



# Advanced Learning Academy Early College/HS



## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### History

#### World History

**UC/CSU: A | SAUSD: Meets History requirement**

World History provides an introduction to the history of the World. This course is a survey of world history from the 1300's to contemporary times. Students will learn about the socio-economic, political, religious and ideological trends of major time periods as they study historical events and achievements of world regions with a focus on Europe. Students will use primary and secondary sources to critically think and problem solve as they conduct inquiry based research, participate in interactive discussions and complete assignments establishing real world connections. They will also utilize and expand on their literacy skills building on their reading, writing and speaking skills to produce performance tasks. A variety of formative assessments will be used to inform instruction. Student learning will be evident in Project based learning, DBQ (Document Based) evidence writing and performance based assignments.

#### US History

**UC/CSU: A | SAUSD: Meets History requirement**

US History provides an introduction to the history of the United States from the end of Reconstruction to the current day. Students will learn about the socio-economic, political religious and ideological trends of major time periods as they study historical events and turning points in the United States. Students will use primary and secondary sources to critically think and problem solve as they conduct inquiry based research, participate in interactive discussions and complete assignments establishing real-world connections. They will also utilize and expand on their literacy skills building on their reading, writing and speaking skills to produce performance tasks, a variety of formative assessments will be used to inform instruction. Student learning will be evident in Project based learning, DBQ (Document Based) evidence writing and performance based assignments.

#### Government

**UC/CSU: A | SAUSD: Meets History requirement**

This is an introductory semester course designed to acquaint students with the basic concepts and understanding of our American government. Topics and state standards that will be covered include some of the following: foundations of American government, the three branches of government - their roles and processes, civil liberties and an intensive study of the Bill of Rights, political parties, the electoral process, and local government. Using big ideas and essential questions to guide students to final projects and assessments, the class will draw upon a variety of resources primary and secondary utilizing

a myriad of media and modalities to address the state content standards. Class work will consist of working with complex text, examination of primary sources, writing and discussion on the controversies that have arisen in government and performance tasks.

### **Economics**

**UC/CSU: A | SAUSD: Meets History requirement**

This course is a survey course of economics. Students will also master fundamental economic concepts - law of supply and demand, forms of business, labor unions, government finances and influence on the economy. Students will also apply the tools (graphs, statistics, equations) from the other subject areas to the understanding of operations and instructions of economic systems. Studied in a historic context are the basic economic principles of micro-and macroeconomics, international economics, comparative economic systems, measurement, and methods. Using big ideas and essential questions to guide students to final projects and assessments, the class will draw upon a variety of resources primary and secondary utilizing a myriad of media and modalities to address the state content standards.

## **English Language Arts**

### **English 9**

**UC/CSU: B | SAUSD: Meets English requirement**

English 9 provides an introduction to informational and literary genres and lays a foundation of critical reading and analytical writing skills. Through texts that range from essays, speeches, articles and historical documents to a novel, a play, poetry and short stories, students analyze the use of elements of literature and nonfiction. As they develop their writing skills and respond to claims, students learn to formulate arguments and use textual evidence to support their position. To improve their listening and speaking skills, students engage with a variety of media types through which they analyze and synthesize information, discuss material, create presentations, and share their work. English 9 supports all students in developing the depth of understanding and higher order skills required by the Common Core. Students break down increasingly complex readings with close reading tools, guided instruction and robust scaffolding as they apply each of these lesson's concepts back to its anchor text. Students build their writing and speaking skills in journal responses, discussions, frequent free response exercises, and essays or presentations, learning to communicate clearly and credibly in narrative, persuasive and explanatory styles. Throughout the course students are evaluated through a diversity of assessments and writing practices specifically designed to prepare them for the content, form, and depth of the Common Core assessments.

### **English 10**

**UC/CSU: B | SAUSD: Meets English requirement**

English 10 builds upon students' foundation of critical reading and analytical writing skills in preparation for the California High School Exit Exam. Students analyze the elements of literature and nonfiction through investigative journalism, essays, articles, historical documents, a novel, drama, poetry and short stories. As they develop writing skills and respond to claims, students learn to refine arguments and organize evidence to support a position. To improve listening and speaking skills, students engage in various media types through which they analyze and synthesize information, discuss, create presentations, and share work.

