

Northside High School Course Descriptions 2021-2022

Utilize this document to assist in making your course selections. Course Descriptions can also be found on the NSHS website under academics.

Credit Requirements- You need 26 credits in the following categories (each Semester=1/2 credit):

4 credits	English
4 credits	Mathematics (Alg, Geom, Alg II + 1 of these (pre-calc, college prep math, AP Calc or Stat, College Alg)
4 credits	Social Studies (W Geography, W History, US History, ½ US Government, ½ Economics)
4 credits	Science (Bio, Chem & Physics + 1 of these (AP Envi, AP Bio, dual credit chem, Anatomy, Envi Sci etc.)
1 credit	Fine Arts
2 credits	Language other than English (same language)
1 credits	Physical Education
½ credit	Health
5 ½ credits	Electives to include Pathways

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY/MAGNET

Hospitality and Tourism: Culinary Arts Pathway

- Principles of Hospitality and Tourism (9th)
- Introduction to Culinary Arts (10th)
- Culinary Arts- double credit (11th)
- Practicum in Culinary Arts-2 pds (12th)

Audio Video Production Pathway

- Principles of Arts, A/V Technology and Communication (9th)
- Audio/Video Production I (10th)
- Audio/Video Production II (11th)
- Practicum in Audio/Video -2 pds (12th)

Information Technology: Digital Media Pathway

- Principles of Information Technology (9th)
- Web Design (10th)
- Video Game Production (11th)
- Research in IT-2 pds (12th)

Hospitality and Tourism: Hospitality Pathway

- Principles of Hospitality and Tourism (9th)
- Hotel Management (10th)
- Hospitality Services- double (11th)
- Practicum in Hospitality Services-2 pds (12th)

STEM Cybersecurity

- Principles of Information Technology (9th)
- Networking I (10th)
- Internetworking or APCSP (11th)
- Research in IT-2 pds (12th)

Career Prep, Genesys Works Co-op: See Ms. Savoie for more information. Application and summer availability required. Must be employed by start of school year to participate in Career Prep: occupies 5th-7th periods

Barbara Jordan High School Pathway: Rising juniors may choose auto technology, construction, cosmetology, electrical, health science, or welding.. To take part in this opportunity you must have passed all STAAR tests and be enrolled in an on-level or higher math class. This is a TWO YEAR commitment (Junior and Senior years). You will be assigned to a morning or an afternoon rotation.

Dual Credit: Students interested in earning college credit while in high school see Ms. Garner for more information. Must have earned a 460 on the pSAT rdg, 480 on the SAT rdg and/or 530 on SAT math, 4000 on STAAR Eng II and/or 4000 on Alg I, or passed the TSI exam AND completed dual credit enrollment application and paperwork to participate. The courses are free.

[View Endorsements Here](#)

Note: Your pathway is chosen before 9th grade. If there is space available, students may change their pathway at the start of 10th grade.

FINE ARTS

Art I

This course introduces students to the elements and principles of design and sharpens the student's artistic skills.

Art Advocacy/Life Skills

Students will combine art and community service by working with the Life Skills class. Help others and earn your art credit.

Pre-AP Art I & II

Designed for underclassmen with an interest in developing advanced artistic skills leading to the AP Studio Art course.

Art II, III & IV

For advanced art students to explore increasingly complicated and challenging processes and media.

Art Car Class (Art Fibers)

In this class, you will design and create an art car for the Annual Art Car Parade

AP Studio Art

Prerequisite: Art II or PreAP Art. Students complete an AP portfolio and receive college credit with a sufficient score.

Dual Credit Art Appreciation (ARTS 1301)

Prerequisite: Students must be dual eligible. 1 semester course. Gain an understanding of the fundamentals of art. Credit from this class is earned through Houston Community College.

Dual Credit Art History (ARTS 1303)

Prerequisite: Students must be dual eligible. 1 semester course. Examine art through history. Credit from this class is earned through Houston Community College.

Theater Arts I, II, III, IV

Students study acting techniques, history and improvisation skills. Actors and technicians are welcome.

Advanced Theater (called Theater Production I, II, III, IV)

Advanced Theater for students in the UIL One Act play and in other school plays. Audition required.

