



# PACIFIC PREPARATORY

**COURSE CATALOG**

High School Courses

2024-2025

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## MISSION

Our goal is to facilitate student success in a space where students and teachers can develop meaningful relationships and thrive. We value engaging curriculum, flexibility, and a holistic approach to support the individual needs of our students.



Our vision includes academic programming for our students that inspires:

- ❖ a love of learning
- ❖ confidence
- ❖ self-advocacy

We provide students with a combination of one-on-one, live teacher support and customized curriculum. This isn't the average way students learn, but then again, we're not an average school.

We have innovated on the tutorial model used at Oxford and Cambridge to help our students become independent and creative thinkers. Our one-on-one instruction, our exceptional teachers, and our visionary leadership support our students through every step of the learning process. When working with us, it's common for children to exceed grade level expectations. Through our one-on-one tutorials, K-12 students find deep learning and success.

# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Our baseline graduation requirements for full-time high school students enrolled at Pacific Preparatory follow the most conservative guidelines mandated by the state of California and A-G course requirements. In order to achieve a meaningful holistic educational experience, we recommend the following academic course of study. We also recommend supplementing PacPrep programming with community engagement, including enrolling in local sports teams, activities, and community service. Please see the chart below for our minimum requirements.

<b>History</b> A-G Category A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ US History</li> <li>❖ World History</li> <li>❖ Economics</li> <li>❖ American Democracy</li> </ul>
<b>English</b> A-G Category B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ English 9</li> <li>❖ English 10</li> <li>❖ English 11</li> <li>❖ English 12</li> </ul>
<b>Mathematics</b> A-G Category C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Algebra 1</li> <li>❖ Geometry</li> <li>❖ Algebra 2</li> <li>❖ Precalculus (recommended)</li> </ul>
<b>Science</b> A-G Category D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Pick two from the following: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics</li> </ul>
<b>Languages</b> A-G Category E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Level 1 of language</li> <li>❖ Level 2 of language</li> </ul>
<b>Visual &amp; Performing Arts</b> A-G Category F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 2 semesters of visual &amp; performing arts electives</li> </ul>
<b>Electives</b> A-G Category G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 1 semester of Ethnic Studies (effective 2026)</li> <li>❖ 1 semester of Health &amp; Body</li> <li>❖ 4 semesters of P.E. electives</li> </ul>

## **COURSE SELECTION & CUSTOMIZATION PROCESS**

Incoming students will create a customized four year course plan in collaboration with the Director of Admissions. This plan will take into account graduation requirements, goals, interests and needs. Coursework will be modified according to student needs and core academic standards. We may also make recommendations around college counselors, test preparation, or other wrap-around support services. These recommendations will aim to provide the student and their family with a robust high school experience that prepares them for their next stage. Our recommendation is students carefully pair required coursework with complementary electives in order to provide a robust, engaging & well-rounded high school experience.

## **ASSESSMENT OF COURSE COMPLETION**

In order to pass their classes and move on to higher-level coursework, students must prove their mastery of subjects through a combination of participation in classes (30 hours required per semester per course with most courses spanning 2 semesters), assessment via projects or testing, and teacher recommendation. If a teacher does not recommend a student for course completion, the student may need to complete summer remediation or retake the course to receive credit towards graduation.

## **ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

In general, the schedule for Pacific Preparatory follows that of a traditional academic school year, with federal holidays and longer breaks in the winter and spring. Students may also choose to continue coursework over the summer and/or on a fully customized schedule.

## **GRADES, GPA AND PROGRESS REPORTING**

Students in all program types will receive diagnostic assessments (ELA and math), syllabi, progress reports, and report cards. All high school students will receive semester grades and their GPAs will be weighted if they have opted to take AP and/or Honors-level courses. Official transcripts are provided upon request.

Students enrolled at PacPrep may earn credit for a course taken at another school. The course must be academically comparable and meet formal grading expectations. Additionally, credit must be discussed ahead of enrollment and is then accepted at the discretion of Pacific Preparatory.

