

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Revised June 2009

COMPUTING

Keyboarding

This is a basic course in touch typewriting with emphasis on basic theory and skill for personal use. It is designed for students with no previous instruction in typewriting. Microcomputers are utilized as part of the reinforcement program.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Basic Computer Skills

Prerequisite: Keyboarding, 1 semester

Basic Computer Skills surveys the development and history of computers, social impacts and ethics, principles of software and hardware selection, and careers information. Students receive introductory hands-on training in word processing and spreadsheets.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Advanced Computer Skills

Prerequisite: Basic Computer Skills, 1 semester

This course will train the student with job-entry level skills in computer applications. It emphasizes advanced hands-on training in word processing, spreadsheets, presentations and graphics, and database applications.

ENGLISH

English I – Reading and Composition

A freshman course designed to integrate language skills including speech, vocabulary, reading, and grammatical usage with an emphasis on writing.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

English II – Composition and Introduction to Literature

A sophomore course designed to introduce students to various kinds of fiction and nonfiction literature. Using a thematic approach, the course features such literary forms a short story, novel, biography, essay, drama, and poetry. Included in each unit of study are exercises aimed at improving writing and vocabulary skills.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

English III – American Literature

A junior course designed to survey major authors of American Literature within a historical framework and to study in some depth the narrative writings of exceptional writers such as

Mark Twain. Written assignments are integrated into the literature program.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

English IV – Writing and Research

A Senior course designed to strengthen critical thinking, language, and composition skills. The chief emphasis is the research process, including a research paper. The course will also include book-length literature projects.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Yearbook

This class produces the academy senior high yearbook and the junior high yearbook. Students attending this limited-enrollment course use desktop publishing, journalistic and artistic photography, and graphic design techniques. The development of effective computer writing and editing skills are emphasized. Working as a team from all four academy levels instills strong cooperative skills in finishing page layouts to meet publication deadlines. The yearbooks represent and honor LSA and the distinctive educational philosophy of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Two

Semesters, 5 s.p.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

Career Education

Career Education assists the student in developing positive attitudes regarding the dignity of labor and the world of work, in using decision-making skills, planning for the academic preparation needed for a career choice, and participating in meaningful and productive jobs and activities. This course will guide students through the career planning process. It emphasizes setting and achieving goals, preparing their resume, finding a job, and preparing for the interview.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Foods & Nutrition

The study of basic principles of food use and its application. It also examines the importance of a knowledge of nutrition and the effect of food decisions and diet practices. Actual laboratory experiences in preparing food recipes will be provided.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Health

A discussion of the various aspects of health and health-related problems of daily life. This course fulfills the health requirement.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

FINE ARTS

Concert attendance is required of all members of musical organizations. If an absence is unavoidable, prior arrangements must be made to avoid failure of the course.

Applied Music

Lessons in string and band instruments, voice, and piano are available to students who desire individual or small group instruction. A minimum of 30 (15 per semester) weekly lessons must be taken and satisfactory progress must be made to earn credit toward graduation.

Private music lessons may be used to fulfill the graduation requirements in Fine Arts provided the following procedures are followed:

- a. The lessons are arranged in advance to apply toward graduation.
- b. The teacher can provide the school with a copy of his/her teaching credentials or equivalent.
- c. The student satisfactorily completes a minimum of 30 weekly lessons per year.
- d. When the lessons are completed, the teacher must submit a signed report to the academy indicating the kind of lessons, number of lessons completed, and grade earned.

Two Semesters, 5 s.p.

Art

Studio Art is instruction and practice of skills in pencil drawing, pen and ink, painting, calligraphy, and design. This class may be taken each year. Returning students will work on advanced projects.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Band

The band is open to ALL students who play a band instrument. Performance includes local churches, Christmas & Spring concerts and an annual tour. Participation in all concerts and the annual tour is required.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Choir

The choral groups at La Sierra Academy perform a wide variety of sacred and secular music. Required performances are scheduled throughout the school year. The choir meets during first semester only and is open to all students.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Delta Mu

Prerequisite: Choir first semester.

Delta Mu meets during the second semester and its members are auditioned. Participation in the Spring concert and the annual tour are required.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Music Appreciation

Music Appreciation is a survey of music from the Baroque Period to present day. It also covers basic theory and listening skills. This course fulfills the University of California music requirements.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

WORLD LANGUAGES

The World Language Department is dedicated to increasing linguistic and cultural understanding through foreign language study. All college-bound students are strongly encouraged to take two years of formal study. Students processing a working knowledge of a foreign language may start their formal study at a more advanced level. A placement test administered at the start of the year determines the appropriate level for these students.

