



MERCY HIGH SCHOOL
Course Catalog
2021-2022

1300 E. Northern Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21239
www.mercyhighschool.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Academic Program	4
Graduation Requirements.....	5
Special Programs	6
Catherine McAuley Honors Program.....	6
Mentor Program	7
Project Lead the Way.....	7
Visual Arts.....	8
Law and Social Action	8
Neumann Scholars.....	10
Women in Technology.....	10
Women in Medicine.....	11
Notre Dame of Maryland University.....	12
Anne Arundel Community College	13
Summer Online Courses.....	14
Junior/Senior Registration	17
Student Services.....	18
College Admissions Planning.....	18
Seminar Program.....	20
AP Course Information.....	21
Course Descriptions.....	22
Computer Science and Academic Technology.....	22
English	24
Fine Arts.....	27
Visual Arts.....	27
Theatre Arts	28
Dance.....	30
Music.....	30
Other Arts Offerings	31
Mathematics	32
Mentor Program	34
Physical and Health Education	35
Religious Studies	36
Science.....	38
Social Studies	42
World Languages	44

ACADEMIC PROGRAM
COURSE OUTLINE
2021—2022

Class of 2025

Religious Studies
Language and Literature I
Mathematics
United States History
Biology
French or Spanish
Design: Technology
Fine Arts Elective

Class of 2024

Religious Studies
Languages and Literature II
Mathematics
Physical Science or Introduction to Physics (H)
Modern World History
French or Spanish
Physical and Health Education

Class of 2023

Religious Studies/Social Service
Language and Literature III or AP Language and Composition
Mathematics
U.S. History II or AP U.S. History II
Elective #1 (Recommend World Languages)
Elective #2

Class of 2022

Religious Studies
Language and Literature IV or AP Literature and Composition
Mathematics
Elective #1
Elective #2
Elective #3

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following are requirements for graduation from Mercy High School:

Religious Studies	4.00 credits <u>plus</u> 0.50 credit Social Service
English	4.00
Mathematics	4.00
Science	3.00
Social Studies (including 1.00 U.S. History plus 0.50 American Government)	3.00
World Language (two consecutive years of one language)	2.00
Fine Arts*	1.00
Physical and Health Education**	1.00
Electives***	3.00
Total:	25.50

Transfer students into Mercy after 9th grade who did not have Religious Studies courses in their previous schools are not required to make up those credits in Religious Studies.

*Students may apply only 0.50 credit from participation in Fine Arts co-curricular activities toward satisfying the Fine Arts requirement.

**Except for students in special programs, the Physical Education graduation requirement cannot be met by applying credits from sports.

***The electives requirement may not be met by credits earned through sports or co-curricular activities.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The Catherine McAuley Honors Program

The Catherine McAuley Honors Program provides the opportunity for students to meet rigorous academic challenges, building confidence as scholars and thinkers. McAuley Scholars are required to develop their leadership skills by participating in at least one extracurricular activity each year and achieve an overall B average or better for final grades in all courses each year.

McAuley Scholars complete the program with a Capstone Service Project, initiated in the second semester of junior year. The service project is linked to one of the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy and is designed to ensure that McAuley Scholars research causes of an identified problem, generate insights into possible solutions, and develop a deeper understanding into its complexities. The experience culminates in responsible community action and reflection on both the process and its results.

Requirements:

9th Grade

- The Honors sections of the curriculum
- Math courses determined by placement testing
- Participation in extracurricular activity
- B or better in final grades for each course

10th Grade

- Students choose Honors study in at least two disciplines: Math, Science, English, Social Studies, and World Language
- Participation in extracurricular activity broadened
- B or better in final grades for each course

11th Grade

- Students continue in the most challenging courses in disciplines of choice.
- Initiation of Capstone Service Project.
- Participation in extracurricular activities or leadership in one
- B or better in final grades for each course

12th Grade

- Students continue in the most challenging courses in disciplines of choice.
- Completion and presentation of Capstone Service Project
- Participation/leadership in extracurricular activities
- B or better in final grades for each course

The Mentor Program

A signature program of Mercy High School, the Mentor Program allows selected juniors to work with a “wise adviser,” who accepts the student as a protégé, so she can explore an individually chosen field of interest beyond the traditional academic setting. Those in the Mentor Program can conduct an independent study for one or two semesters, with a minimum of thirty hours each quarter to be devoted to it. Research on the outlook for the profession, its current challenges, and the pathway to achieve mastery in it are part of the student’s investigation. A final reflective paper marks the culmination of the course. A proposal outlining the goals of the rising junior and specific plans for her study is required.

Project Lead the Way- Biomedical Sciences (PLTW)

The Biomedical Sciences Program comprises a sequence of classes that allows each student to investigate the roles of biomedical professionals as she studies human medicine, physiology, genetics, microbiology, and public health in the context of real-world cases. Students work with one another to understand and design solutions to some of the pressing health challenges facing the world. The project-based aspects of the curriculum give students a chance to identify a problem, apply what they know, and find unique solutions as they lead their own learning. PLTW courses complement the regular sequence of math and science courses required in the curriculum.

Students in PLTW-Biomedical Sciences are exempt from technology requirement of ninth grade. They need to fulfill Physical Education and Fine Arts requirements before graduation. This can be by summer online courses or taking Physical Education and identified arts courses in the junior and senior years.

Requirements:

9th Grade	Principles of Biomedical Science
10th Grade	Human Body Systems
11th Grade	Medical Interventions
12th Grade	Medical Innovations

Visual Arts Program

Mercy's four-year visual arts program is for students with a serious interest in and talent for developing their artistic skills. Many graduates of the visual arts program pursue the visual arts in college or find a career path in the visual arts.

Art students explore the elements and principles of art and design and the history of art. Students will develop their skills and learn to work in a variety of media. The sequence of classes assists artists in the creation of a portfolio to be submitted for Advanced Placement Studio Art credit in the senior year.

Requirements:

9th Grade	Introduction to Drawing (0.50 credit)
10th Grade	Basic Design (0.50 credit)
11th Grade	Introduction to Studio Techniques: Mark Making (full year course)
12th Grade	Introduction to Painting (full year course); Independent Study Studio Art (optional)

The Law and Social Action Program

The Law and Social Action program provides students with opportunities to evaluate how interdependence, as well as political, legal, social and economic change, affect all communities, with a focus on both globalization and sustainable development. A study of social change through governance, social and legal policy, and justice provides students with an understanding of both individual and systemic power; she will be encouraged to engage in innovative, responsible action.

Requirements:

Year 1:

- Students are required to attend three or four Symposiums
- Students keep a journal with a reflective assignment after each symposium
- 9th Grade – Project through a Social Justice and Public Policy lens.
- Students in the first year of the program are expected to be active participants of one-two clubs/organizations*

Year 2:

- Students are required to attend four Symposiums
 - Students participate in three or four field trips focused on public policy
 - Students keep a journal with a reflective assignment after each symposium
 - Applicable and rigorous coursework especially in Social Studies
 - 10th grade Personal Project related to action research/critical concern
- Students are expected to continue participation in one-two clubs/organizations

Years 3 and 4:

- Year 3 and 4 students work in collaboration to present material for Symposiums
- Coursework:
 - ◇ Participation in the Mentor Program (Encouraged)
 - ◇ Global Issues
 - ◇ The History of Baltimore City
 - ◇ Law and Society
 - ◇ World Language
 - ◇ Additional Electives that complement the program
- Students are expected to take on a leadership position in one of the two clubs/organizations.
- Students may take advantage of possible internship opportunities.
- Juniors and Seniors in the Law and Social Action program are encouraged to participate in the following:
 - ◇ Mercy Girl Effect Conference
 - ◇ Ignatian Family Teach-In
 - ◇ Baltimore Student Diversity Leadership Conference (AIMS)
 - ◇ Summer programs supported by the American Bar Association
 - ◇ Internships
- Students will report on their experience at a Law and Social Action Consortium

The Sister Agnese Neumann Scholars Program in Partnership with MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital (Neumann Scholars)

MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital is recognized for its excellence in the Center for Successful Aging, Occupational and Physical Therapy, Nursing, and Community Health. In the first year of the program, the Neumann Scholars will be able to experience each of these specialties, and in addition, participate in training for infection prevention and patient safety through monthly visitations to the hospital. In the second year, Neumann Scholars will receive vital signs training and CPR, and will be able to participate in the Dine and Discover Series, to which clinicians at the hospital are invited. In the third year, Neumann Scholars will be assigned a mentor who, through bi-monthly meetings, will help them develop an internship practicum project for the following summer.