Concert/Marching Band

The Marching Band performs at football games and at other events. Open to all students who have at least one year of previous band experience or who have proficiency with an instrument.

Beginner Band

This is a course for students who do not yet play a band instrument.

Beginner Mariachi I /Orchestra I

This is a class primarily for students who have no prior experience playing a string instrument.

Advanced Mariachi II, III & IV

Open to students who play violin, trumpet, guitar, vihuela, guitarron or harp. A short audition is required.

Advanced Orchestra II, III & IV

Students will learn to play string instruments. Experience preferred but not required.

Choir I

Students learn basic music theory, vocal technique and some music history. No previous experience required.

Performance (Advanced) Choir (Choir II, III, IV)

This class will perform at local community events, school performances and UIL competitions. Instructor Approval required.

Piano I & II

Learn to use the keyboard and build dexterity

AP Music Theory

Students will gain knowledge and facility in music composition and receive college credit with a sufficient score.

Dance I

For students who have not had previous dance training, or for those who are working at a beginner level. There are no prerequisites for this class.

Advanced Dance (Dance II, III, IV)

Prerequisite: Dance I or previous Dance experience in which students will learn a variety of dance styles as well as methods instruction in composition, choreography, production, and dance history.

Drill Team (Pantherettes)

Pantherette members are selected through auditions held every March. This is a group, which requires travel, fund raising activities and extensive after school rehearsals and performances throughout the year.

Drum Line

Learn or improve skills in performing with percussion instruments.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish I & II

These two courses fulfill the foreign language requirement.

Native Speakers Spanish I & II

Students may take this course if they are native Spanish speakers.

French I & II

These two courses fulfill the foreign language requirement.

AP Spanish Language

Open to students who have completed Span II or Native Speakers Spanish. Students who pass the AP Spanish Language exam at the end of the year receive college credit. Students who have completed Spanish 1 may take this course with instructor approval.

AP Spanish Literature

Open to students who have completed AP Spanish Language or passed the AP Spanish Language exam. Students who pass the AP Spanish Literature exam at the end of the year receive college credit.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & JROTC

PE

This course fulfills the PE requirement. Other courses that fulfill the PE requirement include Fall Marching Band, Fall Pantherettes, JROTC and Athletics.

Athletics

This P.E. class is for student athletes and requires coach approval. Students must be participating in a sport Fall & Spring.

Health

Learn about nutrition and personal health and hygiene issues and discuss issues relevant throughout the lifespan.

JROTC

The JROTC Program is a four-year Leadership program. In this sequence, students can earn P.E. and elective credits.

ENGLISH

English I or II or PAP English I or II

English III

This course satisfies the English III graduation requirement.

AP English Language

This course is a rigorous junior level course with a focus on rhetorical analysis. Teacher recommendation is required. Students who pass the AP exam will receive college credit.

Dual Credit English (Eng 1301/1302)

Prerequisite: Students must be dual eligible. Fulfills the English 3 OR English 4 graduation requirement for rising juniors and seniors. Credit from this class is earned through Houston Community College.

Dual Credit English IV (English 2301/2302)

Prerequisite: ENG 1301/1302. Fulfills the English 4 graduation requirement. Credit from this class is earned through Houston Community College.

English IV

This course satisfies the English IV graduation requirement.

College Prep English IV

This course satisfies the English IV graduation requirement. This course prepares students for success on the TSI exam and in college and exempts students from the TSI requirement at HCC.

AP English Literature

This course is a rigorous senior level course with a focus on literary analysis. Teacher recommendation is required. Students who pass the AP Literature exam will receive college credit.

MATHEMATICS

Sequence: regular or pre-AP Algebra 1, regular or pre-AP geometry, regular or pre-AP Algebra II, one additional course
Fast Track Sequence: Pre-AP Algebra or Algebra, Fast Track (Alg and Geo in one year), PAP Precalculus, AP course

Pre-AP Pre-Calculus

This class is primarily for juniors who are planning on taking AP Calculus. This course requires teacher recommendation.

Regular Pre-Calculus

This is a 4th year mathematics course designed primarily for seniors who successfully completed Algebra II.

College Preparation Math

Open only to seniors: For students who have taken Algebra II or who are taking Algebra II concurrently. This course prepares students for success on the TSI exam and in college and exempts students from the TSI requirement at HCC.

