

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Number of credits required for graduation: **26 credits**. Credit is earned as follows: 1/2 credit per one-semester course.

English	4 credits (including 1/2 credit speech).
Social Studies	2 credits (including 1 credit U.S. History and 1/2 credit of Civics)
Constitution Requirement	Must pass tests on both the U.S. and IL Constitutions
Mathematics	3 credits including one with geometry content
Science	2 credits
Elective	1 credit of Music, Art, Foreign Language or Vocational Education
Consumer Education	1/2 credit
Health	1/2 credit
Physical Education	Daily enrollment is required. Students in grades 9 and 10 may substitute their required Health class for one semester of Physical Education. Juniors and Seniors may elect to substitute another class in place of P.E. in any one of the following circumstances: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The student is participating in interscholastic athletics. P.E. will be waived only for the semester(s) during which the student is participating in the sport.2. The student is participating in the <u>fall</u> marching band program. PE will be waived only for the semester during which the student is participating in the fall marching band program.3. The student is substituting a class specifically required for college admission.4. The student is substituting a class required for high school graduation.

Computer Literacy: Computer literacy skills and concepts are worked into all course, in particular English, math, science, and social studies courses.

Fees: Some courses may require fees as needed for materials. These fees change from year to year and may vary according to materials selected by students. Some courses which may require fees include Art, Driver Education, lab sciences, vocational courses and CareerTEC courses.

Correspondence Credit: Students may earn 1.0 full credit through correspondence course work, which can be applied toward graduation. However, the correspondence course must have prior administration approval. Additional correspondence credit may be allowed with administrative approval.

Credits prior to high school: High school courses taken while in junior high will count towards graduation credit. In addition, the grades earned will apply to the high school GPA.

Credits through transfer: The acceptance and value of transfer credit will depend upon administrative approval based upon prevailing conditions, circumstances and the nature of the courses transferred.

Required course load: All students in grades 9-11 must be scheduled for a minimum of 3.5 units of credit each semester. Seniors are required to enroll in at least 2.5 units of credit each semester, more if needed to reach the 26 total credits required for graduation. No student will be allowed to schedule fewer credits than they need to graduate. "Open" periods must be taken either at the beginning or the end of the day and are subject to schedule availability. No students may leave on an "open" period and then return for the remainder of their classes.

DUAL CREDIT

Students, with administrative approval, may be dually enrolled at Dakota High School and an institution of higher learning. Students may receive high school credit and college credit simultaneously for the same classes with prior approval. Students will be responsible for tuition and related costs. When the budget allows, the district MAY reimburse up to 50% of tuition (not fees) for all dual-credit classes where a student earns a "C" or better. Dual credit classes taken at DHS with a DHS instructor will only be charged a \$50 Dual Credit fee by HCC, not tuition.

No required graduation credits may be earned by correspondence and/or college course work, unless approved by the principal. An exception may be for a course attempted and failed at the high school, or a course that is impossible to work into a college prep schedule.

CLASS STANDING

Students are assigned to class standings at the beginning of the school year based on the following earned credits:

0 - 4 3/4 credits	Freshman
5 - 11 3/4 credits	Sophomore
12 - 18 3/4 credits	Junior
19 or more credits	Senior

Fourth year students with 18 - 18 3/4 credits may be considered Seniors with additional enrollment in a correspondence course.

IBHE AND NCAA GUIDELINES

Dakota High School students who are considering college enrollment following graduation should be aware of recent guidelines established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and by the National collegiate Athletic Association.

The **Illinois Board of Higher Education** has instituted minimum high school coursework requirements for admission to transfer programs at Illinois public community colleges and to Illinois public universities. Following is a list of required coursework:

4 years of English (emphasizing written and oral communications and literature),

3 years of social studies (emphasizing history and government),

3 years of mathematics (introductory through advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or fundamentals of computer programming),

3 years of the sciences (laboratory sciences), and

2 years of electives in foreign language, music, art, or vocational education.

*** Some colleges have provided students with a greater amount of flexibility in meeting these guidelines. In these instances, 3 of the 15 units of coursework required may be distributed by deducting no more than one unit from the areas of math, social studies, science, or the electives and completing those 3 units in any of the areas of course work listed above. Students should be sure to check admission requirements carefully for the college of their choice.

The **National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)** instituted specific requirements concerning eligibility for participation in intercollegiate athletics and acceptance of athletic scholarships. These guidelines apply only to NCAA Division I and II schools. A qualifier must have obtained a minimum grade point average and SAT or ACT score as listed in a published index. Students must complete a minimum of 16 Core courses to be eligible.

4 years in English

3 years in mathematics (Algebra 1 or higher)

2 years in natural or physical science (including at least one laboratory)

1 year of additional English, math, or science

2 years in social science

4 years of additional courses from any area above and/or foreign language

(Note: Students should consult with school officials concerning which DHS courses fulfill these requirements.)

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

COURSE OFFERINGS

Course Title: **Introduction to Agriculture**

Prerequisite: Fresh priority/Soph/Junior (Seniors only if space allows)

Length: One year

This course concentrates on the fundamentals of agriculture, including history, importance, and impact. Topics covered include basic plant and animal science, agriculture technology, and safety practices in agriculture. Additional topics include crop and livestock management. Students will also explore various careers in agriculture and learn the fundamentals of FFA.