## **ADVISING & SPECIAL TOPICS**

Our Dean of Students provides advisory support to full time students, specific to their goals in the classroom and beyond. Advising includes, but is not limited to:

- ❖ Goals
- ❖ Extracurriculars
- ❖ Volunteer & internship opportunities
- ❖ Leadership & entrepreneurship projects

## **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

We recommend college-bound students consider preparations for taking standardized tests as part of their coursework. Considering these preparations at least a year prior to the exam date will provide ample time to prepare. Test preparation is offered through Tutor Corps.

Tests include:

- ❖ PSAT or PreACT
- ❖ SAT or ACT
- ❖ SAT II
- ❖ AP exams

## HIGH SCHOOL-LEVEL COURSE LISTINGS

Courses described below are organized by subject area and provide a baseline for academic planning purposes. Through our customization process, we adjust the content of our syllabi for each student according to that student's goals, interests and needs.

### HISTORY | A-G Category A

**American Democracy:** We all want to understand our rights and responsibilities as United States citizens, as well as learn how to exercise those rights and responsibilities at the local, state, and national governmental levels. In this course students will actively engage with material that demonstrates exactly how our leaders currently do that. In turn, they will analyze their own roles and responsibilities within the United States legal system.

**Modern World History:** Students will explore the major formative events in history that have shaped the world since the middle ages, including intellectual trends, revolutionary movements, social interactions, political ideologies, economic theories and geographical impacts.

**Social Justice 9, 10, 11, or 12:** Beginning with an overview of the U.S. Constitution, the three branches of government, and the system of checks and balances, students will engage in understanding how different social movements have shaped and been shaped by government policy over time

**Survey of World Religions:** Students will study world's religions -- including Indigenous religions around the world, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Abrahamic Religions, and some of the newer religious followings to have emerged within the past 200-300 years. Students will discuss historical background, the fundamental beliefs and concepts of each, and some narratives of the experiences of individual practitioners.

**United States History:** Students will learn the history of America starting from pre-colonial times through the 1980s. This course also provides an overview of the political systems of American government and its history.

**Women in United States History:** Students will explore major historical changes influenced and inspired by women. Content will be taught through women-centered and women-written primary and secondary sources, allowing students to approach history through a woman-centered lens of engagement.

**World History:** Students will engage in global history to the present. Considering how a modern system of communication and exchange drew peoples of the world into an increasingly complex network of relationships, including exerting great military and economic power from Europe and the United States.

<b>Honors Classes</b>	<b>Advanced Placement (AP) Level Topics</b>
<i>These classes include <u>specialty topics</u> based around each student's interests.</i>	<i>All AP-level courses follow the curriculum outlined by the CollegeBoard.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Human geography</li> <li>❖ United States history</li> <li>❖ World history</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ African American Studies</li> <li>❖ Human Geography</li> <li>❖ United States History</li> <li>❖ US Government &amp; Politics</li> <li>❖ World History</li> </ul>

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## **ENGLISH | A-G Category B**

**English 9:** Students will read a range of genres in English Language Arts including novels, drama, poetry, creative nonfiction, journalism and fiction, exploring techniques authors employ using language and structure to tell their stories. Students will also practice



organizing their responses and ideas in the form of essays, reports and creative writing, developing their voices as writers.

**English 10:** In this continuation of English I, students will hone their analytical reading, writing and thinking skills through a variety of texts in a variety of genres according to a customized theme. Themes could include (but are not limited to): The American Dream, Dystopias & Apocalypses, Nature & Technology, Ethical Dilemmas.

**English 11:** Building on English II, students will hone their analytical reading, writing and thinking skills through a variety of texts in a variety of genres according to a customized theme. Themes could include (but are not limited to): The American Dream, Dystopias & Apocalypses, Nature & Technology, Ethical Dilemmas.

**English 12:** In this continuation of English III, students will hone their analytical reading, writing and thinking skills through a variety of texts in a variety of genres according to a customized theme. Themes could include (but are not limited to): The American Dream, Dystopias & Apocalypses, Nature & Technology, Ethical Dilemmas.

