

Mount Assisi Academy

1951 – 2011
60th Anniversary
Franciscan Tradition – Franciscan Future



Course Catalog
2011 – 2012

MISSION

Mount Assisi Academy is a Catholic, college preparatory school for young women sponsored by the School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the King, carrying on the ideals of their Foundress, Mother Margareta Pucher.

Mount Assisi Academy educates young women, in a welcoming environment to discover their God-given talents and to achieve their fullest potential through challenging academics, spiritual development and supportive co-curricular activities for success in lifelong learning.

Mount Assisi Academy encourages its students to be leaders who build community based on Gospel Values, in the spirit of St. Francis, for the common good.

HISTORY AND EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Mt. Assisi Academy, founded in 1951, is an independent, women's secondary school rooted in Catholic and Franciscan traditions. As a college preparatory school, MAA offers programs to prepare students for a successful transition to post-secondary education.

As a Franciscan school its religious tradition is based on the following values modeled in the life of Francis of Assisi and Mother Margareta Pucher.

- ❖ God is the center of life and our ultimate goal
- ❖ The humanity of Jesus blesses our own humanity calling us to recognize our own personal dignity as children of God
- ❖ Each person, as a creation of God, has dignity and deserves respect
- ❖ We are sisters and brothers to one another and all God's creatures who share relationships in the loving embrace of God.

Based on this tradition, the MAA learning community believes that each student has unique, God-given abilities and potential. Therefore, each student is offered opportunities to develop her potential in ways that provide a foundation for further learning and a meaningful life.

Since the Franciscan intellectual tradition is characterized by critical thinking, scientific reasoning, progressive methods and practical applications the administration, faculty and staff at MAA strive to develop and implement contemporary educational programs that encourage students to be creative and develop problem-solving skills.

Thus, MAA strives to provide diverse curricular and co-curricular programs designed to foster the holistic growth of the person: spiritual, intellectual, social, physical, cultural, emotional, and aesthetic.

ACADEMIC PLANNING GUIDELINES

- Each student must carry a minimum of 6.5 classes each semester, excluding before and after school classes. Lunch must be included in the student's program.
- The schedule is planned using all eight periods. Students cannot choose courses, planning to leave school early.
- Students should review the curriculum guide and selections with their parent(s). All course grade prerequisites will be based on grades received during the first semester of the 2011-2012 school year and during previous school years. In addition, second semester grades will be reviewed at the end of the school year to be sure the prerequisites have been met. **If a student does not meet course prerequisites, the student may be dropped or moved to a different course level.**
- Refer to the Course Sequence map located on the last page of this book to help guide registration decisions.
- Once the scheduling process is completed, schedule changes may not be made. If changes are necessary a \$75.00 fee will be charged.
- **Students will be scheduled for courses on a first-come, first-served basis. Some course enrollments will be limited.**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following courses are required for the Classes of 2012 and 2013:

A minimum of 24 credits is required for graduation. Each student receives one unit of credit for each course she successfully completes for the year. A half-credit is given for a semester course that is successfully completed.

Theology	4 credits
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	2 credits
Social Science*	2 credits
Foreign Language/Fine Arts	2 credits
Physical Education/Health	1 credit
Business/Technology	.5 credit
Electives	5.5 credits

**World History, U.S. History, and American Government are required. Students must pass the U.S. Constitution and Illinois Constitution tests.*

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The following courses are required for the Classes of 2014 and 2015:

A minimum of 25.5 credits is required for graduation. Each student receives one unit of credit for each course she successfully completes for the year. A half-credit is given for a semester course that is successfully completed.

Theology	4 credits
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Science*	3 credits
Foreign Language/Fine Arts	3 credits
Physical Education/Health	1.5 credit
Business/Technology	.5 credit
Electives	3.5 credits

**World History, U.S. History, and American Government are required. Students must pass the U.S. Constitution and Illinois Constitution tests.*

Courses can be altered, added or dropped at the discretion of the school.

STATE UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements are listed to provide information for planning for future college choices.

Minimum State University Requirements:

English 4 credits

Foreign Language/Fine Arts 2 credits

Mathematics 3 credits

Sciences 3 credits of laboratory science (*Each state university has its own requirements*)

Social Sciences 3 credits (*Emphasizing history and government*)

Theology Courses

- 910 The Catholic Faith: An Introduction:** This course invites freshmen to explore what Catholics believe about God, Jesus, and the Sacraments. The text is based upon the Apostles Creed and the Catholic Catechism. The content includes topics of faith, love, Jesus, the Gospel, the Spirit, the Church, Sacraments, initiation, Eucharist, healing, ministry, marriage and Spirituality. The fourth quarter provides guidance in Christian Sexual Morality.
Required: Freshmen **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 912 Hebrew Scriptures:** This course is a study of the Sacred Word of the Hebrew people God's boundless love is discussed in the stories of the Creation, Exodus, and the Covenant. The Kings, Prophets, Exile and the prophetic literature are also discussed.
Required: Sophomores **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 920 Christian Scriptures:** This course is a study of the life and times of Jesus, the development of the Gospels and the New Testament. The format is based on call and relationship to Jesus. Chapters are named to identify our call into relationship, called to be like Jesus, called to believe, to justice, to love, to share the Good News and called to be Church. Witnesses of love are a focus.
Required: Sophomores **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 930 Justice and Peace:** This course discusses aspects of justice and peace as they relate with Scripture, the Church and all people. Topics include poverty, sexual identity, race, marginalized groups of people and ecology. The text concludes with fostering the idea of peacemaking.
Required: Juniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 932 Christian Morality:** This course provides the student with an opportunity to explore and grow into moral maturity. Learning from the person and ministry of Jesus and the teachings of the Catholic Church, the student is directed toward the development of a virtuous character, a rightly informed conscience and wise decision making.
Required: Juniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 940 Sacraments:** This course is a systematic study of Roman Catholicism showing students the beauty and logic of our faith. With a special emphasis on Sacraments, the course presents an orderly and reasoned statement of Catholic belief in the light of Vatican II, Scriptural studies and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
Required: Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 941 Church History:** This course provides a theological and historical framework for understanding the Catholic Church. Starting with the beginnings of Christianity, the text traces the growth and development of the Church to modern times. Several historic personalities, many of them saints, are profiled. The workings and structure of the Church are also explained.
Required: Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester

English Courses

- 312 English I Margaretan:** This course takes an integrated approach to explore a variety of literary genres. Students will increase their reading, writing, research, listening and speaking skills. Basic grammar is a particular focus. Although the scope of this course is the same as Freshmen Academic English, the instructional support is designed to build students' skills to a mastery level, particularly in reading and writing.
Required: Freshmen **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Additional Fee Required**
- 316 Reading and Study Skills:** This course for freshmen in the Margaretan Program was carefully designed to improve students study skills, thereby enabling them to be active, organized learners and to be more successful in their courses. It introduces and practices study, note taking and reading strategies which are designed to improve comprehension, develop vocabulary, and improve written communication skills.
Required: Freshmen **Credit:** ½
Length: Full Year **Additional Fee Required**
- 310 English I Academic:** This course takes an integrated approach to explore a variety of literary genres. Students will increase their reading, writing, research, listening and speaking skills. Basic grammar is a particular focus.
Required: Freshmen **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 314 English I Honors:** In this rigorous course students will increase their reading, writing, thinking, research, speaking and listening skills. This is achieved through an integrated approach to the study of literature and composition.
Required: Freshmen **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 322 English II Margaretan:** Students increase their knowledge of literary genres as they practice active reading skills. Students continue developing grammar control and proficiency with the five part essay as well as learning to write a short research paper. Students are also taught public speaking techniques for formal and informal speeches. Students increase their vocabulary knowledge throughout the year.
Prerequisite: English I Margaretan
Required: Sophomores **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Additional Fee Required**
- 320 English II Academic:** Students increase their knowledge of literary genres as they practice active reading skills. Students increase their knowledge of grammar in conjunction with essay and research paper writing. Students are also taught public speaking techniques for formal and informal speeches. Students increase their vocabulary knowledge throughout the year.
Prerequisite: English I Academic
Required: Sophomores **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 324 English II Honors:** Students increase their knowledge of grammar in conjunction with writing sophisticated essays and a literature based research paper. Students are also taught public speaking techniques for formal and informal speeches. Students increase their vocabulary knowledge throughout the year. Students are expected to demonstrate a high level of critical thinking in their study of literature, in their writing, and through presentations.
Prerequisite: C or higher in English I Honors
Required: Sophomore **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 332 English III Margaretan:** English III Margaretan covers the literature of the United States from the Puritan Era to the present. This course complements the study of American History, which is also taken during the junior year. It develops the techniques necessary for the interpretation of literature. Students read works of literature and analyze collaboratively. The students' writing aims at greater control over the persuasive essay and including specific support. This course reinforces grammar and increases vocabulary knowledge.
Prerequisite: English II Margaretan
Required: Juniors **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Additional Fee Required**

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- 330 English III Academic:** English III Academic covers the literature of the United States from the Puritan Era to the present. This course complements the study of American History, which is also taken during the junior year. It develops the techniques necessary for the interpretation of literature. Students read works of literature and analyze independently and collaboratively. The students' writing aims at greater control over the persuasive essay and specifically at developing the ability to write about literature. This course reinforces grammar and increases vocabulary knowledge with regards to root words and difficult vocabulary from the works read.
- Prerequisite:** English II Academic
Required: Juniors
Length: Full Year
- Credit: 1**
- 334 English III Honors:** English III Honors covers the literature of the United States from the Puritan Era to the present. This course complements AP American History, which is also taken during the junior year. English III Honors develops the analytical techniques necessary for the independent interpretation of literature. Students read several works of literature and analyze through independent reading, literature circles, and collaborative whole-group discussion. The students' writing aims at greater control over the persuasive essay and specifically at developing analytical theses on literature through a major analytical essay. This course reinforces grammar and increases vocabulary knowledge with regards to root words and difficult vocabulary from the works read.
- Prerequisite:** C or higher in English II Honors
Required: Juniors
Length: Full Year
- Credit: 1**
- 343 Contemporary Literature Margaretan:** This course addresses late high school reading and literature standards with a variety of reading experiences from American and world literature from 1960 to the present. Students will analyze and interpret a variety of issues and support their assertions using textual evidence. Students will express their ideas through written, verbal, and creative response. The course incorporates practice in writing, research, and listening with emphasis on speaking in front of an audience. Grammar and usage skills are reviewed as needed and incorporated into the writing process. Although the scope of this course is the same as Contemporary Literature Academic, the instructional support is designed to build students' skills to grade-level mastery, particularly in reading and writing.
- Prerequisite:** English III Margaretan
Required: Seniors
Length: Full Year
- Credit: 1**
Additional Fee Required
- 340 British Literature Honors:** This course develops the analytical techniques necessary for the interpretation of selected prose, poetry, and drama from the canon of British Literature. Students will examine historical influences, author's purpose, cultural context, and modern connections to the literature they read. Students' papers will incorporate research skills and proper documentation of credible, academic sources which will include both electronic and printed material. Grammar and usage skills are reviewed as needed and incorporated into the writing process. Upon completion, students should be able to interpret, analyze, and respond to literary works in their historical and cultural contexts.
- Prerequisite:** English III Honors or B+ or higher in English III Academic
Required: Seniors
Length: Full Year
- Credit: 1**
- 341 British Literature Academic:** This course focuses on a year-long chronological study of British literature including the genres of poetry, essay, novel, short story and drama. Students' papers will incorporate research skills as well as grammar and usage skills. Upon completion, student should be able to interpret, analyze and respond to literary works in their historical and cultural contexts.
- Prerequisite:** English III Academic
Required: Seniors
Length: Full year
- Credit: 1**
- 344 AP® English Language and Composition:** As in a college level course, this course engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and 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. The students are expected to develop their own mature concise writing style and master the modes of writing to communicate effectively with mature readers.
- Prerequisite:** B or higher in English III Honors
Required: Seniors
Length: Full Year
- Credit: 1**

