

# ACADEMIC PROGRAM

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The information contained in this publication is intended to assist students in planning a high school curriculum, which will prepare them for their future goals. While the recommendations will be useful to most students, some deviations may be appropriate for a student's personal plans. To properly prepare for college or career plans, it is best to contact the guidance department and the appropriate departments for details of actual courses needed.

## GRADING POLICY/GRADE POINT

The majority of courses offered in the curriculum will be awarded grade points on a regular 4.0 scale ("R"). Advanced Placement/Dual Enrollment ("AP/DE") and Honors ("H") courses are more academically challenging and will be awarded grade points on a 5.0 scale for AP/DE courses and 4.5 scale for H courses.

The Saint Mary's grading scale is as follows:

GRADE AREA		GPA	GPA	GPA
Letter	Percentage	R	H	AP/DE
A	93-100	4.000	4.500	5.000
A-	90-92	3.667	4.167	4.667
B+	87-89	3.333	3.833	4.333
B	83-86	3.000	3.500	4.000
B-	80-82	2.667	3.167	3.667
C+	77-79	2.333	2.833	3.333
C	73-76	2.000	2.500	3.000
C-	70-72	1.667	2.167	2.667
D+	67-69	1.333	1.833	2.333
D	63-66	1.000	1.500	2.000
D-	60-62	0.667	1.167	1.667
F	59 and below	0.000	0.000	0.000
NC	No Credit	0.000	0.000	0.000
WF	Withdraw/Failing	0.000	0.000	0.000
I	Incomplete			
P	Pass			
AUD	Audit			

Transfer student credit for weighted classes will only be given for honors and Advanced Placement classes that carry weighted GPA status at Saint Mary's. Transfer students must be in attendance at Saint Mary's from the beginning of the junior year through the senior year to qualify for the Honor Board and the Valedictorian and Salutatorian awards. Transfer students become eligible for scholarship ranking, an Honor Cord, and an Academic Letter after posting semester grades at Saint Mary's. Students may contact an Academic Adviser or administrator for additional information.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

AP English Language and Composition (11)  
AP English Literature and Composition (12)  
AP Calculus AB (11, 12)  
AP Spanish Language (11, 12)  
AP U.S. History (11)  
AP U.S. Government (12)  
AP Biology (12)  
AP Chemistry (12)

## DUAL/COENROLLMENT COURSES

MAT 187 Pre-Calculus  
MAT 221 Calculus  
ENG 101-102 English  
BIO 201 Human Anatomy & Physiology I  
BIO 202 Human Anatomy & Physiology II

## HONORS COURSES

Honors English 1-2  
Honors English 3-4  
Honors Algebra 1-2  
Honors Geometry  
Honors Algebra 3-4/Trigonometry  
Honors Biology  
Honors Chemistry  
Honors Physics  
Honors World History/World Geography  
Honors Spanish 5-6  
Honors Spanish 6-8  
Honors French 5-6  
Honors French 7-8  
Honors American Sign Language 5-6

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Saint Mary's academic program should be viewed as a four-year experience during which the student must accumulate a stated number of credits to graduate. One-half credit is earned each time a student completes a semester of a course with a passing grade. Because Saint Mary's has changed to a seven period school day, the required number of credits will differ for each graduating class until 2010, as follows:

2010 and later	28 credits required for graduation
2009	27 credits required for graduation

Credits must be distributed among the academic disciplines as follows:

4.0	Theology
4.0	English
3.0	Social Studies
3.0	Mathematics
2.0	Science

The Class of 2009 must take 0.5 Health credit, 0.5 PE credit, and 10.0 additional elective credits.

The Class of 2010 and later must take 1.0 Fine Arts credit, 0.5 Health credit, 1.0 PE credit, and 9.5 additional elective credits.

All students must complete make-up courses by May 1 of their graduating year. Students are responsible for keeping their credits current and for having an official transcript of a completed course sent to Saint Mary's in a timely fashion.

