of transferable college credit.*

## French 4 – DC option

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: French 3 and department recommendation**

**Open to seniors**

French 4 is designed to continue strengthening and broadening the skills that students acquired in French 3. The focus of French 3 is on four areas of communication; listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The course is conducted exclusively in French, and students are expected to perform in the target language. Language skills are developed through the use of real-life material and authentic documents, to further increase exposure to French culture.

*Note: If enrolled in dual credit through U of L, successful completion of this course also gives students three hours of transferable college credit.*

## AP French Language

AP Credit

**Prerequisites: French 3, fulfillment of Mercy AP criteria and department recommendation**

**Open to seniors**

Students synthesize acquired skills while refining their usage of grammar and vocabulary. They practice free oral and written expression, exhibiting knowledge of important stylistic subtleties in the language. Cultural 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.

## Spanish 1 – Honors 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to freshmen, sophomores and juniors**

In this course, students are introduced to basic vocabulary and grammar in Spanish. Students work with simple sentences and are introduced to the process of conjugating verbs in the present tense. Students acquire basic Spanish language skills centered on reading, writing, listening and speaking. Cultural studies focus on countries in Central and South America and famous Hispanic cuisine. This class is conducted partially in Spanish.

## Spanish 1 – Honors 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to freshmen, sophomores and juniors**

In this course, students are introduced to basic vocabulary and grammar in Spanish. Students move beyond simple verb conjugations and sentence structures to expressing ideas in the present tense. Students acquire basic Spanish language skills centered on reading, writing, listening and speaking. Cultural studies focus on countries in Central and South America and famous Hispanic cuisine. This class is conducted partially in Spanish.

## Spanish 2 – Honors 2

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Spanish 1 – Honors 2**

**Open to all students**

This course focuses on grammar and vocabulary study for students who wish to fulfill the two years of language study required in the pre-college curriculum. Emphasis is placed on oral communication, cultural studies and a basic understanding of language and grammatical concepts.

## Spanish 2 – Honors 1

Honors Credit

**Prerequisite: Spanish 1 – Honors 1**

**Open to all students**

This course focuses on grammar and vocabulary study for students who intend to move beyond Spanish 2. In this class, students move toward freer oral expression. Composition is also emphasized. Cultural studies focus on Latin American women throughout history.

## Spanish 3 – DC option

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisite: Spanish 2 – Honors 1 or department recommendation**

**Open to all students**

Spanish 3 emphasizes advanced grammar study through comprehensible input and repetition to acquire new vocabulary. Listening and reading are performed through TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling). Context-based activities include reading whole novels to advance grammar and vocabulary, and using other authentic documents in the target language such as TV shows, comic books and short stories. Cultural and social awareness is increased through the study and analysis of art and current geographical issues and trends.

*Note: If enrolled in dual credit through U of L, successful completion of this course also gives students three hours of transferable college credit.*

## Spanish 4 – DC option

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisites: Spanish 3 and teacher recommendation**

**Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors**

Spanish 4 continues the Spanish 3 emphasis on fluency and communication through comprehensible input and immersion. The focus is on language and vocabulary acquisition for long-term memory. Listening, reading, writing and speaking are performed through a diversity of comprehensible input techniques. Context-based activities include reading whole novels, writing original stories, and listening to real-life conversations.

*Note: If enrolled in dual credit through U of L, successful completion of this course also gives students three hours of transferable college credit.*

## 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 AP 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: AP 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 6 - Film Studies

Advanced Credit

**Prerequisites: AP Spanish Language and AP Spanish Literature**

**Open to 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-scene, movement and basic conflict. Selected readings are used to support and add context to the films' historical and social backgrounds.