**English 11****UC/CSU: B | SAUSD: Meets English requirement**

In English 11, students examine the belief systems, events, and literature that have shaped the United States. Starting with the Declaration of Independence, students explore how the greatest American literature tells the stories of individuals who have struggled for independence and freedom: freedom of self, freedom of thought, freedom of home and country. Students reflect on the role of the individual on Romantic and Transcendentalist literature that considers the relationship between citizens and government, and they question whether the American Dream is still achievable while examining Modernist disillusionment with American idealism. As well, reading the words of Frederick Douglass and those of the Civil Rights Act, students look carefully at the experience of African Americans and their struggle to achieve equal rights. Finally, students reflect on how individuals cope with the influence of war, cultural tensions, and technology in the midst of trying to build and secure their own personal identity.

**English 12****UC/CSU: B | SAUSD: Meets English requirement**

English 12 asks students to delve into the mingled history of British and World literature. Students explore how humans interact with and influence each other - historically, socially, and otherwise - and examine the complexities of cultural identity in our global and fast changing world. English 12 supports all students in developing the depth of understanding and higher order skills required by the Common Core. Students break down increasingly complex readings with close reading tools, guided instruction, and robust scaffolding as they apply each of the lesson's concepts back to its anchor text. Students build their writing and speaking skills in journal responses, discussions, frequent free response exercises, and essays or presentations, learning to communicate clearly and credibly in narrative, argumentative, and explanatory styles. Throughout the course, students are evaluated through a diversity of assessments specifically designed to prepare them for the content, and depth of the Common Core assessments.

**AP English Language and Composition****UC/CSU: B | SAUSD: Meets English 11 or 12 requirement**

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.

**AP English Literature and Composition****UC/CSU: B | SAUSD: Meets English 11 or 12 requirement**

The AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level literary analysis course. The course engages students in the close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

**SAC English 101: Freshman Composition****UC/CSU: B | SAUSD: Meets English requirement**

Expository and argumentative essays and the research paper Special interest sections described in schedule of classes. CSU/UC

**SAC English 102: Literature and Composition****UC/CSU: B | SAUSD: Meets English requirement**

A second semester course in composition and literature that uses literature to develop critical thinking skills with extensive readings selected from the four major genres. CSU/UC

## Math

**Algebra I****UC/CSU: C | SAUSD: Meets Math requirement**

In Algebra I, students are reasoning about structure to define and make sense of rational exponents and explore the algebraic structure of the rational and real number systems. Students' work with numbers and operations throughout elementary and middle school has led them to an understanding of the structure of the number system; now, students explore the structure of algebraic expressions and polynomials. They see that certain properties must persist when working with expressions that are meant to represent numbers, now written in an abstract form involving variable. In Algebra I, students extend knowledge to working with absolute value equations, linear inequalities, and systems of linear equations. After learning a more precise definition of function in this course, students examine this new idea in the familiar context of linear equations (for example, by seeing the solution of a linear equation as solving  $f(x)=g(x)$  for two linear functions  $f$  and  $g$ ). Students continue building their understanding of functions beyond linear ones by investigating tables, graphs, and equations that build on previous understandings of numbers and expressions. Finally, students extend their prior experiences with data, using more formal means of assessing how a model fits data. Students use regression techniques to describe approximately linear relationships between quantities. They use graphical representations and knowledge of the context to make judgements about the appropriateness of linear models. With linear models, they look at residuals to analyze the goodness of fit.

**Geometry****UC/CSU: C | SAUSD: Meets Math requirement**

The fundamental purpose of the Geometry course is to introduce students to formal geometric proof and the study of plane figures, culminating in the study of right triangle trigonometry and circles. They begin to prove results about the geometry of the plane formally, by using previously defined terms and notions. Similarity is explored in greater detail, with an emphasis on discovering trigonometric relationships and solving problems with right triangles. The correspondence between the plane and the Cartesian coordinate system is explored when students connect algebraic concepts with geometric ones. Students explore probability concepts and use probability in real world situations. The major mathematical ideas in the Geometry course include geometric transformations, proving geometric theorems, congruence and similarity, analytic geometry, right-triangle trigonometry, and probability. Although there are many types of geometry, school mathematics is devoted primarily to plane Euclidean geometry, studied both synthetically (without coordinates) and analytically (with coordinates). The definition of congruence in

terms of rigid motions provides a broad understanding of this notion, and students explore the consequences of this definition in terms of congruence criteria and proofs of geometric theorems. Students investigate triangles and decide when they are similar; with this newfound knowledge and their prior understanding of proportional relationships, they define trigonometric ratios and solve problems using right triangles. They investigate circles and prove theorems about them. Connecting to their prior experience with the coordinate plane, they prove geometric theorems using coordinates and describe shapes with equations. Students extend their knowledge of area and volume formulas to those for circles, cylinders and other rounded shapes.

