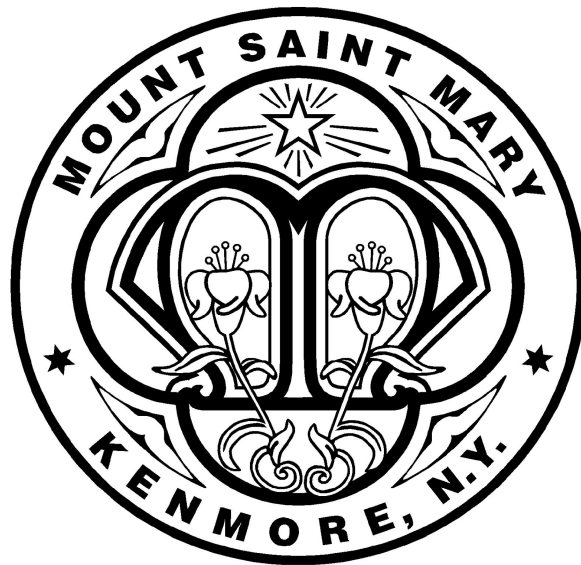


Mount St. Mary Academy



Course Catalog 2020-2021

Course of Studies

All students are required to take a minimum of six and one-half academic credits each year. Students in the class of 2023 and thereafter will be required to take 7.0 credits each year. Students should work with the Guidance/Counseling Department to see that all requirements are met.

Honors classes differ from Regular classes in that they will stress a higher level of academic excellence and rigor, teach in-depth content, extend the content of the curriculum, integrate information from other disciplines, emphasize critical thinking, student-directed learning, and incorporate extensive reading and writing.

MSM Graduation Requirements

MSM Graduation Requirements (Class 2021, 2022):

Required credits:

English:	4 credits (Required to take English all four years)
Social Studies:	4 credits (Required to take Social Studies all four years)
Math:	4 credits (Required to take Math all four years)
World Language:*	3 credits (required)*
Science:*	3 credits (one in Biology and 2 in physical science)
Art/Music:	1 credits
Health:	0.5 credits
Phys. Ed.:	2 credits
Religion:	2 credits
Electives:	2.5 credits

Total credits: 26 total

*Although not required, it is recommended to continue with a fourth credit in science and foreign language as a senior. Students must take three high school foreign language credits to graduate. High school credits in 8th grade will count toward a student's three credits for the Class of 2021 only.

For the Class of 2022 and thereafter, students will be required to take three world language credits at Mount, even if they have a credit from 8th grade.

Class of 2021- Regents Diploma/Adv Regents

All Regents exams are required to obtain a Regents or Advanced Regents diploma. In order to receive an Advanced Regents diploma, students need to pass additional New York State Regents exams. In order to receive an Honors distinction, a student must attain a 90% overall average on certain New York State Regents exams.

MSM Graduation Requirements (Class of 2023; 2024):

Required credits: All credits are earned at the Mount:

English:	4 credits
Social Studies:	4 credits
Math:	4 credits
World Languages:	3 credits
Science:	4 credits*
Art/Music:	2 credits
Health:	.5 credits
Phys. Ed.:	2 credits
Religion:	2 credits
Electives:	3.5 credits
Total credits:	29 total

*a student must take Living Environment in 8th grade or during high school career

All students must participate in a school-sponsored Service and Justice Mission Week activity each year they are a student at MSM. Students will receive .25 credit for each experience completed.

Course Change Policy

Once courses are selected, it is expected that there will be no further changes. There is no guarantee that course change requests will be honored. Schedule changes **for both semesters** should be completed by Friday of the first full week of classes in September. Any course dropped after that time will receive a withdraw "W" on the transcript. Changes based on teacher preference are not permitted.

Playing Division Athletics in College

Students planning to play Division I or II sports in college need to let their counselor know by the end of freshman year so an academic plan can be made. There are certain courses and GPA requirements that need to be met.

Course Placement

Each upper level (Honors, Advanced Placement and NUSStep) course carries specific prerequisites that must be met in order to enroll in that course. Students not meeting the prerequisites for an advanced class (honors or AP level), will not be placed into those courses. Students who are on the border of meeting the requirement, can request a review after June exam and final grades are completed or may be asked to complete a "Course Challenge Form" that will be reviewed by her counselor and division chairs.

Due to the nature of the courses in the sciences and mathematics, more attention is given to teacher recommendations for students' future placement. Students should consult with their current science and math teachers if they have questions concerning appropriate choices for the coming school year.

Please note that all courses are subject to minimum enrollment to run.

English Department

English I (015) – 1 credit

This full-credit course is an introduction to the major literary forms (poetry, novel, short story, drama and nonfiction writings). An emphasis is placed on grammar, writing and basic literary vocabulary during this year. Through the process of writing a Modern Language Association format research paper, students will also learn and build upon basic skills involved with research and synthesizing information.

English I Honors (010) - 1 credit

This full-credit course is an introduction to the major literary forms (poetry, novel, short story, drama and nonfiction writings). An emphasis is placed on grammar, writing and basic literary vocabulary during this year. Students will begin to develop the literary analysis skills necessary to be successful in an Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course.

English II (025) – 1 credit

English II is a continuation of the literary genres (poetry, short story, drama, novel, and non-fiction) introduced in English I. An emphasis is placed on knowledge and application of literary terms, as well as vocabulary and grammar skills. In addition, a focus is on essay and descriptive writing skills. A Modern Language Association formatted research project is also completed in the class.

English II Honors (020) - 1 credit

(Prerequisite - Combined English average of 93% or above)

English II is a continuation of the literary genres (poetry, short story, drama, novel, and non-fiction) introduced in English I. An emphasis is placed on knowledge of literary terms, verbal and written analysis of literature vocabulary and grammar skills. In addition, a focus is on essay and descriptive writing skills. A Modern Language Association formatted research project is also completed in the class.