Requirements:

Year 1: The highest level of science and mathematics to which one is assigned. Field trips to MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital for rotations and skills training.

Year 2: The highest level of science and mathematics to which one is assigned. Field trips to MedStar facilities in Baltimore City for skills training and participation in Dine and Discover at MedStar Good Samaritan

Year 3: The highest level of science and mathematics to which one is assigned. Bi-monthly meetings with mentor at MedStar Good Samaritan to develop and construct an internship practicum project for the following summer.

Summer of Year 3: Practicum in Healthcare Careers: 6-8 week practicum the with mentor in selected discipline

Women in Technology

The four-year program introduces participants to the possibilities of a career in technology. Experience is provided in programming, networking, operating systems, graphics, databases and information retrieval, security, emerging technologies, and design of software, hardware, and websites. The social issues involving internet security, privacy, copyright, and the impact of technology are also explored. Students edit both audio and video material, and have vast opportunity to provide service to the Mercy community using their expertise. Students are also able to explore career paths in technology via networking with women in the field and through field trips.

Requirements:

Design: Technology

Programming I and II

AP Computer Science Principles (prerequisite Programming I and II)

Computer Science Independent Study (11th or 12th grade) or any one additional Computer science elective

Minimum 4 hours of school service per year

Participation in all field trips and meetings

Women in Medicine in Partnership with Mercy Medical Center

Credit .25 yearly

The partnership between Mercy High School and Mercy Medical Center is a unique one and offers Mercy students an unparalleled opportunity to work closely with medical professionals.

During the ninth grade, WIM students travel to the Medical Center and explore multiple domains of hospital life. During the sophomore year, Mercy students travel to the hospital each month for a variety of independent rotations, and the participation in a speaker series. These talks and activities include information on breast health and forensic nursing, activities in the NICU and the observation of a live surgery. Juniors work as a team to investigate medical case studies. Students take on various roles of medical professionals and research the diagnoses and treatment for the patient.

Requirements:

- 9th Grade** The highest level of Biology and Mathematics to which one is assigned/Field Trips to Mercy Medical Center
- 10th Grade** Introduction to Physical Science or Introduction to Physics (Honors) and Mathematics, each reflecting the maximum challenge attainable for that student.
Field trips to Mercy Medical Center and participation in Speaker Series
- 11th Grade** Chemistry and Mathematics, each reflecting the maximum challenge attainable for that student. Team case studies and research.
- 12th Grade** Physics (Honors), Biology II, or AP Biology, and Mathematics. Continuation of research and presentation of medical case.

Dual Enrollment Program with Notre Dame of Maryland University

Juniors and seniors who enroll and earn at least a C in identified courses at Mercy High School will, at their completion, be awarded college credit as well as credit to graduate.

In order to participate in this program, students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. To earn college credit, juniors may take 2 of the courses listed above and seniors may take 3. Each course will earn 3 college credits. Should a student take 5 such courses, she would have earned 15 college credits upon graduation, equivalent to the first semester of college.

Each dual credit course carries a fee of \$270. Each Mercy Girl enrolled in a class for dual enrollment would have a transcript from Notre Dame of Maryland University, listing the courses in which she enrolled and passed, with her Mercy grade on it. The NDMU transcript will be a supplement to the Mercy High School transcript.

Mercy Course	Listed on the NDMU transcript
---------------------	--------------------------------------

English

AP Language and Composition	Eng 101
AP Literature and Composition	Eng 298

Mathematics

Pre-calculus (Honors)	Math 107
AP Calculus AB	MAT 211
AP Calculus BC	MAT 212

Science

AP Biology	Bio 110
Physics (Honors)	Phy 101

Social Studies

AP Psychology	Psy 101
Global Issues	Pol 103

World Languages

French 4/5	Fr 103
Spanish 4/5	Sp 103

Dual Enrollment with Anne Arundel Community College

Seniors who have demonstrated sufficient academic success can enroll in courses with Anne Arundel Community College. Applications need to be approved in advance. Those who earn a C or better in such a course will receive credit both from AACC and from Mercy High School. Anne Arundel Community College tuition applies to this opportunity.

Introduction to Sociology (online) Credit: 0.50 Semester 2 J/S

This course is taught online through Anne Arundel Community College. A student completing this course will earn 0.50 credit through Mercy High School and three college credits through AACC. An additional fee is required. Students will learn sociological principles and perspectives as a way of understanding everyday social life, study meanings and functions of various roles in historical and contemporary societies, and evaluate causes, consequences and comparisons of social hierarchies. Prerequisites: administration approval. PSAT/SAT verbal score over 500.

SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES FOR ORIGINAL CREDIT

Any student who would like to take a summer school course for original credit must fill out the appropriate paperwork from the Office of Academic and Student Affairs and procure the permission of the department chair of the course she intends to take and the principal. Mercy Learning Online courses are automatically approved.

SUMMER ONLINE COURSES (2021)

The following online courses are offered to students for original credit through Mercy Learning Online (MLOL). MLOL courses are asynchronous. Students may access and complete material within the course session to accommodate their summer schedule; however, they must adhere to assignment due dates. MLOL instructors will offer an optional live session once each week for students who need assistance with assignments or clarity of material.

Courses earn 0.50 credit and run June 14 – July 16, 2021. Registration begins April 19th and is open to all Mercy students. Tuition is \$340 per course.

American Government

Students will study the foundation, theory, structure and process of American government. Students will analyze the Constitution and learn the branches of the government and their roles and functions. Through exploration of current governmental issues, public policy and the responsibilities of citizenship, students will further develop their skills of critical analysis.

Anatomy

Lessons include an introduction to anatomy including language, organ systems, and types of tissues; study of the skeletal and muscular systems; study of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems; study of the digestive and nervous systems; and study of the urinary system and reproductive systems. Each lesson includes material to read and web sites to access for information. Assignments require writing, analysis, critical thinking, and demonstration of core knowledge and concepts.

Art History

Students will study the visual arts in historical and cultural contexts. Study ranges from prehistoric through Egyptian art up to modern art. Each topic includes information on the time period, its characteristics, key artists and key works. Students will further develop their skills of critical analysis and be encouraged to strengthen and deepen appreciation for the arts. (Can be applied toward the fine arts graduation requirement.)

Astronomy and Cosmology

Humans have gazed into the sky for thousands of years pondering how our lives have connected to the sun, moon, and stars. Through the science of astronomy, we now know that our connection to the Universe goes deeper than our ancestors could imagine. From Einstein's theory of relativity to the exploration

of the delicate relationship between our Earth and the Sun, this course explores some of the major discoveries in astronomy and cosmology. Topics to be covered include the history of the telescope, The Big Bang Theory, stellar evolution, comets and asteroids, planets and moons, astrobiology, black holes and quasars, and the role of Catholicism in science and the exploration of space.

Creative Writing

Creative Writing is a form of art and personal expression. Writing expands one's understanding of the world, its people, and oneself. This Creative Writing course is designed to aid students in their creative expression, as well as delivery of one's writing. Students will read and engage in activities/ assignments about the craft of writing while also creating their own work. This new knowledge will be used to complete the required assignments. This course provides students the opportunity to create original forms of descriptive writing, poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. Creative writing techniques and skills will be explored and applied.

Digital Marketing

This performance-based course introduces students to the components of marketing, which utilize internet and online-based digital technologies and platforms to promote products and services. Students will learn the principles and design skills to digitally create advertisement layouts, websites, mobile app design, and social media campaigns. Units of study include: Basics of Marketing and Promotion, Digital Advertising and Ethics, Layout and Page Design, Mobile App Design, Social Media Campaign, and Website Design.

Economics

Students will study basic economic theory. Moreover, they will learn to apply basic economic concepts to real-world issues and problems. Knowledge of fundamental principles and application of theory will be addressed. Through this application, students will further develop their skills of critical analysis.