Credit by examination is sometimes granted for students possessing superior capabilities in a foreign language. To receive credit by examination the student must follow the following procedures:

- a. Submit a request for credit by examination to the Registrar for permission to take the test.
- b. Receive formal permission from the Academic Committee.
- c. Pay a \$25 per-semester examination fee.
- d. Take the exam for the semester in question and pass with a score of 85% or higher. Credit will not be granted for scores less than 85%.
- e. Scores of 70%-84% will entitle the student to waive the requirement and proceed to the next level of Spanish.

All credit received by examination will be recorded on the student's transcript as "Pass". No student will be allowed to take more than 10 s.p. (two semesters) through examination.

French I

An introductory, proficiency-oriented course emphasizing understanding and speaking French with a general acquaintance of French grammar.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

French II

The second year seeks to expand the student's knowledge of grammar and vocabulary so that he/she may communicate and understand the language on a more advanced level. Along with the written and reading aspects of the language appreciation and exposure to the French culture is emphasized.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Spanish I

An introductory, proficiency-oriented course emphasizing understanding and speaking Spanish with a general acquaintance of Spanish grammar.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Spanish II

Prerequisite: Spanish I with a grade of C or consent of the instructor.

An intermediate, proficiency-oriented course in Spanish emphasizing the future and past tense. Greater emphasis is placed on writing skills and composition.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

MATHEMATICS

Placement in courses will be determined by grades in prerequisite courses, test results, and/or teacher recommendation. All students will be tested for readiness for Algebra I.

When a calculator is required it is the student's responsibility to purchase and bring one to class of the correct type.

All college prep math courses require a first semester grade of C or better or consent of instructor for continuation into second semester. Math courses cannot be taken out of the following sequence: Pre-algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-calculus. Geometry and Algebra II may be reversed with the approval of the instructor. A student will begin the sequence at his/her level of readiness.

Pre-algebra

A remedial course designed for those students who need an enrichment in the fundamentals of arithmetic. This course is a preparation for Algebra I, depending on student progress. Does not count toward college preparatory or honors diploma requirements.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Algebra I

Prerequisite: A score of 50% on the Algebra Readiness Test, a "C" in Pre-algebra, or consent of the instructor.

A first semester grade of C in Algebra I and/or consent of the instructor is required for continuation to second semester.

A study of processes used in solving problems by algebraic methods. Study is given to positive and negative numbers, equations, graphs, and factors.

Second semester topics include a continued study of solving equations using algebraic methods. Study is given to graphs, square roots, radicals, factors, quadratics and trigonometry of right angles.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Geometry*

Prerequisite: A "C" average for both semesters of Algebra I or a score of 50% on the Geometry Readiness Test or consent of the instructor.

A study of synthetic and analytical proof as applied to plane and solid geometric figures. Area of study include deductive and inductive reasoning, construction, areas of plane and solid figures, and related functions of triangles and circles.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Algebra II*

Prerequisites: A "C" average for both semesters of Geometry or 50% on the Second-Year Algebra Readiness Test or consent of the instructor.

First semester includes a study of the real number system, linear, quadratic, and polynomial equations, function theory, polynomials, rational, irrational, and complex numbers.

Second semester topics include variation, analytic geometry, logarithmic and exponential functions, polynomial equations, conic sections, sequence and series, basic trigonometry, including trigonometric functions and inverses, identities, equations, and graphs.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Pre-calculus**

Prerequisites: A "B" average for all semesters of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or 50% on the Pre-calculus Readiness Test or consent of the instructor.

A course intended to prepare a student to take Calculus either at the college level or at the

advanced placement high school level. This course is also highly recommended for students considering careers in science, mathematics, or computer-related fields.

First semester topics include detailed study of linear, quadratic, polynomial, exponential and logarithmic functions including their inverses and graphs, and analytic geometry.

Second semester includes the trigonometric functions, their graphs, inverses, equations, identities, and applications, and polar coordinates.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

*College prep courses

**Honors program course

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education requirement for graduation consists of six semesters (30 s.p.), and is designed to promote health, individual fitness, conditioning, social skills and team values. The following is a breakdown of specific requirements.

