AURORA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

Equipping students to succeed in whatever path the Lord directs.





Academic Pathways: Equipping Students

At Aurora Christian School, we believe that every student has been uniquely created by God with gifts, abilities, interests, and a purpose. As part of our mission to equip students to walk confidently in the purposes God has for their lives, we have developed ACS Pathways—intentional opportunities for high school students to pursue areas in which they feel gifted, called, or especially interested.

ACS Pathways are designed for students who want to make the most of their education at ACS. Through focused coursework, meaningful experiences, spiritual reflection, and culminating capstone opportunities, students are encouraged to go beyond simply completing graduation requirements and instead pursue the highest levels of growth and achievement available to them.

The vision of Aurora Christian Schools is to be an authentic Christian community, unified by our common faith in Jesus Christ. As a cooperative body of believers, we will encourage each other to daily pursue righteousness. Together, we will strive to energize and equip each student to succeed in whatever path the Lord directs. Our desire is to see our students impact their communities and become purposeful, productive Christian adults.

PATHWAYS BEGIN BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL

IT STARTS EARLY

At ACS, our Academic Pathways begin well before High School. Although ACS Pathways are primarily designed for high school students, the process of discovering a student's interests, strengths, and calling begins with the youngest of our students here at ACS.

Preschool

Starting in preschool, students begin to explore that God made you special; He has a plan for you. Additionally, our pre-k students have the opportunity to have multiple guest speakers from differerent career backgrounds visit their classrooms as a developmentally appropriate way to understand what options the future may hold.

Elementary

As elementary school progresses, students dive deeper into the idea that God made you special and has a plan for you. This means richer conversations with guest speakers, the Wax Museum project and exploration opportunities.

Middle School

In middle school, beginning in 7th grade, students are encouraged to think intentionally about their future high school schedules. Early planning allows students to prioritize courses and create space for the advanced coursework and experiences associated with the pathways they may eventually choose to pursue.

To support this process, ACS has expanded its Guidance Team to serve students in grades 7–12. Throughout these grade levels, students receive age-appropriate opportunities to:

- Explore their gifts, strengths, and interests.
- Consider high school course options and academic goals.
- Complete personal and career assessments.
- Explore college, career, trade, ministry, and other post-secondary opportunities.
- Have intentional conversations about their future.
- Develop the tools necessary to make thoughtful, informed decisions.

EQUIPPING STUDENTS

HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

An Academic Pathway is a purposeful course of study designed to help students discover their God-given gifts, explore their interests, and prepare for the future God is calling them to. Throughout high school, students follow a sequence of courses and experiences within a particular area of interest that deepens both their academic knowledge and their understanding of how their talents can be used to serve Christ and others.

- Math
- Foreign Language
- Fine Arts

Coursework

Through a recommended progression of courses, students in each pathway build knowledge, skills, and understanding in a specific field. These courses challenge students academically while encouraging them to think critically and apply biblical principles to their learning.

Service Project

Students design and participate in a meaningful service project connected to their area of study. This allows students to use their gifts to serve others, demonstrating Christ's love while addressing real needs in their community.

Capstone Project

In their final year, students complete a capstone project that brings together the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout their pathway. This culminating experience allows students to research, create, present, or lead a project that reflects both academic excellence and a heart for serving God's Kingdom. Students will also consider how their area of study connects to their future plans and how they may use these gifts after high school.



DUAL ENROLLMENT, ADVANCED PLACEMENT, AND HONORS:

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Aurora Christian High School offers Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, and Honors classes in addition to our regular high school coursework. Some of our course work earns college credits while meeting high school graduation requirements as well. The distinct differences:

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment at Aurora Christian School provides high school students with the opportunity to enroll in college-level courses while completing their high school education. Through these courses, students can earn college credit, experience the rigor of college-level academics, and gain a head start on their postsecondary education.

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level courses offered to high school students through the College Board's Advanced Placement Program. These courses provide students with an opportunity to engage in rigorous academic study, develop critical thinking skills, and prepare for the expectations of college-level coursework.

Students enrolled in AP courses have the opportunity to take a standardized AP examination in May. Exams are scored on a scale of 1–5, and many colleges and universities award college credit or advanced placement to students who earn qualifying scores, typically a 3 or higher.

AP Courses Offered at ACS

- **AP World History**
- **AP PreCalculus**
- **AP Calculus**
- **AP Statistics**
- **AP English Language & Composition**
- **AP English Literature & Composition**

Honors Classes

An Honors course is an academically advanced high school course designed for students who demonstrate strong academic abilities, a commitment to learning, and a desire to engage in more challenging coursework.