Fitness

Learn about the components of fitness, the F.I.T.T. principle and developing a personal fitness plan, fitness and safety, and healthy eating. Students will further develop their skills of critical analysis and be encouraged to strengthen and deepen appreciation for the need for fitness.

Global Affairs

Students will explore a number of critical issues that face the global community. Topics will be chosen from historical and current economic, geographic, cultural and political issues. Study will focus on developing critical thinking skills.

Health

Students will learn about and research contemporary health issues. Students will be able to apply practices and habits that will enhance their general health. Using the four domains (physical, social, emotional, and intellectual) of health, students will be able to specify healthy and unhealthy practices within each domain. By recognizing and critically analyzing current health problems for

adolescents, students will discover prevention techniques and solutions to implement into their own lives.

Introduction to Psychology

The focus will be on learning basic theories and principles of psychology. Four major areas of the study of psychology will be considered. In exploring these areas, students learn that the study of behavior and mental processes is extensive, interesting and can become the work of one's life. This course shall consider the areas of: Developmental Psychology, Cognition/Motivation and Emotions, Personality and Social Psychology. Students will further develop their skills of critical analysis and be encouraged to strengthen and deepen their understanding of the field of psychology.

Music Appreciation

Students will study music in its historical and cultural contexts. Study will include a variety of genres and will include the works and contributions of significant artists and composers. Students will further develop their skills of critical analysis and be encouraged to strengthen and deepen appreciation for music.

Sociology

Students will study sociology, the study of human society and social behaviors. Sociologists are mainly interested in social interaction or how people relate to one another and influence each other's behavior. Students will further develop their skills of critical analysis and be encouraged to strengthen and deepen their understanding of human and social behavior.

Speech

Students will study the basic principles, components, and skills of effective speaking and listening. Study will include research, writing, speaking, listening, and evaluating. Students will study effective uses of rhetoric and persuasion. A textbook is used for this course to provide additional resources for study.

Street Law

Students will explore the knowledge and skills necessary to live in a lawful society. Topics will include the differences in Civil and Criminal law. New and in development for summer 2018, a variety of resources will be used to enhance learning. This course is designed for students with an interest in the law and in a study of society.

JUNIOR/SENIOR REGISTRATION

Important: Given the many elective offerings for juniors and seniors, depending upon enrollment, a course may not be offered if it does not have sufficient numbers. It is **critical** to indicate first, second, third, and fourth choices on your course selection form.

The following credit and course requirements are applicable to **juniors**:

Credits: 6.5 minimum

Courses: 6 courses each semester

Juniors are required to take Religious Studies, Language and Literature, Mathematics, and U.S. History; a third year of World Language is recommended.

The following credit and course requirements are applicable to **seniors**:

Credits: 6.0 minimum

Courses: 6 courses each semester

Seniors are required to take Religious Studies, Language and Literature, and Mathematics.

Course Registration:

- Submit re-enrollment agreement by March 15th.
- Discuss your future plans and courses with your parent(s)/guardian(s) and your adviser.
- Of the courses on your course selection sheet, select and check those that are your highest priority.
- Look at the remaining courses on your planning sheet and select those you wish to take, ensuring that both credit and course requirements are being met.
- If course description sheet requires approval, obtain appropriate signatures.
- Meet with your adviser to check your credits and graduation requirements.
- Obtain signature(s) of parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Submit to adviser to obtain his/her signature and date and time of submission.

Exceptions:

Special requests for exceptions will be handled individually. If you have a serious reason for requesting a course not on your planning sheet:

- Obtain the approval of the department chairperson for the specific course desired.
- If it is necessary to adjust your offerings, see the Director of Scheduling before submitting to your adviser.

Changing Courses:

Any requests for changes in course selection should be handled by the last day of classes. A fee of \$10 will be assessed once school is in session; all course changes initiated by students must be completed within two weeks.

STUDENT SERVICES

General guidelines for course planning in preparation for college admissions:

It is vital to select high school courses that will best prepare you for your future studies. Be sure to note the following points regarding college entrance:

- Academically, admission to college is primarily based on the strength of your academic program in relation to the courses offered (all four years), and your grades in the first three years of high school (9th-11th grade cumulative GPA)
 - GPA calculates all final grades in academic subjects based on these numeric values:

Letter Grade	Standard GPA Value	Honors Weighted Value	AP Weighted Value
A	4.0	4.5	5.0
A-	3.8	4.3	4.8
B+	3.5	4.0	4.5
B	3.0	3.5	4.0
B-	2.8	3.3	3.8
C+	2.5	3.0	3.5
C	2.0	2.5	3.0
C-	1.8	2.3	2.8
D+	1.5	2.0	2.5
D	1.0	1.5	2.0
F	0.0	0.0	0.0

- Choose courses that will stretch but not overwhelm you.
- In general, the more selective a college or program is, the stronger and broader your academic preparation must be to gain admission to that school or program.

Four-year college or university:

Admission requirements for four-year programs vary. Colleges rely heavily on the applicant's academic record (grades and rigor); with particular focus on grades in the traditional/core subject areas: Mathematics, English, Science, Social Studies and World Languages.

While Mercy High School only requires two years of a World Language, some colleges require three years for admission.

Two-year community college:

In most cases, admission to a two-year college is non-competitive and based primarily on successful completion of high school.

In some circumstances, placement in classes depends on high school performance, as well as college admissions test scores or a placement test. In addition, there may be additional requirements for some programs (ex. Allied Health Field Programs, such as nursing or medical technology). It is important to research admissions policies for specific programs such as these, as they may be more competitive due to limited space availability.

NCAA Eligibility

If you intend to play a sport at the competitive level (Division I, II or III) in college, be mindful of the following NCAA Eligibility Requirements:

Division I

Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.3 in the following courses:

- Four years English
- Three years Math (Algebra I and higher)
- Two years Science
- One additional year of English, Math or Science
- Two years Social Science (social studies)
- Four years of additional core course credit, which can include World Language

Division II

Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.2 in the following courses:

- Three years English
- Two years Math (Algebra I and higher)
- Two years Science
- Three additional years in English, Math or Science
- Two years Social Science (social studies)
- Four years of additional core course credit, which can include World Language

Division III

- Meet the admissions requirements of these colleges. If you are looking strictly at Division III schools, you do not need to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse.

Mercy High School's Approved NCAA Core Courses:

- **English:** Language and Literature I, Language and Literature II, Language and Literature III, Language and Literature IV, AP Language and Composition, AP Literature and Composition
- **Mathematics:** Algebra I, Plane Geometry, Algebra II, Introduction to Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Finite Math
- **Science:** Biology I, Principles of Biomedical Science, IPS, Introduction to Physics, Human Body Systems, Chemistry, Biomedical Intervention, Environmental Science, Biomedical Innovation, Biology II, AP Biology, Physics
- **Social Sciences:** World Cultures, American Government, U.S. History I and U.S. History II, AP U.S. History, AP Psychology, Global Issues, Introduction to Sociology
- **Other:** French I-V Spanish I-V
- **Mercy Summer Online Courses (.5 credit):** Anatomy, Astronomy and Cosmology, Economics, Global Affairs, Introduction to Psychology, Sociology, Speech, Street Law

Additional Information:

- Ten of the 16 core courses must be completed by the seventh semester (prior to senior year).
- There is a corresponding SAT or ACT requirement to match the student's GPA on a sliding scale. (Due to the pandemic, this requirement may be adjusted for 2021-2022.)
- Carefully review information found at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/> and register through the NCAA Eligibility Center before the end of junior year if considering Division I or II recruitment.
- For Division III, students may create a free profile on the NCAA website. <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

SEMINAR PROGRAM

Every student has Seminar built into her schedule. Each year-level focuses on the following themes:

- Health/Wellness
- Skills for Success
- College counseling
- Cultural competence
- Leadership

AP COURSE INFORMATION

Students interested in registering for an AP course next year must review the following information and complete the AP Course Agreement form, which can be located in OASA and on the Mercy website.

Benefits of taking an AP Course:

- AP courses help develop college-level skills: critical thinking, problem solving, and time management.
- Study subjects of interest in greater depth to give a strong foundation for college.
- If students pass the AP exam and the credit is accepted at their college, they can skip introductory level courses and save money.
- Strengthening your transcript and showing colleges that you are willing to challenge yourself academically.