## **Algebra II**

**UC/CSU: C | SAUSD: Meets Math requirement**

The purpose of this course is to extend students' understanding of functions and the real numbers, and to increase the tools students have for modeling the real world. They extend their notion of number to include complex numbers and see how the introduction of this set of numbers yield the solutions of polynomial equations and the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra. Students deepen their understanding of the concept of function, and apply equation-solving and function concepts to many different types of functions. The system of polynomial functions, analogous to the integers, is extended to the field of rational functions, which is analogous to the rational numbers. Students explore the relationship between exponential functions and their inverses, the logarithmic functions. Trigonometric functions are extended to all real numbers, and their graphs and properties studied. Finally, students' statistics knowledge is extended to understanding the normal distribution, and they are challenged to make inference based on sampling, experiments, and observational studies. Students explore the effects of transformations on graphs of diverse functions, including functions arising in an application, in order to abstract the general principle that transformations on a graph always have the same effect regardless of the type of the underlying function. They identify appropriate types of functions to model a situation, they adjust parameters to improve the model, and they compare models by analyzing appropriateness of fit and making judgements about the domain over which a model is a good fit. Students see how the visual displays and summary statistics they learned in earlier grades relate to different types of data and to probability distributions. They identify different ways of collecting data--including sample surveys, experiments, and simulations--and the role that randomness and careful design play in the conclusions that can be drawn.

## **AP Calculus AB**

**UC/CSU: C | SAUSD: Meets Math requirement**

AP Calculus AB is roughly equivalent to a first semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus. The AP course covers topics in these area, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. Students learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiments, interpret results, and support conclusions.

## **AP Calculus BC**

**UC/CSU: C | SAUSD: Meets Math requirement**

AP Calculus BC is roughly equivalent to both first and second semester college calculus courses and extends the content learned in AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequence

and series/ The AP course covers topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. Students learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions.

#### **AP Statistics**

**UC/CSU: C | SAUSD: Meets Math requirement**

The AP Statistics course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus-based college course in statistics. The course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes in the AP Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Students use technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they build conceptual understanding.

#### **SAC Math 105: Math for Liberal Arts Students**

**UC/CSU: C | SAUSD: Meets Math requirement**

An overview of mathematics for the liberal arts student Topics will include problem solving, financial management, probability, statistics, and selected other topics such as set theory, geometry, logic, mathematical modeling, and the history of mathematics. CSU/UC

#### **SAC Math 140: College Algebra**

**UC/CSU: C | SAUSD: Meets Math requirement**

Survey of advanced topics in algebra: equations, inequalities and functions involving polynomials, rationals, exponentials, and logarithms with applications and graphing; sequences and series CSU/UC

## Laboratory Science

#### **Biology (APEX)**

**UC/CSU: D | SAUSD: Meets Life Science requirement**

This course emphasizes five major topics: ecology, cells, genetics, evolution and physiology as covered in the California state board adopted NGSS standards for science. Diverse activities are used in the classroom to develop a variety of skills. Laboratories are frequently used as an instructional technique. This course is aligned with state standards for science education.

#### **Chemistry**

**UC/CSU: D | SAUSD: Meets Physical Science requirement**

Chemistry is the study of matter and the changes it undergoes. The understanding of basic chemical principles is important not only to chemists, but to all scientists because everything in the world around us is composed of chemicals. In fact, chemistry is often referred to as the "Central Science" because it touches nearly all areas of human life.

#### **Physics**

**UC/CSU: D | SAUSD: Meets Physical Science requirement**

Physics is the study of the way the universe works. The topics covered will include motion, forces, gravity, energy. Momentum. A study of heat, fluids, waves, sound, light, optics, electricity, magnetism, and/or atomic structure. Classroom activities will include laboratory experiment, classroom discussion/lectures, readings, and assessment activities.