Course Title: **Natural Resources (15.0507)**

Prerequisite: Soph/Jr standing; Intro to Agriculture required for students seeking Agricultural Science pathway; instructor approval

Length: One semester, taken with Horticulture second semester

This course develops an understanding of ecosystems and biodiversity. Topics include wildlife management, the conservation of water, soil, land, renewable energy sources related to agriculture, sustainable practices in agriculture and forestry, and environmental policy and management. Students will also be certified in hunters' safety. *This course counts as a DHS science course.*

Course Title: **Horticulture (1.0601)**

Prerequisite: Soph/Jr Standing; Intro to Agriculture required for students seeking Agriculture Science pathway; instructor approval

Length: One semester, taken with Natural Resources first semester

This course focuses on biology and growth cycles. Topics include the horticultural practices of planting, caring for, and harvesting various crops. Other topics focus on greenhouse management, landscape design/maintenance, and floral design. Students will also be introduced to the business side of horticulture (floriculture, landscaping, etc.).

Course Title: **Veterinary Science (1.0901)**

Prerequisite: Jr/Sr standing; Intro to Agriculture or instructor approval

Length: One semester, taken with Livestock Production second semester

This course will focus on animal anatomy and physiology. Topics include disease prevention, health management, animal nutrition, and feed management, as well as ethical issues in veterinary care. Students will also explore careers in the veterinarian field and practice hands-on care and treatment for common livestock and pets.

Course Title: **Livestock Production (1.0901)**

Prerequisite: Jr/Sr Standing; Intro to Agriculture or instructor approval

Length: One semester, taken with Veterinary Science first semester

This course will focus on the principles of livestock breeding and genetics; Topics include animal husbandry such as feeding, housing, and care. Other topics include understanding livestock health and disease management, market preparation, the marketing of livestock, and environmental impacts, and sustainable practices in livestock production.

Course Title: **Basic Agricultural Mechanics** (1.0201)

Prerequisite: Soph./Jr./Sr. Standing, Introduction to Agriculture

Length: One year

In this course, theory and hands-on experiences provide opportunities for students to develop basic knowledge and skills in agricultural mechanics. Instructional areas include basic shop safety, hand and power tool knowledge, fasteners, basic fundamentals of maintaining and repairing small gasoline engines, basic electricity, basic plumbing, concrete, welding, construction, and operating agricultural equipment safely. Improving workplace and computer skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects are an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration, and reinforcement of academic concepts.

Course Title: **Agricultural Business** (1.0101)

Prerequisite: Jr/Sr standing; Intro to Agriculture or instructor approval

Length: One year

This course focuses on the fundamentals of agriculture economics. Topics include farm and ranch management, financial planning and budgeting for agricultural businesses, marketing agricultural products, and legal and ethical considerations in agribusiness.

Course Title: **SAE Program/Independent Study**

Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture AND not currently enrolled in an agriculture course; FFA membership

Length: One Year

This course will operate as an independent study class; it is offered to those students who want to continue their FFA and agricultural involvement but are unable to enroll in an agriculture course. Students must have a minimum of one approved project and have acceptable plans for conducting it. Supervised study, project record bookwork, training agreements and instructor visits are essential for a successful SAEP.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

COURSE OFFERINGS:

Course Title: **Business and Technology Concepts**

Prerequisite: None

Length: Full Year (*Not offered during the 2026-2027 school year*)

This orientation-level course will provide an overview of all aspects of business marketing and management, including the concepts, functions, and skills required for meeting the challenges of operating a business in a global economy. Topics covered will include the various forms of business ownership, including entrepreneurship, as well as the basic functional areas of business (finance, management, marketing, administration and production). Students will be introduced to a wide range of careers in fields such as accounting, financial services, information technology, marketing, and management. Emphasis will be placed on using the computer while studying applications in these careers along with communication skills (thinking, listening, composing, revising, editing, and speaking), math and problem solving. Business ethics as well as other workplace skills will be taught and integrated within this course.

Course Title: **Accounting I**

Prerequisite: None

Length: Full Year (*Not offered during the 2026-2027 school year*)

Accounting I is a course that assists students pursuing a career in business, marketing, and management. This course includes planned learning experiences that develop initial and basic skills used in systematically computing, classifying, recording, verifying and maintaining numerical data involved in financial and product control records including the paying and receiving of money. Instruction includes information on keeping financial records, summarizing them for convenient interpretation, and analyzing them to aid management for decision making. Accounting computer applications should be integrated throughout the course where applicable. In addition to stressing basic fundamentals and terminology of accounting, instruction should provide initial understanding of the preparation of budgets and financial reports, operation of related business machines and equipment, and career opportunities in the accounting field.