<b>Honors Classes</b>	<b>Advanced Placement (AP) Level Topics</b>
<i>These classes include <u>specialty topics</u> based around each student's interests.</i>	<i>All AP-level courses follow the curriculum outlined by the CollegeBoard.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ English 10</li><li>❖ English 11</li><li>❖ English 12</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ English Language &amp; Composition</li><li>❖ English Literature &amp; Composition</li><li>❖ Seminar</li></ul>

## **MATHEMATICS | A-G Category C**

**Algebra I:** Students will learn the basics of algebra I, including foundational concepts, solving equations & inequalities, units of measurement, linear equations & graphs, inequalities, functions, sequences, exponents & radicals, quadratics & quadratic functions, and irrational numbers.

**Geometry:** Students will learn the basics of geometry, including foundational concepts, transformations, congruence, similarity, triangles, solid geometry, analytic geometry, and circles.

**Algebra II:** Building upon prior learning, this course will explore the basics of algebra II, including interpreting and transforming functions (linear, absolute value, quadratic, polynomial), complex numbers, matrices, inequalities, factoring polynomials, and more.

**Applied Mathematics:** This course is designed to improve the student's understanding of how math is used and the underlying logic and techniques used to problem solve in the real world. At the end of this course, each student will be able to use the years of math they have learned to model and predict outcomes of novel problems.

**Precalculus:** The foundation of calculus will be explored in this class. Studying the properties and graphs of trigonometric, rational, inverse, exponential, polynomial and logarithmic functions, students will build upon prior learning to strengthen their understanding of inequalities, polar coordinates, vectors, sequences, series and limits.

**Trigonometry:** Students will learn to solve geometric problems using Law of Sines, Cosines, and area formulas and use the basic trigonometric identities to verify other trigonometric identities and to simplify complex expressions. They will use real-world applications to introduce the definition, application, and visual representation of functions.

**Calculus AB:** Students will learn a variety of topics in calculus, such as limits, differentiation and integration of functions. Students will find derivatives and evaluate finite and infinite limits graphically, numerically and analytically.

**Calculus BC:** Students will learn a variety of topics in calculus, such as functions and graphs, limits, continuity, derivatives and differentiation, composite, implicit and inverse functions, contextual applications, analytical applications, integration and accumulation of change, parametric equations and polar coordinates.

**Statistics:** Students will learn the fundamentals of exploratory analysis, data collection, probability, sampling distributions, inference for quantitative data and more.

<b>Honors Classes</b>	<b>Advanced Placement (AP) Level Topics</b>
<i>These classes include <u>specialty topics</u> based around each student's interests.</i>	<i>All AP-level courses follow the curriculum outlined by the CollegeBoard.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Analysis</li> <li>❖ Statistics</li> <li>❖ Precalculus</li> <li>❖ Calculus</li> <li>❖ Geometry</li> <li>❖ Algebra</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Statistics</li> <li>❖ Calculus AB</li> <li>❖ Calculus BC</li> <li>❖ Computer Science A</li> <li>❖ Precalculus</li> </ul>

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## SCIENCE | A-G Category D

**Astronomy:** This course provides a survey of fundamental topics in Astronomy, including planetary science, stellar and galactic evolution, and cosmology. In addition to exploring the physical science basis of astronomy, it draws on concepts from anthropology and history to place space study and exploration in a historical and societal context. AP Physics and Calculus are not required, but can be integrated into many of the units if taken simultaneously.

**Biology:** Students will study the basics of biology, including foundational concepts, cells and cell processes, DNA, genetics, evolution, viruses & bacteria, classification & taxonomy, and the science of plants & animals. This course includes a lab component.

**Chemistry:** Students will learn the fundamentals of chemistry including the periodic system, atoms, molecules and ions, stoichiometry, atomic structure and bonding, gases, liquids and solids, properties of solutions, energy, acids and bases, and organic chemistry. This course also includes a lab component. This course also includes a lab component.

**Earth Science:** Students will dive into the dynamic relationships among Earth's four primary spheres: the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. This exploration aims to shed light on Earth's origins, its evolving processes, history, and varying landscapes, while also understanding the reasons behind Earth's continual transformations.

**Environmental Science:** Students will use their understanding of new science concepts to: examine ways to make responsible decisions about one's health and the environment; enhance critical and process thinking skills; develop an appreciation of the cultural significance of the environment and environmental practices across space and time; and engage in a thoughtful manner with larger issues of societal responsibility and social justice in response to environmental threats. This course also includes a lab component.