English III (036) – 1 credit

This full-credit course is a study of various highlights of each genre of American Literature. A major emphasis will be placed on the American novel, as well as nonfiction reading (articles, journals, biographies, autobiographies) and writing/speaking in response to these publications. To enhance the students' understanding of the Modern Language Association method of writing, citing and analyzing sources, research writing will be an integral part of the course.

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition (055) - 1 credit

(Prerequisite - Combined English average of 93% and above. Open to Juniors and Seniors.)

This is a full year college-level course during which students will focus on close reading a wide range of literary texts. Students will be exposed to literature written by diverse authors and from varied cultures, and will deepen their critical analysis skills through reading and writing. In addition to rigorously discussing the literary elements involved in creating each work, students will prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam in May and have the opportunity to earn college credit.

A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

English IV - Survey of World Literature (045) – 1 credit

This is a full-year, full-credit course in which students will read and analyze works of literature. A major focus of the course is college preparation through the continued development of research writing skills (both Modern Language Association and American Psychological Association), group discussion techniques, oral presentation skills and recognizing a writer's style and purpose in both fiction and nonfiction.

NUSTEP ENG 110 Introduction to Literature (Semester Two)–

NUSTEP WRT 100 Thinking and Writing (Semester One) – (050) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 90% combined average or better in English I, II and III; AP Lit students)

- The transferability of college credits is subject to the college to which the student applies.
- When registering, it is understood that the student will enroll in both courses.
- Six total credit hours from Niagara University are earned upon successful completion of this full-year course.
- A course fee (subject to change at NU's discretion) will be incurred and will be paid directly to Niagara University and students must purchase books.
- Students must register in both the fall and spring via Niagara University's NUStep website.

WRT 100: Thinking and Writing

This course includes instruction and practice in analysis and argument, in revision, and in the use and acknowledgement of sources. Writing is taught as a means of acquiring as well as expressing ideas. The emphasis in class is on developing ideas and refining them through writing. Written projects, including research done in the American Psychological Association format, will be assigned.

ENG 110: Literary Perspectives

This course includes the reading and analysis of non-fiction, fiction, prose, and poetry. In addition, students will study contemporary critical-theoretical approaches and apply them to their literature assignments. Students write extensively in this course, arguing for their own interpretations, applying critical approaches, and incorporating secondary source ideas in thesis-driven analysis. Assigned literary works are diverse and multicultural, and are organized by theme or motif.

The following half-credit electives are available to sophomores, juniors and seniors based on enrollment:

Journalism (060) – ½ credit

This half-credit course will explore the exciting field of communications, including writing, broadcast, news photography and public relations. Students will be introduced to the multimedia discipline of gathering, writing and reporting news, editing, proofreading, and publishing both in print and online. Students will learn about the various forms of media and learn to work both in front of and behind the camera. They will have a variety of publishing opportunities, both in school and out in the community.

Journalism II (066) – ½ credit

This half-credit course is designed to extend and deepen students' work in the field of communications. Students will be guided through and develop in-depth journalism projects, learning to conduct more detailed interviews, writing more complex and challenging stories, and planning and publishing long-term projects. This course is open to any students who have successfully completed the introductory Journalism course.

Journalism III (067) – ½ credit

This half-credit course is designed to prepare students for a professional career in the field of communications. With guidance from their teacher, students will initiate independent journalism projects, study and practice communications leadership, connect with communications professionals, and develop professional-level portfolios of their work. This course is open to any students who have successfully completed the introductory Journalism course and Journalism II.

Journalism IV (061) – ½ credit

This half-credit course is a master-level program in which students will engage in project-based communications work. Projects will be developed using a multimedia approach, incorporating writing, photography, video and social media. This course is designed to prepare students for college-level work in the communications field and is open to any students who have successfully completed the introductory Journalism course and Journalism II and III.

Lessons in Lyrics (069) - ½ credit

(Prerequisite English I)

Students will analyze the lyrics of songs from past decades to present time, including the genres of rock and roll, jazz, the blues, rap and contemporary top 40. Through the research done to find the meaning of the songs, questions will be consistent in the course structure. Oral and written presentations of the gathered research will be a major feature of the course, based on the history of the artist, song and/or title.

Creative Writing (068)- ½ credit

Designed to develop students' writing skills beyond academic writing, students will compile a portfolio of their work showcasing each of the areas explored through the course. This course will focus on short stories, personal essays, screenwriting and various other forms of creative writing.

Communications (072)- ½ credit

The ability to speak and deliver presentations to groups is one of the skills you will use most frequently in college and beyond. In this class, you'll learn how to plan a presentation, write a speech, and deliver both with confidence and creativity. You will start with smaller talks, practicing and improving in a supportive environment, and build up to larger presentations. You will also practice other professional skills, including written and verbal communications such as emails, phone calls and interviews, and strategies for working in and leading groups

The Heroes Within (062)- ½ credit

This course will be based upon real-life people, literary characters and the students themselves; how through determination and selflessness a hero is made. With a concentration on fiction and non-fiction, writing and personal presentations, this class will study the qualities of human nature at its best.

Math Department

All students are required to complete four years of math in order to graduate.

Please note that teacher recommendation plays a major role in placement for courses.

A TI-84 Series Calculator is required for all math classes.

Preferred: TI-84 Plus CE

Algebra Practicum (111) – ½ credit

The Algebra Practicum course is offered to a select group of students to reinforce lessons taught in Algebra 9. Pre-teaching of topics in the Algebra 9 curriculum as well as support of daily class material will be given. This is a two-semester course, which meets twice a week. Students receive a Pass (P) or Fail (F) grade.

Algebra 9 (106) – 1 credit

(Prerequisites: Successful completion of 8th grade math)

The content standards associated with Algebra 9 are based on the New York State Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics. Some of the topics covered include solving linear equations and inequalities, systems of equations, algebraic expressions, operations with monomials and polynomials, factoring, quadratics, radicals, graphing, functions, and statistics. This is a two semester course. There is a school exam in June.