Important considerations:

- Colleges want to see that you are taking challenging courses, however you also want to make sure that you have not overextended yourself. The pace and the workload of AP courses tend to be greater than other classes and will require independent work outside of class time.
- If you are contemplating taking multiple AP courses, make sure you consider your academic schedule and extra-curricular commitments. It is important to be realistic with yourself since AP courses are taught at a faster pace to cover material within College Board's timeline.
- Colleges want to see progress over the course of four years, so just having multiple AP courses on your transcript will not automatically make you a more appealing applicant. Colleges will want to see that you can successfully manage the courses you are taking.
- Each college and university have their own policy for AP credits- some may accept a 3 while others might require a 4 or 5.

Mercy's AP Policy:

- Students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the AP exam in May.
- Families will be billed for each AP exam (2021 fee was \$95)
- AP courses carry an additional weight of 1.0 quality point.
- Should a student decide to withdraw from the course she may not switch one AP course for another, and the AP designation will be removed from her transcript and she will lose the AP weight.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Important: Given the many elective offerings for juniors and seniors, depending upon enrollment, a course may not be offered if it does not have sufficient numbers. It is **critical** to indicate first, second, third, and fourth choices on your course selection form.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY

Design: Technology Credit 0.50 Year F

Design: Technology is an IB MYP Design course and is a requirement for freshmen. This course explores the tools needed to thrive in our technology-oriented, global society. Students will use the design cycle as a tool to create successful products and develop an understanding and appreciation of the design process. Students will use and apply technology effectively as a means to access, process and communicate information, create solutions, and solve programs. Students will be given opportunities to develop respect for others' viewpoints and appreciate alternative solutions to problems.

AP Computer Science Principles Credit 1.00 Year J/S**

The AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to learning the principles of computation. This course introduces students to the essential ideas of computer science and helps them to understand how computing and technology can influence the world around them. Students will explore the creative aspects of programming, algorithms, the Internet, cybersecurity, and computational thinking. As part of this course, students will be exposed to a broad range of computing tools and skills while creatively addressing real-world issues and concerns. *Prerequisite: Introduction to Programming and Introduction to Programming II*

Business Technology Credit 0.50 Semester J/S**

This one-semester elective for juniors and seniors gives students the opportunity to develop an understanding of the overview of business and technology skills used in businesses today. Students will use the design cycle as a tool to create solutions and solve problems. The course will also develop skills for business etiquette, ethics, professional communication, and customer relations. This course will use Microsoft Office and other programs.

Intro to Programming I Credit 0.50 Semester SO/J/S**

An interactive introductory course for students brand new to programming that teaches the foundations of computer science with an emphasis on the design cycle and computational thinking skills. Not only will this course prepare students for AP Computer Sciences Principles, but it will teach students how to think computationally and solve complex problems.

Intro to Programming II Credit 0.50 Semester SO/J/S**

This course is an inquiry-based learning course designed to give students an opportunity to develop the fundamentals of computer programming in a visual context. This course uses Processing, an open-source integrated development environment, to strengthen programming concepts explored in Intro to Programming I, as well as explore new concepts. *Prerequisite: Intro to Programming I or teacher approval.*

Exploring Issues in Technology Credit 0.50 Semester J/S**

This one-semester elective course will explore specific issues raised by the ubiquity of computers and information technology in today's society. Students will critically and reflectively assess and argue morally-ambiguous issues in technology. Students can expect to read and respond to personally-relevant content from primary and secondary resources. This course will focus on both current events as well as ongoing issues related to privacy, cybercrime, and intellectual property.

Design: Computer Applications Credit 0.50 Semester J/S**

This one-semester elective for juniors and seniors is designed to serve as a preparation for students interested in graphic design and emerging medias. This course will provide a foundation for using the industry-standard design programs as well as explore technologies that are being created in real time. Students will use the design cycle as the tool to prepare, create, and present information that engages a given audience.

Web Development and Design Credit 0.50 Semester J/S**

In this one-semester elective, students will use design thinking to develop ideas, content, and ultimately a web page. Students will use the industry-standard web development software, Dreamweaver. Students will explore how basic design principles influence design decisions and the role technology plays when creating for an online audience.

CS Independent Study Credit 0.50 Semester J/S**

Students will submit a proposal outlining their personal learning objectives. This could be learning a new programming language, completing an engineering project, pursuing a certification, or something of similar scope. They can also choose to complete an off-campus mentorship experience. Once the proposal has been approved, students will check in with faculty regularly to ensure that they are meeting their benchmarks. At the end of the project, students will prepare a digital presentation to demonstrate what they have learned. *Prerequisite: Priority given to WIT students; must have taken at least 2 other CS courses, admission by department permission upon review of proposal.*

ENGLISH

Language and Literature I* Credit 1.00 Year F

As students start their high school journey, they often ask themselves “Who am I in this new community?” Freshman Language and Literature students use literary analysis, personal reflection and written expression to explore the concepts of community and identity. Examples of the literary genres (novels, plays, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction) are read and analyzed for structure and content, especially as they pertain to these key themes. This course focuses on learning the basic elements of the genres of literature, the foundation for close reading and literary analysis in subsequent years. Students begin the year by mastering the composition of a strongly structured paragraph and build upon these skills to write a five-paragraph essay by the end of the year. Language and Literature also provides practice in vocabulary and test-taking skills. Honors students receive a challenging list of readings and intense work in the essay form with an eye toward building AP close reading and analytic skills. Because we are an educational ministry of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, special thematic emphasis is placed on their Critical Concerns for women, anti-racism, and non-violence.

Language and Literature II* Credit 1.00 Year SO

In Language and Literature II, students continue to explore the concept of identity, in more complex and mature ways. Texts from a variety of genres are studied as models for expressive, creative, informative, and persuasive writing. Students are encouraged to find their own voices as they continue to work on writing skills such as word choice, style, tone and structure. Additionally, students begin to learn research and presentation skills and apply them to their MYP Personal Project. Students continue to build upon their vocabulary, test taking, and analytical skills. Honors sections include the study of a wider range of novels and essays, as well as more in-depth analytic writing assignments to prepare students for their junior year AP Language and Composition course. Because Mercy is a Sisters of Mercy educational ministry, special emphasis is placed upon their Critical Concerns for women and anti-racism.

Language and Literature III Credit 1.00 Year J

Language and Literature 3 is a survey course of the literature of the British Isles from 495 A.D. to present. However, the course does cover various literature from other traditions. It enables students to use what they have learned and helps them make connections to their lives beyond high school and prepares them for success in their senior year. The primary goal of this year long course is for all students to attain the highest degree of literacy possible. Students need to use English fluently and accurately to meet the demands of society and the workplace. The junior year specifically focuses on the Mercy critical concerns of women and non-violence. This course will serve them well as it prepares students to approach a wide range of texts (literary and nonliterary) in various genres and media to build an understanding of the many dimensions of human experience. Furthermore, students need a command of language and an appreciation of the richness of literature for self-fulfillment and to accomplish their own purposes.

Language and Literature III (Honors) Credit 1.00 Year J

Language and Literature III Honors is a survey course of a variety of texts from World Literature with a special focus on the development of the English language through the study of some early and medieval British literature. It enables students to use their existing knowledge and life experience to explore, analyze, and express their views on a variety of themes found within the texts. Throughout the year, students will hone their critical thinking, analysis, speaking, and writing skills by engaging with a wide range of assessment tasks, texts (literary and non-literary) in various genres, and media to further develop their understanding of the many dimensions of human experience. The junior year also specifically focuses on the Mercy critical concerns of women and non-violence. Students will respond to these varied assessment tasks, texts, and themes both individually and as part of a learning community to make connections to history, their lives, and society to become more competent and thoughtful global citizens.