In addition to satisfying academic requirements, each Saint Mary's graduate must satisfy a Christian Service requirement during their first three years of enrollment.

For a discussion of university admission requirements, see the subsection on the next page entitled "College Recommending Grades."

## COURSE SELECTION AND CHANGES

Choosing an appropriate program of studies is an important part of each student's high school responsibilities. At

the freshman level, courses will be recommended based on entrance test scores, supplemental test results, and grade school recommendations. At every other level, placement in courses will be based on the student's prior performance.

The schedule of classes recommended by the student's Academic Adviser is made thoughtfully and with the academic and personal interest of the student in mind. Parents are always encouraged to participate actively in the yearly process of selecting courses that meet the needs of the student. Students requesting a change in course selection should see their Academic Adviser during the first week of each semester. All schedule changes must be approved by the parent/guardian of the student and the student's Academic Adviser. Students and parents are encouraged to make thoughtful, prudent selections taking into account non-academic considerations (e.g., extra-curricular activities, student work needs, transportation time) during the course selection time as there can be no assurance that requested changes, including level changes, can be honored either during the designated first week of a semester or upon request at a later date.

All schedules are made on a semester basis and are subject to teacher, classroom, and period change from first semester to second semester.

### **RETAKE COURSES**

The following courses are approved as Retake courses for credit. Students wanting to repeat a class from this list need to acquire the permission of the teacher prior to enrolling:

Web Page Authoring, Beginning Band, Advanced Band, Dance 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, Chorus 1-2, 3-4, Beginning/Intermediate or Advanced Guitar, Acting 3-4, Stage Craft, Drawing/Painting, Ceramics/Sculpture, American Sign Language 1-2, 3-4, Weight Training 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, Life Time Sports, Advanced P.E., Varsity P.E., Current Events, Writing Fundamentals, Creative Writing, Poetry, Journalism, Yearbook, Student Council, Office/Teacher Aide, Study Skills Concepts.

### **COLLEGE RECOMMENDING GRADES**

Since more than 95% of Saint Mary's graduates continue their education after high school, it is important for parents to note that there is a great difference between a passing grade and a "college recommending grade." A final grade of at least "B" is considered a college recommending grade.

Students planning to enroll in a four-year college should use their electives to meet the requirements for admission to the most selective college/university in which they have an interest. Listed below are the admissions requirements for the three Arizona public universities.

### **FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS**

Students should contact an Academic Adviser for information about requirements for admittance to four-year colleges and universities. The three Arizona public universities require the following sixteen core courses:

- Four years of English
- Four years of math beginning with Algebra 1-2
- Three years of lab science
- Two years of social studies
- Two years of the same foreign language
- One year of fine arts

Even though grades are not the only way to measure a student's potential for academic achievement at the college level, it is a fact that few four-year colleges will admit a student who does not receive consistent college recommending grades. Students who are intent on moving to a four-year college after graduation from Saint Mary's must earn strong grades from the beginning.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES**

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered to provide students the opportunity to complete college level courses while in high school. Students who successfully complete an Advanced Placement course may receive college credit with an appropriate score (usually 4 or 5) on the AP examination. Students may contact an academic adviser or administrator for additional information.

### **DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM**

Saint Mary's currently participates in a dual enrollment program with Rio Salado Community College. At the present time these courses are offered in English (ENG 101-102), Anatomy & Physiology I and II (BIO 201, BIO 202), Pre-Calculus (MAT 187), and Calculus (MAT 221). Students receive both high school and community college credit. Transferability of community college credits is separately determined by each university. Although each of the three Arizona public universities and Maricopa County Community Colleges have agreed that these credits transfer with a grade of "C" or better, no assurance can be given that any other school would accept these courses for college credit. Enrollment in this program requires qualifying scores on the community college placement examination and payment of additional community college registration and tuition fees. The courses are offered on our campus as a part of our normal school day. Students may not take a dual/co-enrollment course off campus during the high school academic year for a high school course that is required to be taken at Saint Mary's during that same academic year.