Geometry (119) – 1 credit

(Prerequisites: Sophomores: Algebra 9 (106) and teacher recommendation)

This course introduces students to the essentials of Geometry. Topics include Congruence, Similarity, Right Triangles and Trigonometry, Circles, Transformations, Coordinate Geometry, Constructions, as well as formal and informal proofs. This is a two semester course. There is a school exam in June.

Geometry 10 (118) – 1 credit

(Prerequisites: Sophomores: Successful completion of Algebra 9 (106))

The content standards associated with Geometry are based on the New York State Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics. Topics include Congruence, Similarity, Right Triangles and Trigonometry, Circles, Transformations, Coordinate Geometry, Constructions, as well as formal and informal proofs. This is a two semester course. There is a school exam in June.

Algebra 11 (132) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students who have successfully completed Geometry (119) and teacher recommendation)

This class strengthens basic algebra concepts, introduces new and more advanced algebra concepts and functions, such as exponential growth and decay. Trigonometry, probability, and statistics units will prepare students for further mathematical coursework and/or SAT (ACT) preparation. This is a two semester course. There is a school exam in June.

Algebra 11/T (134) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students who have successfully completed Algebra 9 (106) and Geometry 10 (118))

The content standards associated with Algebra II are based on the New York State Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics. Building on the work from Algebra 9, Algebra II is designed to take a deeper dive into familiar functions (Linear, quadratic, and rational), while exposing students to the more sophisticated mathematics of logarithmic and exponential functions. Trigonometry will be a large focus as well. A prime focus on real applications and modeling of these functions will be assessed throughout the coursework. This is a two semester course. There is a school exam in June.

Financial Algebra (146) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: This course is for Seniors)

This course is divided into two topics- Algebra 3 and Personal Finance. The first half of the year is designed to build a stronger foundation in algebra and introduce college level concepts. The second semester will reinforce the basic math skills needed to successfully navigate the real world of personal finance. Topics will include budgeting, taxes, credit, savings and investing. This is a two semester course.

Pre-Calculus (140) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students who have successfully completed Algebra 9 (106), Geometry 10 (118) and Algebra 11 (134), and teacher recommendation)

The purpose for this full-credit course is to prepare for calculus. The course is theory-based in nature and relies on strong algebra skills as well as an understanding of functions and their graphs. The curriculum covers an in depth look at linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Important calculus concepts are introduced. This is a two semester course. There is a school exam in May.

Pre-Calculus Honors (142) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Juniors who have successfully completed Algebra 9 (106) , Geometry 10 (118) and Algebra 11 (134), have a combined math average of 92% or above, and teacher recommendation)

This full-credit course covers the same curriculum as regular Pre-Calculus; however, Pre-Calculus Honors will further explore select topics, such as conic sections, and move at a faster pace. Topics in Calculus, specifically limits and continuity, will round out the year. This is a two semester course. There is a school exam in May.

Introduction to Calculus (149) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Seniors who have successfully completed Pre-Calculus, and teacher recommendation)

This class will introduce and expand upon topics such as limits, differential calculus, and integral calculus. Students may also receive college credit through Hilbert College. This is a two semester course. There will be a final exam in May.

Calculus – Advanced Placement (150) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 92% or higher in Pre-Calculus Honors and teacher recommendation)

This college-level full-credit course covers limits, derivatives, integration and applications of derivatives and integrals. This is a two semester course. Students will take the Advanced Placement AB exam given by the CEEB in May. A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

Introduction to Statistics (147) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: This course is for Seniors)

This class will cover methods of descriptive and inferential statistics. Topics include gathering, organizing and interpreting data, measures of central tendency, normal and binomial distributions, hypothesis testing, correlation, regression. This is a two semester course.

Science Department

*Please note that teacher recommendation plays a large role in the placement of science courses.

Living Environment (221) – 1 credit

This one-credit course focuses on the similarities and the differences in structure and function of living organisms. A variety of organisms representative of simple and more complex systems are studied in detail. The structure, biochemistry and genetics of cells are discussed in depth. Cellular arrangement, specialization and dependence in multicellular organisms, and the interaction of living organisms with the environment are studied. The development of laboratory skills is emphasized.

LE Lab (219)

Earth and Space (211) – 1 credit

This one-credit course deals with the earth, its motions, energy, weather, water supply, climates, erosion, deposition, and the formation of rock. The earth's history, crustal movement and the story told in the rocks and the landscape developments are also covered. There is an emphasis on laboratory work. The skills needed to collect, organize and graph data are practiced. The use of reference tables and the skills of interpreting questions are emphasized.

Earth Lab (214)

Principles of Chemistry (235) – 1 credit

(Note: You will not be eligible to take Chemistry if you are enrolled in this course.)

This one-credit course presents a modern view of chemistry. The principles of matter and energy, atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table, kinetics and equilibrium, acids and bases and organic chemistry are studied to understand our physical environment. This course will emphasize the concepts in Chemistry, not the mathematical aspects, as well as hand-on activities. The student does not need a strong math background to take this course.

Chemistry (232) – 1 credit

(Note: You may not have taken Principles of Chemistry prior to this course.)

This one-credit course presents a modern view of chemistry. The principles of matter and energy, atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table, kinetics and equilibrium, acids and bases and organic chemistry are studied to understand our physical environment. It is recommended that a student possess a strong math background, which is essential to the completion of the laboratory experience in this course.

Chemistry Lab (231)

Chemistry Honors (233) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students taking Algebra II/T Students must have at least a 90% average in their current science course and at least an 85% in their current math).

This one-credit course presents a modern view of chemistry. The principles of matter and energy, atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table, kinetics and equilibrium, acids and bases and organic chemistry are studied to understand our physical environment. It is recommended that a student possess a strong math background, which is essential to the completion of the laboratory experience in this course. This course will strengthen the student's critical thinking skills.

Chemistry Honors Lab (234)

Chemistry- Advanced Placement (237) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: students must have taken both Regents Chemistry and Algebra II R and had an overall average of at least 85%, and teacher approval)

This course will allow students a more in-depth look at Atomic Structure, Periodic Table, Bonding, Stoichiometry, Gases and Phase Changes, Thermodynamics, Solutions, Equilibrium, Acids and Bases, Kinetics, Oxidation- Reduction and Electrochemistry, Nuclear Decay, and Organic Chemistry.

