



**THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL  
FOR MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE**

*An Opportunity for Excellence*

**2025-2026**

**COURSE CATALOG**

Revised Spring 2025

# 2025-26 COURSE CATALOG

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS	4
GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING COURSES	8
COURSE OFFERINGS	
Computer Science and Engineering	13
English	17
Fine and Performing Arts	23
World Language	28
Interdisciplinary	33
Mathematics	35
Science	40
Social Science	50
Special Study Options	56

---

## Introduction

The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science graduation requirements to give each student a well-balanced program with a broad range of electives and advanced study options. Electives, if wisely selected, will help the student explore and develop interests and abilities. We hope that this guide will help students and parents plan an exceptional program of study while at MSMS. Students should periodically review educational goals and thoughtfully develop a program of studies.

A few guidelines to be followed are:

Keep minimum and maximum course loads in mind.

Know MSMS graduation requirements.

Consider expectations and admissions criteria of prospective universities.

Check course descriptions to be sure they fit your needs, interests, and abilities—and that you have completed the prerequisite course work necessary.

Develop a two-year plan of study.

Keep in mind that all MSMS students must be enrolled in dual credit courses each semester.

The course offerings described in the MSMS Course Catalog have been developed for the 2025-2026 school year. They have been designed to provide both depth and breadth in the instructional program. An effort is made to accommodate student interest, with final decisions on any year's course offerings based on staff availability and satisfaction of minimum enrollment requirements.

**This course catalog offers final guidance in developing a two-year plan of study, course selection, and all other matters of academic concern. Policies specific to academic and residential life will be printed in the 2025-2026 MSMS Student Handbook.**

---

## Special Academic Programs

### Virtual Courses

We recommend limiting virtual coursework earned while enrolled at MSMS to one (1) Carnegie unit (CU). Furthermore, students who need credit for courses such as Physical Education or Health should make every effort to complete those requirements in the summer before enrolling at MSMS. Students who have approval to be enrolled in a ½-credit virtual course while at MSMS must complete the course in one semester. **Virtual school Carnegie Units will not apply to the 13 Carnegie units required to be earned at MSMS. Students who are enrolled at MSMS may not receive credit from other institutions for courses MSMS requires and teaches.**

### Dual Credit

MSMS currently offers specific courses in English, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Social Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering, and College & Career Readiness on our campus, which MUW or MSU accepts for dual credit. Dual Credit agreements may be developed or revised following publication of this course catalog; students and their parents will be notified of revised dual credit agreements via an addendum to this catalog. MSMS students who are enrolled in approved dual credit courses must (1) meet the early admission standards specified in the dual credit agreement, (2) meet all course prerequisites as specified, and (3) complete the appropriate college admissions paperwork. Students taking dual credit courses will receive a grade on both the MSMS high school transcript and the transcript of the college or university awarding credit. A student who successfully completes a dual credit course will earn both high school and college credit. If a student leaves MSMS, or for any reason drops a Dual Credit class, it is the responsibility of the student to drop the class from the University affiliate. Failure to do so could result in an "F" on the University transcript.

### Dual Enrollment

With the approval of the Director of Academic Affairs, students who meet early admission standards at MUW or MSU and complete the appropriate admission paperwork are eligible to take classes at MUW or MSU for college credit. Students are allowed to be dual enrolled starting in the spring semester of their junior year. A student who successfully completes a dual enrollment course will earn college credit only.

***IMPORTANT NOTE regarding dual credit and dual enrollment:*** All students must take a dual enrollment course each semester at MSMS. By enrolling in more than 29 college credit hours, a student may be considered a sophomore at some institutions, thus affecting eligibility for first-year scholarships; however, this has declined in recent years (See your Academic Counselor for more information.) Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment course grades are included in respective colleges' GPA and will affect scholarship eligibility.

### Special Topics

Special Topics are offered on a limited basis to students who have a strong academic background and an interest in intensive supervised study beyond scheduled course offerings. **Special Topics are taken for Carnegie Units over and beyond MSMS graduation requirements.** Other options will be considered only in exceptional circumstances. A student interested in independent studies must work with a teacher who will complete our online Special Topics form. A study plan, agreed upon by teacher, student, counselor, and approved by the Director of Academic Affairs, must be in place prior to the start of the study. Special Topics courses that form part of an instructor's official course load must have a final letter grade, not Pass/Fail.

### Independent Study

An "Independent Study" refers to courses listed in the course catalog that cannot be scheduled by a student. Students interested in independent study must have the approval of the instructor and Director for Academic Affairs. **Any course that can be scheduled cannot be taken as an independent study at MSMS.**

---

## Interventions

The academic progress of all MSMS students is monitored throughout the year. A student concerns group meets regularly to discuss actions that can be taken to assist students who are on academic support, academic watch, or for students who experience a decline in grades during the nine weeks. Administrators, counselors, staff, and faculty may attend the meetings. The academic/behavioral review committee meets every quarter to determine the status of students who have been identified with academic and/or behavioral issues. The academic/behavioral review committee consists of the same individuals as the student success committee: administrators, counselors, staff, and faculty. The only difference is faculty members must be present on the academic/behavioral review committee. Students will be placed on academic support, academic watch, and/or an academic support plans that will be devised and implemented as needed to meet individual student needs. The purpose of the review will be to determine which students are not successful in their learning and/or living environment and to make recommendations for strategies to assist those students. Upon review of student grades, academic support status may be assigned if a student:

- has earned one or more failing grades (0-69) during any 9-week grading period;
- has earned a semester grade of NC (no credit) in one course;
- has earned one final grade of NC;
- has more than one INC (incomplete) at the end of any 9-week grading period;
- has not worked to his/her potential as reflected by grades, attendance, and/or behavior;
- has been recommended for consideration by a faculty, staff, counselor, or parent.

Students will remain on academic support for a minimum of 4 ½ weeks. Students who are not performing up to expectations and/or who are on academic support will have specific strategies developed to assist in their academic progress which may include, but are not limited to:

- assignment to required tutorials;
- assignment to required study hours/suspension of privilege plan;
- assignment to academic support plan (ASP) or required studies;
- curtailment of social and/or extracurricular activities;
- development of a plan for improvement.

Attending MSMS is a special opportunity and, in keeping with the MSMS philosophy, success is an expected academic outcome for students. Students will not be extended an invitation to return to MSMS and must re-enroll at their home school for the remainder of their secondary education if any one of the following applies:

- Students receiving three or more grades of NC (no credit) that are below 60% at the end of the first nine weeks;
- Students receiving two or more NCs, INCs (incompletes), or a combination of the two at the end of the any semester (this includes semester and year-long courses);
- Juniors failing to earn six Carnegie Units at the end of the junior year;
- Juniors who, due to failure of one or more courses, will be unable to meet MSMS graduation requirements;
- Juniors failing Foundations;
- Juniors who fail to earn one total Carnegie Unit for math prior to the senior year;
- Seniors, at the end of the first semester, who have failed coursework that prohibits their being able to meet MSMS graduation requirements in the spring semester of their senior year;
- Students demonstrating inappropriate behavior (including excessive tardies and/or absences) in keeping with the school's academic or behavioral expectations.
- Any student accumulating 2 or more NCs as semester grades while enrolled at MSMS.

During the summer between a student's junior and senior years, an assessment will be made by school officials based on behavioral and academic performance, as well as other factors independently considered, regarding the student's continuation at MSMS.

Parents are encouraged to view their children's grades through Power School. A session will be held during New Student Orientation to assist parents with setting up their Power School accounts to allow them to receive weekly grades and behavioral reports.

### **Summer School**

At the discretion of the Director for Academic Affairs, MSMS may accept summer school credits or award placement for certain **pre-approved** courses taken at a community college or university. **CARNEGIE UNITS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED AT MSMS.** Summer courses taken before the start of the junior year at MSMS will become a part of the student's home school transcript. Students who are enrolled at MSMS may not receive credit from other institutions for courses MSMS requires and teaches.

Students who have completed the junior year and want to attend summer school to meet prerequisite requirements for a more advanced course in the MSMS curriculum will need approval of the counselor, the academic department involved, and the Director for Academic Affairs. This approval should be gained well before leaving the campus at the end of the junior year. The student must provide course descriptions from the catalog of the institution he/she wants to attend and course syllabi. After completing the course and before fall classes begin at MSMS, the student will also be expected to pass the MSMS final examination in the course taken in summer school before that course may serve as a prerequisite for a more advanced MSMS course.

---

## Guidelines for Selecting Courses

### Registration Process

The registration process begins with a general meeting during which graduation requirements, course offerings, and the registration process are explained. It ends when students have selected their courses on PowerSchool for the next school year.

Students should discuss their selections with their school counselors, MSMS faculty members, and their parents.

### Subject Area Testing Requirements Mississippi Department of Education

#### And MSMS Requirements Regarding the Junior ACT

##### Class of 2026 and 2027

Students in the Class of 2026 and the Class of 2027 must pass the subject area tests in Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History from 1877 as a requirement for graduation.

State Board Policy 3801 [[SBE-Policy-36-2.pdf \(mdek12.org\)](https://mdek12.org/SBE-Policy-36-2.pdf)] outlines the graduation requirements for the Mississippi Subject Area Tests for the following circumstances: when a student has already earned a Carnegie Unit in a course prior to implementation of the new graduation policy, when a student enters a Mississippi public school from another state, private school, or home school, and retesting procedures for when a student fails to pass a required Subject Area Test.

**All juniors, except those who already have a 33 composite score or higher, must take the statewide ACT in the spring.**

### Selecting Courses

The following recommendations are based on prior experience of working with MSMS students. We ask that students follow these guidelines, although we do realize that each student is an individual with special abilities and needs. Please call 662-329-7670 to contact a school counselor if questions arise during the academic school year.

- Read thoroughly the course descriptions in the Course Catalog, paying particular attention to the necessary prerequisites and number of Carnegie Units for each course.
- Read carefully MSMS graduation requirements.
- Schedule required courses first then elective courses, thinking in terms of a two-year plan. It is important that a student considers his/her background, interests, college and career goals, and aptitude.
- Placement tests will be administered for certain courses.

**The student should not enroll in any course for which he/she has already received credit.**

Students will be required to enroll in a sufficient number of required and elective courses so that the total number of Carnegie Units earned at MSMS is at least 13. Only one Carnegie Unit in the Arts may apply toward the 13 MSMS Carnegie Units required for graduation. No virtual school credits may be used to meet the requirement of 13 MSMS Carnegie Units.

**Health** -- Students must have credit (1/2 Carnegie Unit) for Health by July 15 prior to their junior year.



## **MSMS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS CLASSES OF 2026 & 2027**

At least 13 CUs (Carnegie units) must be earned while enrolled at MSMS. Students must be enrolled in a dual credit or dual enrollment course each semester at MSMS. Previous high school, virtual high school, or college credits earned at another institution will not count toward the 13 required MSMS CUs. Furthermore, without prior consent from the Director for Academic Affairs, all Special Topics courses count as electives.