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Please note electives may be offered on a rotating basis.

- 342 Contemporary Literature:** This course addresses late high school reading and literature standards with a variety of reading experiences from American and world literature from 1960 to the present. Students will analyze and interpret a variety of issues and support their assertions using textual evidence. Students will express their ideas through written, verbal, and creative response. The course incorporates practice in writing, research, and listening with emphasis on speaking in front of an audience. Grammar and usage skills are reviewed as needed and incorporated into the writing process. **This course may be taken as an elective by those students in British Literature Honors and AP English Language and Composition.**

Prerequisite: English III Academic

Required: Elective

Length: Full Year

Credit: 1

- 345 Cinema and Composition:** This semester course is designed to introduce students to the elements needed to understand and appreciate the world of film. This course seeks to help the student see that literature and film go hand in hand by the nature of their common narrative elements despite the differences in their delivery. In this course, we will study works of cultural, historical, and aesthetic significance. Students will learn to see film as an art form with concentration on theme, style, content, structure, and technique. In addition, students are taught to analyze film and to effectively write essays of criticism and analysis. As an elective, this course is taken concurrently with a required English course.

Prerequisite: B or higher in English

Elective: Juniors, Seniors

Length: Semester

Credit: ½

- 346 Creative Writing:** This course focuses on writing different forms of poetry and prose. The conventions used in different types of creative writing genre are discussed as well as how writers break the rules. Professional writers are used as models for student writing as well as for appreciation. As an elective, this course is taken concurrently with a required English course.

Prerequisite: B or higher in English

Elective: Juniors, Seniors

Length: Semester

Credit: ½

- 347 Independent Reading:** This elective course is a semester class that emphasizes the development of a love for reading as a source of enjoyment and learning. During each quarter of the semester a student will choose 2 or 3 books to read, a combination of fiction and nonfiction, which are not included in any other course of study. Students will read during the class periods and record daily progress. As an elective, this course is taken concurrently with a required English course.

Elective: Juniors, Seniors

Length: Semester

Credit: ½

Mathematics Courses

822 Algebra I Margaretan: This course introduces as well as reinforces algebraic skills in problem solving. It includes connections to algebra, properties of real numbers, solving linear equations, graphing linear equations and functions, writing linear equations, solving and graphing linear inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, quadratic equations and functions, polynomials and factoring, and rational expressions and equations.

Required: Freshmen **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Additional Fee Required**

826 Algebra I Academic: This course introduces as well as reinforces algebraic skills in problem solving. It includes expressions, equations and functions, properties of real numbers, solving linear equations, graphing linear equations and functions, writing linear equations, solving and graphing linear inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratic equations and functions, radicals and geometry connections, and rational equations and functions.

Required: Freshmen **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year

828 Algebra I Honors: This course introduces as well as reinforces algebraic skills in problem solving. It includes expressions, equations and functions, properties of real numbers, solving linear equations, graphing linear equations and functions, writing linear equations, solving and graphing linear inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratic equations and functions, radicals and geometry connections, rational equations and functions, and probability and data analysis. Students are required to move more rapidly through the material and to analyze problems in greater depth. Students are also encouraged to participate in the math team competitions.

Required: Freshmen **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year

832 Geometry Margaretan: This course is intended for those students who have successfully completed Algebra I Margaretan. Concepts and methods of geometry will be covered. It includes basics of geometry, segments and angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangle relationships, congruent triangles, quadrilaterals, similarity, polygons and area, surface area and volume, right triangles and trigonometry, and circles. The intent of this course is to provide a practical understanding of geometry.

Prerequisite: Algebra I Margaretan
Required: Sophomores **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Additional Fee Required**

830 Geometry Academic: This course further develops reasoning and problem solving skills. Topics include basics of geometry, reasoning and proof, segments and angles, parallel, perpendicular and skew lines, triangle similarity and congruency, properties of polygons and circles, right triangle trigonometry, and surface area and volume of solids.

Prerequisite: Algebra I Academic
Required: Sophomores **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year

834 Geometry Honors: This course further develops reasoning and problem solving skills. Topics include basics of geometry, reasoning and proof, segments and angles, parallel, perpendicular and skew lines, triangle similarity and congruency, properties of polygons and circles, right triangle trigonometry, transformations using vectors and matrices, and surface area and volume of solids. This class proceeds at an accelerated pace and covers the material at a deeper level. Students are encouraged to participate in the math team competitions.