Students will be required to read a college-level text and do independent reading and note taking. They will also need to participate in classroom discussions and advanced laboratory experiments.

Students will take the Advanced Placement Exam given in May.

A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

Physics (242) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students must have passed Living Environment and Regents Chemistry with at least an 80%.)

(Note: You may not have taken Principles of Physics prior to this course.)

This one-credit course includes the major topics of mechanics, motion in a plane, energy, heat, electricity and magnetism, wave phenomena and modern physics. The course develops the skills needed for critical thinking and problem solving, which includes considerable work on the analysis and solution of word problems. Physics is of value to anyone who wants to improve her critical thinking skills and in addition emphasizes hands-on laboratory experiments. It is recommended that the student have a strong background in mathematics prior to taking this course.

Physics Lab (241)**Principles of Physics (245) – 1 credit**

(Note: You will not be eligible to take Physics if you are enrolled in this course.)

This one-credit course includes the major topics of mechanics, motion in a plane, energy, heat, electricity and magnetism, and wave phenomena. The course develops the skills needed for critical thinking and problem solving, which includes considerable work on the analysis and solution of word problems. The course emphasizes the conceptual, rather than mathematical, nature of Physics as well as hands-on laboratory experimentations and computer simulations. A student does not need a strong background in mathematics although basic algebra and trigonometry skills are required.

NUSTEP BIO 101/**NUSTEP BIO 102 (Two Semester courses) (285) – 1 credit**

(Prerequisite: 90% average or better in Living Environment; 85% or better in Chemistry;

Six total credit hours from Niagara University are earned upon successful completion of this full-year course. A two-semester series designed to study the basic functions of the human body in health and disease. This course is designed to increase the student's understanding of elementary human physiology. It will emphasize the functional aspects of the body at the cellular, tissue, organ, and organ system levels. It is designed as a terminal non-laboratory course. The course is designed for students with no prior college biology courses.

The student will be required to purchase required text. A course fee will be incurred and paid directly to Niagara University. (The transferability of college credits is subject to the college to which the student applies.) Students are required to register with Niagara University in both the fall and spring via the NUStep website.

BIO 102 Lab (226)- Semester two

The Following Electives are open depending on enrollment:

Intro to Forensic Science – (292) – ½ credit

This course will help you to learn what Forensic Science is. We will discuss how forensic investigators use the scientific method, what evidence is and how it is classified, different evidence-gathering techniques, how a crime laboratory is organized, expert witness testimony, and possibly choosing forensic science as a career. This class will include labs and other hands-on activities.

Introduction to Health Professions- (298) ½ credit

This course will explore major areas of the healthcare system and the scope of practice for each of the health professions. It will also touch on the desired skills of health care professionals and the contributions these professions bring to patient care. A review of educational preparation and practice requirements for each of the health careers will be explored to assist students in further delineating their own educational and career goals

Environmental News - (294)- ½ credit

In this elective, we will be looking at a variety of current event issues relating to the sciences. This course focuses on local and world issues that affect our everyday lives. Students will be able to summarize and analyze science content from current events articles, videos, and social media to support class discussion. Having students become scientifically informed and environmentally aware citizens in the main goal of this course.

Social Studies Department

World Civilizations I (311) – 1 credit

World Civilizations I follows a chronological study of world history in keeping with the standards of the New York State curriculum. Students begin with the study of pre-history and explore various regions and civilizations at given times through the Enlightenment period.

World Civilizations I Honors (312) – 1 credit

World Civilizations I follows a chronological study of world history and application of world geography in order to match the standards of the NYS curriculum. At the same time, students will focus on the strategies and tools necessary for a successful experience in the course which will follow (Advanced Placement European History) and the opportunity to earn college credits. Emphasis on note-taking, reading analysis of primary sources, writing and study strategies will be stressed, in order for students to become more independent thinkers.

World Civilizations II (321) – 1 credit

Students continue the chronological approach of World Civilizations during their involvement in World Civilizations II. This course will cover events beginning with the Enlightenment era to present-day.

European History ~ Advanced Placement (328) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 93% average or better in World Civilizations Honors; 95% average or better in World Civilizations I)

This course allows sophomores an opportunity for in-depth study of European History from 1450 to modern times. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement exam in May. Successful completion of the exam offers the opportunity to earn college credits. Students will be expected to extensively read a college-level text and primary sources, independently note-take, and be able to contribute to class discussions. Time management and a serious level of independent study is essential for this course.

A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

United States History (336) – 1 credit

This is a full-year course concentrating on the political, social, and economic forces that have shaped the United States. Students will engage in the study of history using a variety of primary and secondary sources. Historical thinking skills will be emphasized.

United States History ~ Advanced Placement (330) – 1 credit

This intensified, in-depth college-level course examines the history of the United States. Students will engage in college-level work including a research project. An extensive assignment will be assigned in June to be completed at regular intervals over the summer. Students will take the Advanced Placement exam given in May.

A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

All seniors must take 1 full credit of Social Studies which includes 1 government and 1 economics course. The following courses are offered to meet that requirement.

Economics (341) – ½ credit

This is a required half-credit course for seniors dealing with basic economic concepts. Topics include: opportunity cost, comparative advantage, free trade, economic goals (efficiency, freedom, security, equity, and growth), economic systems, public goods, microeconomics (supply and demand, price floors and ceilings, elasticity, and increasing/diminishing marginal returns), macroeconomic measurements (inflation, unemployment, and gross domestic product), and the stock market.

Macroeconomics ~ Advanced Placement (343) - 1 credit

The purpose of the AP course in Macroeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course will review topics such as national income, price level determination, economic growth, fiscal policy, monetary policy, exchange rate policy, as well as other topics. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement exam in May. Successful completion of the exam offers the opportunity to earn college credits. This course meets the NYS requirements for 12th-grade Economics. A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

Participation in Government (344) – ½ credit

This is a half-credit course, which provides the student with a deeper understanding of the structure and operation of American government. Special emphasis is on class discussion, current events, voter registration, and citizen participation in present day America.

Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics (370)- 1 credit

Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics is the equivalent of a one-semester college-level introductory Comparative Political Science course. This course involves both the studies of general concepts used to interpret Comparative politics respective to the governments and politics of China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia. Students are encouraged to become familiar with current events through newspapers, scholarly journals, news magazines, and broadcasts. AP Comparative Government and Politics is a highly academic and demanding course. Students are required to thoroughly read a college-level text, scholarly journals, supplemental political readings and periodicals. Students will be expected to take the AP Exam in May for college-credit potential. This course meets the NYS requirements for 12th-grade Participatory Government. A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

The following electives are available based on enrollment:

Psychology (355) – ½ credit

(Prerequisite: must be at least a Sophomore; recommended for Juniors and Seniors)

This social science elective is a half-credit course involving the exploration of the many different aspects of the mind and human behavior. Among the many topics covered include approaches to psychology, early childhood development, stages of life, management of stress, and the study of personality and identity formation. Emphasis will also be placed on researching current events that relate to the fields approached in class. Assessment will be mainly project-based.

Women's Studies (350) – ½ credit

(Prerequisite: Juniors and seniors only)

This half-credit course will examine the struggles, achievements, and contributions of women throughout history. Through literature, non-fiction, and film, students will explore the lives and impact of these women. An emphasis will be placed on current challenges and issues of importance faced by 21st century women throughout the world

The Holocaust (380) – ½ credit

(Prerequisite: Juniors and Seniors only)

The Holocaust is a half-credit elective providing an in-depth investigation of the correlating foundations, experiences, and outcomes relating to the Holocaust. This course examines the Holocaust by focusing first on the deeply rooted history of Judaism and anti-Semitism and thereafter the history of Germany in terms of unification and war. The course illustrates historical and psychological viewpoints, concentrating both on Hitler and the Nazi Party, as well as the concepts of conformity and obedience. Moreover, students engage in discussion regarding the Holocaust as an event in itself. Examined topics include: steps leading up to the final solution, labor and concentration camps, WWII causes, responses by individuals, institutions and nations, the non-Jewish Holocaust, results of the Holocaust, victims and survivors, Nuremberg Trials, and finally, the Holocaust remembered.

Current Events (357)- ½ credit

Using current events, this one-semester elective course focuses on world and local issues that affect students' everyday lives, such as US government, social issues, world events, and pop culture. A goal of the class is to encourage students to be better-informed citizens in social, economic and political issues of the day. We will evaluate the impact and importance of selected news stories on individuals and groups. Discussion and debate will be heavily featured. This course uses newspapers, online media, cartoons, and newscasts to support class discussion. Students will also work to detect bias, points of view and misinformation to increase media literacy. Additionally, students will participate in projects, journaling, presentations, primary sources and opinion pieces in order to better understand the world around them.

World Languages Department

A three-year sequence in a world language is required. The diverse backgrounds with which students now come to high school is taken into consideration in planning the schedule of each world language student. An MSM Language Proficiency Exam is required of all incoming freshmen who desire placement in a second-level language class. Provision is made for acceleration.

French I (421)- 1 credit

Spanish I (425) – 1 credit

The first level introduces students to the four language skill areas: listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. Also covered in this full-credit course is the geography and certain cultural aspects of the target language.

Latin I (423) – 1 credit

This full-credit course introduces students to the following Latin language skill areas: Latin paradigms and basic grammar, correct pronunciation, reading comprehension and translation from English into Latin. Roman culture and mythology are also presented. This is also an excellent elective for students to choose once they have finished their Language requirement.

French II (431) – 1 credit

Spanish II (435) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite for freshmen: Successful completion of MSM foreign language placement test.)

This second-year, full-credit course expands the application of the four basic skills.

Latin II (433) – 1 credit

This second-year Latin course offers a full-credit and presents more complex Latin grammar along with readings and translations of more difficult passages. Cultural and mythological studies continue.

French III (441) – 1 credit

Spanish III (445) – 1 credit

The third-level full-credit course continues to focus on the oral fluency in the language and is designed to increase reading, speaking and writing proficiency.

Latin III (443) – 1 credit

The third level full-credit course continues with readings and translations of more difficult/original text.

Latin IV (449) - 1 credit

(Prerequisites: Latin III)

This course allows students to expand their knowledge of Latin by reading original texts written by the great Roman authors: Catullus, Vergil, Horace, Ovid, Caesar, and/or Cicero. The authors will be selected based on student interest. In addition to reading prose and poetry in Latin, the students will learn more deeply about Roman customs, history, and influence on subsequent authors.

The following electives are available based on enrollment:

Spanish IV (455) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 85% average or higher in Spanish III)

This full-year, full-credit elective is designed to provide the student with continued oral practice and an increased fluency in Spanish. Also included is the reading of at least one major literary work, viewing and discussion of the movies in the target language, along with a study of culture, art, music and cuisine.

NUSTEP SPA 103/104 Intermediate Spanish Language (453) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 85% average or higher in Spanish IV)

Six college credit hours are awarded. (The transferability of college credits is subject to the college to which the student applies.)

This full-year course will include brief review and expand communication skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) through materials reflecting the history, literature and culture of the Hispanic world. This course will be taught almost exclusively in Spanish, at a pace of instruction equal to that of a college-level course.

A course fee will be incurred paid directly to Niagara University, and the purchase of textbooks will be necessary.

NUSTEP FRE 103/104 Intermediate French Language (452) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 85% average or higher in French III)

Six college credit hours are awarded. (The transferability of college credits is subject to the college to which the student applies.)

This full-year course will review and expand communication skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) through materials reflecting the history, literature and culture of the francophone world.

A course fee will be incurred and paid directly to Niagara University and the purchase of textbooks will be necessary.

