

What to consider when choosing honors and AP courses:

Successful students in honors and AP courses generally have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or above and have **earned A's or B's in previous coursework in that area.**

Use caution when registering for multiple honors courses; keep in mind your other commitments such as family responsibilities, sports, activities, and, most importantly, your health! Registration for honors courses is final. **You may not drop an honors class.**

English

English 10	English 10 - Honors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-trimester course • Teaches required Minnesota State Language Arts Standards in the areas of reading (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama), writing, oral communication, and research • Fulfills 10th grade English requirement needed to graduate • Includes a requirement for independent reading • Homework is a mixture of reading, written responses to reading, writing process work (prewriting, drafting, revising, polishing), and occasional projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-trimester course • Teaches required Minnesota State Language Arts Standards in the areas of reading (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama), writing, oral communication, and research • Includes a structured weekly vocabulary development program • Includes a requirement for independent reading • Fulfills 10th grade English requirement needed to graduate and prepares students to be successful in honors-level and college-level (AP and CIS) classes in 11th and 12th grade • Homework is a mixture of reading, written responses to reading, writing process work (prewriting, drafting, revising, polishing), and occasional projects • Recommended only for the self-motivated student who wants a challenge, is willing to do a significant amount of independent work, and likes to read and write • Includes challenging texts – student should be able to read above grade level • Strong time-management skills very helpful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-trimester course • Teaches required Minnesota State Language Arts Standards in the areas of reading (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama), writing, oral communication, and research • Fulfills 11th grade English requirement needed to graduate • Readings in American literature from many time periods • Homework is a mixture of reading, written responses to reading, writing process work (prewriting, drafting, revising, polishing), and occasional projects • No college credit is connected to this class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-trimester course • Introductory college-level composition (writing) course, focusing on non-fiction essays representing all four modes of discourse (narration, exposition, description, and argumentation). Includes a research project • Readings include professional essays from a college-level anthology and selected works of American literature • Independent summer reading is required. Assignment details will be given in May to students who register for AP English 11 • Students may earn college credit by passing the national AP exam in May. • Recommended only for the self-motivated student who wants a challenge, is willing to do a significant amount of independent work, and likes to read and write • Includes challenging texts – student should be able to read above grade level • Strong time-management skills very helpful

<p style="text-align: center;">English 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-trimester course • Writing, academic focus Culture paper, Journaling and In-class timed essays • Reading Fiction, analysis with a focus on lenses (culture, gender, economic) Nonfiction, with a focus on bias and persuasive techniques • Presentation Small and large group discussion of texts and related topics • Fulfills 12th grade English requirement needed to graduate • Homework is a mixture of reading, written responses to reading, writing process work (prewriting, drafting, revising, polishing), and occasional projects • No college credit is connected to this class 	<p style="text-align: center;">Honors College Literature and Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria to earn College Credit: Writing Course: Class Rank top 20% Literature Course: Class Rank top 20% • Two trimester course-student must take both trimesters. Reading, Writing, and discussion intensive • College-level literature course (one term) focusing on 20th century works reflecting diversity • College-level composition (writing) course includes three college-level papers, including literary analysis writing and an extended research paper • Includes challenging texts – student should be able to read above grade level • Recommended only for the self-motivated student who wants a challenge, is willing to do a significant amount of independent work, and likes to read and write • Strong time-management skills very helpful University of Minnesota credit is granted for passing grades in this class (4 college credits per trimester) • Strong Attendance needed
--	---

Science

<p style="text-align: center;">Chemistry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to have passed both trimesters of Physical Science 9 • Need to have passed Intermediate Algebra • Teaches all MN state chemistry standards, with hands-on lab experiments • Class is taught with an equal emphasis on concepts and mathematical application • Good fit for students who are planning on attending post-secondary education and preparing for any career choice 	<p style="text-align: center;">Honors Chemistry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Above average grades in of Science 9 • Above average grades in Intermediate Algebra • Teaches all MN state chemistry standards, with hands-on lab experiments • Strong emphasis on concepts and using math to learn those concepts • Concepts are taught at a greater depth • Independent learning skills are needed • Good fit for students who are planning on taking Honors/CIS/AP science courses in high school. • Also a good fit for students who are planning on studying at a 4-year college.
---	--

Science (continued on next page)