Course Title: **Computer Science/Intro to IT (offered via IVSA)**

Prerequisite: None

Length: 1 Semester (second semester available if requested)

Ready to develop your understanding and proficiency in computers? Explore a range of concepts to gain the foundational knowledge you'll need to start exploring careers in this field to find out which ones suit your interests and abilities. Learn about computer hardware and maintenance to data management and storage options to network systems, administration, and troubleshooting. Then dive into word processing, spreadsheets, and databases to cement your knowledge of information technology.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

English I	English II	English III	English IV
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COURSE OFFERINGS:

Note: All English courses include varying degrees of emphasis on literature, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary acquisition. *All English courses are considered writing intensive.*

Course Title: **English I** (Themes in Literature)

Prerequisite: Freshman standing

Length: One year

Themes in Literature is structured around three thematic units: Finding My Voice, Native American Perspective, and Changing the World. Within each unit, students will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts, concentrating on comprehension, theme analysis, and author's purpose. Students will also focus on vocabulary, grammar, and three types of writing: narrative, informative, and argumentative, emphasizing analysis and integrating evidence.

Course Title: **English IA** (Advanced Themes in Literature)

Prerequisite: Freshman standing; teacher recommendation

Length: One year

Advanced Themes in Literature is structured around three thematic units: Finding My Voice, Native American Perspective, and Changing the World. Within each unit, students will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts including primary sources, concentrating on theme analysis, writing structure, and author's purpose. Students are expected to read independently and come to class prepared for discussion and analysis of mentor texts. Students will also focus on vocabulary, grammar, and three types of writing: narrative, informative, and argumentative, emphasizing analysis and integrating evidence.

Course Title: **English II** (Themes in Literature, continued)

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing

Length: One year

Themes in Literature is a study of recurring topics in literature around the world. Students will read and discuss fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and multimodal texts from various historical periods and literary movements. In analyzing these texts, they will discover and evaluate how styles, messages, and ideas connect to each other. Critical thinking, writing conventions, and vocabulary are emphasized through regular writing practice.

Course Title: **English IIA** (Themes in Literature, continued)

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing; completion of English IA; teacher recommendation

Length: One year

Advanced Themes in Literature is a study of recurring topics in classic literature. Students are expected to read texts independently and come to class prepared for discussion and analysis of mentor text. Students will analyze and discuss fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and multimodal texts from various historical periods and literary movements. In analyzing these texts, they will discover and evaluate how styles, messages, and ideas connect to each other. Critical thinking, writing conventions, and vocabulary are emphasized through regular writing practice.

Course Title: **English III** (American Literature)

Prerequisite: Junior standing

Length: One year

American Literature is a chronological survey of significant works in the American literary tradition. Students examine major themes, constructions of identity, and historical contexts across a range of literary genres. The course aligns with the study of American history, emphasizing how literature reflects and responds to social, cultural, and political movements. Through regular analytical writing assignments, students develop advanced critical thinking and writing skills, with an emphasis on producing mature prose characterized by clarity, precision, coherence, and effective control of tone and voice.

Course Title: **English IIIA** (American Literature)

Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of English IIA; teacher recommendation

Length: One year

American Literature is a chronological survey of significant works in the American literary tradition. Students examine major themes, constructions of identity, and historical contexts across a range of literary genres. Students are expected to read texts independently and come to class prepared for discussion and analysis of mentor text. The course aligns with the study of American history, emphasizing how literature reflects and responds to social, cultural, and political movements. Through regular analytical writing assignments, students develop advanced critical thinking and writing skills, with an emphasis on producing mature prose characterized by clarity, precision, coherence, and effective control of tone and voice.

Course Title: **English IV** (Rhetoric and Composition)

Prerequisite: Senior standing

Length: One year

Senior English focuses on the expository study of significant nonfiction texts across a range of styles and genres. Students employ comprehensive reading strategies and rhetorical analysis to examine how authors develop ideas and arguments. The course explores enduring human themes such as language, poverty, and existentialism to foster metacognitive awareness and critical reflection. Through regular analytical writing assignments, students develop advanced critical thinking and writing skills, with an emphasis on producing mature prose characterized by clarity, precision, coherence, and effective control of tone and voice.

Course Title: **Rhetoric and Composition I & II** (HCC Dual Credit)

Prerequisite: Junior/Senior Standing; Pass HCC placement exam in Writing (6)

Length: One semester each

As a dual credit course, Rhetoric and Composition aligns with a college-level composition curriculum, which requires students to develop creative and evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students narrate, evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their insights and arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal communication style by making appropriate stylistic choices. Additionally, students will read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in fiction and nonfiction texts, including multimodal images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.

Course Title: **Speech Communications**

Prerequisite: Senior Standing

Length: One semester

This course is an introduction to the communication process. Verbal, nonverbal, and written forms of communication will be explored; however, the emphasis will be on actual communication experiences. Information gathering, presenting a point of view, and improving the quality of communication are some of the applied techniques that the student will experience. The final exam will be the culmination of the students' Capstone Project, a portfolio and exit interview.

Course Title: **Creative Writing**

Prerequisite: Sophomores, juniors, and seniors; sophomores and juniors must also be enrolled in a literature class.

Length: One semester

Creative Writing is designed to move students beyond academic, technical, and argumentative writing toward imaginative and original expression. Students explore a variety of poetic and prose forms and respond creatively to literature, visual art, quotations, and music. The course emphasizes the development of an individual voice through experimentation with genre, style, and form. Through the study and analysis of multiple genres, students learn the craft of storytelling by examining elements of fiction and applying specific writing techniques to their own original work.