Freshman/Sophomore

Lower division Physical Education is designed to teach team sports and increase individual fitness levels.

Freshman Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Sophomore Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Junior/Senior

Emphasis is given to individual sports and personal fitness. In lieu of the regular scheduled upper division Physical Education classes, one or two semesters (5-10 s.p.) credit may be earned by participating in the Varsity program or by contract.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Maximum 10 s.p.

Contract Physical Education

Available only to Seniors

Contract Physical Education is available on a pass/fail basis only to seniors with schedule conflicts and will be monitored on a weekly basis by the Physical Education instructors. Contracts must be submitted no later than two weeks following the first day of the semester.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Maximum 10 s.p.

Varsity/JV Sports*

Physical Education credit may be earned by participating in the Varsity or Junior Varsity sports program. Varsity credit is available only on a pass/fail basis. Participation in Varsity/Junior Varsity sports after 10 s.p. of

credit has been earned will be on a non-credit basis.

**The student/athlete is responsible for establishing eligibility before tryouts by submitting the Application for Interscholastics form to the Registrar's Office. If the eligible student/athlete makes the team, (s)he will then apply for credit by filling out a Physical Education contract, which must be approved by the Athletic Director and returned to the Registrar's Office no later than two weeks after the beginning of the sport season involved.*

Weight Training

Available only to seniors or by permission of the instructor. A physical conditioning program emphasizing personal fitness for a lifetime. One or two semesters (5-10 s.p.) may be earned to meet the third-year physical education requirement.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

RELIGION

Religion I – Hebrew History

An in-depth study of the development and purpose of the Bible and how God's love and character are demonstrated through creation, redemption and human relationships.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Religion I – History and Development of Christianity I

An overview of the significance of the life and times, the ministry, and the death and resurrection of Jesus as revealed in the four gospels.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Religion II – Hebrew History II

A study of the redemptive history of God's chosen people, beginning with the exodus, through the inter-testament time, and the New Testament Church.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Religion II – History and Development of Christianity II

The history of the Christian Church from 70 AD to the present time, concluding a study of the rise and development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Religion III – An Introduction to Christian Thought A

A study of Christ's substitutionary sacrifice that provides the basis for pardon, reconciliation, and spiritual growth from the book of Romans. A study which focuses on Christ's redemptive role in contemporary life and in the broader prophetic events of the past, as well as those leading to the second coming in the books of Daniel and Revelation.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Religion III – An Introduction to Christian Thought B

An introductory study of world views, religious movements, contemporary denominations, cults, and world religions, as viewed from a biblical perspective.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Religion IV – Beliefs, Marriage and Family

A systematic overview of the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church developed from a Christocentric perspective. A study of the biblical principles of relationships and their weight on marriage and family life.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

Religion IV – Development of Personal Christian Ethics

A class designed to provide assistance in the development of a biblical philosophy of life and to deal with contemporary moral and ethical issues within the context of biblical principles.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

SCIENCE

All college prep science courses are lab courses requiring one period of lab work each week outside of regular class time. Students are required to attend labs. Failure in lab will result in failure in the course. Failure in lab results on the fourth missed lab of a semester or from less than a passing grade for lab work. Lab work will count for at least 15% of the overall class grade.

All college prep science courses require at least a "C" grade first semester for enrollment in second semester.

Physical Science

Areas discussed will include physics, astronomy, chemistry, and earth science. An introductory course for freshmen.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Biology I*

Prerequisite: A first semester grade of C or better is required for continuation to second semester.

First semester: emphasis on the various aspects of biology, including study of the cell, genetics, micro-biology, origins, and botany. Laboratory work is required. This course is not open to freshmen.

Second semester: emphasis on the study of invertebrates, vertebrates, and man.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Biology II**

Prerequisite: A grade of C or better in Biology I.

An in-depth study of anatomy and function of the major systems of the human body. Laboratory work is required.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Chemistry*

Prerequisite: Completion or enrollment in Geometry or Algebra II and a GPA of at least 2.0 in all prior math classes. A grade of "C" or better in the first semester is required for continuation in second semester.

One period of laboratory work each week is required in addition to regular course work. A failure in lab work will result in a failure in the course. Lab is worth 15% of the grade in the course.

First semester: Methods of Chemistry, Atomic structure, Chemical composition, Reactions and Stoichiometry.