**English** – Each student is required to earn **two CUs** by successfully completing approved English classes each semester. Each student must be enrolled in a required English course each semester.

**Mathematics** – Each student must earn **two CUs** in mathematics, including at least 1/2 CU in Calculus and 1/2 CU in Statistics.

**Science** – Each student is required to take and earn one CU in biology, one CU in chemistry, **and** one CU in physics for a minimum total of **three CUs**. Please see course descriptions to see sequences that may result in excess CUs.

**Swing CU (Mathematics/Science Elective)** – In addition to the above Mathematics and Science requirements, each student is required to take and earn an additional ½ CU of mathematics, science, robotics, or computer programming. Students are encouraged to learn basic programming prior to graduation.

**Social Sciences** - Specific requirements depend on what the student has previously completed.

**World Language** – Specific requirements depend on what the student has previously completed. Graduates must complete two years of the same World Language.

**Health** -- Students must have received credit (1/2 Carnegie Unit) for Health by July 15 before their junior year.

**Fine Arts** – 1 CU if not previously completed at your home school.

**Physical Education** – ½ CU if not previously completed at your home school.

**Technology and Computer Science** – 1 CU if not previously completed at your home school.

**All students must have earned a Carnegie Unit in Algebra I and Unified Geometry before entering MSMS.** It is strongly recommended that Algebra II be completed also. If a student has completed Algebra I and Algebra II, but does not have a CU for Unified Geometry, the student may be granted provisional admission and must complete a Geometry course through an accredited program, which is approved in advance by the Director for Academic Affairs. **This CU must be earned by July 15 before the beginning of the junior year at MSMS.** A course in Unified Geometry will not be taught at MSMS.

The following courses are required for MSMS graduation. Students meeting any of these requirements before enrolling at MSMS will complete elective courses to earn the required total of 13 CUs at MSMS.

## MSMS Graduation Requirements Classes of 2026 and 2027

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED COURSES
ENGLISH	4	English I and II (or approved equivalent); four additional English courses as delineated in the English section of this document.
MATHEMATICS	5	Algebra 1 (or equivalent)- 1 credit Geometry (or equivalent)- 1 credit Algebra 2 (or equivalent)- 1 credit Foundations (or equivalent)- ½ credit Trigonometry (or equivalent)- ½ credit Calculus- ½ credit Statistics- ½ credit
SCIENCE	4	Biology I (1 Carnegie Unit) MSMS Biology (1 Carnegie Unit) MSMS Chemistry (1 Carnegie Unit) MSMS Physics (1 Carnegie Unit)  Please see course descriptions to view sequences that may result in excess CUs.
SOCIAL SCIENCES	4	U.S. History (1 Carnegie Unit) U.S. Government (1/2 Carnegie Unit) Mississippi Studies (1/2 Carnegie Unit) * World History (1 Carnegie Unit) Economics (1/2 Carnegie Unit) Geography (1/2 Carnegie Unit)
TECHNOLOGY and COMPUTER SCIENCE	1	Exploring Computer Science (1/2 Carnegie Unit) or equivalent <b>or</b> Cyber Foundations 2 in the 8 <sup>th</sup> grade (1 Carnegie Unit) **
HEALTH	½	Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health (by July 15)
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	½	Class of 2026 and 2027****
THE ARTS	1	Examples: Band, Choral Music, Drama, Drawing, Painting, Sculpture***
WORLD LANGUAGE	2	Two units of the same World Language required
College and Career Readiness	1	1 Carnegie Unit will be completed in the junior year.
Swing Credit	½	Either a MSMS Mathematics, Science, Computer Science or Engineering Course
OTHER ELECTIVES	1	Your Choice
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	24 ½	

*\*CU earned for State/Local Government in any other state by an out-of-state student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of MS Studies.*

*\*\* Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding & Computer Apps is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in an approved Business and Technology course*

*\*\*\* Only one Carnegie Unit in the Arts taken at MSMS may be applied toward the 13 required MSMS Carnegie Units*

*\*\*\*\*Students who have received Carnegie Unit in interscholastic athletic activities, band, and ROTC before entering MSMS may have fulfilled the physical education requirement.*

## Recommended Course Load

### Juniors

**Entering juniors are encouraged to limit their Carnegie Units to 8.** The minimum requirement is 7 Carnegie Units for the year. Exceptions to this are assessed on an individual basis and the decision to allow extra courses rests with the Director for Academic Affairs. Students are expected to have no fewer than six academic courses each semester. **Sometimes students mistakenly have registered for seven courses instead of seven Carnegie Units.**

When the second semester begins, the student will be given an opportunity to add additional one- semester courses, contingent upon his/her first semester grades, available seats, and approval of the Director for Academic Affairs. Due to increased time demands, it is recommended that students limit the number of advanced courses taken each year.

**College and Career Readiness (CCR) is a required course for juniors.** This is a state graduation requirement. Students will earn 1 Carnegie Unit at the completion of the CCR standards. This course does count towards the MSMS 13.

### Seniors

A minimum of 6 academic Carnegie Units is required for the senior year. Seniors are advised to consider graduation requirements and their performance as juniors in deciding on the number of courses to select. Pursuit of courses that enhance preparation for a college/university major is suggested.

**Students are advised to think in terms of planning a two-year curriculum at MSMS. Students must be enrolled in a dual credit or dual enrollment course each semester.**

### Definitions

**CU:** Carnegie Unit

**Course:** Class

**Pre-requisite:** A course that must have been taken with CU earned prior to enrollment in the desired course.

**Co-requisite:** A course that must be taken in the same semester or a semester prior to the desired course.

## Schedule Changes

Students will have the opportunity to request additions to their schedules the first week of each semester, and drops the first two weeks.

Conflicts with the master schedule or an insufficient number of students requesting to take a course may result in one or more alternate course selections appearing on a student's schedule. Students who **request several of the single section courses should anticipate that one or more may be unavailable due to scheduling conflicts.**

Students sign up for courses primarily based on freedom of choice. The school hires teachers, plans facilities, and develops the master schedule around these choices. Therefore, **schedule changes will not be considered to enable students to choose teachers or specific periods. All schedule changes are made through the school counselors. Students must follow their schedule as it exists in PowerSchool.**

## **Adding and Dropping Courses**

### **Adding a Course**

On a space-available basis, students wishing to add courses to their schedules have two weeks at the beginning of each semester to do so.

### **Dropping a Course**

**With approval of the students' Academic Counselor, students will be allowed to drop a course from their schedules during the announced scheduling window each semester.**

Because year-long courses are taught in 2 semesters and students are evaluated at the end of both semesters, failure to pass either the fall or spring semester will be recorded as "NC" on the student's grade report. A "NC" may affect the student's privilege to return to MSMS and/or to graduate. Students deemed unable or unwilling to accept the commitment necessary to be successful in this special learning environment will be returned to their home school provided that applicable due process protections are afforded to the student.

Students are not allowed to drop courses that result in a class load of less than 7 credits for juniors and 6 credits for seniors (A minimum of thirteen (13) Carnegie Units must be earned while enrolled at MSMS). **Seniors are advised that dropping a course may impact scholarship status.**

---

## Course Offerings

This catalog lists all those courses that the school is prepared to offer. Since the total enrollment of MSMS is relatively small, it may not be possible to offer all courses every year. **Enough students must request a course for the course to be offered.**

## COMPUTER SCIENCE and ENGINEERING

### Computer Science Courses

We often use tools to aid us in solving problems. The hammer is a hand tool; it amplifies and extends the power of the hand. We can use it to help us solve such problems as building a birdhouse for bluebirds or building a Habitat for Humanity home for a member of our community. The computer is also a tool—a mind tool; it amplifies and extends the power of the mind. We can use it to help us solve such diverse problems as regulating the flow of drugs for a patient, generating images of imaginary landscapes, or controlling the flight of jet aircraft. Computer Science is a helping profession; computer programmers help people by constructing software solutions to their problems.

The computer is an especially useful tool because it can be programmed to do many different things. A famous textbook describes Computer Science in its title: *Data Structures + Algorithms = Programs*. More prosaically, we can think of Computer Science as the study of how to solve problems by representing the problems symbolically in a form (data structure) that the computer can utilize, plus recipes (algorithms) describing the sequence of steps necessary to generate a solution to the problem.

The purpose of the Computer Science department is to provide interested MSMS students with the opportunity to explore, understand, and manipulate digital technologies.

Computer Science courses are not required for graduation beyond those required by the state of Mississippi. However, we encourage all MSMS students to take a course in Computer Science because of the skills gained from them. A Computer Science course can be used to satisfy the Swing Credit.

### Objectives

Within the study of Computer Science, students will be equipped:

- To think clearly about the process of problem-solving;
- To use a modern programming language to solve problems using a computer; and
- To understand how to utilize computer technology to accomplish their goals.

### **CS 705 Integrating Computer Science concepts with other Sciences**

This course is designed to introduce students to the central ideas of computing and computer science, to instill ideas and practices of computational thinking, to show how computing and computer science change the world, and to engage students in the creative aspects of the field. Programming is one of the creative processes that help transform ideas into reality, so instruction and laboratory activities will enable students to acquire proficiency in modern programming languages. Students will explore computer science's relevance to and impact on the world today, they will investigate the innovations in other fields that computing, and computer science have made possible, and they will examine the ethical implications of new computing technologies. Students in these courses will work individually and in teams to solve problems, developing their communication and teamwork skills. Students will learn the basics of programming in the python programming language so that they will be prepared for computational science in any field they wish to pursue.

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 or consent of instructor  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### **CS 703 University Introduction to Programming (College Credit from MSU)**

This course introduces the process of problem solving using the computer programming language. Python, which is a powerful, modern, but easy to understand programming language, is used to provide the student with a solid foundation in both theoretical and practical aspects of programming and problem solving. Laboratory assignments in this course will be challenging to improve students' abilities to solve problems. The objectives of this course are to introduce the principles and practice of software development using a modern object-oriented programming language, introduce and develop the problem-solving skills necessary to construct software solutions to problems, and give the student an understanding of the data structures and control structures available in the target language, and an ability to understand and create common algorithms.

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 or consent of instructor  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 semester

### **CS 704 University Intermediate Programming (Dual Enrollment from MSU)**

This course explores object-oriented problem solving, design, and programming, transitioning the student from Python to C++. It also introduces common data structures, the design of algorithms, and the analysis of algorithm complexity. Concepts such as error handling and data verification will also be explored.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Programming or consent of instructor  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 semester

### **CS709 App Design**

This class introduces students to tips, tools, and techniques for designing mobile applications for Apple iPhones. Topics include Software Engineering Principles, Event Handlers, Condition Statements, and Animation. Students will apply this knowledge to projects that increase in complexity as the course progresses.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### **CS 716 Introduction to Robotics**

**This course is required if students want to join the Robotics club.** This course is an introduction to the study of Robotics and programming. Students will learn to program robots and the logic necessary to make robots interact with their environment. This class will focus on structures and basic programming.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### **CS 719 3D Modeling**

The purpose of this class is to provide students with an introduction to computer aided design (CAD) concepts and to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The course will use the website Onshape.com to create 3D models.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½ (elective credit)  
Length: 1 semester

### **CS 711 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence**

This class will give students the opportunity to learn about four forms of artificial intelligence. The class will be broken up into four units. Each unit will focus on a new strategy to create artificial intelligence to solve a problem. Each unit will end with students applying the recently learned AI strategy to solve a new problem.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Programming  
CU: 1/2  
Length: 1 semester

### **CS 720 Computer Problems/Special Topics**

Computer problems/special topics is an individualized advanced class where students will have the flexibility of choosing their projects or topics of interest. The projects could involve any aspect of modern computing.