**Marine Biology:** Students will be introduced to three subfields of Marine Biology: chemical and physical features of the ocean, organisms of the sea, and marine ecosystems. Students will explore these phenomena first hand, participating in labs and field studies and use photography, film, audiobooks, and scaffolded reading of academic literature to further investigate the course content.

**Physics:** Students will learn the fundamentals of physics including the study of motion, energy, heat, radioactivity, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, relativity and cosmology. This course includes a lab component.

<b>Honors Classes</b> <i>These classes include <u>specialty topics</u> based around each student's interests.</i>	<b>Advanced Placement (AP) Level Topics</b> <i>All AP-level courses follow the curriculum outlined by the CollegeBoard.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Biology</li> <li>❖ Chemistry</li> <li>❖ Physics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Chemistry</li> <li>❖ Biology</li> <li>❖ Psychology</li> <li>❖ Environmental Science</li> <li>❖ Computer Science Principles</li> <li>❖ Physics 1</li> <li>❖ Physics II</li> <li>❖ Physics C: Electricity &amp; Magnetism</li> <li>❖ Physics C: Mechanics</li> </ul>

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## LANGUAGES | A-G Category E

### Course options include:

- ❖ American Sign Language I, II, III
- ❖ Spanish I, II, III, IV
- ❖ Latin I, II, III
- ❖ French I, II, III
- ❖ Italian I, II, III
- ❖ German I, II, III

<b>Honors Classes</b> <i>These classes include <u>specialty topics</u> based around each student's interests.</i>	<b>Advanced Placement (AP) Level Topics</b> <i>All AP-level courses follow the curriculum outlined by the CollegeBoard.</i>

N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ French</li> <li>❖ Spanish: Literature &amp; Culture</li> <li>❖ Spanish: Language &amp; Culture</li> <li>❖ Latin</li> </ul>
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## VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS | A-G Category F

**Art History:** Through an interdisciplinary approach encompassing art, history, culture, and aesthetics, students will delve into the rich tapestry of human creativity and expression across different periods, regions, and artistic movements.

**Digital Arts & Design:** This class will focus on creating artwork digitally, encouraging students to understand how to brainstorm, plan, and create engaging images using a camera, as well as Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign.

**Digital Illustration:** Throughout the course, students will engage in practical assignments and critiques to develop their skills in digital illustration. The emphasis will be on both technical proficiency with digital tools and creative expression in visual storytelling.

**Digital Photography:** Students will learn the fundamentals of digital photography, including composition, lighting and image editing. This course culminates in a portfolio evaluation based on the student’s chosen interest, whether they aim to pursue commercial, architectural, fine art, editorial or documentary photography.

**Drawing & Painting:** This course will provide students with both numerous opportunities to explore a variety of drawing and painting techniques, as well as the art historical basis behind the techniques and mediums studied and current artist practices by contemporary artists.

**Film Making:** This course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the artistic process, encouraging them to engage in all aspects including creation, presenting, producing, performing, responding, critiquing, and connecting. Students will have the opportunity to showcase their talents through authentic performance and exhibition opportunities, collaborative projects, and multimedia presentations.

**Film Studies:** Learning different methods and frameworks through which to interpret film, students will understand how films make meaning, and gain skills to situate films within history, industrial and social contexts.

**Illustration:** Through a combination of theoretical learning and practical application, students will explore various aspects of the illustration process, including conceptualization, visual storytelling, and technical execution.

**Introduction to Graphic Design:** Students will explore the principles of design, color theory, typography, logo design and page layout through readings, discussion and practice. This course combines a high-level approach to design theory with a hands-on introduction to necessary software.

**Music Appreciation:** Music Appreciation is an introductory course designed to explore the diverse world of music, spanning various genres, cultures, historical periods, and styles.

**2D Art:** Through a series of hands-on projects, critiques, lectures, and discussions, students will explore various traditional and contemporary approaches to creating 2D artwork, including drawing, painting, printmaking, and mixed media.

**3D Art:** Through a combination of theoretical learning and practical application, students will

delve into various aspects of 3D art creation, including sculpture, modeling, rendering, and digital animation.

