



Los Altos Christian High School
Course Descriptions 2022-2023



LACS HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMICS

Los Altos Christian Schools offers curriculum based on a Christian perspective of education. We believe it is important to integrate scriptural principles and biblical threads into each area of subject matter. We continually research a variety of curriculums and have selected materials that offer LACS students a high-quality academic education, centered on the principles of God's Word.

HIGH SCHOOL FOUR-YEAR COURSE PLAN

	9 th GRADE	10 th GRADE	11 th GRADE	12 th GRADE	LACS Graduation Requirements 240 Required	US/CSU 'a-g' Course Subject Area Requirements 150 Required
History		Modern World History, Culture & Geography	U.S. History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Government & Civics (1 Sem.) Economics (1 Semester) 	30 credits	Area A - 2 years minimum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> year World History 1 year U.S. History
English	English 9: Literature & Composition	English 10: World Literature & Composition	English 11: American Literature & Composition	English 12: British Literature & Composition	40 credits	Area B - 4 years required
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus Calculus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus Calculus 	40 credits	Area C - 3 years required - through Algebra 2 (4 years recommended - through Pre-Calculus and Calculus)
Science	Marine Science with lab	Biology with lab	Chemistry with lab	Physics with lab	40 credits	Area D - UC: 1 Biological science, 1 physical science required. CSU: Take Biology and chemistry/physics. 4 years of lab science recommended
Language Other Than English	Spanish 1 ASL 1	Spanish 2 ASL 2	Spanish 3 ASL3		20 credits (30 of the same language recommended)	Area E - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 years of the same language required 3 years recommended
Visual & Performing Arts	Art Appreciation Film Studies	Art Appreciation Film Studies	Art Appreciation Film Studies	Art Appreciation Film Studies	10 credits	Area F - 1 Yearlong course required
Elective	*see below	*see below	*see below	*see below	10 credits	Area G - 1 Year (2 semesters)
Bible	Bible: Introduction to Biblical Interpretation	Bible: The Life & Teachings of Jesus	Bible: Biblical Worldview	Bible: Biblical Doctrines	30 Credits	N/A
PE	P.E./Strength & Conditioning	P.E./Strength & Conditioning	P.E./Strength & Conditioning	P.E./Strength & Conditioning	20 Credits	N/A

* **Area G - College-Preparatory Elective** - One year (two semesters) of UC-approved high school courses chosen from courses specific to the elective (G) subject area **or** courses beyond those used to satisfy the requirements of the A-F subjects. (Ex. A student who takes both Art Appreciation and Film Studies will have one course fulfill Area F and the other fulfill Area G.) Please see Mrs. Hibbert for other course options (online or through Foothill College.)

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

BIBLE

BIBLE: INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

This course is an introduction to theology with special emphasis: on understanding the doctrine of Scripture, the integration of various fields of knowledge with the Bible, and seeing the importance and development of a Christian worldview. Students will examine their academic disciplines through critical evaluation of the knowledge, skills, and values of the discipline according to Christian faith and practice.

- ☐ Course length: 1 year
- ☐ Materials:
- ☐ Prerequisites: none

BIBLE: THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS

The focus of this course is on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Students will learn more about the Gospel, embark on biblical fluency, begin studying apologetics, and find Jesus in every single Book of the Bible. Students will discover how to bridge the gap between their heart and mind, will become equipped to give a reason for their faith, and encounter God through His Word.

- ☐ Course length: 1 year
- ☐ Materials: The Life and Teachings of Jesus, Bob Jones University Press
 - Bible (NASB, ESV, NKJV, NIV, NAB)
 - Essential Bible Background - Dr. J. Carl Laney
 - 100 Bible Verses Everyone Should Know Heart - Robert J. Morgan
 - 101 Facts & Foreknowledge - Jim Tetlow
- ☐ Prerequisites: none

BIBLE: BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

In this course, students will gain an understanding of the key elements of a Biblical worldview. It will challenge students to think critically about many aspects of life through a Biblical lens, to view God's plan for the world and their place in it. Apologetics is interwoven throughout the textbook, equipping students to defend their faith and the foundational teachings of the Bible against competing worldviews.