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and Director for Academic Affairs  
CU: ½ or 1(elective credit)  
Length: 1 semester or 1 year

## **Engineering Courses**

The purpose of the Engineering Program is to expose students to a variety of engineering courses, concepts, skills, and applications so that if completed the student will have a beginning background in engineering entering college and eventually the work force. Students will be provided with hands-on, real-world learning experiences through the Engineering Lab that will help them learn problem solving skills.

### **SC 210 University Introduction to Engineering (Dual Enrollment Credit from MSU)**

This course introduces students to engineering. Students will learn the engineering design process, engineering concepts, and the different engineering majors and their applications. Through this course, students will be asked to conduct hands-on activities that will teach them the basics of engineering and will meet and discuss with professional engineers. This course will allow students to better understand engineering and its applications for their future careers.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 semester

### **SC 212 Engineering Design/Special Topics in Engineering**

Students will choose an engineering problem that they would like to solve. Through the first half of the class, they will research the problem they are attempting to solve as well as gather the skills necessary to design their solution. The second half of the class will be spent testing their designs and communicating their results. This course acts as a capstone course for students interested in pursuing Engineering.

Prerequisite: Intro to Engineering (seniors only), or consent of instructor  
CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$   
Length: 1 Year

### **SC 214 Mechanics of Materials**

Students enrolled in this course will learn about materials science and how it is an integration of engineering, material science and physics. They will learn about the distinct types of materials, their properties, and how engineers choose materials for different projects. A substantial portion of this course will be hands-on.

Prerequisite: None  
CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$   
Length: 1 Semester

### **SC 345 Electronics**

This course is offered to allow students an opportunity to develop expertise in electronics. Assignments will be made from both text and laboratory designs. Students can gain familiarity with basic DC and AC circuits, measuring voltage/current/resistance, measuring AC signals, assessing complex impedance, designing simple antennas, and other introductory electrical engineering practices. A major part of the grade will be a final project.

Pre / Co-requisite: Calculus 1 or equivalent  
CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$   
Length: 1 semester



---

## English

The English program at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science prepares students for successful performance in college English by helping them enter the college English curriculum at the highest possible level.

### Guidelines for Required English Courses

MSMS requires that English be taken each semester. Journalism, Debate, and Creative Writing are offered to all students but may NOT be used to meet graduation requirements in English. Juniors are required to enroll in a 100-level course each semester to satisfy the graduation requirement. Seniors are required to enroll in one of the following to satisfy the graduation requirement: EN 104/105 (University Composition), EN 106 (University American Literature), EN 202/203 (University English Literature), or the combination of EN 216/217 (World Literature). Seniors can earn elective credit for courses other than EN 104, EN 106, EN 202, or EN 216. Registration for courses as electives will depend upon the space necessary to accommodate all students who need courses to meet the English requirement for graduation.

### Objectives

Specifically, the objectives of the program are to equip students:

- To comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and use what they read;
- To write well-organized, effective papers;
- To listen effectively and discuss ideas intelligently;
- To appreciate the breadth and depth of their literary heritage;
- To discover how their literary heritage enhances imagination and ethical understanding;
- To recognize how their literary heritage relates to the customs, ideas, and values of today's life and culture; and
- To utilize technology as they integrate reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing in English studies.

### EN 104 University Composition I (Dual Enrollment Credit)

Students who take University Composition I must have an English score of 21 on the ACT or department approval. This course is offered for dual credit. By an articulation agreement with the Mississippi University for Women, students who successfully complete the class will satisfy the requirement for junior English at MSMS and receive 3 semester hours of college credit: three hours for MUW-EN 101(English Composition I). This semester course explores writing across multiple modes and encourages the development of analytical skills, as students will author essays based on readings, observations, interviews, and memories. **It must be taken in sequence with EN 105.**

Prerequisites: Admission to MUW, and an English ACT score of 21 or department approval

CU: 1

Length: 1 Semester

### EN 105 University Composition II (Dual Enrollment Credit)

Students who take University Composition II must have completed University Composition I. This course is offered for dual credit. By an articulation agreement with the Mississippi University for Women, students who successfully complete the class will receive 3 hours for MUW EN 102 (English Composition II). The semester course builds on skills from the previous semester. Students will also practice research methods and source integration, culminating in the junior research paper. This course requires students to turn their research into podcasts that will be disseminated on various social media platforms. These students will also participate in the National Public Radio podcast challenge. **This class must be taken in sequence with EN 104.**

Prerequisites: University Composition I

CU: 1

Length: 1 Semester

### EN 106 University American Literature I (Dual Enrollment Credit)

Students who take University American Lit I must have a reading score of 25 on the ACT or department approval. This course is offered for dual credit; students who successfully complete the class will satisfy the requirement for junior or senior English at MSMS and receive 3 semester hours of college credit for MUW EN 203 (Survey of American Literature I). The course is a survey of American literature from the colonial period to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. It also has a writing component that includes narrative, descriptive, expository, and critical essays. *It is recommended that students take this course in sequence with EN 107.*

Prerequisites: Admission to MUW, and a reading Act score of 25 **or** department approval

CU: 1

Length: 1 Semester

### EN 107 University American Literature II (Dual Enrollment Credit)

Students who take University American Literature II must have completed University American Literature I. This course is offered for dual credit for 3 semester hours of college credit for MUW EN 204 (Survey of American Literature II). The course is a survey of American literature from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. It also has a writing component that includes narrative, descriptive, expository, and critical essays, and a research paper. *It is recommended that students take this course in sequence with EN 106.*

Prerequisites: University American Literature I

CU: 1

Length: 1 Semester

### **EN 235 Southern Writers I**

This one-semester course will explore the place of the American South in the literary world through short stories, memoirs and other nonfiction texts, poetry, novels, and plays from the Antebellum period to the 1950s, with special attention paid to the historical and cultural contexts in which the works arise. This course will include works by writers such as Harriet Jacobs, Zora Neale Hurston, William Faulkner, and Tennessee Williams. Students will also interrogate definitions of Southernness in and through works of criticism, placing themselves in academic conversation with scholars of Southern arts and culture. The course will be reading and discussion-based, but students will also write literary analysis essays including the senior research paper. This course, when paired with Southern Writers II, satisfies the MSMS requirement for junior English CU.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### **EN 236 Southern Writers II**

This one-semester course will explore the place of the American South in the literary world beginning with the 1950s and 1960s to the present day. Students will read short stories, memoirs and other nonfiction texts, poetry, novels, and plays, with special attention paid to the historical and cultural contexts in which the works arise. This course will include works by writers such as Alice Walker, Flannery O'Connor, Kiese Laymon, and Jesmyn Ward. Students will also interrogate definitions of Southernness in and through works of criticism, placing themselves in academic conversation with scholars of Southern arts and culture. The course will be reading and discussion-based, but students will also write literary analysis essays and an original creative work. This course, when paired with Southern Writers I, satisfies the MSMS requirement for junior English CU.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### **EN 140 American Poetry**

This one-semester course surveys American poets and poetic movements beginning in the nineteenth century, when English poetry written in North America truly became American poetry. Students will learn techniques for careful attention to and pleasure in poetic traditions beginning with Schoolcraft, Longfellow, and Poe and proceeding to our contemporary moment. Offered during alternating fall semesters.

Prerequisite: None  
Credit: ½  
Length: 1 semester (Fall only)

### **EN 146 Contemporary Literature**

This course teaches critical reading/critical writing skills through the examination of contemporary literature. Students are expected to complete outside reading, and to respond to the literature through analytical essays, timed examinations, and class discussions. Most of the works considered in the course will have been published within the last five years or by authors who are still living. Analysis of the texts will focus on craft and structure, and arguments and themes. Topics will range from coming of age to social justice. Offered during alternating spring semesters.

Prerequisites: None  
CU: ½ (elective)  
Length: 1 semester (Spring only)

### **EN 202 University English Literature I (Dual Enrollment Credit)**

Students who take University English Literature must have a 25 Reading score on the ACT, have passed the University American Literature sequence, or have department approval. The course offers senior students an opportunity to receive dual credit in English from MSMS (English IV requirement) and from Mississippi University for Women (three hours for MUW EN 201, Survey of Early English Literature. The course is a study in chronological order of selected works representative of different periods of English literature from Beowulf through the mid-18th century. Emphasis is given to the historical, intellectual, and social contexts which produced the literature and on the resulting intertext of literature and society. The course includes collateral readings. Students will write a variety of compositions, including critical essays and/or a research paper. *It is recommended that students take this course in sequence with EN 203.*

Prerequisites: Senior standing, admission to MUW, Reading ACT score of 25, completion of EN 106/07, or department approval  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 semester

### **EN 203 University English Literature II (Dual Enrollment Credit)**

Students who take University English Literature II must have completed University English Literature I, have a Reading ACT score of 25 **or** department approval. The course offers senior students an opportunity to receive dual credit in English from MSMS (English IV requirement) and from Mississippi University for Women three hours for MUW EN 202, Survey of Late English Literature). The course is a study in chronological order of selected works representative of different periods of English literature from mid 18<sup>th</sup> century through the modern period. Emphasis is given to the historical, intellectual, and social contexts which produced the literature and on the resulting intertext of literature and society. The course includes collateral readings. Students will write a variety of compositions, including critical essays and/or a research paper. *It is recommended that students take this course in sequence with EN 202.*

Prerequisites: Senior standing, admission to MUW, Reading ACT score of 25, completion of EN 202, or department approval  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 semester

### **EN 216 World Literature**

World Literature I explores, in English translation, major ancient and medieval writers from Europe, the Americas, Africa, the subcontinent of India, China, and Japan, and from a variety of historical periods and literary movements. Readings will include major genres of literature: poetry, short story, novel, drama, and essay. The course will be reading- and discussion-based, but students will also write literary analysis essays and make presentations to the class. This course, when paired with World Literature II, satisfies the MSMS requirement for senior English CU.

Prerequisite: Senior standing  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### **EN 217 World Literature II**

World Literature II explores, in English translation, major writers of the modern (broadly conceived) and contemporary eras from Europe, the Americas, Africa, the subcontinent of India, China, and Japan, and from a variety of historical periods and literary movements. Readings will include major genres of literature: poetry, short story, novel, drama, and essay. The course will be reading- and discussion-based, but students will also write literary analysis essays and make presentations to the class. This course, when paired with World Literature I, satisfies the MSMS requirement for senior English CU.