Prerequisite: C or higher in Algebra I Honors
Required: Sophomores **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year

842 Algebra II Margaretan: This course is intended for students who have successfully completed Algebra I Margaretan and Geometry Margaretan. Topics include matrices, conic sections, functions, logarithms, exponential equations, and complex numbers.

Prerequisite: Geometry Margaretan
Required: Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Additional Fee Required**

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- 840 Algebra II Academic:** This course continues the skills begun in Algebra I. Topics include matrices, conic sections, functions, logarithms, exponential equations, and complex numbers.
Prerequisite: Geometry Academic
Required: Juniors
Length: Full Year
Credit: 1
- 844 Algebra II Trigonometry Honors:** This class includes work with matrices, conic sections, functions, logarithms, exponential equations, and complex numbers. Additional topics include an analysis of circular trigonometric functions, trigonometry of triangles and applications, and solutions of trigonometric equations and identities. This class proceeds at an accelerated pace and covers material of greater difficulty. Students are encouraged to participate in the math team competitions.
Prerequisite: C or higher in Geometry Honors
Freshmen Proficiency Exam
Required: Freshmen, Juniors
Length: Full Year
Credit: 1
- 830 Topics in Math:** This class investigates how math is used to describe and understand our world. Concepts from algebra and geometry are reviewed. Additional topics include problem solving, set theory, logic, number theory, probability, statistics, and graph theory. The class is directed toward students in need of reinforcement of skills and concepts presented in other math classes. Differentiated instruction will be used as needed.
Prerequisite: Algebra II
Elective: Seniors
Length: Full Year
Credit: 1
- 864 College Algebra & Trigonometry:** This course is designed to strengthen concepts learned in Algebra II. Topics include advanced graphs, polynomials, exponential and logarithmic functions, conic sections, and trigonometric functions and identities.
Prerequisite: C or higher in Algebra II Academic
Elective: Seniors
Length: Full Year
Credit: 1
- 870 Pre-Calculus Honors:** This course emphasizes college algebra concepts and provides the basis for successful entrance into Calculus. Topics include the modeling and transformation of polynomial, power, rational, exponential, logistic, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Additional topics include analytic trigonometry, vectors, parametric equations, polar equations, matrices, analytic geometry, discrete mathematics and an introduction to limits, derivatives and integrals. Students are encouraged to participate in the math team competitions.
Prerequisite: C or higher in Algebra II/Trig Honors
Elective: Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year
Credit: 1
- 874 Calculus AB AP:** This course is similar to Calculus I on the college level. It is offered on a small group or individual basis as needed. Topics include functions, graphical symmetry, patterns in graphs, limits and continuity, asymptotic and unbounded behavior, continuous functions, derivatives at a point, computing derivatives, derivative as a function, higher-order derivatives, chain rule and implicit differentiation, tangent and normal lines, rates of change, related rates, and rectilinear motion. The AP Calculus test is required of students at the end of the course. (Class may be offered through Illinois Virtual High School.)
Prerequisite: B or higher in Pre-Calculus Honors
Elective: Seniors
Length: Full Year
Credit: 1

Science Courses

- 422 Biology I Margaretan:** This course is a study of the fundamental biological concepts. Selected laboratory investigations are implemented to develop scientific reasoning and laboratory technique. The course takes a thematic approach to understanding the interconnections and interdependence of all living things. Through the course, students are provided with reading and vocabulary skills, while presenting a survey of the general aspect of the study of life.
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|------------------|-----------|----------------|---|
| Required: | Freshmen | Credit: | 1 |
| Length: | Full Year | Fee: | \$20.00 plus an additional Margaretan Fee |
- 420 Biology I Academic:** This course is a full laboratory study of the fundamental biological concepts. Through lecture and laboratory investigation, students are introduced to the study of scientific methodology, inorganic and biochemistry, cytology, cellular processes, cellular reproduction, molecular biology, genetics and ecology. Through the course students are given the opportunity to become aware of the interconnections and interdependence of all living things, understand their role in preserving the environment and develop appreciation and respect for all life forms.
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|------------------|-----------|----------------|---------|
| Required: | Freshmen | Credit: | 1 |
| Length: | Full Year | Fee: | \$20.00 |
- 424 Biology I Honors:** This course is an accelerated full laboratory study of fundamental biological concepts. Skills in analytical and critical thinking are emphasized. Through lecture, independent research, and laboratory investigation, students are introduced to the in-depth study of scientific methodology, inorganic and biochemistry, cytology, cellular processes, cellular reproduction, molecular biology, genetics and ecology. Through the course students are given the opportunity to become aware of the interconnections and interdependence of all living things, understand their role in preserving the environment and develop appreciation and respect for all life forms.
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|------------------|-----------|----------------|---------|
| Required: | Freshmen | Credit: | 1 |
| Length: | Full Year | Fee: | \$20.00 |
- 442 Chemistry Margaretan:** This course is a student-centered, activity-based, issues-oriented chemistry course. The study of the concepts of chemistry and the application of these concepts is placed in a societal context to help students become more aware of chemistry's impact on the world in which they live. Contemporary socio-technological issues including water supply and quality, chemical resources, petroleum resources and alternatives, environmental impact of energy, chemistry of food, nuclear chemistry, and atmospheric chemistry are used to develop understanding of chemical concepts, scientific inquiry, decision-making, and problem-solving skills.
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| Prerequisite: | Biology I Margaretan | Credit: | 1 |
| Required: | Sophomore | Fee: | \$20.00 plus an additional Margaretan Fee |
| Length: | Full Year | | |
- 440 Chemistry Academic:** This course introduces students to the study of the structure and properties of matter, the changes that matter undergoes and the interrelationship between matter and energy. Course emphasis is on fundamental chemical laws, properties of elements and types of chemical reactions. The course is mathematical and experimental in approach. The course includes quantitative problem-solving; therefore, adequate background in math is essential. In the laboratory, students learn a variety of techniques for use in predicting and analyzing substances and clarifying theories. Through the course students are given the opportunity to explore and understand the natural world and to become aware of the profound influence of chemistry on their lives and society.
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|----------------------|---|----------------|---------|
| Prerequisite: | Biology I Academic and Algebra I Academic | Credit: | 1 |
| Required: | Sophomore | Fee: | \$20.00 |
| Length: | Full Year | | |
- 444 Chemistry Honors:** This course is an accelerated study of the structure and properties of matter, the changes that matter undergoes and the interrelationship between matter and energy. The course emphasizes the development of chemical principles utilizing both strong analytical and mathematical skills. In the laboratory, students learn a variety of techniques for use in predicting and analyzing substances and clarifying theories. Through the course students are given the opportunity to explore and understand the natural world and to become aware of the profound influence of chemistry on their lives and society.
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|----------------------|--|----------------|---------|
| Prerequisite: | C or higher in Biology I Honors and Algebra I Honors | Credit: | 1 |
| Required: | Sophomore | Fee: | \$20.00 |
| Length: | Full Year | | |