Honors courses typically cover the same foundational subject matter as standard-level courses but provide greater depth, complexity, and opportunities for higher-order thinking.

Honors Courses at ACS

- **Honors English 9**
- **Honors English 10**
- **Honors Geometry**
- **Honors Algebra II**
- **Honors Chemistry**
- **Spanish III**
- **Spanish IV**
- **Spanish V**
- **Anatomy & Physiology**
- **Physics**

GPA WEIGHTING AND ACCREDITATION

WEIGHTED COURSES

At Aurora Christian High School, all courses are weighted 4.0 on a 4.0 scale, except the following:

4.5

WEIGHTED COURSES

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Physics
- Honors Algebra II
- Statistics & Trigonometry
- Honors Geometry
- Honors English 9
- Honors English 10
- Spanish III

5.0

WEIGHTED COURSES

- Honors Chemistry
- Spanish IV
- Spanish V
- AP Calculus
- AP Language & Composition
- AP Literature & Composition
- AP Precalculus
- AP Statistics
- AP World History

ACS ACCREDITATIONS

Aurora Christian High School is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International.

The school is recognized by the state of Illinois and Kane County Education Service, and is a member of the Illinois High School Association.

ACCREDITED ACSI Association of Christian Schools International

Illinois State Board of Education

IHSA

ACS ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

LEADERSHIP PATHWAY

The Leadership Cohort is designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, character, and a commitment to serving both their school and their community. This pathway provides intentional opportunities to develop Christ-centered leadership through service, mentorship, and hands-on experiences that challenge students to lead with humility, integrity, and purpose.

Eligibility

The Leadership Cohort is open to students who are actively involved in at least two of the following leadership organizations:

- Chick-fil-A Leader Academy
- Eagle Ambassadors
- Dunham Scholars
- National Honor Society Inductees

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Bible 9	Bible 10	Bible 11	Bible 12
English 9	English 10 or 10 Honors	English 11 OR AP English Language	English 12 or AP Literature
Math*	Math	Math	Government/Economics
Biology	Chemistry or Honors Chemistry	Physics and Anatomy	Academic Course
World History OR Spanish	World History or Elective	US History	Academic Course
PE/Health	Spanish 1 or 2	Spanish	Academic or Elective
Applied Tech / Elective	Elective/Elective	Elective/Elective	Academic or Elective
Elective / Elective	Elective/Elective	Elective/Elective	Academic or Elective

Recommended Electives

Digital Photography I & II | **Yearbook** | **Sports Management** | **Career Readiness I & II** | **Applied Tech I and II**

Creative Writing | **Business Economics**

Capstone Project

The culminating experience for the Leadership Cohort is the opportunity to organize and lead the Elementary Field Day in partnership with the Elementary Physical Education teacher. Students will assist in planning activities, organizing volunteers, facilitating events, and ensuring a fun and engaging experience for elementary students. This capstone project provides an authentic leadership opportunity that requires teamwork, communication, organization, and servant-hearted leadership.

Service Project

Leadership Cohort students are expected to model servant leadership through meaningful service. Students must complete 10 service hours each semester beyond the service requirements for Bible class and any hours completed as part of their leadership organizations. These additional hours should reflect a personal commitment to serving others and making a positive impact within the school, church, or local community.

Biblical Integration

Leadership begins with a heart of service and a commitment to pointing others toward Christ.

As part of their spiritual development, Leadership Cohort students will collaborate to:

- Plan and lead an elementary chapel service during the Fall semester, providing an age-appropriate worship experience and biblical message for younger students.
- Plan and host a student worship night during the Spring semester, encouraging the ACS community to grow in worship, fellowship, and spiritual leadership. These experiences allow students to develop leadership skills while using their gifts to encourage and disciple others.

ACS ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

BAND/MUSIC PATHWAY

The Music-Band Cohort is designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional musical talent, dedication, and a commitment to performing and collaborating with their ensemble. This pathway provides intentional opportunities to develop musicianship through practice, performance, and hands-on experiences that challenge students to play with precision, expression, and purpose.

Eligibility

The Music-Band Cohort is open to students who have been actively involved in the Aurora Christian Band Program. Students must be in their fourth year of High School Band and are registered for High School Honors Band.