Prerequisite: Senior standing  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

## **English Electives**

### **EN 152 Journalism I**

In Journalism I, students both produce the school newspaper (*The Vision*) and study the elements of journalism. Students are introduced to the basic elements of composition, layout, and editing. Students will be expected to become proficient in writing news, features, sports, reviews, and opinions; using the digital camera or video camera; and retouching pictures using Photoshop and laying out a print issue in InDesign.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 year

### **EN 155 Journalism II**

In Journalism II, students will continue their study of journalism. Issues of leadership such as editorship are the focus of this curriculum. Students will learn and use the SNO's WordPress software to lay out the newspaper; manage files and articles from Journalism I students; conduct editorial board meetings; make decisions about the content and format of *The Vision*, the school newspaper; edit articles and evaluate them for inclusion in the paper; and learn about web site and social media management.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 year

### **EN 240 Creative Writing I**

Students will practice techniques of poetry and short fiction composition as well as write creative non-fiction pieces. Part of the course requirement is to write for, design, and lay out a literary magazine for both print and electronic publication. Students will prepare manuscripts for local, state, regional, and national competitions. The course will last for ninety minutes each week for the entire year. Juniors or Seniors may enroll in this course.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½ (elective)  
Length: 1 year (meets one day per week)

### **EN 245 Creative Writing II**

Students in Creative Writing II will continue to develop and practice composition techniques for writing poetry, short stories, and descriptive/narrative essays which exhibit mature elements of style: “lucidity, elegance, and individuality.” Students will pursue individualized writing projects in the genres they select. Students will also write for, design, and lay out a literary magazine for both print and electronic publication. Students will prepare manuscripts for local, state, regional, and national competitions. The course will last for ninety minutes each week for the entire year. Juniors or seniors may enroll in this course if they have earned CU in Creative Writing I.

Prerequisites: Creative Writing I and Recommendation of Instructor  
CU: ½ (elective)  
Length: 1 year (meets one day per week)

### **EN 255/EN256 Speech and Debate I and II**

The course will introduce and expand the student’s ability to give presentations and argue for and against positions. The student will give many presentations throughout the year, both in the classroom and at competitive events. The student will learn how to organize a speech, adjust to the audience, research evidence, respond to critique, and how to be persuasive and memorable.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½(elective)  
Length: 1 year

### **EN 250 Special Topics in English**

This elective course is based on student interest and may be offered on a one-time or a rotating basis. It may concentrate on a specific topic.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½ (elective)  
Length: 1 semester

---

## Fine and Performing Arts

The department of Fine and Performing Arts exists to provide aesthetic stimulation so necessary to human existence. Students are given the opportunity to excel within the contexts of artistic expression and public performance. All courses are one semester for ½ CU. Performing ensembles can elect to receive PE credit in lieu of Arts credit if needed.

### Guidelines for Required Fine Arts Courses

MSMS requires students to complete **one CU** of fine arts during grades 9-12. Courses such as chorus, band or art taken during the 9<sup>th</sup> and/or 10<sup>th</sup> grades will meet this requirement. If you have never had one of these courses, MSMS has a broad selection from which you may choose. Only one CU of fine arts taken at MSMS may be applied toward the required 13 MSMS CUs.

### Objectives

After participation in the existing courses, the student will be able:

- To recognize distinctive styles and genres of music;
- To define a body of musical terms and utilize them in performance;
- To apply knowledge to different performing situations;
- To work within an ensemble situation;
- To understand the cooperation needed to attain a common goal;
- To exhibit inner discipline in a rehearsal setting, applicable to other academic pursuits;
- To gain an understanding of aesthetic expression;
- To gain self-confidence through public performance and art exhibits;
- To use, understand, and appreciate various art mediums;
- To develop and explore artistic talents;
- To develop an individual artistic style using various mediums;
- To use and appreciate the elements and principles of design;
- To appreciate all forms of art for their aesthetic value.

### FA 521 Drawing I

This course is an introduction to drawing. The course is designed to focus on developing observational skills and drawing techniques. Students will employ a wide range of drawing media and subject matter.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### **FA 522 Drawing II**

Drawing II is a studio course with hands-on learning. The course objective is to further the study of dry media at an advanced level of training. The course will introduce students to color mediums.

Prerequisite: Drawing I  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### **FA 523 Painting I**

Painting I is a studio course with hands-on learning. This course contains an introduction to basic painting techniques using the mediums of watercolor, Acrylic, and fabric paint. All projects include the study of the elements and principles of design. The color wheel and various color schemes will be explored and used to create all works of art.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### **FA 524 Painting II**

Painting II is a studio course with hands-on learning. This course is a continuation of study in painting techniques using acrylic paint. Students will begin to analyze their own unique styles. The final project will be tailored to the student's strengths and preferences as a new artist.

Prerequisite: Painting I  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### **FA 525 Sculpture I**

Sculpture I is a studio course with hands-on learning. This is a course in the applied principles and practices in sculpture and constructive design. The student will learn the art of carving, modeling, and casting using a wide variety of materials, such as soap, wire, clay, and plaster of Paris. Students will meet the challenges of working with three dimensions instead of only two.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester



### FA 526 Sculpture II

Sculpture II is a studio course with hands-on learning. This course continues the study of three-dimensional art, its design, and construction. The materials used will be clay with an emphasis on the modeling of a human face. Learning to create pottery on the potter's wheel along with learning how to create Pop Art will conclude the course. This course encourages practice using your imagination to think creatively.

Prerequisite: Sculpture I

CU: ½

Length: 1 semester

### FA 710 Photography I

Photography I is a studio course that will be an introduction to the techniques, fundamentals, and aesthetics of color digital photography. Students will become familiar with the characteristics of the digital camera and lens, metering, and exposure techniques; digital image capture/editing in Photoshop CS Cloud and Adobe Camera Raw; as well as production of quality imagery via the inkjet printing process.

Students will explore various subject matter and conceptual themes with a goal of displaying work that demonstrates proper camera operation.

Prerequisite: None

CU: ½

Length: 1 semester

### FA 711 Photography II

Photography II is a studio course built upon the foundation of photographic seeing and the advanced uses of digital techniques. The primary focus of this course is the development of a personal photographic vision through the utilization of photographic aesthetics and employment of an improved sense of technical craft.

Prerequisite: None

CU: ½

Length: 1 semester

### FA 534 Art Appreciation

An Introduction course that will introduce students to the visual arts. Students will learn the variety of art mediums and techniques, as well as the principles of design. Students will also study the history of art and architecture and their cultural importance. Students will develop and explore their personal aesthetics through lectures, art projects, written assignments, and gallery visits.

Prerequisite: None

CU: 1

Length: 1 semester

### FA 531 Dramatic Performance

This course is designed to explore the theatrical process as an art form. Students will concentrate on designing, creating, and performing original and published works.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### 903063/MUS 1113 Dual Credit: MUSIC APPRECIATION

This dual credit Music Appreciation course offers students a comprehensive exploration of music's rich history and diverse genres. The course covers the evolution of musical styles, and the cultural contexts that have shaped music throughout the ages. Students will engage with a variety of musical works, from classical to contemporary, and develop critical listening skills to enhance their appreciation and understanding of music. Through lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities, students will gain insights into the lives and works of significant composers and performers, as well as the social and historical influences on music. This course aims to foster a lifelong appreciation for music and its role in human expression and society.

Prerequisite: Previous theatre or musical coursework  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 semester

### FA 510 Instrumental Performance

This course is for those students playing string, electronic, brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. A broad style of music will be explored, and small ensembles may be used from within the group. The class will give at least two performances per semester to allow students to experience the creative process that is necessary to perform in a truly collective art.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### 500926: Contemporary Ensemble

This course, which meets both semesters, is an exploration into production and creation of contemporary music. Open to vocalists, guitarists, keyboardists, percussionists, and more, students will explore a range of contemporary musical genres, including pop, rock, jazz, country, blues, reggae, and hip-hop. Participants will delve into songwriting and composition, sound systems, enhancing their abilities in music reading (both notation and tablature), collaboration, and live performance.

Prerequisites: Previous experience playing/singing. This course is not for beginners.  
CU: ½ (may be repeated)  
Length: 1 semester

### FA 512 Beginning Piano Study

This course is for beginning piano students. Through piano studies students will study the fundamentals of music theory. Various musical styles, melodic playing, choral accompaniment, solo and ensemble playing will be studied throughout the course. Class size is limited to 10 per semester. Students will play on keyboards in the piano studio. No prior knowledge of the piano is needed.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### FA 516 Guitar Studies

This course is for beginning guitar students and experienced guitarists including bass guitar. Through guitar studies students will study the fundamentals of music theory. Various musical styles, melodic playing, choral accompaniment, solo and ensemble playing will be studied throughout the course. Class size is limited to 10 per semester. Students are required to provide their own guitar. No prior knowledge of the guitar is needed.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### FA 565 Special Topics in Music

This course is based on individual student interest and may be offered on a rotating basis.

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

---

## World Language

All MSMS graduates must successfully complete two years of high school World language study, with both CUs being in the same language. Those who choose to complete the requirement at MSMS can select from courses in five languages: French, German, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. World language courses offer a strong background in listening, reading, writing, and speaking of the language studied as well as understanding and appreciating the culture of the countries where the language is or was spoken. The study of a world language will enhance the success of college-bound students in university World language courses as well as lay the framework for improved language ability when traveling outside the U.S.

### Guidelines for World Language Required Courses

Students who have never earned a CU in a World Language course before entering MSMS must earn two World Language CUs in the same language during their junior and senior years.

**Most out-of-state universities require that the two CUs of World language be in the same language. (Example: Spanish I and II) In order for a student to enroll in two different languages concurrently approval must be obtained from the teachers of the courses and the Director for Academic Affairs.**

### Objectives

Within the study of World languages, the student will be equipped to:

- Listen, read, write and speak at least one language other than English at least at a Novice High proficiency level;
- Understand and be able to explain the differences between their own culture and that of others;
- To have a heightened awareness and comprehension of their own native tongue, especially of grammar; and
- To realize the importance of the study of language and culture as they relate to their country's needs in commerce, diplomacy, defense, and education.

## French

### FL 801 French I

This course introduces the student to the language and culture of the French speaking world. The language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be developed in simple French. Students will learn to communicate in situations involving greetings, describing people and relationships, school, basic purchasing and asking for help, and leisure activities. Students will learn to speak using present tense, past tense, and the near future.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 year

### FL 802 French II

This course continues the study of the basic structures of both the oral and written French language. It includes a continuing review of the essential elements learned in French I, while introducing additional topics and time frames.