<b>Honors Classes</b>	<b>Advanced Placement (AP) Level Topics</b>
<i>These classes include <u>specialty topics</u> based around each student's interests.</i>	<i>All AP-level courses follow the curriculum outlined by the CollegeBoard.</i>
N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Art History</li> <li>❖ Drawing</li> <li>❖ Music Theory</li> <li>❖ 2D Art and Design</li> <li>❖ 3D Art and Design</li> </ul>

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## **ELECTIVES | A-G Category G**

**Artificial Intelligence Literacy:** In the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence, the boundaries between science fiction and reality blur. This AI Literacy course delves into the intricate world of AI, exploring its implications through literature, essays, and critical discourse.

**College to Career:** This semester-long course will cover a variety of topics related to life after high school. Students will explore a range of post-secondary options, including college, vocational programs, and gap years.

**Computer Science:** This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to computer science and its key concepts, principles, and applications. The course aims to develop students' critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and computational thinking capabilities.

**Economics:** Students will learn the fundamental concepts of economics, from micro to



macro. By the end of the course they will better understand how the market functions and see the world through the perspective of an economist.

**Entrepreneurship:** Entrepreneurship is a dynamic and practical course that equips students with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to navigate the world of entrepreneurship. The course focuses on key ideas and themes such as opportunity recognition, business planning, marketing strategies, financial management, and ethical considerations.

**Ethnic Studies:** Honoring the historical legacy of social movements and mass struggles against injustice, this course aims to educate students to be politically, socially, and economically conscious about their personal connections to local and global histories.

**Health & Body:** This course will help students develop the habits and mindset they need to live healthy, happy lives. We will take a student-centered approach, following the student's lead to focus on issues of importance to them and their lives.

**History of Hip Hop:** This course aims to explore the history, cultural significance, and artistic development of hip hop music. Students will delve into the key ideas and themes of hip hop, including its origins, influential artists and movements, and its impact on society.

**History of Rock N' Roll:** The History of Rock 'n' Roll course explores the development, evolution, and impact of rock music from its origins to the present day. Students will be equipped with a comprehensive understanding of the key ideas and themes in rock music history, including the cultural, social, and artistic influences that shaped the genre.

**Kinesiology:** Using prior knowledge, students will dig into the mechanics of movement, including analyzing motivation, barriers, and other factors at play. Exploring anatomy and physiology, human performance and biomechanics will be taught in addition to laws and

concepts of physics. Research, collaborative projects, and connections to everyday life will be core components.

**Introduction to Psychology:** In this course, students will begin to explore the social science of psychology. Psychology is the systematic study of human behavior through two lenses--the physical reasons that we do what we do, and the environmental reasons that we do what we do (Nature v. Nurture).

**Speech Writing & Public Speaking:** Students will learn the fundamentals of speech writing and practice delivering presentations with the goal of reducing anxieties around public speaking.

<b>Honors Classes</b>	<b>Advanced Placement (AP) Level Topics</b>
<i>These classes include <u>specialty topics</u> based around each student's interests.</i>	<i>All AP-level courses follow the curriculum outlined by the CollegeBoard.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Computer Science</li><li>❖ Psychology</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Macroeconomics</li><li>❖ Microeconomics</li><li>❖ Psychology</li><li>❖ Research</li></ul>

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## HEALTH

*PacPrep students are required to demonstrate completion of three semester-long health courses. Students generally take one course in sixth grade, one in eighth grade, and another between ninth and twelfth grades.*

Topics at the high school level include: nutrition and physical activity; growth, development, and sexual health; injury prevention and safety; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; mental, emotional, and social health; and personal and community health.

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## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

*PacPrep requires two years of physical education accepted through evidence of weekly dedication to movement. Students often fulfill this requirement through independent study and/or participation in their local community. Potential areas of focus include:*

- ❖ Movement (pilates, yoga, stretching, etc.)
- ❖ Dance of any kind
- ❖ Weight lifting/training
- ❖ Team sports
- ❖ Class workouts
- ❖ Swimming
- ❖ Jogging, walking, hiking, or biking

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Please contact our leadership team to discuss courses in detail and/or inquire about classes not currently listed.