Course Title: **Film Studies**

Prerequisite: Juniors and seniors; juniors must be concurrently enrolled in a literature class

Length: One semester (*not offered in 2026-2027 school year*)

Foreign films. *Citizen Kane*. Charlie Chaplin. This class will provide students with the skills needed to analyze film as a visual art and as a literary medium. Students will view films that balance excellence in cinematography, theme, plot, and acting. Students will understand the relationship of a film to the cultural conditions in which it was released. In addition, students will be required to write analyses of these films. Popular movies will NOT be the focus of this class.

Title **Literacy Basics**

Prerequisite: Freshman standing; Teacher recommendation after RtI assessment

Length: One Year (*not offered in 2026-2027 school year*)

Literacy Basics is designed for students whose literacy skills are significantly below grade level and who need to work diligently to improve their skills in order to improve their success in other high school courses. Independent guided reading and whole group instruction in a variety of fiction and nonfiction materials will be a significant component of this course. Students will write 2 essays (narrative and argumentative) and give one presentation (informational).

Course Title: **Humanities**

Prerequisite: Freshman, sophomores, and juniors must be concurrently enrolled in a Literature course

Length: One semester (*not offered in 2026-2027 school year*)

In this course, students in the 9th through 12th grades will read a survey of poetry from various time periods and connect that poetry to the art and music of the same eras. Students will engage in discussion, complete projects and presentations, and write brief essays.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

COURSE OFFERINGS:

Course Title: **Art I**

Prerequisite: None

Length: One year

Fee: \$10 and specific art supplies to be purchased for the class

This class introduces students to the visual arts through exploring and discussing conceptual art in a cross curricular approach. Each lesson is tied with art history and a different subject area to demonstrate how art relates across culture in every subject area. Specific skills and techniques are taught while discussing the elements and principles of design. Sketchbook assignments for extra creative practice are assigned bi-weekly.

Course Title: **Art II**

Prerequisite: "C" or better in Art I or teacher recommendation

Length: One year

Fee: \$10 and specific art supplies to be purchased for the art class

This class explores a variety of mediums, both two and three dimensional. Art history is emphasized as students learn about how artists use each medium with the elements and principles of design in their own work. The class is designed to focus on conceptual thinking and expressing through their own artistic voice. Students will learn about various cultures in a cross curricular approach while understanding art as a language. Students will build on previously learned skills to make more sophisticated pieces of art while also learning new skills. Sketchbook assignments for extra creative practice are assigned bi-weekly.

Course Title: **Art III**

Prerequisite: "C" or better in Art II or teacher recommendation

Length: One year

Fee: \$10 and specific art supplies to be purchased for the art class

This class helps students become more independent as they explore more of their own ideas and express them as visual commentaries on issues in society. Topics are given with choice of direction on projects. Students also explore their identities through their artwork making projects that gear toward self-expression. New, more complex ideas and skills are introduced while building on previously learned ideas. Art history is discussed and explored as students discover how art across time is used to communicate. Both two and three dimensional art is created. Sketchbook assignments for extra creative practice are assigned bi-weekly.

Course Title: **Art IV**

Prerequisites: "B" or better in Art III or teacher recommendation

Length: One year

Fee: \$10 and specific art supplies to be purchased for the art class

This class is an independent study where students are beginning to build a portfolio. Students will choose topics and cultures to study and make art that reflects a bigger idea. The body of work will be cohesive and be used as a means of self-expression while demonstrating understanding of the elements and principles of design. Techniques will become more professionally developed as they learn more difficult skills. Artist statements will be written for art pieces and research for projects will be complete with preliminary sketches. Sketchbook assignments for extra creative practice are assigned bi-weekly.

Course Title: **Instrumental Music (Band)**

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Length: One year (may be repeated for credit)

Fee: A rental fee will be charged for students requesting school instrument use. In addition, a transportation fee and uniform cleaning fee will be assessed each semester.

Band will undertake to develop and refine basic music fundamentals, ensemble musicianship, marching fundamentals, music theory, technique, intonation, and band spirit. Band members will participate in marching band for football games and parades, pep band, and a number of concerts as well as performances at community functions during the school year. Band students also have the opportunity to participate in Jazz Band, solo and ensemble contest, the conference festival, ILMEA District Festival, and IHSA Organizational Contest.

Course Title: **Vocal Music (High School Choir)**

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Length: One year (may be repeated for credit)

Fee: A transportation fee will be assessed each semester.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a mixed group of voices. Choir will develop basic music fundamentals, enhance musicianship and improve vocal technique. Choir members will present several concerts throughout the year, occasionally sing the National Anthem at sporting events and have the opportunity to participate in solo and ensemble contests, the conference music festival, ILMEA District Festival, and IHSA Organizational Contest.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

We encourage students to take all four years of Spanish to develop true fluency in their second language acquisition. Students who are continuing with their education after finishing the high school experience should plan to take the Spanish placement exam.

COURSE OFFERINGS:

Course Title: **Spanish I**

Prerequisite: "C" or better in previous English class recommended

Length: One year

Spanish I is a general study of both the Spanish language and culture. Topics include basic vocabulary in the present tense, sentence construction, and pronunciation. Students will learn to communicate with useful expressions and create their own basic questions. Primary emphasis is placed on an understanding of the language as it is spoken and written. Students must have a "D" or better in the first semester to be eligible to continue the second semester.