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- 452 Physics Academic:** This course explores the fundamental principles of physics; introduces the phenomena, concepts, and theories of classical and modern physics; details Newtonian mechanics, kinematics, dynamics, statics, momentum, energy, and heat energy; includes electricity and magnetism, light, optics, sound, and selected topics from modern physics. These topics will be integrated with issues of experimental design, to include scientific method and associated error analysis techniques. Classroom activities include lectures, demonstrations, lab experiments, problem solving, computer simulations, and audio-visual presentations. This course is highly mathematical and students should have significant facility with algebra and geometry concepts.

Prerequisite: Chemistry Academic and Geometry Academic
Required: Junior **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Fee:** \$20.00

- 450 Physics Honors:** This is an accelerated course which explores the fundamental principles of physics; introduces the phenomena, concepts, and theories of classical and modern physics; details Newtonian mechanics, kinematics, dynamics, statics, momentum, energy, and heat energy; includes electricity and magnetism, light, optics, sound, and selected topics from modern physics. These topics will be integrated with issues of experimental design, to include scientific method and associated error analysis techniques. Classroom activities include lectures, demonstrations, lab experiments, problem solving, computer simulations, and audio-visual presentations. This course utilizes both rigorous analytical and mathematical skills.

Prerequisite: C or higher in Chemistry Honors and Geometry Honors
Required: Junior **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Fee:** \$20.00

- 435 Environmental Science Academic:** This course introduces the student to the varied scientific approaches and topics involved when studying the environment. The student will examine the basic environmental components of the Earth and its ecosystems, along with how life and development may alter the characteristics of the ecosystems. The societal and environmental effects of population growth and management will also be studied. The scientific focus of this course is largely biological, with some knowledge in chemistry and physics suggested. Sociological and economical aspects and how these areas play a large role in environmental regulations are also of focus. This is a lab course.

Prerequisite: C or higher in Biology Academic and Chemistry Academic
Elective: Senior **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Fee:** \$20.00

- 431 Anatomy and Physiology Academic:** This course is a study in the relationships between the structures and functions of the human body. The student will be introduced to the anatomical terminology used in discussing and studying the body, and will receive a review in cell structure and function as well as basic chemistry before delving deeper into the systems of the body. Tissue structure and function, musculoskeletal systems, the nervous system and sensation, circulatory and respiratory systems will be a large focus. Other systems of study may include the endocrine, digestive and immune systems. A variety of laboratory activities will be utilized to reinforce the understanding of anatomical and physiological concepts, including internet based labs, microscopy, and dissection.

Prerequisite: C or higher in Biology Academic and Chemistry Academic
Elective: Senior **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Fee:** \$20.00

- 430 Anatomy and Physiology Honors:** This course involves an advanced study of human body structure and function and is recommended for those intending to pursue careers in medicine or allied health fields. The student is expected to have retained knowledge of cell biology and chemistry. As such, little review will be done on these topics, but the student will have to apply concepts from these subjects to the human body systems. The student will be introduced to the anatomical terminology as well as tissue structure and function, musculoskeletal systems, the nervous system and sensation, circulatory and respiratory systems. Other systems of study will include the endocrine, digestive and immune systems. A variety of laboratory activities will be utilized to reinforce the understanding of anatomical and physiological concepts, including internet based labs, microscopy, and dissection.

Prerequisite: C or higher in Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry and/or Honors Physics
Elective: Senior **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Fee:** \$20.00

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- 428 Advanced Biology Honors:** This course is an accelerated biology designed to prepare the student for college-level biology. It is a suggested course for those seeking a college degree in the sciences. The following concepts are covered in detail and at an accelerated pace: molecular biology, genetics/heredity, organisms and populations (including plant and animal structure/function as well as ecology). This is a year-long laboratory course. Students may receive college credit in biology by qualifying on a test given by the College Entrance Examination Board.

