

FAQs: Scheduling

1. **When is the final date to make changes to next year's schedule?** We will ask that all schedule requests be in BEFORE spring break. Necessary changes to requested core classes will take place between spring break and the week of finals. Changes based on prerequisites will take place once final grades are received. After students are released for summer there will be no schedule changes as master schedule will be set at that time.
2. **Is it better for college applications to take a 4th year of Science/Math?** Most of the time, yes. We have many course options in both math and science. You do not need to take the most difficult course, if you do sometimes struggle in the subject, but taking a 4th year is most likely advised for anyone applying to four-year institutions.
3. **What do I do if I need to remediate a class and SM Summer School gets cancelled?** Contact your counselor and they will help you find an SM approved alternative. The course you take must always be approved BEFORE you take it and if SM is offering the class in our summer school, you need to register for that option.
4. **I'm hoping to take XXXXX class, but I do not meet the prerequisites.** Can I still take the class? Prerequisites are in place to help students choose classes they will be most successful in, so if you do not meet that prerequisite, we would strongly suggest you choose another course.
5. **Can I take classes at a community college in the summer and get credit for those classes at SM?** Course taken during the summer at a community college or other online programs are not calculated into your SM gpa and are not allowed for advancement purposes.
6. **Can I take classes in the summer for advancement?** No, the only classes we allow for advancement is our Geometry Honors course and students are invited to enroll in that course by their Algebra 2 Honors teacher. On occasion students will be given permission to complete Gov/Econ in the summer but that is only allowed when it does not fit into the senior schedule due to Theory of Knowledge requirement for Full IB students. There is no need to take Gov/Econ in the summer if it will fit into your senior schedule.
7. **Can I change my instructor if I am not happy with my placement?** No, SM does not allow specific teacher requests and students are instructed to choose course for course content and not because a particular teacher is teaching a course.

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8. **Can I be an office aide? If so, do I get a grade in the class that will be calculated into my SM GPA?** Office Aid is for seniors only and students receive a Pass/Fail, so the grade is not calculated into the GPA. GPA is calculated with the other 6 courses in your schedule for that semester. Office Aid does earn 5 credits per semester.
9. **What is Learning Strategies and can anyone sign up for it?** Learning Strategies is a guided study hall for nonASP students. Students must have permission of their counselor to enroll in the course and it earns a grade of A-F and 5 credits per semester but is a non-academic course.
10. **Can I change my advanced level classes at the start of the school year if they're too challenging?** Students can level down in the first two weeks of the school year for year long classes. The current grade in the course follows the student to the new course.
11. **Can I change my elective at the start of the school year if I realize that it's not a good fit for me?** No schedule changes are allowed after books have been purchased except in the event of leveling down from advanced level courses (within the two weeks of the school year). Students should put serious thought into their elective before leaving for the summer.
12. **Can I take an 8th Period class?** Yes, SM does offer a couple of 8th period classes outside of athletics (which is always an 8th period). AP Music Theory, IB Group Music Performance and IB Dance are just a few of the offerings. If a course is offered 8th period, it will be designated so in the Course Description Booklet.
13. **If I take an 8th period class, does it calculate into my GPA?** 8th period classes do earn a grade but they typically are NOT calculated into your semester GPA. Colleges, however, may calculate it into the GPA when they recalculate since a grade is given.
14. **Baseball, Football, and Basketball all had classes this year. Will any other SM sports be offering similar classes to take during the school day for athletes next year?** Possibly. Students should contact their coach directly, to confirm athletic course offerings and if they are approved to enroll.

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Religion

15. **Seniors have several choices for their Religion 4 requirement. How do I choose the right one for me?** Read the course description booklet which gives a detail explanation of all course offerings. Those interested in Peer Ministry must apply and should contact Campus Ministry for information about the process. Students typically find out in May if they were selected for that class. You can also speak to your current Religion 3 teacher for suggestions.
16. **If I was a transfer student, do I need to make up any Religion credit I missed?** No, graduation requirement states 4 years or 40 credits of Religion but transfer students are required to take a minimum of 20 credits of Religion or the number of semesters they attended SM. All graduates do need the full 270 credits to graduate.
17. **Can I take IB Philosophy if I'm not a full IB diploma candidate?** No, IB Philosophy HL1 and HL2 as well as Theory of Knowledge are reserved for IB Full diploma students, only.