- ☐ Materials: Biblical Worldview: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Bob Jones University Press
 - Bible (NASB, ESV, NKJV, NIV, NAB)
- ☐ Prerequisites: none

BIBLE: BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

Study of the Biblical teaching concerning scripture, God, Jesus Christ, the holy Spirit and angels. Emphasis throughout is on the practical application of the teachings of the bible to the Christian life.

- ☐ Materials: Bob Jones University Press
 - Bible (NASB, ESV, NKJV, NIV, NAB)
- ☐ Prerequisites: none

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 9: LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

English 9 focuses on reading, writing, vocabulary development, and oral communication. The students will read from a variety of texts, including short stories, novels, and poetry. Focus and attention are given to the writing process to develop skilled, confident writers. Beginning with the foundation of the sentence, students will refine their writing: as they develop a thesis, build paragraphs, elaborate, organize, and edit their essays. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through personal narratives, argumentative and critical essays, and other writing exercises and projects.

- Grade 9, Course Length: 1 year
- Textbook(s): myPerspectives 9 by Pearson, Wordly Wise 9, Step Up To Writing, novels
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 8

ENGLISH 10: WORLD LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

The goal of this class is to develop mature literary comprehension skills, writing, vocabulary, and oral communication. By exploring a variety of novels from different genres, the students will broaden their reading horizons and sharpen their critical thinking skills as they read and discuss texts on a deeper level. Students will further develop their writing as they respond to literature through poetry, short stories, and a variety of essays, projects, and presentations.

- Grade 10, Course Length: 1 year
- Textbook(s): myPerspectives 10 by Pearson, Wordly Wise 10, Step Up To Writing, novels
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 9

ENGLISH 11: AMERICAN LITERATURE

The English 11 students will continue to refine their language arts skills of reading, analysis, interpretation, writing, research, speaking, and listening through a survey of different genres of American literature in different historical periods. Students will read historical documents, classic works of American literature, and relevant expository texts. Students will learn text-centered vocabulary, read, annotate and discuss works, write literary analyses, short stories, and argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative essays.

- Grade 11, Course Length: 1 year
- Textbook(s): myPerspectives 11 by Pearson, Wordly Wise 11, Step Up To Writing, novels
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 10

ENGLISH 12: BRITISH & WORLD LITERATURE

This course will continue to prepare students with the literary analysis, writing, and critical thinking skills they will need for college and in life. Students will read and discuss a wide range of classic British literature and literature from around the world. Students will continue to refine their writing and develop their personal voice as they respond to literature in a variety of essays, research reports, and projects.

- Grade 12, Course Length: 1 year
- Textbook(s): myPerspectives 12 by Pearson, Wordly Wise 12, Step Up To Writing, novels
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 11

HISTORY

MODERN WORLD HISTORY: CULTURE & GEOGRAPHY

History 10 studies World History from the Pre-History to today, honing in on important people, ideas, and choices that affect us to this very day. Through reading, discussion, pictures, videos, and hands-on engagement, students will experience history coming to life! With this newfound passion for the past, students will have the opportunity to share their knowledge and practice oral, visual, and written communication. Focus and attention are given to discussion tactics, study skills, presentation forms, Biblical mindset and integration, and the writing process.

- Grade: 10, Course Length: 1 year
- Textbook: My World Interactive - Textbook and Active Journal by Pearson, 2019
- Prerequisites: none

UNITED STATES HISTORY - 11

United States History is a yearlong course that focuses on U.S. History after the U.S. Civil War. Students will master content and develop critical thinking skills through reading, discussing, and writing. Students will compare various primary and secondary sources and points of view in order to deepen their understanding of complex historic and current issues. A strong emphasis is placed on analyzing primary and secondary sources and essay writing. Students will sharpen their critical thinking and writing skills by responding to primary and secondary source document-based questions (DBQs). This course will use the textbook, primary and secondary historical documents, and <https://curriculum.newvisions.org/social-studies/course/us-history/building-a-nation>.