### **NO PASS/NO PLAY**

As a member of the Arizona Interscholastic Association, Saint Mary's complies with the no pass/no play rules of eligibility. Due to possible changes in the rules, the school publishes its rules for compliance at the beginning of each school year.

### **ACADEMIC PROBATION**

Saint Mary's High School places a high value on the academic standing and progress of her students. Any student who is deficient more than 1.0 (one) academic credit is placed on Academic Probation. Students on Academic Probation may be placed on an academic contract which is an individualized plan developed for the student in order to correct his/her academic deficiencies in a timely manner. Students who do not respond to the conditions of Academic Probation may be asked to meet with the Academic Probation Board, chaired by the Assistant Principal, to determine whether or not the student will have the opportunity to continue at Saint Mary's.

# SAINT MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE OFFERING LIST, 2008-2009

Note: Refer to course description for credit value for each course.

### Computers

Computer Applications  
Computer Graphics  
Introduction to Programming  
Web Page Authoring

### English/Language Arts

English 1-2  
English 1-2 Honors  
English 3-4  
English 3-4 Honors  
English 5-6  
AP English Language &  
Composition (11)  
English 7-8  
AP English Literature &  
Composition (12)  
(Dual Enrollment ENG 101-102)  
Creative Writing  
Poetry  
Reading Concepts 1-2  
Reading Concepts 3-4  
Reading Concepts 5-6  
Writing Fundamentals/Study Skills  
Concepts

### Fine Arts

#### ART

Foundations in Art  
Ceramics/Sculpture  
Drawing/Painting  
Stage Craft

#### BAND

Beginning Band  
Advanced Band

#### DANCE

Dance 1-2  
Dance 3-4  
Dance 5-6

#### DRAMA

Drama  
Acting 1-2  
Acting 3-4

#### MUSIC

Chorus 1-2  
Chorus 3-4  
Beginning/Intermediate Guitar  
Advanced Guitar

### Mathematics

Pre-Algebra  
Fundamental Algebra A  
Fundamental Algebra B  
Algebra 1-2  
Algebra 1-2 Honors  
Geometry  
Geometry Honors  
Algebra 3-4/Trigonometry  
Algebra 3-4/Trigonometry Honors  
Algebra 5-6  
Pre-Calculus  
(Dual Enrollment MAT 187)  
AP Calculus AB  
(Dual Enrollment MAT 221)  
Personal Finance

### Physical Education

Physical Education/Health Boys (9)  
Physical Education/Health Girls (9)  
Advanced Physical Education Boys  
Lifetime Sports  
Weight Training 1-2  
Weight Training 3-4  
Weight Training 5-6  
Varsity Physical Education

### Science

Physical Science  
Biology  
Biology Honors  
Chemistry  
Chemistry Honors  
Human Anatomy & Physiology  
Human Anatomy &  
Physiology I (Dual Enrollment BIO 201)  
Human Anatomy &  
Physiology II (Dual Enrollment BIO 202)  
Physics  
Physics Honors  
AP Chemistry & Lab  
AP Biology & Lab

### Social Studies

W. Geography/W. History  
W. Geography/W. History Honors  
U.S. History  
AP U.S. History  
U.S. Government  
AP U.S. Government  
Overview of Psychology  
Current Events  
History of Anti-Semitism and  
The Holocaust

### Theology

Theology 1-2  
Theology 3-4  
Theology 5-6  
Theology 7-8  
Catholic Formation

### World Languages

#### FRENCH

French 1-2  
French 3-4  
French 5-6 Honors  
French 7-8 Honors

#### SPANISH

Spanish 1-2  
Spanish 3-4  
Spanish 5-6 Honors  
Spanish 6-8 Honors  
AP Spanish Language

#### SIGN LANGUAGE

American Sign Language 1-2  
American Sign Language 3-4  
American Sign Language 5-6 Honors

### Elective Courses

Journalism  
Student Council  
Office/Teacher Aide  
Yearbook