English

18. **How do I advance from academic English to honors English classes?** Students who are interested in moving into an honors level English class must first earn an A in their academic English class. Then students are invited by their current English teachers to sit for a writing assessment that will then determine placement into academic or honors English for the following school year.
19. **What's the difference between IB and AP English?** The coursework is the same but the assessments are different. AP assessments include one cumulative exam in May of each year (junior and senior) where IB assessments take place throughout the two year course with a final assessment in May of the senior year. IB students may also sit for the May AP exams. AP students only take AP exams. Assessment fees apply to both AP and IB.
20. **Can I replace English 1-4 with an English elective, like Journalism, to complete my 40 credits of English?** No, all students must complete English 1-4 but students can opt to take English classes as electives and graduate with more than 40 credits of English.

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Math

21. **My Freshman year I started in Algebra 1 but I would like to take Calculus my senior year. Is that possible?** Yes, students may choose to double in their math, sophomore year, and take both Algebra 2 AND Geometry. Students would place the 2nd math class in their elective spot. *This is a rigorous schedule when choosing to take two math classes at once.* This would then allow students to take Precalculus junior year and then Calculus senior year. Students may NOT take Geometry in the summer for advancement. Geometry Honors is offered to select honors students in the summer months by approval from the math department.
22. **I've heard that there are some new math courses being offered at SM next year. What are they and how do I know which one might be a good fit for me?** Upper level Math curriculum does have a few new classes and students are recommended by their current math classes for those courses.

Science

23. **I took Concepts of Science freshman year and did really well. Can I take Biology Honors as a sophomore?** Yes, with teacher and counselor recommendation but do know that the class is predominantly freshman and is a challenging course.

History

24. **I've heard that AP Macro and AP Micro are both semester classes. If I take both these classes in a year, do I take both the corresponding AP exams in the spring?** Students are allowed to take both the AP MicroEconomics and AP MacroEconomics exam in the spring if they enroll in both courses.
25. **Can I take AP World/US/Gov/Econ and still be in MUN?** No, if a student would like to be in MUN, they should sign up for the MUN class. Seniors are an exception as they can sign up for Gov/Econ MUN and then take AP Gov or AP Econ as an elective.
26. **If I took academic World History and academic US History but really decided I liked those subjects, could I take the AP level of those classes?** Yes, juniors and seniors who meet the prerequisite can take AP World History as an elective and seniors who meet the prerequisite can take AP US History as an elective.

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27. **I took AP World History sophomore year instead of AP European History. Can I take AP Euro as well?** Students are not allowed to double in AP World History and AP European History at the same time but AP World students can take AP Euro junior or senior year as an elective and AP Euro students can take AP World junior or senior year as an elective.
28. **Is it ever possible for a junior to take AP Government or AP Economics?** We ask that AP Government and AP Economics be reserved for senior students only.

World Language

29. If I do not like my World Language class, can I change to a different language? Current Freshman must continue on in their same language to complete the two year World Language requirement set by universities. Students must complete two years of the same language. Students may choose to take a different language after they complete the first two years or students may choose to double in a 2nd language, as their elective.
30. Must International Students complete the 2 year World Language requirement? International students (F-1 student Visa) are exempt from the 2 year world language requirement, though you may still take a world language if you wish. If you chose not to take a world language, you will choose an additional elective.

Visual/Performing Arts

31. **In addition to the courses listed in the Visual and Performing Arts section of the course catalogue, are there any additional courses that I could take to meet the Visual and/or Performing Arts grad requirements?** Yes, you can also take AP Art History, Modern Art Honors, TV Production, and Broadcast Journalism H.

Physical Education/Health

32. How can I receive PE credit without participating in a sport at SM, or taking PE, Weight Training, or Fitness? With approval, students can earn PE credits by managing a sport or through SM's Independent PE program. More information can be found on the Physical Education website.
33. If I need to complete Health and I am an upperclassman, what semester classes are available 2nd semester that I can pair with Health? Check the Course Description Booklet for a full listing but here are some options: Psychology, Sociology, WWII, Civil War, Trig, Prob & Stats, Fitness, Weight Training, Office Aid (seniors only).