- Grade: 11, Course Length: 1 year
- Textbook: United States History: The Twentieth Century by Pearson, 2019
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of Modern World History (10)

U.S. GOVERNMENT – 12

This course introduces students to the various concepts of the study of American government by tracing the origins of the American democracy and the principles on which it is based as outlined in founding documents. Students will explore public policy, individual rights, national security, trade, taxation, political parties and campaigns, elections, balance in government between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, lawmaking, and state and local governments as well as comparative political and economic systems. The overarching emphasis is the understanding of government and one's place in it; thus creating civically engaged citizens who are aware and (of the responsibility of every citizen to be) effectively involved in American civic life at all levels of government.

- Grade: 12, Course Length: 1 semester
- Textbook: American Government by Pearson, 2019
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of U.S. History (11)

ECONOMICS – 12

Students will develop a basic understanding of economic principles and concepts, how economics relates to their everyday life, and how economics impacts society, politics, the environment, and our world. Students will learn about fundamental concepts (supply and demand, costs and benefits, scarcity, competition, etc.), microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics, and personal finance.

- Grade: 12, Course Length: 1 semester
- Textbook: TBD
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of U.S. History (11)

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

SPANISH 1

In this course, students will build on previous Spanish language instruction and acquisition and develop a higher level of understanding and communication skills, both spoken and written. Spanish 1 provides students with instruction in Spanish phonemes, vocabulary in daily situations, grammar, reading comprehension, and oral and written communication. Students will be expected to master proper Spanish sentence constructions, articles and adjectives, subject-verb agreement, and regular and irregular verb conjugations. Students will study the geographic, linguistic, and cultural differences of Spanish-speaking countries around the world and the influences of the Spanish language and Latino culture here in the United States. The goal of this course is to develop basic Spanish language fluency, share the joy of learning a language, and prepare students to share their faith with Spanish-speaking people.

- Course length: 1 year
- Textbook: Auténtico 1 textbook & workbook, by Savvas
- Prerequisites: Junior High Spanish AB is recommended but not required

SPANISH 2

In this course, students will continue to expand their understanding of the Spanish language and culture as they continue to learn new vocabulary, verb tenses, and grammar. Students will learn preterite, imperfect, present perfect, present subjunctive, conditional tenses, and command forms of regular and irregular verbs. As part of the course, students will be afforded opportunities to read, write, hear, and speak Spanish while they work towards becoming linguistically and culturally literate. The goal is to prepare students to be college-ready, well-rounded global citizens who can communicate effectively in Spanish and understand the influences of the Spanish and Latino culture in our local community and abroad.

- Course length: 1 year
- Textbook: Auténtico 2 textbook & workbook, by Savvas
- Prerequisites: Spanish 1 or equivalent

MATH

PRE-ALGEBRA

Students will work with numerical expressions as well as introductory algebraic expressions. They will cover integers, multi-step and linear equations, fractions, ratios and proportions, percentages, data analysis and displays, exponents and scientific notation. The class will work on linear functions and graphing, spatial thinking, area and volume, and work with irrational numbers and nonlinear functions. The course will also introduce basic geometric concepts, and focus on application and critical thinking skills.

* Pre-Algebra is required for Algebra 1. Pre-Algebra does not count as a college preparatory course, even if taken in high school.

- Course length: 1 year
- Text: Pre-Algebra, Big Ideas, 2022
- Prerequisites: strong year-long performance in a foundational math class

ALGEBRA 1

This course builds on previous algebraic and geometric concepts and aligns with the Common Core Math Standards. It further develops students' critical thinking and the following advanced algebra skills: linear functions, quadratic functions, quadratic equations, and complex numbers, polynomial functions, rational exponents and radical functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational functions, probability, data analysis, and statistics, trigonometric ratios and functions, sequences and series, matrices. The concepts of this course are important for students' success in college and career readiness and are recommended for all students seeking to undertake post-secondary education. Students will use appropriate technology to graph equations and input data, analyze their characteristics and solve problems in context.

