



ENTER TO LEARN CHRIST ✝ LEAVE TO SERVE CHRIST

425 PARK AVENUE | ABBEVILLE, LA 70510
P | 337.893.6636 • F | 337.898.0394 • W | VERMILIONCATHOLIC.COM

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Vermilion Catholic High School Course Descriptions

TOPS UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM

English

English I

Credit: 1 unit

English I encompasses the elements of literature (within a genre approach), grammar, vocabulary, and composition. This course is designed to prepare students and provide them with the basic literary and language arts skills needed to complete high school and build a basis of the literary and language arts skills needed on the collegiate level. Students will develop skills through the analysis and discussion of literature, creative writing practice, building of vocabulary through writing, and troubleshooting of common grammatical errors. Students will write critically and read analytically. Each student will read two novels in the summer prior to beginning the course, and critical writing and analysis will be done.

English II

Credit: 1 unit

English II encompasses the elements of literature, grammar, vocabulary, and composition. This course is designed to prepare students and provide them with the basic literary and language arts skills needed to complete high school and build a basis of the literary and language arts skills needed on the collegiate level. Students will refine skills through the analysis and discussion of literature, development of creative writing skills, building of vocabulary and troubleshooting of common grammatical errors. Students will complete longer and more complex writings as they build up the skills mastered in English I. Each student will read two novels in the summer prior to beginning the course, and critical writing and analysis will be done.

Prerequisite: English I

English III

Credit: 1 unit

English III encompasses the elements of literature, grammar, vocabulary, composition and research. This course is designed to prepare students and provide them with the necessary skills needed on

the collegiate level. The literature of this course is a survey of American Literature. Student's refinement of the above skills will involve the discussion and analysis of American Literature, the development of expository writing skills, the building of vocabulary, and the troubleshooting of common grammatical errors. Students will complete longer and more complex writing skills as they build up the skills mastered in English II. The student will write at least one major research paper. Each student will read two novels in the summer prior to beginning the course, and critical writing and analysis will be done.

Prerequisite: English II

English III – Dual Enrollment

Credit: 1 high school unit, 6 college credits (English 101 & English 102)

Course Fee: To be determined through University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Approximately \$200 per semester

Students will be enrolled in English III (course description above) full time during the fall & spring semesters, as well as English 101 and 102. This course is on the TOPS 5 point scale.

- During the fall semester, students will take English III and simultaneously take English 101. English 101 (Introduction to Academic Writing) is designed to introduce students to the critical thinking, reading, and writing skills required in the university and beyond. The course will focus on writing effective, argumentative essays that include both personal and objective research material.
- During the spring semester, students will take English III and simultaneously take English 102. English 102 (Writing and Research About Culture) is described in the UL Course catalog in this way: through exploration of cultural themes, students will build on and advance the thinking, reading, and writing skills learned in English 101 while focusing on rhetoric and research. Students must have earned a "C" or better in English 101 to qualify for this course.
- **Prerequisite: Junior level students must have earned an 18 in English on their ACT, an 18 composite on the ACT, be on track for completing TOPS University requirements, and have at least a 3.0 GPA. If the student has taken the ACT test, the qualifying score will have to come from the April ACT test date.**

English IV

Credit: 1 unit

The English IV curriculum provides a survey of the literature of Great Britain and important world literature. The studies will be connected to the history and social structures present at the time that the works were written, and analyze their relevance to the social movements of their time. Students will be required to read short stories, essays, poetry, plays, and novels. The course offers a review of basic grammar rules, diction, syntax, and their applications in composition. Skills in development of thesis, organization, unity, coherence, and selective vocabulary will be reinforced. Different types of writing will be stressed. At least one major literary research paper will be required, along with multiple other writings including personal essays, creative writing, and other literary analysis. Each student will read two novels in the summer prior to beginning the course, and critical writing and analysis will be done.

Prerequisite: English III

English IV – Dual Enrollment

Credit: 1 high school unit, 6 college credits (English 201 & 202)

**Course Fee: To be determined through University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Approximately \$200 per semester**

Students will be enrolled in English IV (course description above) full time in the fall and spring semester, as well as English 201 and 202. This course is on the TOPS 5 point scale.