Prerequisite: B or higher in Biology Honors, Chemistry Honors and Physics Honors
Elective: Senior **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Fee:** \$20.00

- 460 Forensic Science:** Forensic science is the application of science to the law and encompasses various scientific disciplines. This course will introduce various methodologies and applications used in the forensic context. The course will explore the history of forensic science, methods of investigating a crime scene, types of evidence, analysis of physical evidence; facial reconstruction; and principles of serology (blood) and DNA analysis. Students will apply their theoretical knowledge by analyzing actual cases, practicing investigation techniques and solving simulated crimes. The class will rely heavily on labs, case studies, video, mystery writing, guest speakers, text and forensic science journal readings.

Prerequisite: Physics
Elective: Senior **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester **Fee:** 20.00

Social Science Courses

- 512 World History Margaretan:** This course examines the history of the world’s major civilizations from prehistory to the 20th Century with the major emphasis on Western civilization. Differentiated learning strategies, reading improvement strategies and critical thinking strategies are an important part of the learning process in this course.
Required: Sophomores **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Additional Fee Required**
- 510 World History Academic:** This course covers the history of the world’s major civilizations from prehistory to the 20th century with the major emphasis on Western civilization. Students will develop an understanding of the connection between the past and present and the implications for the future world in which they live.
Required: Sophomores **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 514 World History Honors:** This course examines the history of the world’s major civilizations from prehistory to the 20th century. Students will develop an understanding of the connection between the past and present and the implications for the future world in which they live. Students will be challenged to use higher level thinking skills as they work with primary sources and document-based writing activities.
Prerequisite: C or better in English I Honors
Required: Sophomores **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 562 United States History Margaretan:** This course is a chronological survey of the history of the United States from colonial times to the 21st century. Students will participate in active discussion and debate as they learn about the important people and events unique to their nation’s history. Emphasis is placed on differentiated instruction strategies that will improve reading comprehension, critical thinking and writing skills, and broaden student vocabulary.
Prerequisite: World History Margaretan
Required: Juniors **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year **Additional Fee Required**
- 560 United States History Academic:** This course is a chronological survey of the history of the United States from colonial times to the 21st century. Critical thinking and writing skills using primary and secondary sources will be emphasized. Students will participate in active discussion and debate as they learn about the important people and events unique to their nation’s history.
Prerequisite: World History Academic
Required: Juniors **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 564 AP® United States History:** This advanced placement college level course is a two-semester survey of American history from the Age of Discovery to the 21st century. Students will participate in active discussion and debate as they learn about the important people and events unique to their nation’s history. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents and historiography. A college level text and document book is used. All students enrolled will be expected to take the AP exam in May.
Prerequisite: B or better in World History Honors and English II Honors
Required: Juniors **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 569 American Government Margaretan:** This course focuses on the historical development of American political institutions along with the structure and function of federal, state, and local government. Students will also examine important issues that face contemporary American society. By participating in class discussion, debate, analysis and evaluation, students will develop the necessary skills to make informed decisions and become active citizens. Emphasis is placed on differentiated instruction strategies that enhance student reading and writing skills. Successful completion of this course fulfills the state requirements of passing the Federal and State constitution tests.
Prerequisite: United States History Margaretan
Required: Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester **Additional Fee Required**

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- 568 American Government Academic:** This course focuses on the historical development of American political institutions along with the structure and function of federal, state, and local government. Students will also examine important issues that face contemporary American society. By participating in class discussion, debate, analysis and evaluation, students will develop the necessary skills to make informed decisions and become active citizens. Successful completion of this course fulfills the state requirements of passing the Federal and State constitution tests.
- Prerequisite:** United States History Academic
Required: Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 5695 American Government Honors:** This course focuses on the historical development of American political institutions along with the structure and function of federal, state and local government. Students will also examine important issues that face contemporary American society. By participating in class discussion, debate, analysis, and evaluation, students will develop the necessary skills to make informed decisions and become active citizens. Special emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking, essay writing, and interpretation of primary source documents. Successful completion of this course fulfills the state requirement of passing the Federal and State constitution tests.
- Prerequisite:** AP® United States History
Required: Seniors **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 545 Modern World Topics:** This semester course explores the economic and political issues of the day. Emphasis of the course will be on current domestic and foreign problems.
- Prerequisite:** C Average
Elective: Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 552 Sociology:** This semester course explores the social and cultural aspects of human society with a broad overview. An emphasis is placed on American culture and upon active student participation in discussions and cooperative group projects.
- Prerequisite:** C Average
Elective: Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 550 Sociology:** This year long course explores the social and cultural aspects of human society and emphasizes the societal influences that shape individual behaviors. An emphasis is placed on examining American culture and encouraging active student participation through analytical class discussions, research, debates, film analysis, writing, and cooperative learning activities.
- Prerequisite:** C Average
Elective: Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 554 Economics:** This semester course studies how individuals, as well as nations, make choices about the allocation of resources to fulfill wants and needs. Through discussion, individual and group projects, and analysis of various economic theories and types of markets, students will learn to use various economic tools and models to gain a deeper understanding of how people's lives are directly affected by the economy.
- Prerequisite:** C Average
Elective: Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 556 Economics Honors:** This year long course provides students with an opportunity to examine key economic concepts and theories in depth. Students will study how individuals, as well as nations make choices about the allocation of resources to fulfill wants and needs. Through discussion, debate, case studies, application exercises and extended projects, students will learn to use various economic tools and theories in order to gain a deeper understanding of how peoples' lives are directly affected in the U.S. and abroad by the economy. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and evaluative skills.
- Prerequisite:** C Average
Elective: Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year