- Course length: 1 year
- Text: Algebra 1, Big Ideas, 2022
- Prerequisites: successful completion of Pre-Algebra in High School or Junior High equivalent (Pre-Algebra Advanced or Pre-Algebra A&B)

GEOMETRY

This course includes learning the language of geometry, studying parallel and perpendicular lines, congruence and similarity, special right triangle relationships, and trigonometric ratios. Students gain skills in logical thinking by exposure to conditional statements, indirect proofs and two-column proofs. This course will involve studying the area, perimeter, surface area, and volume of a variety of geometric shapes.

- Course length: 1 year
- Text: Geometry, Big Ideas, 2022
- Prerequisites: successful completion of Algebra

ALGEBRA 2

This course aligns with the Common Core Math Standards. This course is designed to build on algebraic and geometric concepts. It develops advanced algebra skills such as systems of equations, advanced polynomials, quadratics, conic sections, exponential and logarithmic functions, graphing, sequences and series, and introduces matrices. The concepts of this course are important for students' success in college and career readiness and are recommended for all students seeking to undertake post-secondary education. Students will use appropriate technology to graph equations and input data, analyze their characteristics and solve problems in context.

- Course length: 1 year
- Text: Algebra 2, Big Ideas, 2022
- Prerequisites: successful completion of Algebra 1 and Geometry

PRE-CALCULUS

The Pre-Calculus course includes algebra review, plane trigonometry, plane analytic geometry, complex numbers, polynomial functions, elementary probability, vectors, and matrices. This course prepares students with the skills necessary for success in Calculus.

- Course length: 1 year
- Text: Pre-Calculus
- Prerequisites: successful completion of Algebra 2

CALCULUS

This is an introductory course that prepares students for success in college-level calculus. This course includes a review of the concepts from algebra, trigonometry, and analytic geometry, and introduces calculus topics such as limits, derivatives, anti-derivatives, integrals, and their applications.

- Course length: 1 year
- Text: Calculus
- Prerequisites: successful completion of Pre-Calculus

SCIENCE

MARINE SCIENCE WITH LAB - 9

Marine Science is an integrated science course that incorporates Marine Biology, Environmental Sciences, and other science disciplines (physical and Earth sciences) with technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) content and processes. Students will gain an understanding of the ocean and its processes as they investigate the physical characteristics of the ocean, marine life, and human impacts on the marine ecosystem. In this course, the science concepts are applied to authentic scientific settings, scenarios, and investigations. Students will use real-time and achieved authentic data for collection, interpretation, drawing conclusions, and supporting ideas with evidence. In addition to hands-on laboratories, cyber labs will allow students to use electronic tools for data collection and analysis.

- Grade: 9, Course Length: 1 year
- Textbook: Marine Science – The Dynamic Ocean by Savvas, 2012
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of Science 8

BIOLOGY WITH LAB - 10

Biology is the study of living things and how they interact with the environment. Students will learn through reading, discussion, videos, research projects, and hands-on engagement. A large portion of this class focuses on applying what students are learning to lab work, which involves designing experiments, carrying them out, and making predictions.

The course is divided into eight units: living systems, carbon in the Earth system, ecosystem interactions and energy flow, evidence for evolution, mechanisms of inheritance, genetic variation and evolution, structure and function in living things, ecosystem stability, and the response to climate change.