- During the fall semester, students will take English 201 (British Literature I), which is a survey of British literature from its beginnings through the eighteenth century, emphasizing the critical reading of individual works. Prereq: "C" or better in ENGL 102.
- During the spring semester, students will take English 202 (British Literature II), which is a survey of British literature from the eighteenth century to the present emphasizing the critical reading of individual works. Students must have earned a "C" or better in English 201 to qualify for this course.

Prerequisite: Successfully completed Dual Enrollment English III and have earned a "C" or better, on track for completing Tops University requirements, and have at least a 3.0 GPA.

Fine Arts

TOPS and Vermilion Catholic require 1 unit of Fine Arts or 1 unit of any Art elective.

Art I

Credit: 1 unit

Art I is an introduction to visual art. Students explore visual art elements, principles of design, and arts benchmarks through a variety of media. Students will learn means of self-expression, aesthetic observation, creative problem solving, invention, and design. Art I students develop both their artistic skills and their unique visual language for communicating personal meaning. Talent is not a prerequisite; interest and willingness to practice are.

Art II (Art Elective Course)

Credit: 1 unit

Art II is a continuation of the work begun in Art I. Students extend and refine the use of visual art elements, principles of design, and arts benchmarks through a variety of media. They develop accountability, collaboration, and cross-cultural skills. The purpose is to develop communication through visual art works. Students refine aesthetic perception to guide further studies.

Art III & Art IV (Art Elective Course)

Credit: 1 unit

Art III/IV is a studio course designed for the student who wishes to further develop skills and techniques that were introduced in previous studio art classes. This is also a desirable course for any student wishing to develop a portfolio for college. Students are continually encouraged to explore art within the historical context and to apply concept and meaning to their work. Students are

expected to exhibit proficiency in the techniques learned in Art I and II. Students will begin to apply style and vision to their work as they explore advanced techniques and a wider variety of media.

Theatre Elective 1

Credit: 1 unit

Students will develop a greater understanding of the processes and elements involved in creating works of dramatic art by studying terminology, interpreting literature, writing original scripts, and participating in improvisational acting, scripted acting, and filming. This course is designed to help teens become more self-confident around their peers. Creativity, open-mindedness, and courage are key. Students will also learn how to better exercise critical thought during the writing process and provide constructive feedback in response to dramatic performances. Theatre students will perform in several individual presentations as well as group presentations.

Theatre Elective 2 (Theatre Elective Course)

Credit: 1 unit

Extension of Theatre I.

Prerequisite Theatre Elective 1

Foreign Language

***Two consecutive foreign languages are required for TOPS.**

French I

Credit: 1 unit

Knowledge and understanding of other languages and cultures is essential for students to be able to function and compete in the interdependent global economy of the 21st century. This course will serve as an introduction into this journey. Students will learn novice French grammar, fundamentals of French pronunciation, and basic vocabulary used in every day communication. Emphasis will be on communication, knowledge and understanding of other cultures, connections with other disciplines, insight into the nature of language and culture, and participation in the multilingual communities at home and around the world. The students will also develop communication skills by presenting hands-on demonstrations and activities to the class.

Prerequisite: *Incoming freshmen must have a "B" or better in English, 3.0 GPA, and have the recommendation of their principal prior to scheduling French I.*

French II

Credit: 1 unit

Knowledge and understanding of other languages and cultures is essential for students to be able to function and compete in the interdependent global economy of the 21st century. This course will serve as a developing stage into this journey. Students will continue to learn novice and intermediate French grammar, fundamentals of French pronunciation, and basic vocabulary used in everyday communication. Emphasis will be on communication, knowledge and understanding of other cultures, connections with other disciplines, insight into the nature of language and culture, and participation in the multilingual communities at home and around the world.

Prerequisite: *French I*

French III

Knowledge and understanding of other languages and cultures is essential for students to be able to function and compete in the interdependent global economy of the 21st century. This course will serve as an extending stage into this journey. Students will continue to learn French grammar, French pronunciation, and vocabulary used in everyday communication. Emphasis will be on independent reading and writing, fluency in conversation, and increased oral communication. Students will be introduced to French literature and there will be a more in-depth study of French culture and history. This course will be taught in French and English will not be allowed in the class.

Prerequisite: *French II*

Spanish I

Credit: 1 unit, online course only. \$100.00 a year for the course. Students will not be allowed to enroll in the online Spanish I course until their 10th grade year.

Spanish II

Credit: 1 unit, online course only. \$100.00 a year for the course.