**SAC Biology 109: Fundamentals of Biology**  
**UC/CSU: D | SAUSD: Meets Life Science requirement**

Principles of biology stressing the relationship of all organisms from anatomical, physiological and ecological points of view. Includes cell machinery, genetics, reproduction, embryology, animal behavior, botany, ecology, evolution and human physiology. Concurrent enrollment in Biology 109L recommended. Not open to students who are enrolled in or have credit in Biology 159. Designed for non-biology majors.

**SAC Biology 109 L: Fundamentals of Biology Laboratory**  
**UC/CSU: D | SAUSD: Meets Life Science requirement**

Laboratory experiments to identify and illustrate significant organisms and their structures. Emphasis is placed on the relationship of all organisms from an anatomical, physiological, and ecological framework. Content correlates to Biology 109 or 159 lecture material.

## Language Other Than English

**SAC Spanish 101**  
**UC/CSU: E | SAUSD: Meets Language requirement**

Practice and integration of pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, common idioms, listening, speaking, reading, and writing techniques for the expression of ideas orally and in writing Introduction to Hispanic culture Designated sections focus on skills for Spanish speakers Spanish 101 is equivalent to two years of high school Spanish. CSU/UC

**SAC Spanish 102**  
**UC/CSU: E | SAUSD: Meets Language requirement**

A college-level Spanish class focusing on further training in language skills providing avenues for the expression of ideas orally and in writing Additional study of Hispanic culture Designated sections focus on skills for Spanish speakers Spanish 102 is equivalent to the third year of high school Spanish. CSU/UC

## Visual & Performing Arts

**UC Scout Studio Art: 3D Design**  
**UC/CSU: F | SAUSD: Meets VAPA requirement**

This course provides a three-dimensional approach to problem solving through a variety of media and materials, including paper, ply board, clay, plaster, wood, wire, metal, and stone. Techniques include modeling, carving, assemblage, casting, and paper folding. The scale of problems presented will range from small pieces to larger freestanding forms. The student will participate in a wide range of experiences using additive and subtractive sculptural techniques, designed to build artistic and creative confidence. The original products created in this course may serve as functional items or fine works of art. Historical and cultural sculptures will be studied throughout each unit.

**Music Appreciation (APEX)****UC/CSU: F | SAUSD: Meets VAPA requirement**

Music Appreciation introduces students to the history, theory, and genres of music, from the most primitive surviving examples through the classical to the most contemporary in the world at large. The course is offered in a two-semester format. The first semester covers primitive musical forms and classical music. The second semester presents the rich modern traditions, including American jazz, gospel, folk, soul, blues, Latin rhythms, rock and roll, and hip-hop. The course explores the interface of music and social movements and examines how the emergent global society and the Internet bring musical forms together in new ways from all around the world.

**SAC Music 101****UC/CSU: F | SAUSD: Meets VAPA requirement**

Designed to increase awareness and appreciation of music from the European classical tradition in relation to general culture and history. Develops basic understanding of musical elements and deepens student's experience of music. Recommended for non-music majors.

## Electives

**AVID I****UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success, and it is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor-facilitated study groups, strengthen metacognition development, analytical reading and writing, communication skills, and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth. Students will increase awareness of their personal contributions to their learning, as well as their involvement in their school and community. Students will prepare for and participate in college entrance and placement exams, while refining study skills and test-taking, note-taking, and research techniques.

**AVID II****UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

The second sequence of Advancement Via Individual determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success, and it is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor-facilitated study groups, strengthen metacognitive development, analytical reading and writing, communication skills, and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused in writing, communication skills, and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration organization and reading to support their academic growth. In the 10th grade year, students will continue to refine their academic learning plans and goals, increasing awareness of their actions and behaviors, as well as develop and increased ability to self-monitor, self-regulate, and manage time. Students will expand their writing portfolio to include: analyzing prompts, supporting



arguments and claims, character analysis and detailed reflection. Lastly, students will narrow their college and careers of interest, based on personal interests and goals.

### **AVID III**

**UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success, and it is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor-facilitated study groups, strengthen metacognitive development, analytical reading and writing, communication skills, and academic success skills. The course emphasizes rhetorical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion strategies, tutorial inquiry study groups, preparation for college entrance exams, college study skills and test-taking strategies, note-taking and research. The eleventh grade AVID Elective course is the first part in a junior/senior seminar course that focuses on writing and critical thinking expected of first and second-year college students. In addition to the academic focus of the AVID seminar, there are college-bound activities, methodologies and tasks that should be undertaken during the junior year to support students as they apply to four-year universities and confirm their postsecondary plans.