- Grade: 10, Course Length: 1 year
- Textbook: Science Fusion by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of Marine Science

CHEMISTRY WITH LAB - 11

Chemistry in the Earth System is a lab science course based upon the CA Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS), authentically integrating Earth and space science content with physical science when applicable. The content of the course explains how chemical processes help drive the Earth's system, beginning with the concepts of combustion and carbon dioxide. Students then develop models of energy conservation within systems and the mechanisms of heat flow relating macroscopic heat transport to atomic-scale interactions of particles, including using evidence from Earth's surface to infer the heat transport processes at work in the planet's interior. From there, the course focuses on using patterns to develop models of atomic structure and interactions, including using chemical equations to understand chemical reactions, types of bonds and attractions, and how energy is stored and released. Finally, students then revisit combustion and develop models of energy flow in Earth's climate, evaluate different chemical engineering solutions that can reduce the impacts of climate change, and investigate the effects of fossil fuel combustion on ocean chemistry.

- Grade: 11, Course Length: 1 year
- Textbook: California Science Dimension: Chemistry in the Earth System by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology, and successful completion of Algebra 1 (recommended) or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 1 (required).

PHYSICS WITH LAB - 12

Physics is an introductory course in the foundations of physics and the physical processes in our universe. This course is based on California's Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) which focuses on engineering design processes along with scientific inquiry. Areas of study include forces and motion, energy and momentum, collisions and plate tectonics, gravitational force and planetary motion, electrostatic force, energy conversion, renewable energy, waves, electromagnetic radiation, nuclear processes, and stars and the universe. Students will use critical thinking to assess real-world problems in a search for solutions. They will learn to develop and conduct hands-on investigations, make claims, identify evidence, and analyze data.

- Grade: 12, Course Length: 1 year
- Textbook: California Science Dimensions: Physics in the Universe by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of Chemistry and concurrent enrollment in Pre-Calculus.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS ---

ART APPRECIATION

Art Appreciation is an art survey course designed to increase knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts. Students explore artwork within cultural and historical contexts, art history, and their own creativity. Students will participate in a variety of art applications to analyze, experience, and better understand art elements, principles of design, and the process of creating art. This course will help students appreciate being Image-bearers while examining the creativity God has given everyone throughout history.

- Course length: 1 year
- Textbook: Revel Prebles' Artforms, by Pearson 2019
- Prerequisites: none

Elective Classes

FILM STUDIES

Fictional screenwriting geared towards the planning, outlining and structuring, writing, and rewriting of a full-length narrative fiction screenplay. Students will be responsible for completing a 20-page script by the end of the school year.

- Course length: 1 year
- Textbook: Essentials of Screenwriting: The Art, Craft, and Business of Film and Television Writing
- Prerequisites: none

LACS work in partnership with Oaks Christian, and Foothill College to offer additional foreign language, Visual and Performing Arts, and Elective classes.

<https://www.oakschristian.org/>

<https://foothill.edu/hs/>

CHAPEL – WEEKLY CONNECTION

- Los Altos Christian High School has a chapel on Tuesday at 1:50 P.M.
- Mentorship Program
- 9-10th Grade: Community Service
- 11-12th Grade: Senior Project and College Preparation

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our philosophy of community service is based on God's Word. Our scriptural reference is clearly stated in Mark 10:45:

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Community Service at LACS provides the opportunity for the student:

- to model Christ-like behavior through serving another
- to receive the blessing that comes from giving in the Name of Jesus
- to develop the lifelong spiritual discipline of serving Christ
- to prepare for High School where students develop a resume useful for college and career pursuits

9TH GRADE

5 hours per semester | 10 per year

10TH GRADE

5 hours per semester | 10 per year

11TH GRADE

15 per year

12TH GRADE

15 per year

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Co-curricular activities play an important role in the college application process, and in many vital areas leading up to graduation. Studies show there is a strong positive correlation between co-curricular activities and student attendance, GPA, overall test scores, educational goals, and future SAT scores. Remember, the PSAT starts in 10th grade.

We believe that academic and social success starts at a young age and builds through middle school, so we encourage all of our students to participate in co-curricular activities to continue building a platform for college.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS

Please see Mrs. Hibbert for details (sports, forms, fees, etc.). Students will need to maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA to be eligible (per CIF/CCS rules). Parents will need to provide transportation.