Course Title: **Spanish II HONORS**

Prerequisite: "B" or better in Spanish I or teacher recommendation

Length: One year

This course is a detailed study of Spanish culture and grammar with an emphasis on vocabulary building and tenses. Students will continue their study of the present and preterit tenses, as well as learning more complex grammar structures such as reflexive verbs and direct and indirect objects. Students will be listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language.

Course Title: **Spanish III HONORS**

Prerequisite: "B" or better in Spanish II Honors or teacher recommendation

Length: One year

Spanish III emphasizes listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. The main goal is to provide opportunities for the student to use their second language more often and more comfortably in daily conversations and intermediate reading and writing. Students will continue learning tenses such as the imperfect, future, and conditional. They will be introduced to the present subjunctive tense.

Course Title: **Spanish IV HONORS**

Prerequisite: "B" or better in Spanish III or teacher recommendation

Length: One year

This course emphasizes the skills presented and practiced in the first three years, with the addition of the imperfect subjunctive tense. Listening, speaking, writing, and reading acquisition receive equal attention in classroom activities. Advanced grammar is presented to help prepare those students planning to take the Spanish placement test for college.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

MATHEMATICS SEQUENCE:

Start of sequence is determined by teacher recommendation:

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Transitional STEM OR Algebra III
Algebra IA	Geometry A	Algebra IIA	College Alg/Trig
Geometry IIA	Math IIIA	College Alg/Trig	Calculus/Stats
Algebra Part I	Algebra Part II	Intermediate Geom	Interm Algebra II

COURSE OFFERING:

Course Title: **Algebra Part I**

Prerequisite: 8th Grade Pre-Algebra & Teacher recommendation

Length: One year

This course is designed to take the concepts of Algebra I at a slower pace than in a regular Math I class. Basic concepts of the Real Numbers system will be reviewed and reinforced. Students will explore math concepts using data patterns and integers to help learn the building blocks of algebra. Emphasis will be placed on using manipulative and technology to teach algebraic concepts. Students will learn several problem-solving techniques to apply to different types of application. The concepts of linear equations, inequalities, and functions will be explored.

Course Title: **Algebra Part II**

Prerequisite: Algebra Part I & Teacher recommendation

Length: One year

This course is the second part of a two-year sequence of Algebra I. The concepts of this course will be discussed at a slower pace than in a regular Math I course. Students will start the year with a review of basic algebra concepts, linear equations, inequalities, and functions. An emphasis will be placed on using manipulatives and technology to teach algebraic concepts. Problem-solving techniques will be reinforced. The concepts of systems of equations, statistics, and quadratics will be discussed.

Course Title: **Algebra I and Algebra IA**

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Length: One year

A certain degree of proficiency in basic algebra skills is presumed. Theory, structure, and application of algebra skills and techniques will be emphasized. Some objectives include understanding the structure of the real number system, applying algebraic concepts and skills – including linear equations in one and two variables, inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, functions in a coordinate plane, statistics, perceiving the role of deductive reasoning in algebra, and appreciating the need for precision of language. Algebra IA will consider the topics in greater depth with more formality at an accelerated pace.

Course Title: **Intermediate Geometry**

Prerequisite: Soph/Jr/Sr status; one year of Algebra I or Algebra Part II

Length: One Year

This course is designed to take the concepts of Geometry at a slower pace than in a regular Geometry class. Relationships between sets of points in space, properties of congruent and similar figures, parallel and perpendicular lines, ration, area, and volume are some of the topics presented.

Course Title: **Geometry and Geometry A**

Prerequisite: None

Length: One year

This course includes plane and solid geometry. Relationships between sets of points in space, properties of congruent and similar figures, parallel and perpendicular lines, ratio, area and volume of plane and solid figures, construction and coordinate geometry are some of the topics presented. Algebraic concepts will be used in the study of geometric problems. Geometry A will have a strong emphasis on proof and logic.

Course Title: **Intermediate Algebra II**

Prerequisite: Jr/Sr status, completion of Alg Part I and II, Int Geom., teacher rec.

Length: One year

This course is intended for those students who want a third year of mathematics but had trouble with the concepts in Algebra I and/or Geometry. The topics include equations and inequalities (in 1, 2, and 3 variables and systems), linear function and relations, polynomials, rational algebraic expressions, radicals, quadratics, irrational and complex numbers, and an introduction to trigonometry. Students will use algebra in a variety of applied problem situations.

Course Title: **Algebra II**

Prerequisite: None

Length: One year

This course is intended for the student bound for college, tech school, or apprenticeship. Topics include properties of Real Numbers, equations, and inequalities (in 1, 2 and 3 variables and systems), linear functions and relationships, quadratics, rational algebraic expressions, radicals, irrational numbers, complex numbers, trigonometry concepts, and series and sequences. Students will use algebra in a variety of applied problem situations.

Course Title: **Algebra IIA**

Prerequisite: None

Length: One year

This course is intended for college-bound students who anticipate a college major in a highly quantitative field (e.g. science, architecture, engineering, math, computer, etc.). In addition to the topics listed in Algebra II, this course will include matrices, determinants, probability, and statistics. Material will be covered at a faster pace and more in depth than in Algebra II.