Second semester: Phases of Matter, Acid-Base Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Introduction to Kinetics, Oxidation-Reduction, and Nuclear Chemistry.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Physics**

Prerequisite: Completion or enrollment in Algebra II and a GPA of at least 2.0 in all prior math classes. A grade of "C" or better in the first semester is required for continuation in second semester.

One period of laboratory work each week is required in addition to regular course work. A failure in lab work will result in a failure in the course. Lab is worth 15% of the grade in the course.

First semester: Mechanics, Gravitation, Momentum, Energy and Work, Circular and Rotational Motion, and the Physics of Matter.

Second semester: Thermodynamics, Wave Motion including Sound and Light, Electricity and Magnetism, and Nuclear Physics.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

*College prep courses

**Honors program courses

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History

A survey of ancient, medieval, and modern history. Students relive the events of the past through classroom activities designed to make history exciting. The course includes multi-cultural issues and the origins and growth of political, religious, and social ideas that have shaped world cultures. Through a global perspective, students better understand diverse cultures, shared humanity, and the significance of the knowledgeable and responsible citizenship in our present-day world. College prep and honors program students must take both semesters.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

United States History

A survey course tracing the development of the United States from New World beginnings to the present time. Great public issues will be considered, including Revolution, the making of the Constitution, slavery and the Civil War, the struggles of minorities for full access to the American dream, the transformation of the American economy from an agricultural to an industrial to a post-industrial basis, relations with other nations (including wars), debates about social justice and the proper role of government, and the evolution of major public institutions such as social parties. The student will probe the ways in which ideas, religious beliefs, social conditions, and economic and technical change have contributed to the historic present identity of the United States.

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

United States Government

A course dealing primarily with federal government, but with secondary consideration given to state and local government. The course assumes a high level of student maturity and deals with issues such as who holds political power, formal authority, legitimacy of government, forms of democracy, democratic centralism, participatory democracy, representative democracy, popular rule, distribution of power, political change, determining who governs, and political theory. Stated in question form, two questions describe the course: Who governs? To what end?

Two Semesters, 10 s.p.

Economics

A course that introduces students to key economic concepts and skills. Students learn how those concepts and skills can be applied to their own lives and to the decisions they will face as students, particularly those who pursue a business major.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Work Experience Education is a Pacific Union Conference requirement for all graduates from Seventh-day Adventist secondary schools. Supervised employment of clock hours fulfills the 5 semester credit requirement.

There are two ways to meet the work experience requirement:

Students may complete the requirement by verifying proficiency and competency in work experience. Work experience waiver forms should be approved **in advance** of the work. At the completion of 100 hours of paid or volunteer work, documentation is submitted to the Work Experience Coordinator and a grade of pass or fail is noted.

Or

A student may work for on campus work experience which consists of one period per day of supervised paid campus work for a semester. This class is on a regular A-F grade system.

One Semester, 5 s.p.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Twenty-five (25) hours of community service activities are required during each year of attendance at a Pacific Union Conference or North American Division secondary school. Community Service hours are performed without pay. Community Service hours must be reported in a timely fashion at the end of each academic quarter and will be approved by the Academy's Community Service Committee. Non-completion of hours at the end of any academic year will be recorded as an "I" (incomplete) and may have consequences for office and athletic eligibility.

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE

Rationale:

A school's priorities can be reflected, to some degree, in the accomplishments it chooses to officially recognize. An appropriate reward system places academic achievement in a positive light and provides students the incentive to seek excellence in learning and other academic activities.

Using a point system, each student will have the opportunity to earn a certificate each year they

attend La Sierra Academy. Points are earned at the following levels to qualify:

Freshmen	20	Junior
25		
Sophomore	20	Senior
25		

Requirements for Earning a Certificate:

A maximum of (3) points may be earned per course. The following activities will provide the points as listed:

Cumulative GPA (at end of first semester)

4.0	10
3.7	7
3.5	5

Advanced Math (Grade 9)

(Geometry or Algebra II) 3

La Sierra University Class 3

*Achievement Test Scores (Grades 9, 10,

11)

95 th percentile	5
90 th percentile	3
80 th percentile	1

Grade 11 *PSAT

99 th percentile	5
95 th percentile	4
90 th percentile	3

Grade 12 SAT (Reading/Math)

1250	5
1150	4
1050	3

Academic Honors Projects 3 per

project

(15 max)

(Beyond course requirements)

*Grade 11 students may choose either ITED or PSAT scores, but not both.