Prerequisite: French I  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 year

## Spanish

### FL 811 Spanish I

In Spanish I students learn the basics of Spanish grammar and begin their acquaintance with the history, geography, and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Lessons and activities focus on developing initial skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in simple situations involving friends, family, school, and leisure.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 year

### FL 812 Spanish II

Spanish II builds on skills acquired in Spanish I by adding new vocabulary, verb tenses and pronoun groups. Through exercises including situational dialogues and games of grammar, students expand their repertoire to communicate in scenarios such as traveling, seeking medical help, and shopping for clothes or food.

Prerequisite: Spanish I  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 year

**Additional years of a World Language may be taken with permission of the Director for Academic Affairs and the Language faculty as dual enrollment with MUW. These hours will not count as the MSMS 13 required CUs. Students will work with their academic counselor to ensure these courses are offered and will fit into the existing student schedule. The cost of the textbook will be the responsibility of the student.**

## Latin

### FL 821 Latin I

In this introductory course, students will acquire a basic Latin vocabulary and understanding of Latin grammar that will expand their English vocabulary, particularly in terms used in science, law, and SAT/ACT preparation and improve students' understanding of English grammar and writing ability. There will also be discussions of Roman culture and mythology, including individual projects where students are free to explore topics of interest.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 year

### FL 822 Latin II

Latin II students will continue with grammar and vocabulary, leading to a solid basis of knowledge in the language and translation of some basic original texts in Latin. Emphasis the second semester will be on the Latin roots of English words in math, science, and government. Students will also learn about Roman culture and history, its famous people, and accomplishments.

Prerequisite: Latin I

CU: 1

Length: 1 year

## German

### FL 831 German I

This course introduces the student to the language and culture of German-speaking world. All the languages skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be developed in simple German. Students will learn to communicate in situations involving greetings, describing people and relationships, school, basic purchasing and asking for help, and leisure activities. Students will learn to speak using present tense and past tense.

Prerequisite: None

CU: 1

Length: 1 year

### FL 832 German II

This course continues the study of the basic structures of both the oral and written German language. It includes a continuing review of the essential elements learned in German I, while introducing additional verb tenses, pronoun groups, and elements of the case structure. An emphasis is placed on understanding both written and spoken German.

Prerequisite: German I

CU: 1

Length: 1 year

## Russian

### [FL 845 Russian I](#)

This course introduces students to the Russian language and the history, geography, and culture of the Slavic world. All language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—will be developed to enable the student to communicate at a basic level in situations involving family, friends, and school. Authentic informational and fictional materials are part of the learning experience, as are instructional games and Russian songs.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 year

### [FL 846 Russian II](#)

This course continues the study of the basic structures of both oral and written Russian. It includes a continuing review of the essential elements learned in Russian I, while introducing new vocabulary, additional elements of the case structure and additional verb forms. All language skills -- listening, speaking, reading, and writing—will be developed to allow students to expand their ability to communicate in contexts such as dining, shopping, and describing hobbies, pastimes and travel. Games, songs, informational texts and fictional texts will be used in instruction.

Prerequisite: Russian I  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 year

### [FL 847 Advanced Russian Seminar](#)

This is a year-long elective course for Russian 2 students that concentrates on reading and conversation concerning a variety of real-life contexts, from making phone calls, to describing the daily routine, to handling a doctor visit. The instructor uses small-group intensive language pedagogy pioneered by teachers in Russia to teach foreigners. Materials used include authentic pieces of realia as well as resources published in Russia for foreign students at universities there. All assessments are performance-based. Instructor permission is required to enter the course, which is taken concurrently with Russian 2 and amplifies and extends the content of Russian 2.

Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 year

## Japanese

### FL 848 Japanese I

This course introduces students to the Japanese language and its history, geography, and ancient culture. This course will cover all language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The purpose of this course is to enable the students to communicate at a basic level in daily life situations involving friends, family, school, and leisure. Students will learn the writing systems of Hiragana and Katakana and begin to learn introductory Kanji characters to read basic texts. The students will also learn through the use of traditional games, materials and artifacts.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 year

### FL 849 Japanese II

This course builds on skills acquired in Japanese I by adding new vocabulary, verb tenses, pronouns, adjectives, and Kanji characters for Japanese II level. The purpose of this course is to enable students to improve their knowledge in Japanese language through exercises including situational dialogues, games, and literature in order to expand the students' communication skills in scenarios such as traveling, working, and shopping for clothes or food.

Prerequisite: Japanese I  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 year



---

## Interdisciplinary Courses

The world today is composed of interrelated social, biological, physical, and technological systems that are inherently complex. One of the objectives is to provide students with an avenue to explore connections between seemingly divergent topics. The interdisciplinary courses described below are designed to give students a foundation for developing skills that will allow them to become effective problem solvers.

### ID 145 Introduction to American Film

This course is a study of the development of cinematic techniques and ideals in twentieth-century America. Successful students will complete outside readings, will respond to the literature through critical essays and timed examinations, and will participate in class. (Please note that this course is an elective.)

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½(elective)  
Length: 1 semester

### ID 161 Introduction to Philosophy

Students will read about, discuss, and practice answering some of life's most basic questions: How do we know what we know? What is a mind? What is real? What ought we to do (and not do)? What is beautiful? What is art, and what is it for? What is science, and what is it for?

Along the way, we'll learn some intellectual history--mostly western, some not. We'll read selections from Plato, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Bertrand Russell, Vasubandhu, Martha Nussbaum, Michele Moody-Adams, and more. We'll acquire and practice using some tools for thinking more clearly, systematically, and deeply, whether in academic courses, in legal settings, in the lab, or in everyday life. This course will be offered during even-numbered years.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½ (elective)  
Length: 1 semester

### ID110 Linguistics Morphology and Grammar

The global advent of generative text model AI and the increasingly connected internet world have highlighted the human need for communication and linguistics studies. This course aims to fill that niche by providing students an introductory overview of the science of linguistics. Students will learn how language is constructed through morphology and syntax, all while getting hands on experience at ciphering. This course involves the study of world languages—their roots and derivations, structure and sentence patterns, dialects, writing and spelling systems, and uses as a communication tool.

Prerequisite: any world language course or permission of the instructor  
CU: ½ (elective CU)  
Length: 1 semester

### ID187 Strength, Agility, and Conditioning

This course is designed with the intent of improving students' health through guided workouts, plyometrics, and walking. Students who successfully complete this course will articulate practices beneficial to health, increase cardiovascular endurance, improve muscle tone, and develop strategies for implementing wellness practices into their daily routines. This class will satisfy state PE requirements.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

---

## Mathematics

### **Introduction**

The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science mathematics curriculum emphasizes exploration, investigation, reasoning, and communication for all students. All students will graduate prepared to use math to develop and answer questions in formal and informal research settings. Our students study math as a tool for understanding our world and for the joy it brings.

To this end, the mathematics department incorporates the Standards for Mathematical Practice in all courses. These are:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

### **Guidelines for Mathematics Required Courses**

All students must have earned CUs of Algebra I and Geometry, or their equivalent, before entering MSMS. If a student does not have a CU for Geometry, the student must take a Geometry course either by correspondence, virtual school, or summer school offerings. This CU must be earned before the beginning of junior year. A course in (foundational) Geometry will not be taught at MSMS.

### **Minimum Requirements for Graduation**

Foundations (0.5) or departmental approval for accelerated study (based on home school course work, placement score, and ACT Math score); one semester of calculus (0.5); and one semester of statistics or equivalent (0.5). Students must complete a minimum of 2.0 CUs in mathematics. The calculus sequence (Foundations, Differential Calculus/Calculus I, higher calculus courses in sequence) should be taken in consecutive semesters.

## Calculus Sequence Options

All juniors will enroll in Foundations for Higher Mathematics during the fall semester of their junior year unless they are given permission to advance directly to Calculus based on their home school coursework and grades, placement test, and ACT score. After Foundations, the following Calculus sequence options are available:

Spring of Junior Year (required)	Fall of Senior Year	Spring of Senior Year
Differential/U Cal I	Integral/U Cal 2	Calculus III
Accelerated Cal I-III Semester 1	Accelerated Cal I-III Semester 2	Multi-Variable Calculus

### **MA 235 Foundations for Higher Mathematics**

This course will emphasize polynomial, rational, exponential/logarithmic functions and their applications as well as circular functions and their graphs, right triangle trigonometry, identities, and equations. Students will leave the course prepared for Calculus I. This course is five days per week to allow time for investigation, problem solving, and practice.

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry

CU: 1

Length: 1 Semester

### **MA 242 Differential Calculus or MA 244 – University Calculus I**

Calculus I is differential calculus, including limits, continuity, derivatives of algebraic and transcendental functions, and applications of derivatives. Differential/University Calculus I followed by Integral/University Calculus II is equivalent to AP Calculus AB. If students then take Calculus III, they will be prepared for the AP Calculus BC exam. University credit will be given through the Mississippi University for Women.

Prerequisite: Foundations or department approval; to qualify for University Calculus I students must earn a grade of 85 or higher in Foundations and on the final exam.

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$  for Differential Calculus, 1 for University Calculus I

Length: 1 Semester

### **MA 246 Integral Calculus or MA 248 – University Calculus II**

Calculus II is integral calculus, including Riemann sums, applications of integrals and techniques of integration. Differential/University Calculus I followed by Integral/University Calculus II is equivalent to AP Calculus AB. If students then take Calculus III, they will be prepared for the AP Calculus BC exam. University credit will be given through the Mississippi University for Women.

Prerequisite: Differential Calculus or University Calculus I; to qualify for University Calculus I students must earn a grade 85 or higher in Differential Calculus/University Calculus I and on the final exam

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$  for Integral Calculus, 1 for University Calculus II

Length: 1 Semester

### **MA 267 Honors Calculus III**

Calculus III extends the techniques of differential and integral calculus to the study of polar and parametric equations, along with vector-valued functions of several independent variables. There is thorough coverage of infinite series, including Taylor Series. Differential/University Calculus I followed by Integral/University Calculus II is equivalent to AP Calculus AB. If students then take Calculus III, they will be prepared for the AP Calculus BC exam.

Prerequisite: Integral Calculus/University Calculus II or equivalent

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 Semester

### **MA 240 Compacted Calculus I-III Semester 1**

Accelerated Calculus Semester 1 is differential calculus, including limits, continuity, derivatives of algebraic and transcendental functions, and applications of derivatives. Students are introduced to integral calculus including Riemann sums and techniques of integration. This course includes a lab period and moves faster than a traditional Calculus I course. Students should take Accelerated Calculus Semester 1 and Accelerated Calculus Semester 2 if they plan to take the AP Calculus BC Exam.

Prerequisite: Foundations or department approval

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 Semester

### **MA 243 Compacted Calculus I-III Semester 2**

Accelerated Calculus Semester 2 is integral calculus including applications of integrals and techniques of integration. In addition, this course extends the techniques of differential and integral calculus to the study of polar and parametric equations, along with vector-valued functions of several independent variables. There is thorough coverage of infinite series, including Taylor Series. This course includes a lab period and moves faster than a traditional Calculus II course. Students should take Accelerated Calculus Semester 1 and Accelerated Calculus Semester 2 if they plan to take the AP Calculus BC Exam.