Prerequisite: *Spanish I*

Health & Physical Education

Health Component of the Course

A minimum of 30 hours of health instruction shall be taught in each of the two required health and physical education units.

An overview of interpersonal skills, positive living, and personal relationships are covered, and how they affect our lives. It is a study of mental health, sound hygiene practices and interactive skills. We pursue the latest scientific information on medicinal drugs, health occupations, the human living system and interaction with the environment. Critical thinking, decision-making and positive self - esteem are the basis of the course.

Health & Physical Education I

Credit: 1 unit

This course is a year-long course required for all 9th grade students. It covers the state requirements, which include team sports, individual sports, racquet sports, leisure activities, basic CPR, and physical fitness. The students will also learn about current health topics from the textbook during a one-semester health unit.

Health & Physical Education II

Credit: 1 unit

This course is a year-long course required for all 10th grade students. It covers the state minimum requirements, which include team sports, individual sports, racquet sports, leisure activities, physical fitness, and healthy living.

Mathematics

Algebra I

Credit: 1 unit

This course includes the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of real numbers and polynomials. Techniques of solving, writing, and graphing linear equations and inequalities are included. Solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, manipulations involving exponents and exponential functions are integral to the course. Methods to solve quadratic equations and factoring polynomials complete this course.

Geometry

Credit: 1 unit

This course is designed for those students who have taken Algebra I. It covers the development of a logical mathematical system through the use of deductive reasoning. Students are taught the logic necessary to prove theorems. An in-depth study of coordinate geometry is covered. Topics include measurement formulas; geometric and spatial visualization; drawing skills, property of congruence, similarity, parallelism, and perpendicularity; properties of plane and solid figures.

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Algebra II

Credit: 1 unit

This course involves manipulations of variables and real numbers similar to Algebra I. More topics included are A) solving systems of equations, B) using data, manipulating expressions, and solving equations for each of the following – polynomials, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and some inverse functions – all using the real number system, C) irrational numbers and complex numbers. Applicable word problems for each of the aforementioned topics are studied throughout the year.

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Advanced Math – Pre Calculus (Juniors & Seniors)

Credit: 1 unit

The emphasis of this course is improving and/or perfecting algebraic and geometric skills and knowledge rather than on an intensive trigonometry course. The course will also focus on linear functions, exponents, polynomials, quadratic function and rational expressions, and the nature of graphs of these functions. **Prerequisite: Algebra II and Geometry**

Pre- Calculus Honors (Juniors and Seniors)

Credit: 1 high school unit, 3 college credits (Math 105)

Course Fee: To be determined through University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Approximately \$200 plus the book fee of approximately \$90.

Students will earn high school credit in Pre-Calculus Honors. This course is on the TOPS 5 point scale. Students will earn 3 course credit hours from ULL in Math 105 in the Fall.

The focus in the first semester is the study of linear functions, exponents, polynomials, quadratic functions and rational expressions. The second semester focuses on a deeper study of linear, quadratic and polynomials functions. Other topics include power functions, inverse functions, exponential functions and logarithmic functions, and the nature of graphs of these different functions and relations.

Second semester topics include the six trigonometric functions and their inverses, circular trigonometric functions, right triangle, trigonometry and solving for oblique triangles. **Prerequisite: In order to qualify for this course, students must have a 19 in Math on the ACT. The student must also have an ACT composite score of an 18, be on track for meeting TOPS UNIVERSITY requirements and have at least a 3.0 GPA. If the student has taken the ACT test, the qualifying score will have to come from the April ACT test date.**

Pre-Calculus Dual Enrollment – CMAT 1213 & 1223 (Seniors Only)

Credit: 1 high school unit, 6 college credits (Math 109/110)

Course Fee: To be determined through University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Approximately \$200 plus the book fee of approximately \$90

Students will earn high school credit in Pre-Calculus Dual Enrollment. This course is on the TOPS 5 point scale. Students will earn 6 course credit hours from ULL.

The course is a college-level course in trigonometry and provides an intensive review of advanced topics from Algebra II including logarithms, advanced algebra, and matrices.

Prerequisite: Advanced Math with ULL 105 credit with a “C” or better or a 23 on the math portion of the ACT, an 18 ACT composite score, and a 3.0 gpa.

