

COURSE CATALOG

The mission of Digital Pioneers Academy is to develop the next generation of innovators. We prepare students to meet or exceed the highest academic standards, while cultivating the strength of character necessary to both graduate from four year colleges and thrive in 21st century careers.

NOTE: All scholars at Digital Pioneers Academy (DPA) are required to earn 26.5 credits in alignment with graduation requirements by the end of their senior year. Below is information about the courses that are or have been offered at DPA in order to fulfill requirements needed for a high school diploma.

DPA Courses and Graduation Requirements Overview

Graduation Requirement	Courses that Fulfill Requirement	Notes
Algebra I	Algebra	Some students may be placed into Honors or Advanced Algebra
Geometry	Geometry	Some students may be placed into Honors or Advanced Geometry
Algebra II	Algebra II	Some students may be placed into Honors or Advanced Algebra II
Add'l Math	Pre-Calculus	Some students may be placed into Honors OR Advanced Pre-Calculus
Lab Science 1	Biology	
Lab Science 2	Chemistry	
Lab Science 3	Physics	
Add'l Science	Physics II	
Social Studies 1	World History I	
Social Studies 2	World History II	
Social Studies 3	US History	
US Government	-Government/DC History -American Studies III: US History from 1877	
DC History	-Government/DC History -American Studies III: US History from 1877	

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English I	English 9	Some students may be placed into Honors or Advanced English 9
English II	English 10	Some students may be placed into Honors or Advanced English 10
English III	English 11	Students may be placed into an Honors or Advanced English 11
English IV	English 12	Some students may be placed into Honors or Advanced English 12
Computer Science 1	Computer Science 9* Computer Science 10	Students must earn 2 full credits of Computer Science to earn a diploma at DPA. *The class of 2025's Computer Science 9 credits counts towards their electives credits.
Computer Science 2	AP Computer Science	Students must earn 2 full credits of Computer Science to earn a diploma at DPA.
World Language 1	Spanish I American Sign Language 1 World Language 11 (Spanish)*	Spanish I and American Sign Language I are each 0.5 credit courses that a student would take both of to equal 1 full credit. World Language 11 is a half or full credit Spanish course.
World Language 2	Spanish II	
Art	Digital Art Art 9 Art 10	
Music	Honors Music Music 9 Music 10	
Leadership 1 (Elective)	STEAM 9 STEAM 10 Academic Seminar I Academic Seminar II	
Leadership 2 (Elective)	Academic Seminar I Academic Seminar II Academic Seminar III	
Add'l Electives	Computer Science 9	
Health	PE/Health AP Psychology	
PE/Health	Physical Education	

MATH DEPARTMENT

Curriculum: Illustrative Math / Eureka Math

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COURSE	Brief Course Description
Algebra	This one credit course allows students to build on and sharpen their middle school math foundational skills through application and real world problem solving. Students master math skills that will serve them further in high school, college and life. Students deepen their understanding of linear equations and inequalities, as well as functions - including quadratic functions. The Honors and Advanced classes cover the same standards and similar material, but at a faster-pace and with deeper and more complex understanding. All students will also prepare for the DC CAPE test in Algebra I, given to all scholars at the end of the year.
Geometry	This is a one credit course that pushes students to explore their own world through shapes and other configurations. In geometry, students think creatively and thoughtfully to solve real-world problems. The course develops understanding of mathematical language and critical thinking that will serve scholars into college and beyond. The Honors and Advanced classes cover the same standards and similar material, but at a faster-pace and with deeper and more complex understanding. All students will also prepare for the DC CAPE test in Geometry, given to all scholars at the end of the year.
Algebra II	This is a one credit course that develops students' understanding of functions. Along with functions from the Algebra I course, students learn about polynomial, logarithmic and trigonometric functions. Using their knowledge, scholars will solve complex, real world problems that develop their critical thinking skills. The Honors and Advanced classes cover the same standards and similar material, but at a faster-pace and with deeper and more complex understanding.
Pre-Calculus	This one credit course extends students' knowledge of algebraic concepts learned in Algebra I and Algebra II and also includes concepts from Geometry. Scholars continue to deepen their understanding of a variety of functions and also deepen their conceptual understanding of math around them in the everyday world. The Honors and Advanced classes cover the same standards and similar material, but at a faster-pace and with deeper and more complex understanding.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

[Curriculum: McGraw Hill](#)

COURSE	Brief Course Description
Biology	In this one credit course, students work through foundational units in the study of life. Students use various modes to build foundational science skills that will serve them through high school. This course includes lab work that allows scholars to have hands-on experiences and furthers their learning and understanding of the world.
Chemistry	In this one credit course, students build on their science knowledge by studying the composition of matter, as well as elements and their interactions with one another. This course includes lab work that allows scholars to have hands-on experiences to further their learning and understanding of the world.