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- 572 Consumer Economics:** This semester course enables students to achieve high standards and competencies in economic principles in contexts of high relevancy and applicability to their lives and the global community. Economic principles to be studied include scarcity, supply and demand, market structure, the role of government, money and the role of financial institutions, labor productivity, economic stabilization and trade.
- Elective:** Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 573 World Geography Margaretan:** This course is designed to help students build a global perspective. Students will learn how geography affects their lives through an understanding of geographical themes, maps and concepts. Differentiated learning strategies and skills instruction will be implemented for deeper understanding of key concepts in human and physical geography.
- Prerequisite:** United States History Margaretan
Elective: Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester **Additional Fee Required**
- 567 Psychology:** This full year course introduces students to the broad discipline of modern psychology that deals with the scientific study of thought processes and the behavior of human beings. Students will review the history of psychology, the various methods employed by psychologists in understanding human behavior, and related topics. Students will be actively involved in their learning as they journal, read and review current topics in professional periodicals, conduct research, critically discuss and evaluate findings, and view contemporary films that deal with key psychological themes and concepts.
- Prerequisite:** B or better in Social Studies
Elective: Seniors **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year
- 568 Introduction to Psychology:** This one semester course is an introduction to the study of behavior. Topics include human development, learning, memory, emotions and social behavior. Students will journal, research and write papers using research skills.
- Prerequisite:** C or better in Social Studies
Elective: Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester

Foreign Language Courses

Spanish

- 710 Spanish I:** This course introduces students to the fundamentals of the Spanish language through listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. Basic vocabulary, verb conjugations and grammatical structures are also introduced at this level. Culture is explored through readings, the fine arts and extra-curricular activities.
***Required:** Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 712 Spanish II Academic:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills introduced in Spanish I. Intermediate vocabulary, verb conjugations, grammatical structures, and reading selections are also incorporated. Emphasis is placed upon communication. Culture is explored through readings, the fine arts and extra-curricular activities.
Prerequisite: Spanish I or Passing Score on Proficiency Exam
***Required:** Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 713 Spanish II Honors:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills attained in Spanish I. More extensive intermediate vocabulary, verb conjugations, grammatical structures, and various forms of literature are also incorporated. Strong emphasis is placed upon accurate oral and written communication. Culture is explored through readings, the fine arts and extra-curricular activities.
Prerequisite: B+ or better in Spanish I or Passing Score on Proficiency Exam
Required: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 714 Spanish III Academic:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills attained in Spanish I & II. Higher-level vocabulary, verb conjugations, grammatical structures, and various forms of literature are also incorporated. Stronger emphasis is placed upon communication. Culture is explored through readings, the fine arts and extra-curricular activities.
Prerequisite: C or better in Spanish II
Elective: Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 716 Spanish III Honors:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills attained in Spanish I & II Honors. Advanced-level vocabulary, verb conjugations, grammatical structures, and various forms of literature are also incorporated. Strong emphasis is placed upon accurate oral and written communication. Culture is explored through readings, the fine arts and extra-curricular activities.
Prerequisite: C or better in Spanish II Honors
Elective: Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 717 Spanish IV Academic:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills attained in Spanish I, II, & III. Advanced-level vocabulary, verb conjugations, grammatical structures, and various forms of literature are also incorporated. A stronger emphasis continues to be placed upon communication. Culture is explored through readings, the fine arts, and extra-curricular activities.
Prerequisite: C or better in Spanish III
Elective: Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 718 Spanish IV Honors:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills attained in Spanish I, II & III Honors. Highly advanced vocabulary, verb conjugations, grammatical structures, and various forms of literature are also incorporated. Very strong emphasis continues to be placed upon accurate oral and written communication. Culture is explored through readings, the fine arts, and extra-curricular activities.
Prerequisite: C or better in Spanish III Honors
Elective: Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 721 Spanish V Honors:** This highly advanced course is an intensive study and practice of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in preparation for the Spanish Language AP exam. Culture will be explored in conjunction with the aforementioned.
Prerequisite: A- or better in Spanish IV Honors**
Elective: Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1

French

- 730 French I:** This course aims at establishing basic communication skills in French, through listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. Basic vocabulary, verb conjugations and grammatical structures are introduced thematically. Students are exposed to simple French reading selections. The study of French-speaking cultures is integrated into the course.
Required: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 732 French II Academic:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills attained in French I. Intermediate vocabulary, grammatical structures and verb conjugations are introduced, with the emphasis placed upon communication. Students are exposed to reading selections of greater length and complexity. The study of French-speaking cultures is integrated into the course.
Prerequisite: French I or Passing Score on Proficiency Exam
***Required:** Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 733 French II Honors:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills attained in French I. More extensive intermediate vocabulary, grammatical concepts and verb conjugations are introduced. Strong emphasis is placed upon accurate oral and written communication. Students are exposed to reading selections of greater length and complexity. The study of French-speaking cultures is integrated into the course.
Prerequisite: B+ or better in French I or Passing Score on Proficiency Exam
Required: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 734 French III Academic:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills attained in French I & II. Higher-level vocabulary, grammatical structures and verb conjugations are introduced, with the emphasis placed upon communication. Students are exposed to a variety of French reading materials. The study of French-speaking cultures is integrated into the course.
Prerequisite: C or better in French II
Elective: Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 736 French III Honors:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills attained in French I & II Honors. More advanced vocabulary, grammatical structures and verb conjugations are introduced. Strong emphasis is placed upon accurate oral and written communication. Students are exposed to a wide variety of French reading materials. The study of French-speaking cultures is integrated into the course
Prerequisite: C or better in French II Honors
Elective: Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 737 French IV Academic:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills attained in French I, II & III. Advanced-level vocabulary, grammatical structures and verb conjugations are introduced, with the emphasis placed upon communication. French art, literature, history and culture are studied. In the second semester, students read and discuss the French classic "Le Petit Prince".
Prerequisite: C or better in French III
Elective: Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 738 French IV Honors:** This course reinforces and expands upon the skills attained in French I, II & III Honors. It provides the remaining grammar base needed for college-level study. Very strong emphasis is placed upon accurate oral and written communication. French art, literature, history, and culture are studied. In the second semester, students read and discuss the French classic "Le Petit Prince".
Prerequisite: C or better in French III Honors
Elective: Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1
- 739 French V Honors:** This highly advanced course is an intensive study and practice of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in preparation for the French Language AP exam.
Prerequisite: A- or better in French IV Honors*
Elective: Seniors
Length: Full Year **Credit:** 1