<p style="text-align: center;">Biology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two term course • Taking chemistry first is required • Teaches all MN state biology standards, with hands-on lab experiments • Homework is additional guided reading • Highly recommended for students that are fulfilling their science requirement for graduation, or planning on attending post-secondary education but not necessarily in a science field • Not for students planning to go into science related fields especially any biological field; they should take AP biology 	<p style="text-align: center;">AP Biology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three term course • Honors Chemistry or B or better in Chem I required • Teaches all MN state biology standards, with hands-on lab experiments • Strong emphasis on using stats to learn concepts • Independent learning skills are needed. • Homework is mostly additional reading • Major lab reports in each trimester • Good fit for students who are planning on studying math, science, medicine, or engineering at a 4-year college • Colleges may grant credit for Biology depending on spring AP exam score
<p style="text-align: center;">Physics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two trimester course • If you have taken more math classes, it is helpful; Emphasizes concepts with less emphasis on mathematics - still a mathematical based program but less rigorous than AP • "C" or higher in Advanced Algebra or Honors Advanced Algebra • Teaches all MN state physics standards, with hands-on lab experiments • Homework is a mixture of problems and questions • Highly recommended for students that are fulfilling their science requirement for graduation, or planning on attending post-secondary education but not necessarily in a science field • Not for students planning to go into science related fields especially any engineering field - they should take AP • Students that have or are taking calculus should seriously consider AP Physics 	<p style="text-align: center;">AP Physics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three trimester course needed to take AP Exam • "B" or "A"s in Honors Advanced Algebra; Pre-calculus suggested at least concurrently • Teaches all MN state physics standards, with hands-on lab experiments • Strong emphasis on using math to learn concepts • Was and is a college level course – most that succeed have very little difficulty in college physics. Concepts taught at a college depth. • Independent learning skills are needed • Homework is mostly problems not necessarily more than Physics just at a different level • Past success in math strong indicator for success • Students who complete with motivation have traditionally scored 3-5 on AP Exam • Good fit for students who are planning on studying math, science, medicine, or engineering at a 4-year college

What to consider when choosing honors and AP courses:

Successful students in honors and AP courses generally have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or above and have **earned A's or B's in previous coursework in that area. Use caution when registering for multiple honors courses;** keep in mind your other commitments such as family responsibilities, sports, activities, and, most importantly, your health! Registration for honors courses is final. **You may not drop an honors class.**

Social Studies

U.S. History	AP U.S. History
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two trimester course • Study major events in U.S. History; study of diverse peoples who created American story • Homework approx. 30 min./night • Homework focuses on supporting guided practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two trimester course • Students may also register for a 3rd trimester of test prep & enrichment • College level study of U.S. History, accelerated pace and additional reading assignments involving critical thinking skills. • Homework approx. 1 hour/night • Students must see instructor for summer reading list. • Passing score on AP exam in the spring may result in college credit
World History	AP World History
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two trimester course • Study of events, people, issues & perspectives from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America & Middle East. Balance of economic, geographic, political and social history • Homework approx. 30 min./night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two trimester course • Students may also register for a 3rd trimester of test prep & enrichment • Reading/assignments are college-level. • The pace of the course content is brisk. • Homework/studying requires the application of knowledge beyond the textbook. • Students will not be allowed to retake tests. • There may be summer reading depending on the course-please check with individual teachers. • Homework approx. 1 hour/night • Passing score on AP exam in the spring may result in college credit.
Economics	AP Microeconomics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One trimester course • Economics course involving study of concept of scarcity, supply and demand, market structures and macroeconomics. • Homework approx. 30 min./night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One trimester course • College level course studying the principles of scarcity, supply and demand, market structures and distribution of income. • Homework approx. 1 hour/night • Passing score on AP exam in the spring may result in college credit.
U.S. Government and Politics	AP U.S. Government and Politics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One trimester course • Course looks at local, state and national government and explores how the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government work together. Students apply the U.S. Constitution to current government topics and study political beliefs and behavior. • Homework approx. 30 min./night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One trimester course with optional non-honors trimester • College level study of political science, including local, state and national government and legislative, executive and judicial branches. • Students analyze U.S. Constitution in context of current public policy issues. Course also looks at political parties and elections. Includes Congressional and Supreme Court simulations. • Homework approx. 1 hour/night • Passing score on AP exam in the spring may result in college credit.

High School Courses for College Credit

High School Course	High School Credit	Class Rank Required	College Course	College	College Credits
English 12A: Coll Introduction to Lit Schools (CIS)	.5	Top 20%	ENGL 1001W	U of M	4
			Introduction to Literature: College in the Poetry, Drama, Narrative		
English 12B: Coll University Writing	.5	Top 20%	WRIT 1301	U of M	4
			University Writing: College in the Schools (CIS)		
Coll Honors College Algebra through Modeling (CIS)	1.0	C+ or better in high school Algebra classes	CI 1806	U of M	3
			College Algebra through College in the Schools Modeling		
Coll Honors College Algebra	1.0	Juniors: top 33% Seniors: top 50% Pass placement test	MATH 112	SCSU	3
			College Algebra Senior to Sophomore (S2S)		
Coll Honors 1100 Intro to Biomed Devices	.5	Juniors: top 33% Seniors: top 50%	BMED 1100	ARCC	2
			Intro to Biomedical Devices and Industry		
Coll Honors 2100 Design and Manufacturing	.5	Juniors: top 33% Seniors: top 50%	BMED 2100	ARCC	3
			Design and Manufacturing in the Medical Device Industry		
Coll Intro to Holistic Healing	.5	Students must have successfully taken PLTW Honors Principles of Biomedical Sciences	IHH	ARCC	2
			Intro to Holistic Healing		
Coll Honors Public Speaking	.5	Juniors: top 33% Seniors: top 50%	CMST 2215	ARCC	3
			Public Speaking		
Coll Reading for College and Careers	.5	Juniors: top 33% Seniors: top 50%	COLL 110	SCSU	2
			Reading and Study Senior to Sophomore (S2S)		
Coll Honors Animal Science (CIS)	.5	Top 20%	ANSC 1101	U of M	4
			Introductory Animal College in the Schools Science		

In addition, the STEP program offers courses that are for technical college credit. Please see 17-18 Registration Guide for additional information about STEP offerings.