Conversational Italian (475) - 1/2 credit

This course, which will not fulfill a language requirement, is meant to introduce students to the Italian language and culture. The focus will be on developing basic conversational skills, and we will focus on such topics as family life, traveling within the country, financial transactions, food, and cinema. The course will also seek to expose students to the culture of modern Italy, through music, film, and other forms of popular culture. It is recommended, but not required, that students have finished their sequence language courses before enrolling in this course.

Discovering Hispanic Culture (486)- 1/2 credit

Have you always wanted to learn more about the countries and cultures of Spanish-speakers around the world, but haven't had the opportunity to fit a Spanish class into your schedule? This is the course for you! .. Celebrate the diversity of Spanish-speakers, by focusing on food, music and dance, crafts and festivals, slang, indigenous groups, and more! A background in Spanish is not required, as class will be taught in English.

Fine Arts Requirement

New York State requires all students to complete one credit of Fine Arts study within their four years of high school. Students may choose full or half-year courses in any of the Fine Arts. These include Visual Arts, Music (instrumental and vocal), Theater and Dance electives. Dance Movement credit is applied to Physical Education.

Visual Arts

Studio in Art (550) – 1 credit

This class encourages creative investigation of the nature, function and techniques of the Visual Arts. Emphasis is placed on the manipulation of materials (pen & ink, lino block printing, watercolor, cut paper) in a studio atmosphere while discovering and developing a personal artistic style. The projects completed will familiarize students with individual artists & art movements. The class will also include analyzing and writing about artwork. This is a core course for students who are planning to continue in the any visual arts curriculum in high school or beyond.

Drawing (560) – ½ credit

(Prerequisite: Studio in Art, or Introduction to Fine Arts, open to students in grades 10, 11 and 12)

Students will use the concepts of shading, value and form to improve skills in a variety of drawing mediums. Objects will be rendered from life and attention will be given to building strong composition. Standard techniques are studied, while experimentation is encouraged to develop each student's personal style.

Crafts (590) – ½ credit

(No Prerequisite: Open to students in grades 10, 11 and 12)

This course introduces the foundation of two & three dimensional design while students investigate a variety of contemporary, historical and multicultural crafts. Activities may include work with fibers, paper, wood and clay. Projects may include, but are not limited to basket weaving, candle making, paper mache & stitchery.

Ceramics I (580) – ½ credit *(Prerequisite: Open to students in grades 10, 11 and 12)*

This course offers the study of basic clay working techniques. Students will learn to handle clay using hand-building techniques such as pinch, coil, slab and drape. Glazing and decorating techniques will be taught along with firing and finishing. Students will be assigned projects relevant to ceramic history, criticism, function and aesthetics.

Ceramics II (581) ½ credit *(Prerequisite: Ceramics I)*

This course offers the continued study of clay working techniques. In addition to using hand-building techniques, students will experiment with texturing and sculptural uses for clay. Advanced use of glazing and decorating techniques will be explored along with alternative means of firing and finishing.

Students may be required to put in work time other than the assigned class time, as work cannot be done at home.

Introduction to Fine Arts (500) ½ credit

Student will be introduced to the elements and principles of art & design through a series of hands-on studio projects. The manipulation of a variety of materials (paper, paint, collage, pencil, ink, etc.) will allow students to explore the creative process and learn about the way art is integrated into other facets of their life.

Digital Photography/Photoshop (555) – ½ credit

This class will cover how to use a digital camera, phone and iPad for creating images. We will experiment with apps and photoshop editing to manipulate photographs. Photography as fine art and communication will be explored through a variety of projects. Digital camera helpful, but not necessary. Students are expected to share verbally with the class and may be asked to use some of their photographs for school publications.

Computer Graphics (724) – ½ credit

This is an in depth class on how to use Photoshop. The students will learn how to create their own computer-generated artworks. An emphasis on creative problem solving, or, “design thinking” should be established early so that students develop good habits with regards to research, sketching and idea development. Students entering Computer Graphics will need to become familiar with what it is as an art discipline, and how digital citizenship is important to every designer (especially the concept of copyright and fair use).

Music

Chorus (525) – ½ credit

This class is open to all students in each grade level. This performance-based class focuses on singing techniques, singing in harmony as an ensemble, and performing a variety of vocal music including musical theater, classical and pop. This ensemble performs in school concerts and other events throughout the school year. This class can be taken more than once.

Gemtones (528) – 1/2 credit

Gemtones is an auditioned singing ensemble open to all students. The ensemble is performance-based and utilizes various singing techniques and styles as well as advanced harmonic and rhythmic content. The ensemble’s repertoire emphasizes pop and musical theatre, but is not limited to any style. The ensemble performs in school concerts and other events throughout the school year. Students in Gemtones are expected to enroll in Voice, Private Instruction (527).

Music Theory (515) – ½ credit

This half-credit course is intended for the more serious music student. Students will learn music reading skills, intervals, chords, modes, cadences, music notation and ear training. This class is open to students at all grade levels.

Voice, Private Instruction (527) – ¼ credit

This quarter-credit course is for the individual student interested in building her vocal repertoire and enhancing her singing performance technique. Students will meet twice per cycle to work individually on songs in a variety of genres. They will also study basic music reading and sight singing. Each student will participate in a studio recital at the conclusion of the semester. This class is open to students in all grades.

Theater

Acting & Theater I (540) 1/2 credit

Acting involves every part of the performer. The mind, body, voice and even one's determination play important parts in creating a character that lives within the framework of the play. Students will learn many aspects of putting on a show including performance, stage management, and design .. The course includes multiple workshops with area professionals in the world of theatre. Topics will include scene work, auditioning, elements of design and the history of theatre.

