



## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FRESHMAN YEAR

- ENGLISH (Writing and Literature)
- FINE ARTS
- EARTH SCIENCE
- FOREIGN LANGUAGE OR DEVELOPMENTAL READING
- MATHEMATICS
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- RELIGIOUS STUDIES
- SOCIAL STUDIES

All courses at Notre Dame are college preparatory. Our trimester academic calendar is divided into three terms of equal length (roughly 60 days each). To allow for greater diversity in teaching methods and use of technology, class periods are 58 minutes each.

Each course has a designated level based on its content, difficulty of its texts, the nature and difficulty of assignments, and the pace of instruction. The levels include:

- Enrichment* — not included in a student's cumulative weighted average
- College Preparatory* — emphasizes study skills within its content area
- Accelerated College Preparatory* — challenges the student
- Honors* — Moreau Honors
- A.P.* — Advanced Placement

Notre Dame places freshmen in levels based on their past academic record and the results of the admission test.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Please read all course descriptions before making preliminary selections. Circle the courses you wish to take. At your registration meeting, students and parents review these selections with the school guidance counselor chosen to work with you during the next four years. **It is important to note that these course selections are preliminary and are subject to change if conflicts occur when scheduling takes place.**

### ENGLISH

Students take the following courses based on the level assigned to them.

- College Preparatory: St. Br. Andre
- Accelerated C.P.: writing and literature
- Honors: Moreau Honors

*The English Department strives to equip students with the skills to succeed in a highly competitive academic world. By offering a challenging college-prep curriculum, we introduce students to the content, concepts, and demands they can expect in college and university life.*

*Students take English each year. Grammar and writing skills are reinforced at all levels, as are vocabulary and critical reading skills (using both fiction and non-fiction). Notre Dame offers a Developmental Reading course for freshmen whose counselors recommend it to strengthen their skills and comprehension. After taking Freshman Writing, students must demonstrate their writing ability by completing and passing a writing assessment.*

*In subsequent years, students critically examine at least one play by Shakespeare each year, as well as poetry, short stories, and novels of many cultures. Through assigned projects and research papers, students increase their understanding and grow in their ability to draw — in a discerning way — on the resources offered by technology. To prepare student for college entrance exams, Notre Dame administers practice SAT/ACT tests.*

**Developmental Reading – St. Br. Andre**  
*College Preparatory • two terms • 1 credit*

This course is designed to develop, maintain, and increase the reading skills of freshmen taking English I Writing and Literature, and is organized around six concepts: 1) developing vocabulary and recognition in a context, 2) identifying main ideas, 3) differentiating between major and minor ideas, 4) identifying cause-and-effect relationships, 5) drawing inferences and conclusions, and 6) summarizing selections. Class work and assignments reinforce the application, refinement, and extension of these essential reading skills. Students enrolled in this course do not take a foreign language until sophomore year.

**English I Writing – St. Br. Andre**  
*College Preparatory • one term • 0.5 credits*

This class emphasizes the fundamentals of writing: grammar, parts of speech, parts of a sentence, parts of a paragraph, and paragraph structure — with a concentration on the structure of paragraphs and essays. In addition to grammar, vocabulary study and technology skills are introduced, along with the proper structure of an MLA-formatted paper. The course also emphasizes study skills such as notebook organization, note taking, homework formatting, and test-taking tips. To help students integrate what they learn, the course concentrates on incorporating language and spelling skills into daily assignments. As noted above, students must pass a writing assessment given at the end of the term.

**English I Literature – St. Br. Andre**  
*College Preparatory • one term • 0.5 credits*

This course reinforces the fundamentals of writing through students' responses to literature. Through the practice of pre-writing, composing rough drafts, and constructing thesis statements, students strengthen their writing and reasoning skills. The course draws on various forms of literature, including the short story, novel, and poetry, and a research paper is part of the requirement. The course also emphasizes study skills such as notebook organization, note taking, homework formatting, and test-taking tips. To help students integrate what they learn, the course also concentrates on incorporating language and spelling skills into daily assignments.

(English cont.)

### English I Writing

*Accelerated C.P.* • one term • 0.5 credits

This class emphasizes the fundamentals of writing: grammar, parts of speech, parts of a sentence, parts of a paragraph, and paragraph structure — with a concentration on the structure of paragraphs and essays. In addition to grammar, vocabulary study and technology skills, students learn the art of proper citation and the structure of an MLA-formatted paper. As noted above, students must pass a writing assessment given at the end of the term.

### English I Literature

*Accelerated C.P.* • one term • 0.5 credits

This course reinforces the fundamentals of writing through students' responses to literature. Through the practice of pre-writing, composing rough drafts, and constructing thesis statements, students strengthen their writing and reasoning skills. The course draws on various forms of literature, including the short story, novel, and poetry, and a research paper is part of the requirement.