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Bible 9	Bible 10	Bible 11	Bible 12
English 9	English 10 or 10 Honors	English 11 OR AP English Language	English 12 or AP Literature
Math*	Math	Math	Government/Economics
Biology	Chemistry or Honors Chemistry	Physics and Anatomy	Academic Course
World History OR Spanish	World History or Elective	US History	Academic Course
PE/Health	Spanish 1 or 2	Spanish	Academic or Elective
Applied Tech / Elective	Elective/Elective	Elective/Elective	Academic or Elective
Elective / Elective	Elective/Elective	Elective/Elective	Academic or Elective

Recommended Electives

Band **Choir** **Career Readiness I & II**

Capstone Project

The culminating experience for the Music-Band class is organizing, leading and performing in a recital. Students will select repertoire approved by the teacher and choose a performance date approved by administration. The recital may include friends as performers. This capstone project provides an authentic musical leadership opportunity that requires planning, communication, and artistic excellence.

Service Project

Music-Band Cohort students are expected to model servant leadership through meaningful service. Students must complete 3 service hours each semester in the band room assisting with 4th and 5th grade band rehearsals. These additional hours should reflect a personal commitment to serving others and making a positive impact within the school, church, or local community. These hours are beyond the service requirements for Bible class.

Biblical Integration

Music and faith are deeply connected. As part of their spiritual development, Music-Band cohort students will reflect on how God has given them unique musical talents and how they use these gifts to serve others.
Each student will write a 5-6 paragraph personal statement of faith to be included in their recital program. This statement should describe:

- How music has shaped their faith journey
- The ways they use their musical talent to glorify God
- How their gift of music serves and encourages their community
- Biblical references and connections that relate to the music being performed in the recital

Through this reflection, students will recognize music not simply as a skill, but as a God-given calling to inspire, uplift, and point others toward Christ through the power of sound and worship.

ACS ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

MATHEMATICS ACADEMIC PATHWAY

The Math Pathway is designed for students who possess a strong affinity for mathematics and a desire to extend their mathematical learning beyond the standard curriculum. This pathway provides intentional opportunities to sharpen mathematical and philosophical reasoning, engage in advanced research, and apply mathematical gifts through mentorship and service.

Eligibility

The Mathematics Cohort is designed for dedicated students who demonstrate academic strength and a passion for quantitative reasoning. To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Completion of (or concurrent enrollment in) at least two AP Math classes
- Active participation on the ACS Math Team.
- A desire to deepen their understanding of mathematics and explore interesting topics

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Bible 9	Bible 10	Bible 11	Bible 12
English 9	English 10 or 10 Honors	English 11 OR AP English Language	English 12 or AP Literature
Math*	Math	Math	Government/Economics
Biology	Chemistry or Honors Chemistry	Physics and Anatomy	Academic Course
World History OR Spanish	World History or Elective	US History	Academic Course
PE/Health	Spanish 1 or 2	Spanish	Academic or Elective
Applied Tech / Elective	Elective/Elective	Elective/Elective	Academic or Elective
Elective / Elective	Elective/Elective	Elective/Elective	Academic or Elective

Recommended Electives

Applied Tech I & II | **Career Readiness I & II** | **Computer Programming - JavaScript** | **Business Economics**

Capstone Project

The culminating experience for the Math Pathway is an independent research project focused on an advanced mathematical topic (e.g., topology, game theory, non-Euclidean geometry, chaos theory, etc.). Students will write a formal research paper and present their discoveries to the school community. This capstone strengthens research capabilities, sharpens problem-solving skills, and prepares students for university-level academics.

Service Project

Math Pathway students are expected to use their mathematical gifts and knowledge to invest in the next generation. Students will complete their service hours by designing, planning, and leading an after-school math program for elementary students. Working alongside teachers and conducting research to develop engaging, hands-on activities, pathway students will foster a love for logic and problem-solving in younger learners. They may also help coach young students for mathematics competitions. This service experience enables students to put their mathematical skills into practice while inspiring the next generation to see God's order and design in math.

Biblical Integration

Mathematical study reveals the beauty, order, and consistency of God and His creation. As part of their spiritual and academic development, Math Pathway students will examine how Christian worldview intersects with mathematics. Students will:

- Read and respond to selected texts from Mathematics Through the Eyes of Faith, exploring foundational concepts of logic, truth, and creation through a biblical lens.
- Complete a capstone paper exploring core philosophical questions, including: What is mathematics? Why do we study it? How does Christian faith shape our understanding and application of mathematical ideas?

These reflective experiences equip students to view mathematics not merely as a practical tool, but as a discipline that glorifies God and points to His sovereign, ordered, creative design.