AP Language and Composition Credit 1.00 Year J

The Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is a university-level course which engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

This university-level, year-long course is designed around the College Board's *AP English Language and Composition* course description. The course requires narrative, expository, analytical, and argumentative writing assignments that are based on readings representing a wide variety of prose styles and genres. Reading both fiction and nonfiction texts and writing in a variety of rhetorical modes and for a variety of purposes, students in English 11 AP facilitate awareness of their own writing styles to develop their own inner voices. This American literature focused course represents a study of the evolution of the language and style of American writing and includes 17th century Puritan literature through contemporary texts, and is intermittently supplemented with pieces of literature that exemplify various rhetorical contexts. Students will read primary and secondary sources, both print and non-print text, and synthesize ideas in order to formulate and articulate their own positions in a variety of timed, untimed, and researched persuasive papers. Students will cite sources using MLA format and will revise and edit both timed and out-of-class writing assignments. By responding to both AP style writing prompts and multiple-choice questions, students will become familiar with the rigor of collegiate assessments and the importance of critical thinking.

Language and Literature IV Credit 1.00 Year S

This senior course focuses on the power of individual and societal stories to shape identities and aspirations, beginning with an examination of self-identity as a Mercy senior and college applicant. Branching outward, students will study classical and contemporary literature to determine origins of the concepts embedded in our culture as expressed in fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. The second semester includes rhetorical concepts and media criticism as well as a research paper on a subject of personal interest to each student. By examining communication across literary form and textual type, students will investigate the nature of language itself and the ways in which it shapes and influences identity and culture. Special emphasis will be placed on the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns for women, anti-racism, and immigration.

Language and Literature IV (Honors) Credit 1.00 Year S

Language and Literature IV Honors is an accelerated senior English course structured around the history and use of narratives. Narratives are the stories developed by cultures, families, and individuals to tell more about who we should and should not be. Narratives are also used as a means of forming our identities and giving our lives meaning. In this course, students will read many texts, from ancient to modern, to explore the origins of some of our common cultural narratives and the way they are expressed in and relevant to contemporary life. Students will also link these texts to philosophy and modern media to interpret and analyze their various inter-textual meanings. The senior year specifically focuses on the Mercy critical concerns of women, anti-racism and immigration. Ultimately, students will reimagine the events of their own lives to answer what this education about narrative means to them, why they will be a good fit for the colleges to which they are applying, and to formulate their own conceptions about how to live a meaningful life.

AP Literature and Composition Credit 1.00 Year S

Close reading and literary analysis is at the core of this AP course. Works from world literature are read to determine how authors employ individual elements to construct the meanings of the works as wholes. Students examine how nuance of meaning is constructed in language and literature and how a writer uses technical aspects of structure and syntax, diction, detail, allusion, figurative language, symbolism, and tone to create singular and powerful meaning. Students produce a researched literary analysis paper and frequent analytic essays that explicate literary texts and demonstrate rhetorical control in preparation for the AP Literature and Composition exam given in early May.

Digital Writing & Publication (Shield and Lance) Credit 0.50/1.0 Semester/Year FR/SO/J/S

Students in this course will write and edit different forms of imaginative (fiction, poetry) and/or journalistic writing (news, feature, sports, interview, editorial, review, and types of creative non-fiction). Students receive direct writing instruction in these areas with the aims of producing issues of Mercy's newspaper, The Shield and/or literary magazine, The Lance. Although students may choose to specialize in either journalism or imaginative writing (.5 credit), they can choose to build a substantial, personal portfolio of work in both areas (1 credit). Workshops for peer and teacher feedback will be conducted in-class. Students will also master the technology of various platforms for publication of their work and design and layout their own pages in both digital publications. The majority of this work will be completed during class time, so a student may choose to take these courses as a seventh course elective without overburdening herself. Because this course is publication oriented, students may take it for more than one year. This course also counts as a Fine Arts credit.

FINE ARTS

VISUAL ARTS

Introduction to Drawing Credit 0.50 Semester F

This course is offered to students with demonstrated interest and talent for art. It is a production-oriented course. Its goals are to provide a solid foundation in drawing techniques, to emphasize the development of observation skills, to reinforce student confidence, and to help students initiate a drawing portfolio. *Prerequisite: Teacher approval.*

Basic Design Credit 0.50 Semester SO

This course is an introduction to the fundamental processes, vocabulary and history of art making for students with demonstrated interest in art. Through a sequential series of two and three-dimensional projects, students explore the elements of art and the principles of design as tools for visual communication. Admission to this course is by invitation or teacher approval. This course is not available to students who took Intro to Art.

Introduction to Art Credit 0.50 Semester F

This course is designed to introduce students to basic art materials and media, and to familiarize them with the elements and history of art as the first step towards art appreciation and criticism. Students are exposed to a variety of experiences in the areas of drawing, painting, printmaking, three-dimensional construction, and pottery.

Ceramics Credit 0.50 Semester 2 J/S

This introductory course in pottery covers the basic techniques and materials available to the ceramic hand-builder. Students are taught the clay-shaping techniques of pinch, coil, and slab building, along with such decorating techniques as texturing, inlay washing, graffito, and glazing. Students are also encouraged to explore the possibilities of the learned techniques and to create original projects. *Prerequisite: Teacher approval*

Intro to Studio Techniques: Mark Making Credit 1.00 Year J/S

This specialized course in drawing and painting techniques is for the serious art student with a clear commitment to art. Students prepare a body of qualified works in the following media: pencil, charcoal, pastel, pen and ink, watercolor, and acrylic. *Prerequisite: Teacher approval.*

Introduction to Painting Credit 1.00 Year S

Painting is the leading subject of this course. Students become familiarized with the mechanics of acrylic painting while they learn to interpret still-life, landscape and figure, first as separate areas of art, and later as components of more complex and personal creations. *Prerequisite: Intro to Studio Techniques preferred or Teacher approval.*

Studio Art (Independent Study) Credit 1.00 Year S

This course is offered to students already enrolled in Introduction to Painting, who plan to continue their visual arts education in college. Students are required to prepare a more competitive portfolio by exploring further their technical and creative possibilities in drawing, and painting. *Prerequisite: Teacher approval.*

Women in Theatre** **Credit 0.50** **Semester 2** **F/SO/J/S**

Once, theatre was an all-male profession. This course will introduce students to those women who made free access to the theatre profession possible. The course will examine cultural practices that led to both the inclusion and exclusion of women in theatre. There are two primary aims to this course: First, to provide students with an historical overview of women in playwriting, acting, and directing, and second, to see how contemporary social issues are applied to the practice, texts, and criticisms of the stage.

Footlighters Club **Year** **F/SO/J/S**

The Mercy High School Footlighters is the theatre arts co-curricular offering and meets after school. Students in Footlighters will explore the various areas of the theatre arts including: basic acting, set construction, theatre marketing, technical theatre, and education theatre outreach. The students also support the Mercy High School theatre productions throughout the season.

Dance

Dance Troupe Credit 0.50 Year F/SO/J/S

The Mercy High School Dance Troupe is a select group who study ballet, pointe, modern, jazz, and choreography/improvisation in a regular regimen of an average of three days per week. Students also have the opportunity to work with guest artists and professionals in the dance profession. The program places dual emphasis on both the technical and artistic training of the students to provide them with not only a solid, comprehensive foundation, but also a stimulating and enjoyable artistic encounter. The co-curricular program is by audition, either at the Early Auditions for 8th graders or at the beginning of each school year. Dance Troupe has several opportunities to perform during the year including our formal dance concerts in the beautiful setting of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Auditorium. Additional school performances and outside school and community events further add to the Dance Troupe performance experience.

Apprentice Dance Company Credit 0.25 Year F/SO/J/S

The Apprentice Dance Company is designed for students with a desire, passion, and potential for dance, who have a more limited dance background. Apprentice Dance Company dancers are selected in the fall of every year, earn academic credit and meet an average of two days a week. The program focuses on developing technical skills in the genres of ballet, modern dance, and jazz dance, with exposure to improvisation, composition and choreography. The Apprentice Dance Company also performs several times throughout the year and has the opportunity to work with guest artists.

Dance Exploration for All Credit 0.50 Semester F/SO/J/S

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of dance styles, including ballet, modern, jazz, and hip-hop through both movement experiences and class discussions. Students are exposed to the skeletal and muscular systems and how they are used in all types of movement, including dance, athletics, and every day activities. Dancers also receive an overview of dance history and explore how dance impacts culture and influences society. By examining dance in both global and local contexts, student move towards a fuller appreciation of the effect of dance on our everyday lives. Students work to increase body awareness, flexibility, muscle strength, sense of rhythm, and overall coordination. No previous dance experience is required.