Course Title: **Algebra III**

Prerequisite: "C" or better in Algebra II/IIA; Teacher recommendation

Length: One year

This course is intended for students bound for college, tech school, or apprenticeship. Topics include the conics (equations, graphs, translation to centers not at the origin), polynomial functions (including synthetic divisions, Factor Theorem, Rational Roots Theorem); composition, inverse, and graphs of functions; rational functions, statistics, and probabilities; and logarithms and exponents.

Course Title: **Transitional Math-STEM**

Prerequisite: Juniors/Seniors that have completed Algebra II/IIA

Length: One year

This course is intended for students bound for college. Topics include linear functions, polynomials, rational functions, radical functions, exponential functions, and a capstone project. Grading for this class will cover the entire school year, NOT by semesters. *Seniors who have a grade of a "C" or higher at the end of the course may enroll in College Algebra at HCC or any other two-year Illinois institute without having to take a placement test.*

Course Title: **College Algebra (Dual Credit 4 hours Math 166)**

Prerequisite: Accuplacer or standardized test placement score met, teacher rec and completion of Math III/IIIA

Length: One semester, fall

This course reviews the fundamental operations of algebra followed by a study of equations and applications involving quadratics, complex numbers, relations, functions and transformations, matrices, determinants, exponential and logarithmic functions, and series and sequences. Applications involving linear programming will also be explored. *Dual credit is available through Highland Community College at student's expense.*

Course Title: **Trigonometry (Dual Credit 3 hours Math 167)**

Prerequisite: Accuplacer or standardized test placement score met, teacher rec and completion of Math III/IIIA

Length: One semester, spring

This course includes the study of trigonometric functions, right triangle applications, functions of multiple angles, trigonometric equations and identities, radian measure, inverse functions, the oblique triangle, graphs, and complex trigonometric functions. *Dual credit is available through Highland Community College at student's expense.*

Course Title: **Statistics (Dual Credit 4 hours Math 134)**

Prerequisite: Accuplacer or standardized test placement score met, teacher rec And completion of Math III/IIIA

Length: One Year

Requirement: TI-84 calculator or equivalent

This course provides the background necessary for the student to understand the wide range of statistical concepts encountered and of use in daily life. Topics covered include data collection processes, organizing and displaying data, descriptive statistics, probability theory and distributions, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, linear regression, correlation and more. *Dual credit is available through Highland Community College at student's expense.*

Course Title: **Calculus (Dual Credit 5 hours Math 250)**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of College Algebra and Trigonometry

Length: One year

The basic concepts of standard calculus (limits and continuity, derivative, integration) will be explored using graphically numerical and algebraic approaches. Students will have the opportunity to apply calculus in a variety of practical situations. Students will be required to do a summer review packet. *Dual credit is also available through Highland Community College at the student's expense.*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Course Title: **High School Physical Education**

Prerequisite: None

Length: One year

This course is designed to learn skills, strategies, and gameplay of sports and various games, partnered with a basic fitness program. Class will consist of 2 fitness days per week. Units will include team building, soccer, flag football, badminton, etc.

Course Title: **High School Strength and Conditioning**

Prerequisite: Participation in Dakota High School athletics or instructor approval

Length: One year

This course will address the principles of designed programs targeting improved muscular strength, endurance, speed, agility, and power. Class will consist of 2 days of structured weightroom workouts, built-in fitness activities, and skill drills.

Course Title: **Lifetime Wellness**

Prerequisite: None

Length: One year

This course is designed to meet the needs of students wishing to learn lifelong fitness skills and the health benefits of activity and exercise, while avoiding traditional team sports/games. Classes will include nature walks, fitness center workouts, yoga, and track workouts.

Course Title: **Health**

Prerequisite: None

Length: One semester

Topics covered in this class include accident prevention and safety education, control and prevention of communicable diseases, mental health, drug use and abuses.

Course Title: **Driver Education**

Prerequisite: Must be of at least freshman standing. State law dictates that students must pass a minimum of eight classes the previous two semesters combined to be eligible for enrollment.

Length: 6 weeks; offered one term first semester, one term second semester

Fee: \$250

This is a course designed to teach students the rules of the road while incorporating the essential driving techniques. Students must demonstrate a positive attitude toward safe and responsible driving. Class meets before school from 7-8:00 a.m. for 30 school days. Behind the wheel training will take place during school hours in the weeks prior to the student's 16th birthday.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

COURSE OFFERINGS:

**All science courses are laboratory courses that require impact and splash resistant goggles

Course Title: **Biology**

Prerequisite: Freshman standing or teacher recommendation

Length: One year

Fee: \$10.00 lab fee

This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of living systems. Topics include scientific method, cell theory, genetics, heredity, evolution, classification, and dissection of 3 different organisms and the biology of our living world.

Course Title: **Applications in Biology/Chemistry**

Prerequisite: Sophomore/Junior/Senior standing

Length: One year (*not offered in the 2026-2027 school year*)

This is a science course designed to teach chemistry in a biological context using scenarios from daily life that could affect individuals and society. This course is designed for the student who wants more science but isn't ready to attempt a traditional chemistry class.

Course Title: **Anatomy and Physiology**

Prerequisite: "C" or better in Biology and consent of teacher; Chemistry strongly recommended

Length: One year

Fee: \$10.00 lab fee

This course will help the student gain a better understanding of himself and his environment. Topics to be covered in depth include microbiology, biochemistry, human anatomy and physiology, genetics, and human diseases. Other topics to be discussed are animal development, biosystematics, probability, and cell biology.