Calculus

Credit: 1 unit

This course is designed for students with a strong background in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and functions. Topics include the study of limits and continuity, derivatives with applications, integration with applications, and non-algebraic functions with applications.

Prerequisite: Advanced Math

Science

Physical Science

Credit: 1 unit

This course includes an introduction to basic chemistry and physics. Topics covered include the study of matter, its structure and changes, motion, energy, and other topics that prepares students for chemistry and physics.

Biology I

Credit: 1 unit

This course is an introductory course into the “science of life”. A broad range of topics will be considered including, but not limited to, the scientific method, cell theory, genetics, evolution, the environment, the plant and animal kingdoms, and an introduction to human anatomy. Laboratory exercises will be included, when possible, to enhance the learning experience.

Chemistry

Credit: 1 unit

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the basics of modern chemistry. Topics include but are not limited to atomic structure, periodic table, writing formulas and balancing reactions, stoichiometry, gas laws, acids and bases, and solutions.

Prerequisite: Biology 1

Pre or corequisite: Algebra II.

Biology II

Credit: 1 unit

This course has been designed as a study of the anatomy and physiology of the human body. Emphasis will be placed on an understanding of the cell theory, and a detailed study of the 11 systems of the human body. Additional laboratory exercises will be performed whenever possible.

Environmental Science

Credit: 1 unit

This course is an elective science course open to juniors and seniors. The course will cover topics including ecology, communities and populations, resources, pollution and energy. Consideration will also be given to environmental ethics, politics and economics.

Physics

Credit: 1 unit

A theoretical and mathematical science that studies motion, force, thermodynamics, waves, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, and universal gravitation. Much emphasis is placed on problem solving, logic and using the graphing calculator.

Prerequisite: Algebra II with a C or better average

Social Studies

World Geography

Credit: 1 unit

This course presents an overview of the general principles of geography including the relationships and concepts between geography and world affairs. Students also learn the facts concerning the physical world such as landforms, climates, oceans, and waterways. The different economic systems and cultural aspects of human life are stressed. Students will work with maps of every continent in the world.

Civics

Credit: 1 unit

This course will focus on the rights and responsibilities of citizens as active participants in the American political system. Students will develop a basic understanding of the principles, structures and function of federal, state, and local governments. This semester course is required for graduation. This course is taken in conjunction with Free Enterprise.

US History

Credit: 1 unit

This course is a survey of United States history. Its achievements and failures are presented enabling the student to form a balanced view of the history of our country. Emphasis will be placed on the democratic ethics and values as well as the multicultural character of the American people.

World History

Credit: 1 unit

This class is a survey of major ideas and institutions that have shaped the world from earliest times to present day. The classical world and its heritage; the influences of early India and China; the rise of Christian Europe and its expansion overseas; will all be covered in the first semester. The second semester will cover the transition to the modern world. The course builds on an understanding of cultural, economic, political, and social issues the world faces.

Theology

Theology I - Course of study for Freshmen

Theology I • Salvation History + Christology

This course will present the Bible to students as a living source of God's Revelation to us. It will gather the two covenants of Scripture and the seventy-two books of the Bible under the umbrella of Church teaching, which holds that in Sacred Scripture, "God speaks only one single Word, his one Utterance in whom he expresses himself completely". In the 1st semester students will discover the work of God in forming a people, giving the law, and preparing for the Messiah. This course is intended to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of Sacred Scripture. It traces the key stages of Salvation History and introduces vocabulary, doctrine, events and people that will appear in our four-year curriculum. During the 2nd semester, the course highlights key events in the life of Jesus and His teachings about God the Father, the Trinity, Mary and the Holy Spirit.

Texts:

Sacred Scripture (Ave Maria Press)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

The New American Standard Bible

Theology II - Course study for Sophomores

Theology II • Soteriology / Ecclesiology

This course will delve deeply into the saving actions of the Lord as they further explore the Paschal Mystery as God's redemptive plan for us, his people. The first semester covers how Christ is our Savior. The second semester places emphasis on tradition and the history of our Church including every major event in the Church's history from the life of her founder, Jesus Christ, to the present day. This text places the Church in her context throughout history and explains the role that the Church and her leaders have played in the shaping of history for better and worse. The course also aids in the students' understanding of communal, diocesan, and parish life and prepares them to be fully integrated adults in the Roman Catholic Church.