AP Calculus

Prerequisite: Pre-AP Pre-calculus and teacher recommendation. .Students who pass the AP exam receive college credit.

AP Statistics

This course is open to any college-bound student who has successfully completed Algebra II with at least an 80 average although Pre-calculus is strongly recommended. Students who pass the AP exam receive college credit.

Dual Credit College Algebra (MATH 1314/MATH 1316)

Prerequisite: Students must be dual eligible. Open to students who have successfully completed precalculus. Credit from this class is earned through Lonestar College.

SCIENCE

Sequence: Regular or Pre-AP biology (9th), chemistry or Pre-AP chemistry (10th) and physics or AP Physics I (11th), 4th Sci Beg/INT ESL: IPC (9th), Biology or Pre-AP Biology (10th), Chemistry or Pre-AP chem (11th), Physics (12th)

AP Biology

The AP Biology course is designed to be taken by students after the successful completion of Biology and Chemistry with an 80 average and teacher recommendation. Students who pass the AP exam receive college credit.

AP Physics I: Students in this course must have already taken precalculus or be taking precalculus at the same time. With an 80 average or higher or teacher recommendation. Students who pass the AP exam receive college credit.

AP Physics II:

Prerequisite is successful completion of AP Physics I and pre-AP chemistry or permission of the instructor. Students who pass the AP exam receive college credit.

AP Environmental Science

This is a 4th year science class. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry. This course is at the AP level but no teacher recommendation is required. Students who pass the AP exam receive college credit.

Anatomy & Physiology

This is a 4th year science class in which students study the relationship between structure and function of human body systems

Environmental Systems

This is a 4th year science class in which students learn about ecology, the environment and the impact of human populations and other environmental factors on the earth.

On Ramps Dual Credit Physics (PHYS 1401)

Prerequisite: Students must be dual eligible. Credit from this class is earned through UT Austin.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Sequence: Regular World Geography, Pre-AP World Geography or AP Human Geography (9th), World History or AP World History (10th)

AP US History

This is a rigorous junior level course. A teacher recommendation is required or at least an 80 average in AP World History. Students who pass the AP exam receive college credit.

Dual Credit US History (HIST 1301/1302)

Prerequisite: Students must be dual eligible. Credit from this class is earned through Houston Community College.

Dual Credit US Government (GOVT 2305)

Prerequisite: Students must be dual eligible This is a one semester dual credit course. Credit from this class is earned through Houston Community College.

AP Micro Economics/AP Macro Economics

AP Micro (Fall) is paired with it and is paired with AP Macro Economics (Spring). Teacher recommendation is required. Students who pass the AP exam receive college credit.

Government/Economics

Government is one semester and Economics is one semester. Both are taught in the fall and in the spring semesters.

African American Studies

This one semester course is open to all students with priority for seniors.

Mexican American Studies

This one semester course is open to all students with priority for seniors.

OTHER

Psychology (Fall)

An introduction to the study of the human mind. This is a one semester fall course.

Sociology (Spring)

Sociology is the study of human groups and how people behave in groups. This is a one semester spring course.

One Goal

A college prep program (starting junior year) that helps students improve their GPA and SAT scores, research schools, apply to college, and persist through the first year of college. Application required.

AP Capstone

Two-year program for high achieving students starting in junior year to conduct research and earn college credit. See Ms. Gray for more information.

Debate

Be part of the NSHS Debate team, travel, and win awards!

Yearbook

This course is open to upperclassmen. Students will need to sign up with Ms. Baccari.

Intro to College (EDUC 1300)

Prerequisite: Students must be dual eligible A one semester dual credit college readiness course for 10th-12th graders that includes trips to HCC. It is offered in the Fall and in the Spring semesters and is paired with the SAT preparation class, health or other one semester course.

SAT Class

Improve your SAT and ACT math college entrance exam score by taking this one semester course in either the fall or the spring.

This course is paired with Education 1300

Career Preparation (Co-Op)

Work-based learning experience. Students must be on-track to graduate – all STAAR exams passed, no NGs or missing credits. Students must have a job by the 15th course day and can only join in FALL semesters.

Office

Non-credit course that requires counselor approval. Seniors only.

Teacher (LAB) Assistant

Non-credit course that requires counselor and/or department head approval.