Prerequisite: Accelerated Calculus Semester 1

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 Semester

### **MA 249 Multivariable Calculus (Spring Only)**

This course extends the techniques of calculus to functions of several variables and is comparable to Calculus IV. Major topics include limits, continuity, partial differentiation, multiple integration, and vector calculus.

Prerequisite: AP Calculus III or Accelerated Calculus Semester 2

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 Semester

### **MA 254 Differential Equations (Spring Only)**

This course will provide an investigation of differential equations through analytical techniques and numerical methods. Applications will be stressed throughout so that the interrelationship of pure mathematics, modeling and the physical sciences may be developed. Major topics include first- and second-order differential equations, as well as systems of differential equations.

Co-requisite: AP Calculus III or Accelerated Calculus Semester 2

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 Semester

## **Statistics Options**

### **MA 273 Introduction to Statistics**

This course is a study of descriptive statistics, probability concepts, normal distributions, regression models, design of experiments, and an introduction to inferential statistics. Use of technology will be integrated throughout the course. This course is designed as preparation for the AP Statistics Exam and is meant to precede Statistics II. Both Statistics I and Statistics II are required to prepare for the AP Statistics exam.

Prerequisite: None

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 Semester

### **MA 274 Statistics II**

A study of confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, statistical inference, regression analysis, and analysis of variance, this course uses in-depth investigations with descriptive and inferential statistics. Use of technology will be integrated throughout the course. Students will complete a final project in which they design a study, collect, and analyze data, and present a summary of their findings. Both Statistics I and Statistics II are required to prepare for the AP Statistics exam. This course has a lab day.

Prerequisite: None

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 Semester

## **Mathematics Electives**

### **MA 230 Advanced Topics in Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus (Fall only)**

This course covers advanced topics in Trigonometry including polar functions and their graphs, vectors, parametric equations, and solving oblique triangles. In addition, students will explore sequences, series, combinatorics, and probability. This course will provide additional foundational coursework for students interested in completing the Calculus sequence or looking to improve their understanding of math for the ACT/SAT.

Prerequisite: Foundations or department approval

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 Semester

### **MA 280 Discrete Mathematics (Spring only)**

Discrete Mathematics serves as an introduction to the mathematical foundations of advanced mathematics outside of Calculus, with a focus on logic, set theory, relations, functions, and proof techniques. Students will be exposed to formal proof writing, as well as the language and methods used by mathematicians. Applications will be selected by the instructor, but may include concepts from geometry, number theory, graph theory, combinatorics, coding theory, topology, abstract algebra, and theoretical computer science. Because technical writing is developed throughout the course, it is highly recommended for students interested in pursuing mathematics in college.

Prerequisite: Foundation of Higher Math or instructor approval

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 Semester

### **MA 266 Linear Algebra (Fall Only)**

This course is a study of systems of linear equations, matrices, determinants, vector spaces, linear transformations, inner product spaces, eigenvalues, eigenvectors, diagonalization, orthogonality and the QR and singular value decompositions. Applications may include least-squares, Markov chains, systems of linear differential equations and topics in numerical linear algebra.

Prerequisite: Calculus I and department approval

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 Semester

### **MA 290 Special Topics in Mathematics**

Independent study includes examination and discussion of mathematical topics outside the standard curriculum. This is for advanced students or students with special needs. This course can count toward the MSMS 13 requirement for students who have completed the majority of the MSMS mathematics curriculum and received department permission. This course may also be used for Math and Science Outreach involvement.

Prerequisite: Instructor approval and permission from the Director for Academic Affairs

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$  (elective CU beyond required 13.0)

Length: 1 Semester

---

## Science

The purpose of the science department of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science is to give students a broad overview of the sciences and to make them scientifically literate in each of the major subject areas: biology, chemistry, and physics. Emphasis is placed on proficiency in basic concepts and laboratory skills through course lectures and discussions, laboratory investigations, field trips, tours, special projects, guest lecturers, and direct involvement with researchers at the college level. Students are given the opportunity to pursue their interests through elective courses and independent research.

### Guidelines for Required Science Courses

In general, students complete two CUs of science during the junior year and the third CU of science and one-half swing CU during the senior year (or some variation of this sequence). The objective is to achieve a balance throughout your two years at MSMS.

All students are required to earn a minimum of three CUs in science by successfully completing one CU each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics **at MSMS**.

**Biology** - Course selection may be determined by student interest and career plans. All students will take Cell Biology, University General Biology, or AP® Biology which are prerequisites for all other biology courses. Students coming to MSMS having scored a 4 or 5 on the AP Biology exam must still complete one full year of Biology, but do not have to take the prerequisite courses above.

**Chemistry** – Students who have not completed a year of chemistry at their home school should enroll in SC369 Advanced Chemistry I (fall) and SC370 Advanced Chemistry II (spring). Students who have completed a year of chemistry at their home school may enroll in either SC358 University General Chemistry I (fall) and SC359 University General Chemistry II (spring) OR SC355 AP® Chemistry, depending on ACT score and/or placement tests. Students who completed AP® Chemistry prior to MSMS and earned a passing score ( $\geq 3$ ) on the AP® Chemistry examination should plan to enroll in SC357 Organic Chemistry and SC364 Analytical Chemistry during their senior year. Students who completed AP® Chemistry prior to MSMS and earned a score of  $\leq 2$  on the AP exam should enroll in SC358 University General Chemistry I (fall) and SC359 University General Chemistry II (spring).

**Physics** - All students must successfully complete SC331 Mechanics and SC332 Waves and Electricity or SC 337 AP Physics-C Mechanics and SC 338 AP Physics C E&M before graduation. Students who wish to experience the most rigorous first-year physics program offered at MSMS should enroll in AP-C Mechanics (SC337) in the first semester of physics studies and AP-C E&M concurrently with Fluids, Thermo and Optics in the second semester (SC 338 and SC 434).

### Objectives

- To prepare the student for success in college, specifically in the sciences.
- To encourage the student in the application of scientific principles to problem solving and to train the student in critical thinking skills employing scientific standards of evidence.
- To prepare the student to read and comprehend scientific literature.
- To encourage a life of scientific literacy and prepare the student to make intelligent civic choices concerning scientific issues.



# Biology

## Requirements for Graduation

All students are required to successfully complete two semesters of biology for 1 - 2 - Carnegie Units. These sequences all begin with University General Biology in the first Semester. During that first Semester, Students can choose to take an AP supplemental course to start preparing for the AP Biology Exam, and complete that sequence by taking AP Biology the Second Semester. The second semester for students choosing not to pursue taking the AP Biology Exam, can choose to any other course that has the prerequisite of University General Biology I.

## Guidelines for Required Biology Courses

Course selection may be determined by student interest and career plans. As of 2024, all students will be required to complete University General Biology I before taking other courses in biology. Students interested in AP® credit will meet during extra sessions during the year to prepare them for the

AP® Biology Exam. All biology courses are laboratory based and meet four or five days per week. AP courses may meet five days per week.

## SC 310 AP Biology

Advanced Placement Biology is an intensive semester-long course designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to achieve a high score on the College Board's AP Biology Exam. AP Biology has at its core four central themes: Evolution, Cellular Processes: Energy and Communication, Genetics and Information Transfer, and Interactions. A minimum of 6 inquiry- based labs supplement and enhance the course material. Students should expect to spend at least 1.5 hours studying every hour in lecture. This is typically a course for juniors. Seniors would need the permission of a faculty member to enroll.

Pre/Corequisite:

CU: 1 (biology)

Length: 1 year

## SC 326 University General Biology I and Lab (dual enrollment course)

University General Biology I explores fundamentals of biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, and evolution. Concepts include important organic molecules, cell structure and function, metabolism and enzyme activity, cellular respiration and photosynthesis, DNA structure, meiosis and mitosis, Mendelian genetics, and molecular evolution.

Prerequisite: None

CU: 1

Length: 1 semester

### SC 327 University General Biology II and Lab (dual enrollment course)

University General Biology II covers fundamentals of biodiversity, the structure and function of organisms, and ecology. Concepts include molecular phylogeny, diversity of life, principles of plant and animal forms and reproduction, and ecological relationships at the population, ecosystem, and global levels.

Prerequisite: University General Biology I  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 semester course; taught in the Spring semester

### SC 313 Microbiology

Microbiology is the study of microorganisms; this class focuses predominantly on bacteria emphasizing central themes of cellular biology and the scientific method. This course is a laboratory-based course (lectures are integrated with labs) in which the students learn the fundamental techniques of the discipline. In the latter part of the semester, the students are required to do an intensive independent project of their design that applies the techniques they have learned.

Prerequisite: University General Biology I  
Credit: ½ (biology)  
Length: 1 semester; taught in the Spring semester

### SC 315 Plant Physiology

Plant physiology surveys various physiological processes in plants (primarily angiosperms). Topics include photosynthesis, plant metabolism, plant cell/water relationships, regulation of plant growth, and reproductive strategies.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: 1/2 (biology)  
Length: 1 semester; taught in the fall semester

### University Anatomy and Physiology I (dual enrollment course)

A combined lecture and laboratory course that covers the anatomical and physiological study of the human body as an integrated whole. The course includes detailed studies of: biological principles; tissues; and the integumentary, skeletal, muscular and nervous systems. Labs associated with this course contain experiments and exercises that reinforce the principles introduced in lecture classes.

Prerequisites: None  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 semester

### University Anatomy and Physiology II (dual enrollment course)

A combined lecture and laboratory course that includes detailed studies of the anatomy and physiology of human special senses, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic and immune, respiratory, digestive, and urinary systems, as well as reproduction and development. Labs associated with this course contain experiments and exercises that reinforce the principles introduced in lecture classes.

Prerequisites: A&P I  
CU: 1  
Length: 1 semester

### SC 318 Genetics

Genetics covers the principles of heredity and the nature of genetic material. It is divided into three sections: Mendelian genetics, Molecular genetics, and Population genetics. This course is presented in the context of evolutionary biology. It also serves as an introduction to recombinant DNA technology and addresses the current social, legal, and ethical issues raised by these modern molecular techniques.

Prerequisite: 1 semester of University General Biology, **or** score of 4 or better on AP Exam  
CU: 1/2  
Length: 1 semester; taught in the Spring semester only

### SC 320 Ecology of Environmental Problems

This course examines environmental problems from an ecological perspective. Initially, the course considers the relationships between organisms and their environment; an introduction to the physiological bases for adaptations, population dynamics (both human and non-human), community organization; and the structure and function of ecosystems (including atmosphere, climate, and weather). Interdisciplinary methods of analysis will be used to explore natural systems while scrutinizing resource management strategies, pollution, economic factors (local and global), and the politics of environmental problems. Starting in Spring 2023, this course will be taught in conjunction with faculty at MSU. Focus will be placed on using *Mathematica* for the purpose of developing and evaluating mathematical models of key ecological and evolutionary processes.