Music

The Ensemble Players Credit 1.00 Year F/SO/J/S

The Mercy High School Ensemble Players is a unique instrumental ensemble, which showcases all of our students who play wind, brass, string, and percussion instruments. This ensemble is open to anyone who wishes to continue their study of their musical instrument as well as those who have a base knowledge of music and would like to learn how to play an instrument. In addition to performances during the school year, the Ensemble Players have opportunity to perform during our school liturgies, participate in the Footlighters production's pit band, and perform in other events within the community. Participation at the winter and spring concerts, both the evening AND in school performance, are a required and graded performance.

Madrigals **Credit 1.00** **Year** **F/SO/J/S**

The Mercy Madrigals is our performing vocal group that is open to anyone who wishes to continue their study of vocal music as well as those who have little to no experience singing in a choir but just love to sing! Students will have the opportunity to study and perform various types of choral music including classical, gospel, Broadway, pop, and spiritual music. In addition to performances during the school year, the Madrigals have opportunities to perform during our school liturgies and other events within the community. Participation at the winter and spring concerts, both the evening AND in school performance, are a required and graded performance.

Introduction to Music **Credit 0.50** **Year** **F/SO/J/S**

In this course, an introduction to music is studied which includes pitch, melody, rhythm, texture, and instruments. Through text, recordings, and videos, the class will gain an understanding of both the basics of musical construction and the important roles music plays in the lives of people throughout the world.

Piano Class** **Credit 0.50** **Semester** **F/SO/J/S**

This course is designed for students who wish to develop basic piano playing skills, or expand on their existing skills. Time in class will be spent both on and off the keyboards. While playing, students will be working individually and in small groups to master the techniques of playing. There will also be time spent in group instruction on musical notation and theory. The purpose of this course is to develop a strong foundation of work habits and basic skills. The course is designed to increase in difficulty with repeated registration.

Other Arts Offerings

Yearbook I** **Credit 1.00** **Year** **F/SO/J/S**

Students participate in all aspects of yearbook production. Topics of study include theme selection, graphic design, writing, editing and marketing. Yearbook I is an excellent choice for any student interested in pursuing graphic design, journalism and/or marketing. Editors are selected from returning students. *Prerequisites: Teacher approval.*

Yearbook II** **Credit 1.00** **Year** **SO/J/S**

This course is open to seniors who have completed Yearbook I. Editors are peer selected from these students. They develop leadership and mentoring skills, oversee production and manage marketing strategies. *Prerequisites: Yearbook I and teacher approval.*

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I* **Credit 1.00** **Year** **F**

This course is designed to provide students with the mathematical foundation necessary to succeed in high school mathematics and science courses. Topics of study include equations, inequalities, exponents, polynomials, radicals, linear functions, and problem solving. Students will explore each concept, practice the skills, and apply learning to real-world contexts. They will be asked to communicate their findings in both linear models and graphical representations. The Honors section will include the preceding topics as well as quadratic equations and functions, systems of linear equations, and data analysis. Students are expected to have solid skills in real number operations (including fractions, decimals, percentages, integers, order of operations, and evaluating expressions) before taking this course.

Plane Geometry* **Credit 1.00** **Year** **F/SO**

A deductive system of Euclidean Geometry is developed by means of fundamental concepts such as points, lines, planes, and measurement. Some topics of study include: two-column proofs, polygons, parallel lines, congruency, right triangles, areas, volumes, and an introduction to trigonometry. The Honors section will include the preceding topics and will also include Law of Sines and Cosines, special angles in circles, and 3-dimensional figures. *Prerequisites: Algebra I or attaining a passing score on the Mercy High School's Geometry qualifying test.*

Algebra II* **Credit 1.00** **Year** **SO/J**

Second-year Algebra skills and concepts are developed in this course. Students will have an opportunity to increase problem-solving skills, analyze data, solve systems of linear equations and inequalities, solve quadratic equations with irrational and complex solutions, study matrices and determinants as problem-solving tools, expand their understanding of functions and polynomials, as well as apply all of these topics in the context of real-life scenarios. The Honors section will include the preceding topics plus rational exponents and radical functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, and rational functions. *Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry, or passing Mercy High School's Algebra II qualifying test.*

Finite Mathematics **Credit 1.00** **Year** **S**

This course is a survey course that includes a review and extension of algebra and geometry topics, an introduction to statistics, sets and probability, mathematics of finance and cryptology. *Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and department recommendation.*

Introductory Pre-Calculus **Credit 1.00** **Year** **J/S**

This course focuses on mathematical functions and their role in problem solving. The properties of polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions will be explored using analytical, numerical, and graphical methods. Topics in trigonometry, analytic geometry, and discrete mathematics will also be covered as time permits. *Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and department recommendation.*

MENTOR PROGRAM

Mentor Program I Credit 0.50 Semester 1 J

Through the direction and encouragement of an assigned mentor, a “wise adviser” who accepts the student as a protégé, the student is able to explore first-hand an individually chosen field of interest beyond the traditional academic setting. Students carry out their own programs with the assistance of their mentor. Assignments focus on educational planning, skills, and knowledge needed for the profession, occupational outlook, current topics in the profession, and a final reflective paper. The responsibility for the successful development and completion of the program rests with the student. The student must accumulate 30 hours each quarter, through visits with her mentor, independent research, and completion of assignments. *Application required.*

Mentor Program II Credit 0.50 Semester 2 J

Students who complete Mentor Program I have the option to continue an independent study with their mentor for an additional semester. The student must accumulate 30 hours each quarter, through visits with their mentor, independent research and completion of assignments. *Proposal required.*

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Physical and Health Education Credit: 1.00 Semester SO

The focus of Physical and Health Education places an emphasis on the integration of physical fitness concepts and strategies. Students will develop an understanding of the need for being physically fit and will participate in a variety of activities that reinforce the fitness concepts learned in the classroom. Students will complete self-assessments and work towards improving or maintaining individual fitness. Activities will include team sports, fitness games, partner activities and cooperative learning experiences. Fitness testing is administered, and individual fitness evaluations are completed on each student. The health section of class aims to heighten the students' awareness and understanding of current issues specific to adolescence. Topics include reproductive health, drugs and alcohol, healthy relationships, and nutrition. Students will also learn the hands-only approach to CPR.

Lifetime Fitness Credit: 0.50 Semester J/S

This Physical Education class is an activity based course that will introduce students to a variety of sports and fitness activities. Students will learn and practice movement techniques for individual, partner, and team sports. There is also a health portion to the class where students will learn about women's health topics. Topics include individual health practices for young women, healthy relationships, and substance abuse.

Women and Health Credit: 0.50 Semester 1 J/S

Health-related topics in the spheres of mental, physical, emotional and social wellness are studied from the woman's point-of-view in order to foster an understanding of general health concepts. Students will gain an understanding of risky behaviors and how they impact all aspects of health. Content will include making responsible decisions, goal-setting, being a health-literate consumer, stress-management techniques, and the importance of lifelong nutrition.

Women and Health: Special Topics Credit: 0.50 Semester 2 J/S

The first half of this course focuses on promoting healthy and safe relationships. Key concepts include proper communication techniques and understanding healthy family and peer relationships. The second half of this course focuses on reproduction, childbirth, and heredity. Current health-related topics related to women will also be studied. Students will be required to research and give an oral presentation on a current women's health topic.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Note: Mercy's Religious Studies curriculum reflects a full implementation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' curriculum framework for secondary religious education.

Introduction to Scripture Credit: 0.50 Semester 1 F

This introductory course provides an overview of theological inquiry and philosophical foundations of religion. Special attention will be paid to the ancient Hebrew Scriptures and the history of the Judeo-Christian worldview. This course will place special emphasis on reading scripture responsibly, using tools of critical analysis to perform Exegesis, and interpretation of ancient text.

Introduction to Christology Credit: 0.50 Semester 2 F

In the second semester the person of Jesus Christ will be examined through a study of the Trinity and the mystery of the Incarnation. A special focus will be placed on the teachings of Jesus through the Christian Scriptures and their impact on the lives of modern Christians.

The Paschal Mystery Credit: 0.50 Semester 1 SO

In the first semester students will examine the mystery of the Incarnation through a close study of the Paschal Mystery. Students will examine God's role in salvation history and God's ultimate decision to take on human form. This course seeks to answer one fundamental question: "Why did Jesus have to die?" Students will delve into the scriptural stories of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection and their significance to Christian beliefs.