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Physics	In this one credit course, students study the properties of matter and energy. They use their foundational science (and algebra) skills to explore the world around them in a deeper way. This course includes lab work that allows students to see physics in action and apply it to the world around them.
Physics II	Physics II, a one credit course, builds on foundational knowledge of Physics from the previous year. In addition, this course focuses on thermodynamics and kinetic energy; as well as an introduction to electricity and magnetism, light, geometrical and wave optics. Students continue to learn how this content knowledge relates to and connects to their everyday world.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Curriculum: [Teachers' Curriculum Institute \(TCI\)](#)

COURSE	Brief Course Description
World History	In this one credit course, students explore history from the earliest known humanity. They discover how historians collect and analyze evidence about history. With a focus on the earliest empires and civilizations; students learn about how the world came to be. They are pushed to make connections between the world then and the world now.
US History	In this one credit course, students read, write and discuss the events and impact of significant events and people in U.S. History. Students cover events through the present day, constantly making connections between past, present and thinking about future impact. This course pushes students to think of themselves <i>within</i> history. Students continue to improve and develop their critical thinking skills as they read and write about nonfiction texts and primary documents.
Government / DC History	In this one credit course, students learn the key concepts of the U.S. Government and the history of the District of Columbia. They explore significant events, people and laws from the past and their impact on the present. Students improve and develop their critical thinking skills as they read and write about nonfiction texts and primary documents. **NOTE: The class of 2025 took the equivalent of this class titled American Studies III: US History from 1877
World History II	A one credit course, World History II continues knowledge from World History I. Students learn about the world and global communities around them. Students form connections between diverse parts of the world.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Curriculum: [Louisiana Guidebooks](#)

COURSE	Brief Course Description
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English 9	<p>Throughout this one credit class, students build on their foundational skills and get practice with several types of texts and genres. They engage in rigorous reading and writing and they also develop their speaking and listening skills. Students also grapple with essential questions about the real world as they engage with texts. All students will also prepare for the DC CAPE test in English I, given at the end of the year. [Course texts include but are not limited to: <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>, <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> and <i>The Joy Luck Club</i>]</p> <p>The Honors and Advanced classes cover the same material, but at a faster pace with more in-depth or complex understanding.</p>
English 10	<p>Throughout this one credit class, students continue to sharpen their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills while reading rigorous texts of all types of genres. Students hone their writing skills with longer essays and research tasks. In addition, Students participate in almost daily classroom discussions that are rooted in texts and develop their critical thinking skills. All students will also prepare for the DC CAPE test in English II, given at the end of the year. [Course texts include but are not limited to: <i>Life of Pi</i>, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> and <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>]</p> <p>The Honors and Advanced classes cover the same material, but at a faster pace with more in-depth or complex understanding.</p>
English 11	<p>English 11, a one credit class, continues to deepen student understanding and skills using fiction and non-fiction texts. English 11 explores authors' choices, rhetoric and argumentation. Scholars also continue to sharpen writing skills with literary analysis, argumentation and research. [Course texts include but are not limited to: <i>The Great Gatsby</i>, <i>Friday Night Lights</i> and <i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i>]</p> <p>The Honors and Advanced classes cover the same material, but at a faster pace with more in-depth or complex understanding.</p>
English 12	<p>English 12, a one credit class, prepares students for college writing through exploration of a variety of text genres. The course begins with writing and perfecting students' college essays. Students then continue to read anchor texts of units that focus on rigorous reading and writing skills. [Course texts include but are not limited to: <i>Educated</i>, <i>Hamlet</i> and <i>1984</i>]</p> <p>The Honors and Advanced classes cover the same material, but at a faster pace with more in-depth or complex understanding.</p>

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Curriculum: CodeHS.org

COURSE	Brief Course Description
Computer Science 9	<i>Introduction to Computer Science in Python</i> - This one credit course teaches the fundamentals of computer programming as well as some advanced features of the Python 3 language. By the end of this