Prerequisite: 1 semester of University General Biology, or score of 4 or better on AP Exam  
CU: 1/2  
Length: 1 semester

### SC 360 Introduction to Biochemistry (Seniors, Spring Only)

This is a senior-level course designed as an intensive survey of biological molecules -proteins, nucleic acids, lipids and carbohydrates and their interactions from a cellular level to an atomic description.

Prerequisite: SC 357 and department approval  
CU: 1/2  
Length: 1 semester

### SC 324 Special Topics in Biology

This course is designed to give students an opportunity for individualized learning in biology. The student will select faculty advisors and with their help, choose a particular biology problem of interest and pursue the problem.

Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor

CU: 1/2

Length: 1

## Chemistry

### Requirements for Graduation

All students are required to successfully complete one full year of chemistry for  $\geq 1$  Carnegie Unit (two semesters) at MSMS. Students will complete one of three options: the two-semester sequence of Advanced Chemistry I ( $\frac{1}{2}$  CU) and Advanced Chemistry II ( $\frac{1}{2}$  CU), the two-semester sequence of University General Chemistry I (1 CU) and University General Chemistry II (1 CU) or AP<sup>®</sup> Chemistry (1 CU) to fulfill the requirement. For students completing AP Chemistry and earning a passing score ( $\geq 3$ ) on the AP Chemistry exam prior to MSMS, successful completion of Organic Chemistry ( $\frac{1}{2}$  CU) and Analytical Chemistry ( $\frac{1}{2}$  CU) during the senior year will satisfy the 1 CU graduation requirement. For students completing AP Chemistry and earning a score  $\leq 2$ , successful completion of SC358 University General Chemistry I (fall) will satisfy the 1 CU graduation requirement.

### SC 369 Advanced Chemistry I

Advanced Chemistry I is an in-depth study of the skills and theoretical frameworks of chemistry. Measurement, atomic and molecular structure, stoichiometry, bonding, periodicity and the periodic table, and nomenclature will be studied with an emphasis on the mathematics of chemistry including dimensional analysis and problem solving.

Prerequisite: None

CU: 1/2 (chemistry)

Length: 1 semester

### SC 370 Advanced Chemistry II (Spring only)

Advanced Chemistry II studies the types of and laws governing the reactions of matter. Students will study solubility and precipitation, gases and gas laws, acids and bases, intermolecular forces, solution chemistry, and a brief introduction to chemical kinetics and thermodynamics.

Prerequisite: Adv Chemistry 1

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$  (chemistry)

Length: 1 semester

### SC 355 AP® Chemistry

This course provides an in-depth study of the principles of modern chemistry and should prepare the student for the AP® exam in chemistry. This course requires several hours of study time beyond that required in other courses as well as a laboratory assignment for each week.

Prerequisite: One year of Chemistry; Algebra II; appropriate score on the chemistry placement test **or** an ACT score of 25 or higher.

CU: 1 (chemistry)

Length: 1 year

### SC 358 University General Chemistry I and Lab

This course is designed to lay the groundwork for future study in chemistry by familiarizing the student with fundamentals of chemistry including naming of chemical species, stoichiometry, and atomic structure in addition to problem-solving. The lab experience will reinforce topics covered in class.

Prerequisite: ACT Score > 22 **or** department approval; enrollment in MA 221 or higher

CU: 1 (chemistry)

Length: 1 semester

### SC 359- University General Chemistry II and Lab

This course is a continuation of SC 358 and must be taken the same year as SC358. The course continues the exploration of chemistry fundamentals with kinetics, equilibrium, and acid-base chemistry among other topics. The lab experience will reinforce topics covered in class.

Prerequisite: SC358

CU: 1 (chemistry)

Length: 1 semester

### SC 357 Organic Chemistry (Seniors)

This course is a senior level course designed to be an introduction to the basic principles of organic chemistry. Topics to be covered include nomenclature, elementary reactions of functional groups, stereochemistry, and isomerism.

Prerequisite: SC 369/370 or SC 355 or SC358/359; and department approval

CU: ½ (chemistry)

Length: 1 semester

### SC 360 Introduction to Biochemistry (Seniors, Spring Only)

This is a senior-level course designed as an intensive survey of biological molecules-proteins, nucleic acids, lipids and carbohydrates and their interactions from a cellular level to an atomic description.

Prerequisite: SC 357 and department approval

CU: ½ (chemistry or biology)

Length: 1 semester

### SC 364 Analytical Chemistry (Seniors)

This course is designed to introduce the student to the methods used in the quantitative analysis of chemical compounds. This includes classical gravimetric and volumetric methods as well as modern methods such as spectrometry and chromatography. The course also includes a brief overview of statistical methods used in data analysis. The class is primarily lab-based but does include some out-of-class work.

Prerequisite: SC 369/370 or SC 355 or SC358/359; and department approval

CU: ½ (chemistry)

Length: 1 semester

### SC 325 Special Topics in Chemistry

This course is designed to give the student an opportunity to for individualized learning in chemistry. The student will select faculty advisors and with their help, choose a particular problem of interest in chemistry and pursue the problem.

Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor

CU: ½

Length: 1 semester (with option to repeat for another ½ CU)

## Physics

### Requirements for Graduation

All students are required to complete successfully one of the two combinations for 1 full Carnegie Unit:

SC331 Mechanics and SC332 Waves and Electricity OR

SC337 AP Physics-C Mechanics and SC 338 AP Physics C E&M

Students who wish to experience the most rigorous first year physics program offered at MSMS should enroll in AP-C Mechanics (SC337) in the first semester of their physics studies and AP-C E&M concurrently with Fluids, Thermo and Optics in the second semester (SC338 with SC 434).

### SC 331 Mechanics

Mechanics is an algebra and trigonometry-based course which provides a college level introduction to the principles of Newtonian mechanics. Successful completion of this course will provide the student with a solid foundation in the topics of kinematics, work, energy, momentum, and power. Critical thinking and reasoning skills are developed through inquiry-based laboratory experiences and an emphasis on conceptual understanding.

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 2 with a B or higher

CU: ½

Length: 1 semester

### SC 332 Waves and Electricity

Waves and Electricity is an algebra and trigonometry-based course which provides a college level introduction to rotation, vibration and wave motion, sound, and an introduction to the principles of classical electricity and DC circuits. Critical thinking and reasoning skills are developed through inquiry-based laboratory experiences.

Prerequisite: Mechanics

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 semester

### SC 334 Advanced Problems in Calculus-based Physics

This course will provide an immersion into advanced computational topics of 1<sup>st</sup> year calculus-based physics courses. The course is offered each Spring semester. The student must have completed AP-C Mechanics and must be enrolled into AP-C E&M (or have already completed it)

Prerequisite: AP-C: Mechanics

Corequisite: AP-C Electricity and Magnetism

Credit:  $\frac{1}{2}$  unit non- AP<sup>®</sup> credit

Length: 1 semester

### SC 434 Fluids, Thermodynamics, & Optics

This algebra and trigonometry-based course provides the student with an introduction to fluid mechanics, thermodynamic principles, geometrical optics, and simple optical instruments. Successful completion of this course will provide the student with a solid foundation in the topics of fluid statics and dynamics, thermodynamics, kinetic theory, PV diagrams and probability, light reflection, and refraction in optical instruments. Critical thinking and reasoning skills are developed through inquiry-based laboratory experiences.

NOTE: This course may be taken concurrently with Waves & Electricity or AP-C E&M (or after completing them).

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Waves & Electricity or AP-C E&M

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 semester

### SC 339 Modern Physics

This course provides the student with a solid foundation in the topics of special relativity and light waves, physical optics and radiometry, introductory atomic theory, introductory quantum theory, radioactivity and nuclear physics. Critical thinking and reasoning skills are developed through inquiry-based laboratory experiences. Some course topics will employ calculus, but most will not.

Prerequisite: Waves & Electricity or AP-C E&M

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 semester

### SC 337 AP<sup>®</sup> Physics C: Mechanics (Fall Only)

The course provides students with a calculus-based introduction to the principles of classical mechanics. Topics include kinematics, Newton's Laws, collisions and conservation laws, work and energy, rotational motion, statics, harmonic motion, universal gravitation, and other topics as well. Critical thinking and reasoning skills are developed through inquiry-based laboratory experiences.

Prerequisite: Trigonometry or equivalent  
Pre- or Corequisite: Calculus I or equivalent  
CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$   
Length: 1 semester

### SC 338 AP<sup>®</sup> Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism (Spring Only)

The course provides students with a calculus-based introduction to the principles of classical electricity and magnetism. Both differential and integral calculus concepts will be utilized throughout the course. The major laws of electromagnetic theory are developed, including Coulomb's Law, Gauss' Law, Ampere's Law, the Biot-Savart Law, and Faraday's Law, leading to Maxwell's Equations. Critical thinking and reasoning skills are developed through inquiry-based laboratory experiences.

Prerequisite: AP<sup>®</sup> Physics C: Mechanics  
Pre- or Corequisite: Calculus 2  
CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$   
Length: 1 semester

### SC 344 Descriptive Astronomy

The class will introduce the Earth & Moon system, the sky and seasons, the origin of the Solar System, comparative planetology in our Solar System, the varieties of stars and galaxies in the universe, and the life cycle of stars from their formation to destruction. The course will include small group projects. Some nighttime viewing may be required.

Pre or Co-requisite: None  
Credit:  $\frac{1}{2}$   
Length: 1 semester

### SC 345 Electronics

This course focuses on project-based learning and covers topics of both analog and digital electronics, including circuit design, circuit construction, measurement and circuit testing. A major part of the grade will be a final project.

Pre- or Corequisite: Calculus 1 or equivalent  
Credit:  $\frac{1}{2}$   
Length: 1 semester



### SC 346 Special Topics in Physics

This course is designed to give students an opportunity for individualized learning in physics. The students will select faculty advisors, and with their guidance, choose a particular physics topic of interest and pursue the topic.

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and Academic Director

CU:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Length: 1 semester

---

## Social Science

The capacity to reason reflectively and constructively concerning the problems of individuals and society will be the major goal of instruction in the social sciences. Sub-goals will include providing students with opportunities to acquire depth and precision of understanding in handling concepts and ideas rather than additions to the store of facts. In addition, social science courses will develop the ability to think abstractly, critically, and reflectively with social science data. The social science curriculum will also concern itself with respect for the facts, open-mindedness, and participation in group problem solving of social concerns.

### Requirements for Graduation

U.S. History is required of all students during their junior year unless they earned this Carnegie Unit (CU) in grades 9 or 10. Students who have not earned a full Carnegie Unit of World History prior to entering MSMS need to do so during the junior year unless enrolled in U.S. History. If a student requiring World History CU is enrolled in U.S. History junior year, it is recommended they take World History senior year. Additionally, students must earn a ½ Carnegie Unit in World Geography, Mississippi Studies, Economics, and American Government prior to graduation. There are a variety of ways to meet this requirement. **American Government is reserved for the senior year.**

### Objectives

Within the study of social sciences, students will be equipped:

- To explore the broad sweep of both ancient and contemporary ideas that have shaped our world;
- To analyze the fundamentals of how our economic system works and how our political system functions;
- To grasp the nuance between societies ranging from free to repressive;
- To demonstrate this understanding through informed and committed exercise of citizenship;
- To conduct research through primary source analysis and synthesize information into an original product.