Musical Theater I (543)- 1/2 credit

Musical Theatre offers a specific focus on the history of musical theatre as we know it, learning classic musical theatre choreography, and the specific roles of song and dance in a musical. Students taking Musical Theatre are expected to participate in the MSM school musical in some capacity, whether it be performing, stage crew, or helping with scenery, costumes, and props during class. In this participation based class, we will shift focus between dance, acting, auditioning, musical theatre history, and developing skills as an informed audience member. Students should be prepared to see one to three musicals per year outside of class time.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Band (520) – ½ credit

The Concert Band is a half-credit course designed for students who play (or wish to learn to play) woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Piano and bass guitar players are also welcome. This course will focus on various genres of concert band repertoire. Students will receive lessons on a rotating basis through the year. The ensemble works as a team performing in various concerts on and off campus throughout the year and marches in area parades. There is a \$75 fee associated with this course.

Jazz Ensemble (523) – ½ credit (Prerequisite: Concert Band)

(Students will be accepted by audition only.)

The Jazz Ensemble is a half-credit course open to students who play saxophone, trombone, trumpet, drums, guitar, bass guitar, or keyboard in the Concert Band. This course focuses on various genres of jazz music and students learn to improvise solos on their respective instruments. The ensemble works as a team performing in various concerts on and off campus throughout the year. There is a \$75 fee associated with this course.

String Ensemble (522) – ½ credit

(Students will be accepted by audition only.)

The String Ensemble is a half-credit course open to students who own and play a string instrument. This course focuses on string orchestra music and students will receive lessons on a rotating basis through the year. The ensemble works as a team performing in various concerts on and off campus throughout the year. There is a \$75 fee associated with this course.

Religion Department

The Religion Department

All students are required to complete four years of religion, and 25 - 60 hours of community service. The religion curriculum provides students with the opportunity to participate in the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church. Each course develops and enhances the student's relationship with God through different types of prayer.

MSM Vincentian Marian Youth Community Service Program

As we assist our young women to deepen their faith and be an active disciple of Jesus, we try to instill in them that their faith must be "lived out," in order to witness to the Gospel. For this reason, Mount St. Mary Academy has a Community Service Program, which offers opportunities for students to do such things as feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless. Our service requirements are as follows: freshmen - 25 hours; sophomores - 35 hours; juniors - 45 hours; and seniors - 60 hours of service. Service requirements must be completed by May 1 in order to receive credit for religion and advance to the next year.

Retreats

Retreats afford students the opportunity to step away from their day-to-day routine for the purpose of self-evaluation, rejuvenation, spiritual growth, and the strengthening of relationships. Participation in retreats can greatly aid students in the development of character and in choosing direction for their lives. All students are required to participate in a retreat during each of their years at Mount St. Mary Academy.

Religion I – Sacred Scripture: the Old Testament (610) – ½ credit

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a Catholic study of God's Word focusing on the Old Testament as a living source of God's Revelation to us. Students will learn about the authorship, message, and historical context of the Pentateuch, the Historical Books, the Wisdom Books, and the Prophets.

Religion II- Sacred Scripture: the New Testament (620) – ½ credit

The purpose of this course is to continue the study of God's Word focusing on the New Testament as a living source of God's Revelation to us. Through the study of the authorship, message, and historical context of the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of St. Paul, and other Catholic Letters, students examine more deeply the Mystery of Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, and the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Students will learn that Jesus reaffirms our dignity and worth, inviting us into a personal relationship with Him, one that can transform our lives, giving us meaning and direction.

Religion III – Our Catholic Faith: Living What We Believe (630) – ½ credit

This course helps students understand the living source of God's Revelation to us through Tradition in the study of the Church, the Creed, and Catholic Morality. Students will explore models of the Church, the Sacraments, the Communion of Saints, Eschatology, Prayer and how we form our conscience, make moral decisions, and answer the call to Social Justice in the life of the Church.

Religion IV - Our Meaning in Life (640) – 1/2 credit

We recognize that this is a special time for our seniors since they are in their final year at the Mount. We strive to ensure that as they leave our establishment, they will have a strong foundation in their Faith as well as knowledge, moral values and service to others in living their Christian life. Human beings are searchers and seekers. We ask questions and search for our meaning in life. “Why was I born?” “Why do people suffer?” “What type of person will I become?” “What are my responsibilities as a Christian?” “How is the Catholic Church relevant in the global world?” “Where does God fit into the grand scheme of things?” This course will attempt to bring these many unspoken questions to light with readings, media, reflections and journaling while using the latest technology.

NUStep REL 206 - World Religions (650) – 1/2 credit

(Prerequisite 80% combined average in previous religion courses)

Three total credit hours from Niagara University are earned upon successful completion of this full-year course. The transferability of college credits is subject to the college to which the student applies.

This is a survey course in the beliefs and history of the world’s religions. It explores the human response to the manifestations of the divine in various cultures. In particular, this course studies the Eastern religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism, as well as the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

A course fee will be incurred payable directly to Niagara University and students will be required to purchase textbooks.

Physical Education

Physical Education (800) – ½ credit

The Physical Education Department attempts to build a strong foundation in all sports so that the students will be prepared to participate on interscholastic teams and in physical education classes in the years ahead, as well as engage in physical wellness as a lifelong goal. Sports are introduced by the season. Fun games for fitness are also intertwined so that fitness and fun are the main objectives.

Fitness, Nutrition and Weight Training (825) – ½ credit

This half-credit course, which is meant to be an alternative for students who prefer individual fitness to team sports, will be taught in our Wellness Center. Students will be able to keep in shape with aerobic activities and weight training. Alternative disciplines such as yoga, pilates and core strength training will also be included. Participants will be expected to work independently on fitness plans they help to create. Numbers will be limited to twelve students per class.

Dance Movement I (850) – ½ credit

Dance Movement is an alternative to traditional gym class. This class was conceived to promote body fitness and emotional well being using the art of dance. Classes incorporate multiple dance forms that are designed to improve flexibility, body strength, muscle tone, and aerobic endurance. Through participation, students will also develop musicality, become familiar with dance terminology, and receive tips on health and stress management. Dance Movement is available to all grade levels.

Dance Movement II (855) – ½ credit

This course is available by invitation or audition after completion of Dance I. Building upon the skills learned in Dance I, Dance II will encourage the student to expand and push herself further through dance. The course combines dance performance and the study of the present day world of dance. Dance II will focus on advanced dance skills, theater skills necessary for performance, and learning dance pieces to perform for events here at school and out in the community. Students will learn to choreograph their own pieces and perform several times a year.