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	course, students build a simple console-based game and learn material equivalent to a semester college introductory Python course.
Computer Science 10	Computer Science 10, a one credit course, builds on the foundational skills from Computer Science 9 by continuing student knowledge of Python. Scholars continue to build websites and programs in this college-preparatory course.
AP Computer Science	<i>AP Computer Science Principles - Python</i> - This one credit course introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and programming in Python. With a unique focus on creative problem solving and real-world applications, students are challenged to explore how computing and technology can impact the world.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Curriculum:

COURSE	Brief Course Description
Spanish I	In this half credit course, students learn the basics of the Spanish language, including common conversational sayings and vocabulary words. In addition, students learn about different Spanish-speaking countries and their cultural traditions to further develop the knowledge of the world around them.
American Sign Language 1 (ASL)	In this half credit course, students learn the basics of ASL, starting with the alphabet. Students learn how to sign common conversational sayings and phrases.
World Language 11	In this half credit course or one credit course, students learn the basics of Spanish language, including common conversational sayings and vocabulary words. In addition, students learn about different Spanish-speaking countries and their cultural traditions to further develop the knowledge of the world around them.
Spanish II	In this one credit course, students build on their knowledge of the Spanish language from Spanish I. They continue to build their knowledge and understanding of Spanish phrases and words-growing from words to sentences. Students also continue to learn about different cultural traditions of Spanish-speaking countries.

ART/MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Curriculum: McGraw Hill

COURSE	Brief Course Description
Art 9	This half credit class is an introductory course of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design for art students. Students will be introduced to art production, art history and culture, art criticism, aesthetics, principles of design, and art media.

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Art 10	This half credit class builds on the foundations of Art 9, including the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design for art students. Students explore different art mediums to build on their knowledge and skills.
Digital Art	In this half credit class, students utilize their computer science knowledge in coding to produce various types of digital art. Students build on foundational art skills and learn basic skills in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.
Music 9	In this half credit course, students learn academic language and knowledge as they explore a variety of different music. They work to describe the various ways music enhances their own life and explain what the music of various cultures teaches us about the cultures and their people. Students work to analyze and unpack rhythms and beats and begin to write and compose their own music.
Music 10	In this half credit course, students build on their understanding of basic music knowledge and explore music appreciation by learning to evaluate music performances, hone their skills of perceptive listening and enjoyment and learn about the history of music.
Honors Music	In this half credit class, students learn the same information from Music 9/Music 10, but at a faster pace with a deeper understanding.

ELECTIVES/LEADERSHIP DEPARTMENT

Curriculum: Varied

COURSE	Brief Course Description
STEAM 9	During the S.T.E.A.M. elective, students participate in classes with a focus on art and technology. During this class, students work on various art projects, using various mediums in order to understand the world through art. The lessons were adapted from the McGraw-Hill curriculum, with added skills for technology.
STEAM 10	During the S.T.E.A.M. elective, students participate in classes with a focus on art and technology. During this class, students work on various art projects, using various mediums in order to understand the world through art. The lessons were adapted from the McGraw-Hill curriculum, with added skills for technology.
Seminar 9	During Seminar 9, students continue to work to get on the path to college and career by engaging in individualized, specific extra math and English lessons that are aligned to the class curriculum. In addition, students work to research skills necessary for college and set goals to achieve in order to grow and achieve our mission.
Academic Seminar I	Academic Seminar I is a one credit course for 9th graders that allows students to collaborate with each other, practice academic skills, develop their social-emotional learning and plan for college/career.

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Academic Seminar II	Academic Seminar II is a one credit course for 10th graders that allows students to collaborate with each other, practice academic skills, develop their social-emotional learning and plan for college/career.
Academic Seminar III	Academic Seminar III is a one credit course for 11th graders that allows students to collaborate with each other, practice academic skills, develop their social-emotional learning and plan for college/career - with special focus on college-going mindsets and the college application process.

HEALTH/PE DEPARTMENT

Curriculum: Imagine Learning/Edgenuity

COURSE	Brief Course Description
PE/Health	In this half credit course, students learn about various health topics. Units include: alcohol use, drug use, physical fitness, healthy relationships, disease prevention, relationships and mental health all in the context of the importance of creating a healthy lifestyle. Students explore their own health and use knowledge and skills to build healthy habits in their own life.
Physical Education	In this one credit course students will engage in physical activities that promote a healthy lifestyle and contribute to their own, individual healthy habits.
AP Psychology	In this full credit course, students are introduced to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health.