Texts:

Jesus Christ: Source of Our Salvation (Ave Maria Press)

The History of the Church, the Didache Series Semester Edition

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

The New American Standard Bible

Theology III - Course study for Juniors

Theology III • Sacramental Theology

This course reveals the Sacraments as the definitive way that Jesus remains present to the Church and the world today. The text explores concrete ways for students to understand the sacraments, participate in their rites, and benefit from their graces. We study Sacraments as efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us by the work of the Holy Spirit. We will evaluate the four dimensions of each sacrament and we thoroughly explore the liturgy as our primary source of worship. In this course, we will pay particular attention to the Sacrament of Confirmation as the students prepare for their own Confirmation.

Texts:

Meeting Jesus in the Sacraments (Ave Maria Press)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

The New American Standard Bible

Theology IV - Course of study for Seniors ‘

Theology IV • Sacramental Theology

Course of Study: Christian Vocations – Single Life/Married Life/Morality

The objective of the course is to help students better understand their options to God’s calling for their particular vocation while upholding the moral teachings of the Church. An emphasis will be placed on the sacramental meaning of one’s vocations opposed to the secular interpretation of one’s vocation. Emphasis will be placed on the single life and the transitional stage from the parental faith umbrella to the practical application of learned faith beyond home-life security. An emphasis on the married state instituted by God as a sacrament and its indissolubility. We will obtain a panoramic vision of the history of vocations so that important figures, events, and developments leading us to God’s intent for our vocation will be better understood.

Elective Courses

Campus Ministry 1 –

Credit: 1 Unit

Application and Interview Process to be selected to enroll in this course.

This course builds on the teachings of theology and helps to build character in regards to leadership roles, organizational skills, ethical decision making, and Catholic social justice teachings. Students will have an opportunity to practice these skills by serving as Jesus did through their community, as well as, working with their peers and elementary and middle school students. Students will help plan, prepare and work retreats throughout the year.

Family and Consumer Science I – 12th grade

Credit: 1 unit

The Home Economics program is designed to provide students with skills for living and to help them meet the challenges of everyday living through both studies and hands-on activities. Students will learn basic information and practical skills related to consumer practices, foods and nutrition, clothing selection and care. **Senior Students Only.**

Financial Math (does not fulfill TOPS UNIVERSITY math requirements) 11th & 12th Grade

Credit: 1 unit

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive review of the fundamental principles using whole numbers, common fractions, and decimals with emphasis on percentages. The course includes procedures, consumer information and other topics pertinent to business transactions. Manual and machine (calculator) calculations are emphasized..

French III/IV –Let’s Speak French!

Credit: 1 unit

This course is best suited for those students who want to enhance their French communication skills and knowledge of the Francophone world. Vocabulary and grammar will be learned and reviewed through reading, writing, and speaking practices and activities. We will read short stories and folklore, write songs and poems, watch French movies and play French games, all in the target language. We will also discuss the history, pop culture, art, music, and literature of various Francophone countries such as Canada and Belgium. In the first semester, each student is to complete a project on a particular movement or subject of France, i.e. fashion, cuisine, or literature. In the second semester each student is to complete a project on a Francophone country of their choice. Students will be graded heavily on their participation during in-class assignments and are encouraged to make an effort at speaking French and to not be afraid to make mistakes!

Prerequisite–French II

Office Assistant –

Credit: no credit earned

Seniors may choose to work one class period in the Office. They will be asked to assist in routine office work such as answering phones, making copies, filing papers and stuffing envelopes. In order to schedule an hour as an office assistant, students must have at least a 2.5 GPA and must be approved by the Administration.

Senior Students Only

Physical Education III

Credit: 1 unit

This course is designed for those students who wish to maintain a high level of conditioning and training.

Prerequisite: PE II

Physical Education IV

Credit: 1 unit

This course is designed to allow students to participate in a program of weight-lifting, athletic training and running.

Prerequisite: PE III

Publications I – 12th Grade

Credit: 1 unit

This course covers the fundamentals of producing a newsletter and maintaining the school website. This course will be open to Seniors only and enrollment will be limited to six students.

Senior level only and teacher approval.

Junior and senior level.

Study Skills Courses – approval needed to take course

Credit: 1 unit

This course is designed to provide students with a multi-sensory, structured language approach and strategies to support reading comprehension and written expression across the curriculum.

Prior approval from administration.