### **AVID Senior Seminar**

**UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

The fourth sequence of Advancement Via Individual determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success, and it is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor-facilitated study groups, strengthen metacognitive development, analytical reading and writing, communication skills, and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth. In the 12th grade year, students will continue to refine their academic learning plans and goals, create legacy projects including service learning projects/mentoring, as well as develop an increased ability to self-monitor, self-regulate, and manage time. Students will expand their writing portfolio to include: an argumentative research paper on a social issue and detailed reflections. Lastly, students will prepare for college through the use of inquiry based collaborative study groups utilizing higher order thinking questioning techniques.

### **Journalism**

**UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

This two-semester elective course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to work with advanced technology, strengthen their analytical and problem-solving skills, writing abilities, and manage responsibility. These are the 21st century skills emphasized in the Common Core Standards, so Journalism provides students with an excellent opportunity to develop skills needed across the curriculum and in the professional world. This course works toward the completion of a finished product, the school newspaper. Journalism is a challenging course in which students have the unique opportunity to produce a publication for printing, run a business, and record history.

**Leadership****UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

This two-semester elective course will emphasize skills such as goal setting, communication, and organization, along with the other skills it takes to be a good leader both in your school and community. The structure of this class will consist of group activities, planning for school and community events, individual projects/goals, and the learning and practicing of leadership qualities/skills both as a group and as individuals. This course is based on the belief that good leaders are developed—not born. As such, the focus of this class will be to give you the tools you need to become great leaders.

**Speech and Debate (Competitive)****UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

Speech and Debate covers a variety of styles of public speaking and formal debate. Through research and practice students will become familiar with these styles through instruction, research, and practice. Each unit will culminate in performance assignments that require students to demonstrate their abilities within the classroom setting. Opportunities to take their knowledge to competition at the local and state level may be made available to students.

**SAC Counseling 100: Lifelong Understanding and Self-Development****UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

Integrates concepts of lifelong understanding pertaining to career choice, educational planning, and self inventory Skills, values, and interest assessments are utilized Emphasis is on applying psychological principles to values clarification, goal setting, and decision making. Students analyze social/cultural conditioning and explore successful strategies for living in a diverse society. CSU/UC

**SAC Counseling 121: Introduction to STEM Study Skills****UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

This course is designed to introduce specialized study techniques for students in science, technology, engineering, and math courses Effective learning processes will be examined through facilitated, structured peer interaction; strategies for complex problem solving; time management; and overcoming obstacles to achievement in rigorous coursework. Grade: Pass/No Pass Only. CSU

**SAC Psychology 100: Introduction to Psychology****UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

An introduction to the major theories, methods, concepts, ethical issues, and findings in the major fields in psychology including (but not limited to): biological bases of behavior, perception, cognition and consciousness, learning, memory, emotion, motivation, development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and therapeutic approaches, and applied psychology. CSU/UC

**SAC Communications & Media Studies 102: Multimedia Storytelling****UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

Explores alternative story forms by combining text, still photographs, video clips, audio, graphics and interactivity to tell stories in the most compelling and informative way. Focuses on using a variety of media to tell different parts of a story for presentation in digital and online platforms. CSU

**SAC Communications & Media Studies 103: Introduction to Visual Communications**  
**UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

This multimedia course explores the social, cultural and historical implications of visual communications from Gutenberg's printing press to present day digital media. Using works of philosophical, historical and cultural importance students will analyze and debate the changes in the way visual communications affect society, and shape cultural values. CSU/UC Communications & Media Studies

**SAC Political Science 101**

**UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

Study of United States national government and California state and local governments. Satisfies graduation requirement for American institutions and state requirements for California state government.

**SAC History 124: Mexican American History in the United States**

**UC/CSU: G | SAUSD: Meets Elective requirement**

Survey of Mexican American history in the U.S. from the Pre-Columbian period to the present. Emphasis on Mexican American contributions to the political, social, economic, and cultural development of the U.S. Will also examine the relationship of Mexican Americans to other cultural groups. CSU/US