### SS 603 United States History: Imperialism to New Frontier (Research focus: Tales from the Crypt)

This course surveys United States History from 1877 and fulfills the US History graduation requirement set by the Mississippi State Department of Education. This section includes the nationally celebrated, award-winning “Tales from the Crypt” research/performance project. Students conduct primary and secondary research on documents or individuals connected to Historic Friendship Cemetery. After completing a research paper, students develop dramatic vignettes performed during candlelight cemetery tours in the spring.

Prerequisite: None

CU: 1 (meets US History 1877-Present graduation requirement)

Length: 1 year

[SS 606 United States History: Imperialism to New Frontier \(Research focus: World War II\)](#)

This course surveys United States History from 1877 and fulfills the US History graduation requirement set by the Mississippi State Department of Education. During World War II, an estimated 4,187 men from the state of Mississippi gave their lives, but many of their stories are unknown. Students are tasked with uncovering and telling some of these stories. The Columbus Army Flying School (today Columbus Air Force Base) was established in 1941. A total of 7,766 students came to Columbus for pilot training, who were these men? What were their stories? Students will choose an individual to research resulting in a website dedicated to their Hero's memory honoring their sacrifice.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: 1 (meets US History 1877-Present graduation requirement)  
Length: 1 year

[SS 607 United States History: Imperialism to New Frontier \(Research focus: MoreStory Monuments Project\)](#)

This course surveys United States History from 1877 and fulfills the US History graduation requirement set by the Mississippi State Department of Education. This section includes the award-winning "MoreStory Monuments" research/presentation project in which students creatively explore history while attempting to uncover aspects of our local story which have not been included as part of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's memorialization of area history. Based upon primary and secondary research, student groups will develop presentations and text proposals for new state historic markers as well as documentary entries on CLIO (an educational website and mobile application that guides the public to thousands of historical and cultural sites throughout the United States).

Prerequisite: None  
CU: 1 (meets US History 1877-Present graduation requirement)  
Length: 1 Year

[SS 608 United States History: Imperialism to New Frontier \(Research focus: History through Film\)](#)

This course surveys United States History from 1877 and fulfills the US History graduation requirement set by the Mississippi State Department of Education. One way to learn about the past is to study movies with historical themes. In this course we will examine historical events by watching, discussing, and writing about movies. Movies can provide information about a historical figure, event, or time period; they can also distort the past. Part of the course will be discussion of how movies accurately and inaccurately portray history. Movies with a historical focus also tell us about the times in which they were produced.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: 1 (meets US History 1877-Present graduation requirement)  
Length: 1 year

### SS 605 University History of the United States II (dual enrollment course)

It is not necessary to take US History I to enroll in this course. University United States History II offers qualifying students an opportunity to receive dual CU in United States History from MSMS (the U.S. History requirement) and from Mississippi University for Women (His 110). This course surveys American History since Reconstruction. It explores the political, social, cultural, and economic forces at work in creating modern America. It also provides a project-based opportunity partnering with National History Day.

Prerequisite: Admission to MUW, Composite ACT of 20 OR permission of Director for Academic Affairs  
CU: 1 (meets US History 1877-Present graduation requirement); 3 MUW CU  
Length: 1 semester

### SS 610 United States History: 60's – Decade of Change

This course surveys United States History during the 1960's. Course topics include, but are not limited to Johnson's "Great Society," the Civil Rights Era – the Later Years; the Vietnam War – Intensification and Resolution; the Watergate Crisis. The course will include use of a textbook, lecture, outside readings, current event materials and research projects. This course does not fulfill the Mississippi State Department of Education U.S. History graduation requirement.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½ (elective)  
Length: 1 semester

### SS 612 World Geography

This course focuses on the study of world geography through current world problems. Students study the world's major regions and the United States' role in world affairs while exploring how culture influences the decisions of world leaders and how economics, geography, and history have influenced the political systems of the world. Students also explore the relationship among people, places, and environments; the concept of regional identities; the global competition for natural resources; and the modification of our physical environment. The course includes the use of current event materials and a variety of research tools. This course meets the ½ CU Geography graduation requirement.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### SS 615 Mississippi Crossroads I: 20th Century Mississippi Cultural Expression

This course will examine the sources and themes of 20<sup>th</sup> century Mississippi artistic and cultural expression as they emerge from and contribute to a social, historical, political, and cultural milieu. Topics addressed will include the music, history, and traditions of the state – including, but not limited to writers, blues, country, visual arts, politics, agriculture, civil rights issues, race/ethnicity, and more.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½ (elective or may be used to complete *Mississippi Studies* requirement)  
Length: 1 semester

### SS 625 Modern European History

Course includes but is not limited to study of the Black Death, the Renaissance including art and music, the Age of Exploration, the Reformation, the English Civil War, Scientific Revolution, French Revolution, Napoleon, Imperialism, and WWI. The course will include use of a textbook, lecture, outside readings, current event materials, and research projects. It is taught online. This course meets the World History requirements set by the Mississippi State Department of Education.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: 1 (meets World History graduation requirement)  
Length: 1 year

### SS 627 University History of World Civilization II (dual enrollment course)

History of World Civilization offers qualifying students an opportunity to receive dual CU in World History from MSMS and from Mississippi University for Women (His 102). This survey course is intended to familiarize students with major themes and events in world history beginning roughly in 1500 and going through the end of the 20th century. By exploring many different cultures, societies, and points of view, students should gain a more comprehensive view of the making of our modern world. The course will cover major political, economic, intellectual, and cultural connections that shaped the modern era and contributed to our global dynamic today. In addition, through required readings and assignments, students should also improve upon their writing, critical thinking, and oral communication skills. It is not necessary to take UHWC 1 before taking this course. This course meets the World History requirements set by the Mississippi State Department of Education.

Prerequisite: Admission to MUW, Composite ACT of 20 **OR** permission of Director for Academic Affairs  
CU: 1 (meets World History graduation requirement); 3 MUW CU  
Length: 1 semester

### SS 650 Economics and Entrepreneurship

This is an introductory course to the basic principles of macro- and microeconomics and major concepts in entrepreneurship. The first half of the course will focus on important economic concepts and themes, such as (but not limited to) scarcity, supply and demand, production, national income, inflation, GDP, the cost of living, monetary policy, and personal finance. The goal is to equip students with some of the necessary tools to make sound economic decisions and be better consumers, employees, investors, and citizens. The second half of the course will be built on the first half and introduce students to principles of entrepreneurship. These tools are meant to instill in students the possibility and feasibility of starting their own business. This culminates in each student creating their own original business plan by the end of the course.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### SS 655 American Government (Seniors Only)

This course will include a thorough study of the constitution and the amendments as well as the three branches of government. The course will focus on political decision making and include selected Supreme Court decisions as well as other documents illustrating the processes of government. The course will include the use of a textbook, lecture, outside readings, and current event materials.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

### SS 665 African American History

This course examines the History of persons of African descent in North America from the colonial period through the twentieth century. Pursuing a student-centered inquiry approach to History, the course includes, but is not limited to: African cultural heritage, slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the era of Jim Crow segregation, the Civil Rights Era, and African American contributions to American culture.

Additionally, this course will include the “Eight of May Emancipation Celebration” research/performance/community service project. The course will develop primary and secondary source analysis skills. Additionally, the course will include writing that focuses on the production of clear and coherent works, including, but not limited to writing arguments focused on discipline-specific content and writing informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½ (elective)  
Length: 1 semester

### SS667 World War II

World War II was a conflict like no other in human history. The purpose of this course is to provide the students with a broad view and comprehensive understanding of World War II as a global event. This class will study the causes, the course, and the implications of World War II, the greatest of twentieth century conflicts. It will deal with the war’s causes, conduct, and consequences. It will cover the war from the perspective of all the major belligerents, Axis and Allied. It will handle most of the geographic areas involved, the major diplomatic, political, and military events, and some of the key figures of the war. It covers the period of 1918 to 1950, with an emphasis on the years 1939-1945.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½ (elective)  
Length: 1 semester

### **SS 609 History of Science**

Throughout history, humans have struggled to understand the physical world around them. This course will examine their efforts to do so, beginning in ancient times and concluding in the twenty-first century. It will provide students with an overview of how major scientific and technological advancements emerged and the cultural context that allowed for their emergence. In other words, it will explore the interplay between major scientific developments and the cultural, social, political, and economic factors surrounding them.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½ (elective)  
Length: 1 semester

### **SS 690 Special Topics in Social Science**

This course is based on individual student interest and may be offered on a one-time or rotating basis. It may concentrate on a specific topic.

Prerequisite: None  
CU: ½  
Length: 1 semester

---

## Special Study Options

### Guidelines for Special Study Options

Mentorship, Research Practicum, and Special Topics courses **are not open to incoming juniors during the fall semester** but may be available to juniors in the spring semester. If you are interested, check with your counselor in the late fall. Mentorship and Research require a 3.0 GPA in MSMS courses for participation. These three course options award elective credit unless students petition the Director for Academic Affairs for another type of credit prior to beginning the course.

#### MN 101 Mentorship

This course will provide select students with hands-on job-shadowing experience in a chosen area of work. Students will be placed in a work environment in a career field that interests them or an area they are considering as a college major. Only students who have shown strong commitment to the MSMS ideals of Scholarship, Service, Creativity, and Community and have demonstrated the ability to do exceptional work at MSMS will be placed in mentorship. The student will spend approximately three hours per week with a mentor and complete various assignments related to their placement. **Up to 1.5 Carnegie Units of mentorship can be earned at MSMS. However, only the 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ Carnegie Unit will count toward the 13 MSMS required courses.** Course may be repeated. *This course will not be available through Power School Course selection, but through an interest meeting at the beginning of each semester.*

Prerequisite: Approval of the Director for Academic Affairs  
CU: ½ (elective)  
Length: 1 semester

#### RE 101 Research Practicum

This course is designed to allow students to conduct scientific research under the combined supervision of MSMS and Mississippi State University. Students will be paired with university professors to assist with ongoing research projects. Students must maintain high academic standards in their MSMS coursework to be eligible for the research practicum. Students are expected to attend an orientation session, complete ~70 hours of research, and present a poster project of the research conducted. Students will spend a minimum of four hours per week in the hosting professor's research lab. The research practicum may be repeated for up to three semesters. *This course will not be available through Power School Course selection, but through an interest meeting at the end of each semester to prepare for the following semester.*

Prerequisite: Approval of the Director for Academic Affairs  
CU: 1/2  
Length: 1 semester