Course Title: **Zoology**

Prerequisite: "C" or better in Biology and consent of teacher; Chemistry strongly preferred

Length: One year (*not offered in the 2026-2027 school year*)

Fee: \$10.00 lab fee

The purpose of this course is to examine further the area of animal life sciences. Students will study anatomy and physiology of various animal phylum, theories of evolution, animal behavior, and dissection methods applied to 8 different organisms.

Course Title: **Chemistry**

Prerequisite: "C" or better in an Algebra class, Soph/Jr/Sr standing

Length: One year

Fee: \$10.00 lab fee

This course provides a study of the structure and composition of compounds and the changes in composition of those compounds. The student is introduced to laboratory equipment and through its use is made aware of scientific techniques.

Course Title: **Forensic Science**

Prerequisite: Sophomore/Junior/Senior Status; completed Biology

Length: One semester

Fee: \$5.00 lab fee

This course will provide an overview of biology as it relates to forensics. The course will provide a foundation in scientific inquiry and the techniques of finding biological evidence in everyday life and in forensic situations. Students will be asked to develop reports that use biological evidence to support or deny claims. Students will learn to explore DNA concepts, fingerprint development, fiber analysis, and an array of laboratory techniques.

Course Title: **Environmental Science**

Prerequisite: Sophomore/Junior/Senior Status; completed Biology

Length: 1 semester (*not offered in the 2026-2027 school year*)

Fee: \$5 lab fee

This course provides students with the opportunity to apply knowledge of biological and physical sciences to how they affect different environments. Students will be asked to examine the cause-and-effect relationships that lead to different environmental risks. Students will also explore both natural and man-made environmental issues, while simultaneously learning and critically thinking about ways in which to combat these issues. Students will study the environment in a variety of ways and test out theoretical solutions to environmental issues the world faces today.

Course Title: **Physics**

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Algebra IIA (may be taken concurrently); Soph/Jr/Sr standing

Length: One year

Fee: \$10.00 lab fee

Physics is the study of matter and its interactions in nature through energy, force, and momentum. It emphasizes the science of problem solving.

Course Title: **Principles of Technology**

Prerequisite: Soph/Jr/Sr standing, completion of an Algebra course and a science course

Length: One year (*not offered in the 2026-2027 school year*)

This is a course in applied science designed to prepare vocational and college-bound students more effectively for technical careers. This course will cover mechanical, fluid, electrical and thermal principles on which modern equipment operates. It is a hands-on approach to learning physics using basic algebra.

Course Title: **Advance Placement (AP) Biology**

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology and Chemistry

Length: One year (*not offered during the 2026-2027 school year*)

Fees: Textbook purchase is recommended but not required
\$105 AP exam fee paid by district

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes—energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. At the end of this course, students will take the AP exam to earn college credit.

Course Title: **Sports Medicine**

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing; completion of Biology

Length: One semester

This course provides students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge of biology to the medicine behind sports injuries. The class will introduce anatomy terminology and concepts, with an emphasis on joints, nutrition, cardiovascular health, and treatment plan with recovery timelines. Students will learn how joints, tendons, and ligaments work and how sports puts these things at risk of injury. Students will use cause and effect skills to determine how injuries occurred, use medical equipment to create treatment plans, and use lab techniques to process different pieces of tissues. By the end of the course, students will understand how life sciences can play a role in keeping athletes healthy and injury free.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

COURSE OFFERINGS

Course Title: **Civics**

Prerequisite: Fr/Soph standing

Length: One semester

This course is a study of federal, state, and local government and institutions, as well as their relationship with each other and to the citizen. Also studied will be a citizen's legal rights and responsibilities as they apply to other citizens, institutions, and business. We will spend a considerable amount of time studying the law, the courts, and how they apply to young people.

Course Title: **Modern American History**

Prerequisite: Fr/Soph standing; Jr/Sr also may enroll if space allows

Length: One semester

This course examines major events in American social, political and economic history from the last half of the 20th century including the Potsdam Conference, Nuremberg Trials, Japanese War crimes, the Korean War, the History of the 1950's, the Cold War, the Kennedy era, McCarthyism, the Civil Rights Movement, the Great Society, Vietnam, and the 60's. Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush-era politics will be covered as well as the U.S. recent involvement in the Middle East.

Course Title: **World History**

Prerequisite: Soph/Jr/Sr standing

Length: One year

This course examines the period of history from ancient Egypt up to the present time. Periods discussed include early civilizations, the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation, French Revolution, Russian Revolution, World Wars, the Chinese, the Hindus of India, the Cold War, and the reforms in the formerly Communist nations of Eastern Europe.

Course Title: **U.S. History I (1750 - 1865)**

Prerequisite: Jr/Sr standing

Length: One semester

This is a survey course in U.S. History from the American Revolution through the Civil War. Other topics include the U.S. Constitution, early presidents, and expansionism.

Course Title: **U.S. History II (1865 – 1945)**

Prerequisite: Jr/Sr standing

Length: One semester

This course surveys U.S. History from post Civil War America through World War II. Other topics include U.S. Native American policy, industrialism, the Depression, and World War I.