AURORA CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

PORTRAITS OF GRADUATES

Portrait of a Music/Band Cohort Graduate

A graduate of the Music-Band Cohort is a student who:

- Worships with Christlike humility and integrity
- Demonstrates discipline, focus, and rhythmic responsibility.
- Serves the ensemble and the audience with compassion and musical excellence.
- Communicates effectively and blends collaboratively with fellow musicians.
- Uses his or her God-given musical gifts to harmonize and influence others for Christ.
- Understands that true artistry is rooted in praise and faithful stewardship.

Praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Psalm 150:5-6

Portrait of a Leadership Cohort Graduate

A graduate of the Leadership Cohort is a student who:

- Leads with Christlike humility and integrity.
- Demonstrates initiative and responsibility.
- Serves others with compassion and excellence.
- Communicates effectively and works collaboratively.
- Uses his or her God-given gifts to influence others for Christ.
- Understands that true leadership is rooted in service and stewardship.

Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. Matthew 20:26

Portrait of a Mathematics Cohort Graduate

A graduate of the Mathematics Cohort is a student who:

- Demonstrates advanced mathematical reasoning, analytical thinking, and creative problem-solving skills to navigate complex challenges.
- Exhibits intellectual curiosity, a commitment to lifelong learning, and the ability to engage in advanced mathematical research and inquiry.
- Appreciates the beauty, order, and consistency of mathematics as reflections of God's wisdom and intentional design in creation.
- Uses mathematical knowledge and abilities to mentor, teach, and inspire younger students, fostering confidence and a love for learning.
- Effectively articulates complex mathematical concepts, defend conclusions through sound reasoning, and share research findings with diverse audiences.
- Integrates faith, knowledge, and mathematical abilities to pursue future academic and professional opportunities that serve others and glorify God.

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible… And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. Colossians 1:16–17



2026-2027 High School Course Offerings

Visual Art
Drawing I & II
Pre-Film Animation
Painting I & II
Ceramics I & II
Digital Photography I & II
Studio Art

English
English 9
Honors English 9
English 10 - British literature
Honors English 10
English 11 - American literature
AP English Language and Composition
Creative Writing
English 12
AP English Literature

Music
High School Band
High School Band - Honors credit
High School Choir

Foreign Language
Spanish I
Spanish II
Spanish III
Spanish IV
Spanish V

Physical Education
Health
Lifetime Activities and Fitness
Team Sports I & II
Personal Fitness
Intro to Sports Management
Adventure Sports
Varsity Training

Technology
Applied Technology
Career Readiness
Yearbook
Graphic Design
Computer Programming
Social Media

Resource
FOCUS

Math
Algebra 1
Geometry
Honors Geometry
Algebra II
Honors Algebra II
Functions, Statistics and Trigonometry
AP Precalculus
AP Statistics
AP Calculus (AB or BC)

Science
Biological Science
Physical Science
Chemistry
Honors Chemistry
Earth Science
Physics
Anatomy and Physiology
STEM

Social Studies
World History
AP World History
US History
US Government
Economics
World Geography
Intro to Psychology
Business Economics

Bible
Bible I - The Story of the Bible from Beginning to End
Bible 2 - Exploring and Living Christianity
Bible 3 - Life of Christ and Intro to Worldviews
Bible 4 - Navigating the Cultural Waters

**All Course Offerings are subject to change*

**Course descriptions are continuously updated as new information is received.*

AURORA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SUBJECT	CREDITS
Arts	0.50
Bible*	4.00
Technology	1.00
English	4.00
Foreign Language	2.00
Health	0.50
History/Social Studies	3.00
Mathematics (must include Algebra II)	3.00
Physical Education	1.50
Science (must include Chemistry)	3.00

SUMMARY	CREDITS
Required academic credits	22.50
Required elective credit	3.50
Total minimum required credits	26.00
Additional electives possible	6.00
Total credits possible	32.00

*Waived for years not attending Aurora Christian High School.

All courses for high school credit earned at Aurora Christian School, at an accredited high school or college, or through an approved ACS tutor (other than Pass/Fail courses) are included in the GPA calculation. Home school coursework will be transferred in for credit, but will not affect GPA. Class rank is determined solely by the rank order of students' cumulative grade point averages. Grade point averages are figured using semester grades.

Schedules are created each year to ensure that each student is taking the proper courses. Please contact the Academic Director if you have questions regarding your student's individual course of study.

