

SCIENCE FAQ

What science courses are offered for ninth-grade students?

Most students should take Core Chemistry (0.5 credits) and Core Physics (0.5 credits) or Core Biology A & B (1.0 credit). Other options include Honors Core Biology A & B (1.0 credit) and Honors Chemistry A & B (1.0 credit).

How will I know which science course to choose?

All of the classes are college preparatory. Sample sequences based on future college and career goals serve as guides for a decision. Your eighth-grade teacher will make a recommendation based on your goals and interests as well. Students electing Honors Chemistry, a sophomore-level course, must have Integrated Math 1 or higher in eighth grade.

How do Core Chemistry and Core Physics prepare me for future science classes?

Modern Biology courses cover many topics that are rooted in biochemistry. Core Chemistry provides a better foundation for students to understand those concepts. Similarly, many concepts in chemistry require students to understand motion, energy, and forces. Core Physics provides students with an understanding of those concepts prior to taking the full-year chemistry course.

If my student starts with Core Chemistry and Core Physics, are they able to take Advanced Placement science before they graduate?

Yes, students starting in Core Chemistry and Core Physics are able to take any of the Advanced Placement science courses during their high school years as long as they have the required pre-requisites completed. The science program gives your student options to personalize their science program. Please see the sample course sequences given in the course catalog. Please note that these are simply examples, many other combinations of courses exist.

What courses are required for graduation?

Students must take courses in each of the four core science disciplines, biology (1.0 credit), chemistry (0.5 credit), physics (0.5 credit), and Global Systems A (0.5 credit). In addition, students need to take an additional 0.5 credits in an elective or core area of their choosing. Please see the course catalog for a list of courses that meet these requirements.

What AP classes are offered in the Science Department?

- *AP Biology is equivalent to a two-semester, introductory biology course in college. This is a three-trimester course.*
- *AP Chemistry is equivalent to a two-semester, introductory chemistry course in college. This is a three-trimester course.*
- *AP Environmental Science is equivalent to a two-semester, introductory environmental science course in college. This is a three-trimester course.*
- *AP Physics 1 is a first-year physics course that is not equivalent to an introductory college-level course. Students have the option of taking an AP exam at the end. This exam may be recognized for credit at the university level. This is a two-trimester course.*
- *AP Physics 2 Algebra-Based is a second-year physics course that addresses college-level physics concepts. This is a two-trimester course.*
- *AP Physics C is a second-year physics course that is equivalent to a two-semester, introductory physics course in college. This is a three-trimester course.*