The Church Credit: 0.50 Semester 2 SO

The second semester focuses on the history and mission of the Church as the continuation of Christ's mission on Earth. Through analysis of the historical development of the Church (from the first century CE to today) and its key doctrinal beliefs, students will be challenged to consider their own role within the Church and their responsibility for its future.

The Sacraments Credit: 0.50 Semester 1 J

In the first semester students will discuss how they can encounter Christ in a full and real way through the sacraments. Students will examine the scriptural and historical development of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), the Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick), and the Sacraments at the Service of Communion (Holy Orders and Marriage), and how they serve as ongoing opportunities to encounter Christ throughout their lives.

SCIENCE

Biology* Credit: 1.00 Year F

Biology examines life as a set of interacting systems: from atoms and biological molecules to cells, organisms and ecosystems. The program is designed to introduce to students the chemistry of life, the utilization of energy and energy transfer, the workings of the cell, cell division, genetics, and the fundamentals of plant and animal biology. Students explore techniques and recent trends in biotechnology and discuss the implications and ethics of such. Participation in lab activities provides first-hand experience collecting and interpreting data. The course emphasizes the IB Approaches to Learning Skills, practices the application of critical-thinking, performs scientific measurements, and emphasizes the interpretation of data through graphing. Inquiry based activities along with traditional learning approaches help prepare students for future course work in the sciences. Honors Biology requires more in-depth discussion, analysis and outside readings.

Principles of Biomedical Science Credit 1.00 Year F

Principles of Biomedical Sciences (PBS) is the first of a series of four courses in the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Biomedical Sciences curriculum and is designed to provide an overview of all the courses in the Biomedical Sciences program while laying the scientific foundation for subsequent PLTW courses.

In this course, students explore concepts of biology and medicine as they take on roles of different medical professionals to solve real-world problems. Over the course of the year, students are challenged in various scenarios including investigating a crime scene to solve a mystery, diagnosing, and proposing treatment to patients in a family medical practice, to tracking down and containing a medical outbreak at a local hospital, stabilizing a patient during an emergency, and collaborating with others to design solutions to local and global medical problems. *Prerequisite: Admission to Project Lead the Way Biomedical Science.*

Physical Science Credit: 1.00 Year SO

Physical Science is a course where students study the relationships between matter and energy. This laboratory-based course teaches thinking skills and fosters student self-confidence in the learning process and the ability to work closely with others. The goal of the course is twofold: to teach students about their world through basic science topics in chemistry and physics and to prepare students for more advanced science courses. The first portion of the year is an introduction to chemistry; students study topics including atoms, the Periodic Table, compounds, and chemical reactions. The second part of the year students learn about basic physics topics, including motion, force, waves, and energy. Because this is a content-oriented and skill-building course, topics are covered with a variety of approaches, including hands-on laboratory work, independent learning, group activities, inquiry based and traditional learning. Also included are problem-solving skills, study and test taking skills, decision-making, and critical thinking. *Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation and department approval.*

Introduction to Physics (Honors) Credit 1.00 Year SO

Introduction to Physics is an Honors course for sophomores. Students are introduced to physics through discovery, understanding, and application. Students build an understanding through exploration, developing comprehension through demonstration and thought-provoking questioning, and applying skills and knowledge through a variety of inquiry-based activities and problem-solving. Laboratory work and activities are an essential part of the course. Topics in this Algebra based study include mechanics, Newton's Laws of Motion, energy, work, power, waves, light, sound, electricity, and introductory topics in modern physics. *Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation and department approval.*

Human Body Systems Credit: 1.00 Year SO

Students examine the interactions of human body systems as they explore identity, power, movement, protection, and homeostasis. Exploring science in action, students build organs and tissues on a skeletal mannequin; use data acquisition software to monitor body functions such as muscle movement, reflex and voluntary action, and respiration; and take on the roles of biomedical professionals to solve real-world medical cases. *Prerequisite: Principles of Biomedical Science.*

Chemistry* Credit: 1.00 Year J/S

Chemistry is a science course that studies matter and the changes that matter may undergo. Students are directed to examine the intricacies of chemical composition and reactions while contemplating the balance and order that exist in the universe. Laboratory experiments and discussions provide opportunities to develop skills and techniques to reinforce classroom topics and prepare students for advanced topics in chemistry. Problem-solving plays an essential role in this course, providing students with the opportunity to apply algebraic concepts which they have learned to further investigate the chemical world. Honors Chemistry requires more advanced problem-solving techniques along with graphical and data analysis abilities. *Prerequisites: Biology, Algebra I, a Physical Science, teacher recommendation, and department approval.*

Environmental Science Credit: 1.00 Year J/S

Environmental Science is designed to expose the student to the interrelationships between living and non-living components of the environment. Students explore biological, chemical, and physical properties associated with ecosystems and apply these principles to laboratory exploration. The course explores alternate forms of energy, environmental pollutants, and conservation while also discussing political, ethical, and social issues associated with these topics. Lab work, community projects, and outside readings are also components of this course. *Prerequisites: Biology, a Physical Science, teacher recommendation and department approval.*

Medical Interventions **Credit: 1.00** **Year** **J**

Students follow the life of a fictitious family as they investigate how to prevent, diagnose, and treat disease. Students explore how to detect and fight infection; screen and evaluate the genetic code; evaluate cancer treatment options and prevail when the organs of the body begin to fail. Through real-world cases, students are exposed to a range of interventions related to immunology, surgery, genetics, pharmacology, medical devices, and diagnostics. *Prerequisite: Human Body Systems.*

Marine Science **Credit: 0.50** **Semester 1** **S**

Marine Science is a semester course offered as an elective in the senior year. Students explore the biological, chemical, geological, and physical nature of a marine ecosystem. They map the sea floor, investigate marine populations, design aquatic food webs, observe marine invertebrates and research the physiology and anatomy of fish, reptiles, birds, and marine mammals. Laboratory experiments and activities involving ocean tides and waves along with salinity and pH are offered. Class discussions, group projects and research into the impact of humans on marine ecosystems are components of this course. *Prerequisite: Biology, a Physical Science, teacher recommendation, and department approval.*

Forensics **Credit: 0.50** **Semester 2** **S**

Forensics is a semester course offered as an elective in the senior year. Forensic Science focuses on the skills and concepts behind the physical aspects of a crime scene investigation. It includes the investigation of fingerprinting, fiber analysis, ballistics, DNA profiling, trace evidence analysis, poisons, drugs, blood spatters, and blood samples. Students learn the proper techniques for collection, preservation, and laboratory analysis of various samples. Class discussions, group projects and research into the analysis of crime scene data is a component of this course. *Prerequisite: Biology, a Physical Science, teacher recommendation and department approval.*

Biology II (Honors) **Credit: 1.00** **Year** **S**

Biology II (Honors) presents to the students a greater depth and understanding of major life science concepts. Designed to build upon the basics of Biology, Biology II explores in detail the biochemistry of the cell, the transfer and utilization of energy, cell communication, DNA and RNA, and the mechanisms behind variation. Emphasis is placed on genetics and biotechnology along with the ethical implications associated with this advancing knowledge. Independent laboratory work, formal laboratory reports, critical-thinking exercises, and outside readings are important components to the course. Students enhance their understanding of mammalian anatomy and physiology by performing a sheep heart dissection in the spring. *Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry with a minimum of a B- average and a cumulative GPA of 3.0, teacher recommendation, and department approval.*

SOCIAL STUDIES

United States History* Credit: 1.00 Year F

U.S. History is a year-long course designed to prepare students to be active, responsible individuals by developing their ability to analyze and evaluate diverse sources of information as well as growing their understanding of the past 150 years of United States history. More specifically, the course will explore social, political, and economic trends in the United States from the Civil War to 2001, returning repeatedly to the themes of continuity and change, conflict and compromise, and the evolving rights and responsibilities of members of society.