Required classes failed for the semester must be completed in summer school. Required classes failed for the year must be repeated.

- To qualify as a sophomore, students must have accumulated at least 6 credits by the start of school in the fall.
- To qualify as a junior, students must have accumulated at least 12 credits by the start of school in the fall.
- To qualify as a senior, students must have accumulated at least 18 credits by the start of school in the fall.

Students who transfer in during their Junior or Senior year may graduate with 22 credits. Most students will accumulate more than the minimum amount of credits for graduation. Aurora Christian School does not allow "early release" or graduate students early.

During senior year, all 12th grade students will be required to complete two core academic courses in addition to the standard required courses of Bible, English, and American Government/Economics. In this case, "core academic courses" refers to the following categories: mathematics, science, foreign language, and social studies.

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

CAREER READINESS & INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Aurora Christian High School offers dual enrollment, dual credit, Advanced Placement and honors classes in addition to our regular high school coursework. Some of our course work earns college credits while meeting high school graduation requirements as well. The distinct differences:

Career Readiness I

Start building a strong foundation for your future and explore how you can use the gifts and talents God has given you in this semester-long course designed to prepare you for life beyond high school. You'll explore a variety of career paths, develop essential workplace skills, and learn how to create a professional resume and confidently navigate job interviews.
In addition, you'll gain practical knowledge in areas like communication, teamwork, and personal finance—equipping you to make wise decisions and set meaningful goals from a biblical perspective.. Whether you're planning for college, a career, or both, this course will help you take your next steps with confidence and purpose. Open to grades 11 & 12

Career Readiness II

Take the next step toward your future by building on the foundation from Career Readiness I. In this course, you'll sharpen essential workplace skills like communication, professionalism, leadership, and time management while exploring career pathways that match your God-given strengths and interests. You'll also gain valuable real-world experience through internships or job shadowing—because the best learning happens when you put skills into action. From preparing for your first job to planning for college or exploring long-term career goals, this class equips you with the tools and confidence to move forward with purpose. Open to grades 11 & 12.

Prerequisite: Applied Technology I (working knowledge of Google Applications required) and Career Readiness I

Internships at ACS

During junior or senior year at Aurora Christin Internship opportunities are offered in conjunction with enrollment in Career Readiness II. Internships available at ACS are both internal within our district and also with outside organizations and businesses. Our network of alumni and stakeholders help to create a vast network of connections for internship opportunities across a broad range of industries. At ACS we are deeply committed to helping students pursue the specific path they wish to pursue and our internship opportunities are built accordingly; we offer a internships at varying degrees of frequency, intensity, and depth to best meet students' career exploration needs.



Leadership Pathway

ACS Pathways are not limited to academic disciplines. We also recognize that God calls students to influence and serve others.

The Leadership Pathway is designed to develop servant leaders who understand that leadership is not simply about holding a position—it is about using one's gifts to serve, influence, encourage, and make a difference.

Students in the Leadership Pathway will serve as visible leaders within ACS, positively impacting our school culture while encouraging other students to step forward as leaders. Through intentional service, leadership development, Biblical integration, and hands-on experiences, students will be challenged to consider how God may use their leadership gifts both now and beyond high school. The Leadership Pathway at ACS is set to launch in the fall of 2027.

WHERE ACS GRADUATES GO

ACS GRADUATES HAVE GONE ON TO...

Augustana College · Aurora University · Arizona State University · Baylor University · Belmont University · Bethel University · Biola University · Brown University · Cincinnati Art Institute · Clemson University · Colorado Christian University · Columbia College · Concordia University · Cornell University · Evangel University · Florida A&M University · Fisk University · Gordon College · Grambling State University · Greenville University · Harvard University · Hillsong International Leadership · Illinois State University · Indiana Wesleyan University · Iowa State University · Judson University · Juilliard School · Lee University · Marquette University · Miami University (OH) · Moody Bible Institute · Morehouse University · North Central University · Northern Illinois University · Northwestern University · Olivet Nazarene University · Pennsylvania State University · Pepperdine University · Savannah College of Art & Design · Seattle Pacific University · Southern Illinois University · Spelman College · Syracuse University · Taylor University · Texas Christian University · Trinity Christian University · Trinity International University · Western Illinois University · Western Michigan University · University of California (Irvine) · University of Colorado · University of Dayton · University of Illinois · University of North Carolina · University of Pennsylvania · US Air Force Academy · West Point Academy · Wheaton College · Yale University

**ACS Academic Pathways are subject to change*