Notes:

* The level of difficulty of the foreign language AP exam is such that the instructors recommend that only those students whose grade in Spanish/French IV Honors is an A- or better should consider taking it.

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Music Courses

- 141 Music Appreciation:** This course will explore American folk music as well as classic forms of music by looking at the various periods in history, its composers and music. This course pairs well with Art Appreciation.
Elective: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 144 Liturgical Music:** This course meets a half of a period each school day to prepare selections for the special liturgies conducted throughout the school year. Students must attend the required amount of rehearsals to earn one-half credit per year.
Elective: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Full year
- 146 Concert Choir:** This course is designed for anyone who is interested in singing. The choir will perform in at least two concerts per year, singing a broad range of choral music. The choir will also perform a number of times at Alvernia Manor. This choir also performs with the Liturgical Choir at school prayer services and liturgies.
Elective: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** 1
Length: Full Year

Physical Education Courses

482 Health: This course will cover the five aspects of health: social, mental, emotional, spiritual and physical health. Students will study units in wellness, systems of the body, nutrition, fitness, drug education, first aid, and knowledge of diseases

Requirement: *Freshmen
Length: Semester **Credit:** ½

480 Physical Education 1: This course provides the students with experiences in lifetime and team sports, gymnastics, tumbling and fitness activities.

Requirement: Freshmen (Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors if unable to take freshmen year)
Length: Semester **Credit:** ½

****486 Individual and Dual Sports:** This course provides the students with experiences in badminton, golf, tennis, and weight training.

Prerequisite: Physical Education I
Requirement: Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester

****487 Mind & Body:** This course provides the student with experiences in Dance, Pilates, Weight and Resistance Training, and Yoga.

Prerequisite: Physical Education I
Requirement: Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester

Notes:

*Students may take this course sophomore, junior, or senior year if it does not fit into their schedule freshman year.

** Students must take one of these courses for a total of 1.5 credits in physical education.

Business Courses

- 270 Introduction to Information Technology:** A beginning course that includes basic computer terminology; introduction to basic concepts of computing; proper care and use of the Tablet; efficient note taking skills, utilizing the Tablet, stylus, and OneNote; knowledge and facility with the computer keyboard; basics of formatting a report; and basic understandings of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access, and Power Point).
Requirement: Freshmen **Credit:** ½
Length: Semester
- 230 Accounting:** Accounting develops the fundamental skills required for performing the complete accounting cycle. Instruction includes journalizing from source documents, posting to the ledger, summarizing accounts; cash control systems, analyzing financial records, and final reporting. Accounting for the real world is presented, proprietorships and corporations are introduced, and real life working papers are utilized.
Prerequisite: C Average **Credit:** 1
Elective: Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year
- 250 Business Law:** This course provides a fundamental emphasis on business law, while introducing personal law topics that are of interest to the students. The course also explores the legal system and legal principles. Students will understand the fundamentals of contractual law; different forms of business organizations; the law as it applies to financial decisions, debtors, creditors and bankruptcy; and how the law applies to the student. Learning will be applied to relevant real and fictional cases.
Prerequisite: C Average **Credit:** 1
Elective: Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year
- 274 Introduction to PC Applications:** This course is designed to develop integrated PC applications skills required for the completion of personal and business projects. This course focuses on the use of the Microsoft Office Suite or other popular software suites. Topics include the fundamentals of Windows and file management, word processing spreadsheet, database management, and presentation graphics software. Included in the course will be the skills needed to format a research paper utilizing the tools for creating footnotes and endnotes, thus generating a bibliography or source document page. Emphasis will also be placed on creating a resume and a cover letter. **For college credit, students would need to earn a grade of B or higher.**
Prerequisite: C Average **Credit:** 1
Elective: Juniors, Seniors
Length: Full Year

Journalism Courses

096 Newspaper Journalism: This after school activity/course invites the student to learn the different types of articles and styles of writing used in a high school newspaper. It requires writing for each of the six issues of the *Echo*, our school newspaper, attending full-staff meetings, and working toward skilled and responsible journalistic technique.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the spring Journalism Mini-course
Elective: Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** ¼
Length: Full Year

097 Advanced Newspaper Journalism: This advanced after school activity/course involves not only the writing aspects of newspaper production, but invites the student to take responsibility as a senior editor of the school newspaper, the *Echo*. It involves the actual layout and production of each of the six issues of the *Echo*, as well as circulation and management responsibilities.

Prerequisite: A minimum of one year of Newspaper Journalism
Elective: Seniors **Credit:** ½
Length: Full Year

098 Photo Journalism: Students in photojournalism work on the school yearbook. Students learn how to organize time and materials, take photos and crop for good composition, design layouts on the computer, and write captions using correct grammar and identification skills.

Elective: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors **Credit:** ¼
Length: Full Year