Health (270) – ½ credit

This half-credit required course will help students understand key concepts of health, explore influences on their healthy living, identify appropriate sources of health information, practice healthy behaviors and provides the knowledge to lifelong health. An important theme of this course is prevention, teaching students that the choices they make and the actions they take now will have a dramatic impact on their futures. This course is required for graduation.

Health- Summer (275)- ½ credit

This half-credit required course will help students understand key concepts of health, explore influences on their healthy living, identify appropriate sources of health information, practice healthy behaviors and provides the knowledge to lifelong health. An important theme of this course is prevention, teaching students that the choices they make and the actions they take now will have a dramatic impact on their futures. All work will take place online over an established period of time to be communicated with each student in June. This course meets the NYS requirements for graduation. There is a fee for this course which will be assessed prior to the beginning of the course. Space is limited. First preference will be given to seniors. remaining seats will be awarded based upon a random lottery.

Technology

The following electives are available based on enrollment:

Introduction to Computer Science Principles (723) - 1 credit

This is a full year course that is designed to introduce students to the foundational skills of computers and technology. During the course of the year students will be working on 3D printing projects, game programming, Website Design, the evolution of technology, and how technology has affected society morally and ethically.

The course will be using a creative approach that will utilize some project-based learning along with inquiry-based learning units of study. By using this approach, students will learn how to critically think to problem solve challenges and develop a skill set to go on to higher level tech classes. Students will be encouraged to show creativity, to work collaboratively, and to investigate the interdisciplinary nature of today's computer science.

This may be used to meet the fourth year math credit.

Keyboarding (700) – ½ credit

Master the tool that unlocks the world of software applications, the Internet and multi-media communications. The emphasis in this course is on developing good keyboarding techniques and habits to help students to improve their overall typing skills. On average, a student can expect to improve her keyboarding speed fifteen to twenty words per minute, regardless of her speed at the beginning of the semester. Beginning computer keyboarding includes the mastery of the alphabetic keyboard using the “key-by-touch” method. Using Microsoft Word, students will practice basic word processing functions on a variety of document types including an emphasis on MLA-style format for research papers. Students will also enhance the skills of proofreading, composing at the keyboard, and basic computer operation and maintenance.

Computer Science Principles- Advanced Placement (715) – 1 credit

(No Prerequisite: must have teacher approval)

This course will help you understand how computing and technology influence the world around you. Learn how to creatively address real-world issues while using the same tools and processes that artists, writers, computer scientists, and engineers use to bring ideas to life. This class will teach about the fundamentals of computing, including problem solving, working with data, understanding the Internet, cybersecurity, and programming.

Students will take the Advanced Placement Exam given in May. Successful completion of this exam may provide them an opportunity to receive college credit.

A course fee which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

Additional Courses and Opportunities

Academy Scholars Program (Freshmen 910) – ¼ credit

Academy Scholars Program - Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors – ½ credit

During freshman year, students have the opportunity to expand their creative thinking skills through activities that include arts, writing and special projects. Freshmen who achieve first honors status for the first quarter and are in at least one honors-level course are invited to the program. After freshman year, students work in groups to develop and run businesses, organizations or community projects. Students will study and utilize skills from a range of disciplines, including psychology/human resources; technology; arts and design; writing and speaking; math and finance; science/research and development; marketing and communications; and logistics and organization, among others. Students will be able to choose areas of specialty on their teams, and will also have the opportunity to use their presentation and sales skills to compete against other student-run firms at business competitions.

In addition, students in Academy Scholars engage in community service, public speaking opportunities, meet with guest speakers, training in creative problem-solving processes, and engage in an ongoing Growth Mindset-based goal-setting program that helps prepare them for success in college and beyond.

The Academy Scholars program is open to students in Honors-level courses and any who wish to apply. Considerations for admission to the program include community and academic success, teacher recommendation, an application and an interview. All students who are motivated to take part in a collaborative, student-led, creative and challenging program are encouraged to apply

Foundations of Learning (710) – ½ credit

This required course introduces high school students to the foundations of vocabulary building and of critical thinking. Through a basic introduction to the Latin language, students will begin to expand their English vocabulary and familiarity with English grammar. Also, students will learn to do basic Latin translation through problem-solving techniques that can be applied to other classes. We will also look at how a basic understanding of Latin can help with specialized vocabulary in World Civilizations, Living Environment, Earth and Space, and other classes.

NOTE: This course does NOT fulfill the foreign language requirement. This course does not cover the material covered in Latin 1. Students interested in learning Latin should enroll in the class, as Foundations of Learning uses Latin to improve vocabulary and critical thinking skills. It is not an actual Latin class.

Foundations of STEAM (740) - ½ credit

This introductory course is required of all students. Students will be exposed to the basic overview of concepts related to science, technology, engineering and math. Students will participate in an overall capstone project. This course is required for graduation.

STEAM II (742) – ½ credit

This class will focus on cybersecurity, high level text based programming, and technology marketing. This will be an intensive class with a high workload.

The STEAM II class is an invite only to Sophomore students who have taken Foundations of STEAM their Freshmen year.

Career Internship Program (890): 1 credit

This program is open to Juniors and Seniors who are interested in learning more about their career field of interest. The program consists of a class and field work component. Any interested student must interview with the counseling department, submit a resume and a statement of interest. Students are selected based on internship availability, ability to perform the required duties and professionalism. If accepted, the internship coordinator works with parents and the student to find an appropriate placement in the community. Students must intern 80-120 hours during the year (approximately 2-3 hours a week) exact hours TBD, and attend class once a week. Students make their own schedule with the mentor to meet the requirement. The class will cover basic work related topics as well as reflection of internship experience. The required hours at the internship site and fulfilling the classroom component will result in a "Satisfactory" grade in the course and students receive 1 unit of credit. ** Students must be sure of their career field as we are unable to change internship placements once established.