### English I Moreau Honors

*Honors* • three terms • 1 credit

The Honors English course is one component of the interdisciplinary Moreau Honors Program, which integrates the disciplines of English, World Cultures, Old Testament, Technology through long-term projects, and class interaction. Designed to provide an accelerated and enriching experience for students of demonstrated ability, the course emphasizes the following skills: analysis and synthesis, critical reading, written expression, research methods, group interaction, and the use of technology. In addition to the required grammar units, outside reading, and research paper, this course surveys the elements of tragedy and entails extensive reading and independent thinking. Students must also pass the Freshman Writing Assessment during the first term. (*Requirements for placement include: previous school record, high verbal scores on the entrance exam, and signature of school counselor.*)

## FINE ARTS

**Freshmen are required to select one Fine Arts course. Because these courses have different commitments and credits, it is important to choose your top two preferences carefully.**

**The potential for scheduling conflicts means that we cannot guarantee your first choice.**

*The courses and activities offered by the Fine Arts Department reflect the premise that the arts are not simply “frills” or “extras” but are, in fact, an integral part of a well-rounded education. As the Commission on the Humanities observes, “The arts awaken young people to the possibilities of human expression, sharpen their senses, and introduce them to cultural traditions. . . . Education in the arts . . . helps students sense the aesthetic dimensions of their everyday lives, encourages a creative interplay of fact and imagination, and encourages a critical examination of human values.”*

### Art I

*Enrichment* • one term • 0.5 credits

This introduction to studio art, open to all students, meets daily and does not require previous art experience. Students learn to draw and paint in a variety of media. A course fee of \$40.00 is assessed to cover the cost of the sketchbook and supplies.

### Concert Chorus

*Enrichment* • three terms • 1.5 credits

Concert Chorus introduces students to the techniques of vocal production and explores a variety of vocal styles. The chorus performs at major school concerts, presents programs outside the school, and sings during school liturgies. Additional solo and small group performance opportunities are available to interested students. An audition is required, and admission is with the approval of the director.

### Concert Band

*Enrichment* • three terms • 1.5 credits

The Concert Band is Notre Dame's premier instrumental ensemble, and admission to it is by audition. The group offers major concerts in winter and spring. Junior varsity and varsity athletes who play a fall sport may take Concert Band for terms two and three (for one credit). Also, percussionists may be assigned to terms two or three only and receive one credit. *Students using school-owned instruments are assessed a fee of \$40.00 per year to offset the cost of maintenance and repair.*

### Introduction to Band

*Enrichment* • one term • 0.5 credits

This course is open to students who have little or no previous experience on a band instrument and hope to develop musical skills. It is offered in conjunction with Intermediate Band, which meets in terms two and three. Students who successfully complete both the introductory and intermediate band courses are admitted to the next year's Concert Band. A course fee of \$50.00 is assessed and covers the cost of all materials (method books, etc.) and software. To offset the maintenance and repair costs, students using school-owned instruments are assessed a fee of \$40.00 per year.

### Intermediate Band

*Enrichment* • two terms • 1 credit

Intermediate Band is offered for students who have prior experience on a band instrument, but who, in the judgment of the band director, need further skill development before entry into Concert Band. Successful completion of this course prepares the student for entry to Concert Band the following year. A course fee of \$50.00 is assessed and covers the cost of all materials (method books, etc.) and software. To offset the maintenance and repair costs, students using school-owned instruments are assessed a fee of \$40.00 per year.

### Music Appreciation

*Enrichment* • one term • 0.5 credits

This course familiarizes students with the fundamental components of music, sensitizes them to the expressive possibilities of the arts in their lives, and surveys the music of the major periods of western culture.

### String Ensemble

*Enrichment* • one term • 0.5 credits

The String Ensemble is open to students with previous knowledge of violin, viola, or cello. In this ensemble, students rehearse and perform string ensemble literature, develop their musical skills, and gain experience in ensemble performance.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Students must select one foreign language. Those who have taken a foreign language in middle school can take a placement test to determine if they can move to the second level. Students taking Developmental Reading do not take a foreign language until sophomore year.

*The Foreign Language Department offers courses in Spanish, Italian, and Latin. French and Chinese are offered only as electives; these courses do not fulfill the graduation requirement. The main goal of the department is proficiency in all language skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. To increase students' global awareness and appreciation of difference, cultural aspects of countries that speak the target language are incorporated into each course. The Internet plays a key role in foreign language instruction at Notre Dame, as students "travel" through cyberspace to discover people, places, and practices that make a given culture unique.*

### Italian I

*Accelerated C.P. • two terms • 1 credit*

This course introduces students to reading, writing, speaking, and understanding Italian, and stresses basic vocabulary and grammatical structures. Technology and the Internet play key roles in this course, which includes an introduction to Italian culture here and abroad.