Modern World History* Credit: 1.00 Year SO

A year-long course, Modern World History examines the global roots of the modern world through the exploration of several key themes, including trade & commerce, cosmopolitanism, conflict, and power. Beginning with late antiquity and moving to the present day, this course illuminates key narratives of the technological, demographic, and cultural transition from the ancient to the modern world. Along the way, we will also consider issues of identity including gender, race & ethnicity, and religion as well as broader themes of globalization, nationalism, colonialism, and imperialism.

U.S. History II: Industrialization to the Present* Credit: 1.00 Year J

Twentieth Century U.S. History is a year-long survey course designed to acquaint students with the history of the United States from the end of the 19th Century to the present. Progressing chronologically, students examine the causes and effects of key events, movements and turning points of the Twentieth Century. The influences and contributions of women, minorities and religious groups are stressed. Environmental issues and the role of the nation in the global community are integrated throughout the course. An Honors/AP section of this course, open to students by teacher recommendation, prepares students to take the AP U.S. History Exam in the spring.

Global Issues Credit: 1.00 Year J/S

This year-long course challenges students to explore global trends in the 21st Century from multiple perspectives. Through the use of case studies and current events, students will analyze such topics as globalization, conflict, population growth, resource scarcity and waste issues in order to identify sustainable solutions to these increasingly common problems. This course will look at the role the United Nations and other governmental and non-governmental organizations play in the development and protection of human rights. Students will examine their personal cultural identity while gaining an appreciation for both Western and non-Western cultures and perspectives. Students also learn to recognize their own roles in creating and preventing some of these current and future problems.

Law and Society **Credit: 0.50** **Semester 1** **J/S**

The Law & Society course examines the dynamic and multidisciplinary relationship between the legal system and the society in which the legal system operates. Students will learn how legal systems define rights and obligations, resolves disputes, and enforces systems of social control. Drawing upon the disciplines of criminology, history, psychology, sociology, and political science, we will explore how the legal system reflects and enforces the historical values of its host society, is inescapably political in nature, and how power invariably influences the law's construction and execution. roles in creating and preventing some of these current and future problems.

The History of Baltimore City **Credit: 0.50** **Semester 2** **J/S**

From cosmopolitan port city to manufacturing hub to biomedical powerhouse, with many steps in between, the evolution of the City of Baltimore tracks with both our US national history and with global trends. The History of Baltimore course uses the lenses of geography, demography, economics, and politics to examine our city's past, present, and future, with emphasis on contemporary Baltimore and its immediate environs. As part of a student-centered learning environment, Students will select individual research topics and present their findings in a scholarly manner to the school community.

AP Psychology **Credit: 1.00** **Year** **J/S**

This course stresses reading, writing and critical thinking within the context of scientific methodology and questioning. It is the equivalent of a college-level introductory psychology course. Students will be introduced to the major topical areas of psychology by studying core concepts and theories and applying relevant vocabulary. A year-long research project relating to adolescence will be a major focus of the course. Preparation for the AP exam is ongoing. *Prerequisites: A or A- at semester in English III and U.S. History II or PSAT verbal score of 50 or higher.*

WORLD LANGUAGES

At Mercy High School students are required to take two consecutive years of the same language, either French or Spanish. Students are encouraged, but not required, to take a world language each year. If a student's mother tongue is one other than English, and they have attended at least one year at an academic institution in which instruction in the language other than English has occurred, the student is exempt from the world language requirement.

French I Credit: 1.00 Year F

Students practice listening, speaking, reading and writing French. Emphasis is placed on correct pronunciation, acquiring vocabulary, and understanding grammar. Students are introduced to an overview of the geographic, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the contemporary French-speaking world. The course is complemented by a series of video programs, online resources, CDs, DVDs, and TV-5.

French II Credit: 1.00 Year SO

This course is an extension of French I; students review the vocabulary and structure previously learned. They become proficient in listening, speaking, reading, and writing the language, extending their vocabulary base and studying new grammar. In addition, the history and culture of French speaking countries will be studied. This course is complemented by a series of video programs, online resources, CDs, DVDs, and TV-5. *Prerequisites: French I.*

French III (Honors) Credit: 1.00 Year J

Oral comprehension, speaking, reading and writing are emphasized in the context of new elements of grammar and culture. Readings are based on the history and culture of Francophone countries. This course is complemented by a series of video presentations and TV-5, and online resources. *Prerequisites: A final grade of C or better in French II and teacher approval.*

French IV (Honors) Credit: 1.00 Year S

Study of grammar continues with the mastery of the subjunctive mood. Oral expression and writing are heavily emphasized within the context of Francophone literature and works of women authors. The course is complemented by TV-5 and online resources. *Prerequisites: A final grade of C or better in French III and teacher approval.*

French V (Honors) Credit: 1.00 Year S

Students read, interpret and analyze selected francophone literary works. Throughout the course, proficiency in speaking, reading and writing are stressed. The course is complemented by TV-5 and online resources. *Prerequisites: Teacher approval.*

Spanish I* Credit: 1.00 Year F

Students will practice listening, speaking, reading and writing Spanish. Emphasis is placed on acquiring vocabulary, understanding grammatical structures, pronunciation, translating and interpreting and making connections with other subjects. Students are introduced to the geographic, ethnic, and cultural diversity of Spain and Latin America. The course is complemented by a series of videos, online resources and current events.

Spanish II* Credit: 1.00 Year SO

This course is an extension of Spanish I. Students will continue to learn practical vocabulary needed for conversation. They will be able to express as well as comprehend basic information in both spoken and written form. Their language skills will be strengthened through listening, speaking, reading and writing exercises, and other activities. In addition, the history and culture of Spanish-speaking countries will be studied. The course is complemented by a series of video programs, CDs, DVDs, computer software and online resources to further reinforce audio-oral skills. *Prerequisites: Spanish I.*

Spanish III* Credit: 1.00 Year J

Listening, speaking, reading and writing are practiced with vocabulary at the level of information, ideas and opinions. Previously learned grammatical patterns are reinforced, and the subjunctive is introduced and practiced. The course is complemented by a series of video programs, CDs, DVDs, computer software and online resources to further reinforce audio-oral skills. Students study the history and culture of Spain and Latin America. They read and analyze several literary selections covering a variety of topics. *Prerequisites: A final grade of C or better in Spanish II and teacher approval.*

Spanish IV (Honors) Credit: 1.00 Year S

Spanish language skills are reinforced with vocabulary of life situations as well as from the perspective of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Grammar review continues including all verb tenses and moods. Audio-oral skills are exercised through CDs and video. Students study the history, geography, and culture of Spain and Latin America. Selections from Spanish and Latin American literature are read and discussed, including authors from Spain and all the Spanish-speaking regions: South America, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America. *Prerequisites: A final grade of C or better in Spanish III and teacher approval.*

Spanish V (Honors) Credit: 1.00 Year S

This course offers the opportunity to advanced students to maintain and improve their language skills. The student will focus on universal tasks while improving and increasing her ability to understand and discuss current topics in the target language. The student will also further identify, present and debate contemporary issues in order to develop a more meaningful understanding of Spanish and empathy for its speakers and their culture. This course serves as preparation for the AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam. *Prerequisites: Teacher approval.*

ONLINE LANGUAGE COURSES

Mercy High School students can enroll in online original credit courses through Educere, a leading K-12 virtual education services organization with school customers across 42 U.S. states and 22 countries. Register online at www.educere.net using Educere course number and Mercy High School code V6R6S88V.

Any registration for a course in Arabic or Chinese must be approved in advance by the chair of the World Languages Department.

Educere ID	Course Name	Cost*	Credit	Schedule	Provider
DCFSP2069	Arabic: Level 1	\$891	Full	Self-Paced	Arab Academy
DCFSP2070	Arabic: Level 2	\$891	Full	Self-Paced	Arab Academy
DCFSP2071	Arabic: Level 3	\$891	Full	Self-Paced	Arab Academy
DCFSP4131	Arabic: Level 4	\$891	Full	Self-Paced	Arab Academy
DCFSP4132	Arabic: Level 5	\$891	Full	Self-Paced	Arab Academy
DCFSP4217	Chinese I	\$549	Full	Self-Paced	FOUNDERS (PS)
DCFSP4218	Chinese II	\$549	Full	Self-Paced	FOUNDERS (PS)
DCFSP4220	Chinese III	\$549	Full	Self-Paced	FOUNDERS (FL)

*Cost is current at time of printing but may be subject to change.