Course Title: **AP U.S. History**

Prerequisite: So/Jr/Sr standing

Length: One Year *(Not offered in the 2026-2027 school year)*

Fees: Required textbook purchase; \$105 AP Exam
paid by school

The AP U.S. History course focuses on developing students' understanding of American history from approximately 1491 to the present. The course has students investigate the content of U.S. history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods (analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation) employed by historians when they studied the past. The course also provides seven

themes (American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places. At the conclusion of the course, students may elect to take the AP Exam to earn college credit.

Course Title: **Psychology**
Prerequisite: Jr/Sr standing
Length: One semester

This course is designed as a college prep course, surveying human behavior. Completion of this course will acquaint the student with topics including the brain and nervous system, memory, learning styles, child psychology, personality, and abnormal psychology.

Course Title: **Sociology**
Prerequisite: Jr/Sr standing
Length: One semester

Sociology gives the students an insight into the similarities and differences of cultures in the world with special emphasis on our own culture. Topics include how do societies organize themselves and socialize their young, how societies control the behavior of groups and individuals, and how societies change.

Course Title: **Contemporary Social Issues**
Prerequisite: Jr/Sr standing
Length: One semester

The focus of this class will be on the current events that are presently changing our social, political, and economic lives. The course will cover recent religious and militaristic events that shape our world today, as well as other current events that both positively and negatively affect the people who live on this planet. Working collectively, the teacher and students in this class will use daily news sources, such as those found in newspapers, television shows, radio, magazines, and the internet, to become better acquainted with the people and places which make up our world.

Course Title: **World Geography**
Prerequisite: Junior/Senior standing
Length: One semester, offered second semester opposite CSI
(Not offered in the 2026-2027 school year)

This course covers the major terms, concept and ideas of Geography. The primary focus will be on the Five Themes of Geography as they apply to the world in which we live.

Course Title: **History Through Film**
Prerequisite: Jr/Sr Standing
Length: One semester

Films can be a very useful tool when it comes to learning history. The sounds, lights, and action gives us the ability to comprehend an event that took place long before we were around, and really make it come alive. This course will look at how various aspects of history are portrayed in films and will contrast with “how it really was.” Both the filmmaker and historian share a common methodology. They study appropriate sources, then select and arrange facts to tell their story. It is the historian’s task to separate fantasy from fact. A major goal of this course is to determine what is valid in contemporary films and historical dramas, and what

historical story Hollywood tells us. After watching the film, students will participate in activities that require research, writing, and presentation skills to evaluate the film in comparison to actual events. Students will also review films and learn different aspects of filmmaking.

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFERABLE DUAL CREDIT OFFERINGS

Course Title: **Rhetoric and Composition I (3 hours Eng 121)**

Prerequisite: Accuplacer criteria met for Reading and Writing

Length: One semester, fall

This course is designed to help students to write effectively. Instruction is offered in the basic elements of rhetoric; much practice is given in composing essays. *Dual credit is available at student's expense.*

Course Title: **Rhetoric and Composition II (3 hours Eng 122)**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English I22

Length: One semester, spring

This class, a continuation of English 121, focuses on critical skills in thinking, reading, and writing. Skills are developed in writing to inform, persuade, and evaluate. Emphasis is placed on producing a documented, multi-source research essay. *Dual credit is available at student's expense.*

Course Title: **College Algebra (Dual Credit 4 hours Math 166)**

Prerequisite: Accuplacer or standardized test placement score met, teacher rec

Length: One semester, fall

This course reviews the fundamental operations of algebra followed by a study of equations and applications involving quadratics, complex numbers, relations, functions and transformations, matrices, determinants, exponential and logarithmic functions, and series and sequences. Applications involving linear programming will also be explored. *Dual credit is available through Highland Community College at student's expense.*

Course Title: **Trigonometry (Dual Credit 3 hours Math 167)**

Prerequisite: Accuplacer or standardized test placement score met, teacher rec

Length: One semester, spring

This course includes the study of trigonometric functions, right triangle applications, functions of multiple angles, trigonometric equations and identities, radian measure, inverse functions, the oblique triangle, graphs, and complex trigonometric functions. *Dual credit is available through Highland Community College at student's expense.*

Course Title: **Statistics (Dual Credit 4 hours Math 134)**

Prerequisite: Accuplacer or standardized test placement score met, teacher rec
And completion of Math III/IIIA

Length: One Year

Requirement: TI-84 calculator or equivalent

This course provides the background necessary for the student to understand the wide range of statistical concepts encountered and of use in daily life. Topics covered include: data collection processes, organizing and displaying data, descriptive statistics, probability theory and distributions, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, linear regression, correlation and more.

Dual credit is available through Highland Community College at student's expense.

Course Title: **Calculus (Dual Credit 5 hours Math 250)**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of College Algebra and Trigonometry

Length: One year

The basic concepts of standard calculus (limits and continuity, derivative, integration) will be explored using graphically numerical and algebraic approaches. Students will have the opportunity to apply calculus in a variety of practical situations. Students will be required to do a summer review packet. Students may opt to take the AP exam in the spring for a chance to earn college credit. Testing fees (approximately \$93) will be the responsibility of the student.

Dual credit is also available through Highland Community College at the student's expense.