### Latin I

*Accelerated C.P. • two terms • 1 credit*

This course introduces students to the structure of Latin. The language's forms, vocabulary, and syntax are presented in an orderly, incremental fashion so students advance in a systematic and efficient manner. Additional emphasis is placed on the influence of Latin on other languages. To further enrich their understanding, students make presentations about various aspects of classical culture.

### Spanish I

*Accelerated C.P. • two terms • 1 credit*

This course introduces students to reading, writing, speaking, and understanding Spanish, and stresses basic vocabulary and grammatical structures. Technology and the Internet play key roles in this course, which includes an introduction to Spanish/Hispanic cultures as they exist in Spain, Latin America, and the United States.

## MATHEMATICS

Students must select one mathematics course. Those who took algebra in middle school can take a placement test to determine whether they can advance.

*Consistent with Notre Dame's stated goals, mathematics is taught with college preparation in mind. We make every effort to use mathematics as a tool for higher learning and thinking skills. The department's goal is to help students develop skills in critical and analytical thinking as well as problem solving, so that the principles of mathematics become a tool for organization and logical thinking.*

### Algebra I

*College Preparatory • three terms • 1.5 credits*

Designed for students who need to strengthen their basic math and study skills, this course covers all Algebra I topics. A review of arithmetic precedes each topic, all of which emphasize solving basic problems.

### Algebra I

*Accelerated C.P. • three terms • 1.5 credits*

Algebra I guides students in discovering mathematical principles, strengthens their comprehension of these principles, and affords numerous opportunities to apply these understandings and skills to varied and realistic problem situations. Providing the foundation for upper-level mathematics, this course helps students understand the basic structure of algebra, recognize that its techniques reflect this structure, become able to apply algebraic concepts and skills, perceive the role of deductive reasoning in algebra, and appreciate the need for precision of language.

### Honors Algebra I

*Honors • three terms • 1.5 credits*

Intended for the gifted mathematics student, this course includes and goes beyond the traditional topics of Algebra I. In addition to providing further enrichment material, the pace and level of difficulty are accelerated.

### Geometry

*Accelerated C.P. • two terms • 1 credit*

This course emphasizes the basics of plane geometry, which are critical to advanced study in trigonometry and calculus. The course teaches use of logical skills with special attention to deduction and induction. It covers points, lines, planes, angles, polygons, circles, and arcs, as well as relationships such as congruence, similarity, parallelism, perpendicularity, area, length, distance, and ratio. Algebra reviews are integrated into the course through problem solving.

### Honors Geometry

*Honors • two terms • 1 credit*

This course covers the same topics as Level 2 Geometry. In addition, importance is placed on geometry as a tool to conceptualize, especially "two-column deductive proof." A most rigorous course, Honors Geometry includes the study of volumes of solids, coordinate geometry, constructions, and selected topics from analytical geometry. Spatial geometry is interwoven through this course.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All freshmen take one term of Physical Education.

*The Physical Education Department promotes the total wellness of the individual: physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual. The program stresses the elements of a healthy lifestyle and the need for responsible decision making to attain and maintain it. In addition to participating in individual and group physical activities, students have the opportunity to discuss wellness-related topics in a relaxed atmosphere. In our every effort, we emphasize physical fitness, safety, leadership, healthy decision making, and sportsmanship.*

### Physical Education

*Enrichment • one term • 0.5 credits*

This course introduces students to a variety of physical activities, with units on jogging, physical fitness testing, touch football, basketball, weight training, floor hockey, combination ball, flexibility training, softball, and fleece ball. Organized in a relaxed atmosphere, they offer enough competition and skill development that students can prosper and realize their potential without undue pressure.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Freshmen take Old Testament at the same level as their English and Social Studies courses.

*The Religious Studies Department aims to provide students with a knowledge and understanding of their faith, enabling them to make an informed, intelligent faith choice and commitment. The Campus Ministry Department provides the vehicle through which this faith choice can be put into action and developed into a Christian lifestyle. Both departments strive to provide opportunities for a deeper and more mature reflection of Jesus' message, Church teachings, and our individual and communal response to these.*

*(Religious Studies cont.)*

*In an effort to fulfill the Gospel mandate that we love and serve our neighbor, all students complete a service project. Rooted in the premise that Christian service is an inherent part of God's call to enter into a relationship with us, Notre Dame's service program offers tangible ways for students to serve their brothers and sisters in need. As a part of our four-year service requirement for students, Notre Dame gives freshman the opportunity to go into the community and serve. After the trip, each student is required to write a short reflection paper detailing what he learned about service and about himself.*

### **Old Testament – St. Br. Andre**

*College Preparatory • two terms • 1 credit*

This course introduces students to the study of the Old Testament and focuses on the journey of the Hebrews as the Chosen People through whom God spoke the message of salvation. Through the study of the Pentateuch, historical books, wisdom books, and prophets, this course reveals the value of the Old Testament as the foundation of personal faith and as a rich traditional basis upon which the mission and message of Christ is built. As a college preparatory course, it also emphasizes study skills such as notebook organization, note taking, homework formatting and test-taking tips. To help students integrate what they learn, the course concentrates on incorporating language and spelling skills into daily assignments. *(Requirements for placement: freshman status and taking College Preparatory: English, World Cultures, and Developmental Reading)*

### **Old Testament**

*Accelerated C.P. • two terms • 1 credit*

This course introduces students to the study of the Old Testament and focuses on the journey of the Hebrews as the Chosen People through whom God spoke the message of salvation. Through the study of the Pentateuch, historical books, wisdom books, and prophets, this course reveals the value of the Old Testament as the foundation of personal faith and as a rich traditional basis upon which the mission and message of Christ is built.

### **Old Testament Moreau Honors**

*Honors • Three terms • 1 credit*

The Honors Old Testament course is one component of the interdisciplinary Moreau Honors Program, which integrates English, World Cultures, Old Testament, and Technology through long-term projects, analytical thinking, critical reading, research techniques, and class interaction. This course introduces students to the study of the Old Testament focuses on the journey of the Hebrews as the Chosen People through whom God spoke the message of salvation. Through the study of the Pentateuch, historical books, wisdom books, and prophets, the goal of this course is to give students an appreciation of the value of the Old Testament as a foundation for personal faith and as a rich traditional basis upon which the mission and message of Christ is built. *(Requirements for placement: previous school record, high verbal scores on the entrance exam results, and signature of school counselor.)*

## **SCIENCE**

### **All freshmen take Earth Science, at the same level.**

*The goal of the Science Department is to provide each student with a solid background in the fundamental disciplines of earth science, biology, chemistry, and physics. Courses combined demanding classroom work, challenging reading assignments, and rigorous lab work. While memorization and note taking are important aspects of the science curriculum, critical thinking, math skills, and a logical approach to organization are emphasized through lab work and problem-solving situations.*

### **Earth Science**

*Accelerated C.P. • one term • 0.5 credits*

Earth Science introduces students to a scientific study of planet Earth. Topics include tectonics, volcanism, and the evolution and structure of landforms; the transfer of solar energy through the earth's atmosphere; the patterns of change that cause weather; the scale and structure of the cosmos; and the interactions that occur between the oceans, the atmosphere, and solid land.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **All freshmen take World Cultures at the same level as their English and Religion courses.**

*The Social Studies Department provides a survey of the history of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas, explores the functions of government in contemporary America, and introduces the behavioral sciences. We emphasize the development of analytical and research skills, and seek to identify areas of contemporary interest and importance to students whose lives will be lived in the 21st century.*

### **World Cultures – St. Br. Andre**

*College Preparatory • three terms • 1.5 credits*

This course provides an understanding of geography and an appreciation for past civilizations and cultures. Students learn through excerpts of world literature, geographical studies, and examples of specific environmental issues. Lessons include exercises with maps, charts, graphs, and time lines. Special emphasis is placed on study skills: notebook organization, note taking, homework assignment format, and test taking procedures. In addition to enhancing these skills, the course also concentrates on incorporating language and spelling skills into daily assignments.

### **World Cultures**

*Accelerated C.P. • three terms • 1.5 credits*

Designed to provide students with an understanding of geography and an appreciation for past civilizations and world cultures, students learn through excerpts of world literature, geographical studies, and various examples of environmental influences. Lessons include exercises with maps, charts, graphs, and time lines.

### **World Cultures Moreau Honors**

*Honors • three terms • 1.5 credit*

The Honors World Cultures course is one component of the interdisciplinary Moreau Honors Program, which integrates English, World Cultures, Old Testament, and Technology. The course offers a comprehensive treatment of world cultures, including the origin and development of the world's major civilizations. It encourages the formation of the critical thinking skills needed to make objective judgments about historical and contemporary issues. It also presents a global perspective of the forces and movements that have made the past continuous with, and relevant to, the present. *(Requirements for placement include: previous school record, high verbal scores on the entrance exam, and signature of school counselor.)*