



Ann Arbor
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**High School
Curriculum, Graduation
Requirements, & Athletics Guide
2023-2024**

Updated March 20, 2023

HIGH SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

Accreditation for Ann Arbor Christian School comes from Christian Schools International (CSI), which offers school improvement, teacher support, leadership training, and other services to nearly 400 member schools in the United States and abroad. AACCS is currently accredited through Grade 8 with CSI. As the school adds high school grades, CSI stands ready with eagerness and support to accredit each grade as it is added. CSI is extremely supportive of our expansion of Christian education in our community.

As part of our CSI accreditation, CSI expects its member schools to meet general graduation requirements as established by each state's department of education while recognizing that its member schools have needs and requirements outside of what state departments of education consider (e.g., Bible or theology curriculum).

Our aim is to teach with excellence while incorporating a Christian worldview in every course and subject area. We will keep our [mission and School-Wide Learner Goals](#) in mind across our entire high school curriculum.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Definition of credit:

One credit is defined as a year-long course. A semester-long course would be considered 0.5 credit. In other words:

- a semester course counts as 0.5 credit
- a two-semester (year-long course) course counts as 1.0 credit.

Graduation requirements:

A student must earn a minimum of 22 credits as a full-time student over the eight semesters in Grades 9 through 12 in order to graduate. Most AACCS graduates will earn 28 credits. Unless there is a documented learning need or approved exemption, a student will earn 7 credits per year.

As defined by the Michigan Department of Education, these graduation requirements should include the following:

- **Mathematics:** 4 credits at least through Algebra 2. A math course must also be taken during senior year.
- **English:** 4 credits

- **Science:** 3 credits, including one life science course (biology or anatomy & physiology) and one physical science course (chemistry or physics). Taking biology, chemistry, and physics is generally seen as having taken a core, foundational high school science education and recommended for those pursuing a STEM-related field or degree in college.
- **Social Studies:** 3 credits, including one credit of U.S. history & geography, one credit of world history & geography, a half credit of economics, and a half credit of government/civics.
- **World Language:** 2 credits in one language. A student with specific language-based learning needs identified in an IEP or 504 plan may be allowed to take only 1 credit of a world language with the second credit being in the arts.
- **Physical Education:** 1 credit in health and physical education. A half credit of physical education may be met if the student participates in a school athletic team for one season.
- **Arts (visual, performing, or applied):** 1 credit
- **Theology:** 4 credits. Theology is not required by the Michigan Department of Education, but it is a high school graduation requirement of AACCS. We believe in the importance of using the mind not only to win others to Christ but also to experience personal spiritual growth.

Special notes:

- *Credit from outside AACCS:* If pre-approved ahead of time, certain online, dual enrollment, or summer courses might qualify to meet a credit requirement. See Dual-Enrollment below.
- *Learning accommodations:* Students with approved learning plans may have accommodations made to help address their learning needs and to foster their academic success. The school remains committed to its vision to help all students successfully learn.
- *Program/Degree-Specific Criteria for College Admissions:* For students interested in specific undergraduate programs or degrees, it is the responsibility of the student and family to understand the admission requirements for those programs or degrees and to fulfill those requirements as they are selecting their courses during their eight semesters at the AACCS high school. For instance, students interested in engineering or computer science for college should take courses that align with admissions criteria for those programs. They may also consult with their guidance counselor.
- *AP:* AP refers to courses endorsed by the College Board as meeting their Advanced Placement® requirements. Generally, these are considered college-level courses and conclude the year with an optional AP exam administered by the College Board. Typically, out of a scale of 1-5, a student

needs to earn at least a 3 or 4 (usually 4) for some colleges to give them college credit. However, there has been a developing trend in which colleges are more selective and less likely to give credit, so families should inquire with colleges that their children are considering. Due to the intensive nature of these courses, AP courses require students to demonstrate a strong work ethic, strong organization, and consistent time management skills to have a successful and meaningful experience.

- *Dual-Enrollment*: Generally, dual-enrollment courses are college-level courses offered by an accredited college or university to high school students. Successful completion of the course means that the student has earned the credit for that course and can request that the credits be transferred to the college they attend. Typically, dual-enrollment credits are accepted, but families should inquire with the colleges that their students are considering, especially for degree-specific undergraduate coursework. For instance, for a student interested in a nursing degree, taking an introductory nursing course through a dual-enrollment program may or may not fully meet all the elements that some colleges have for their own introductory nursing course if the latter has some specific or unique requirements. Due to the nature of these courses, dual-enrollment courses require students to demonstrate a strong work ethic, strong organization, and consistent time management skills to have a successful and meaningful experience. The school is actively in dialogue with Concordia University Ann Arbor. Due to their geographic proximity and faith-based mission, Concordia will likely be our primary option for creating additional course options for students, including the possibility of their professors traveling to the AACCS Upper Campus to teach a course. Generally, courses at Concordia will be free thanks to a reimbursement program offered through the Michigan Department of Education.
- *Course prerequisites*: When prerequisites are stated, the intention is to ensure better success for students by having the proper background knowledge and skill sets to do well.
- *Failure (below 60%)*: Failure of a course will result in no credit being issued and a negative impact on the student's GPA. The course will need to be retaken or an appropriate alternative taken.
- *NCAA Division I eligibility*: For students interested in NCAA Division I sports, they will need to meet the 16 core course requirements (see below) established by the NCAA. Fortunately, most required courses for high school graduation will meet virtually all of the requirements. Interested students should make their intentions known to their AACCS guidance counselor as soon as possible. A GPA of 2.3 or higher in these core courses is also required. (Also see *Athletics* section later in this document).

- 4 credits of English
- 3 credits of Mathematics (Algebra 1 or higher)
- 2 credits of natural and physical science
- 2 credits of social studies
- 1 additional credit of English, math, or natural/physical science
- 4 additional credits of English, mathematics, natural/physical science, world language, comparative religion or philosophy.

GPA, HONOR ROLL & CLASS RANK

GPA

Grade Point Average will be calculated based on tables similar to the ones below. The tables below (from FGRHS) are samples of what we are considering (e.g., AP classes will be weighed differently due to the level of work involved), but do not represent the final scales. While often similar, there is no standardized or universal scale for GPA calculation, so the school is looking at several scales and considering which model best fits our goal of a healthier high school. GPAs are often used by colleges for admission and scholarship purposes.

General Grading Scale

| % SCORE | LETTER GRADE | GRADE POINT |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 97 – 100 | A+ | 4.00 |
| 93 – 96 | A | 4.00 |
| 90 – 92 | A- | 3.66 |
| 87 – 89 | B+ | 3.33 |
| 83 – 86 | B | 3.00 |
| 80 – 82 | B- | 2.66 |
| 77- 79 | C+ | 2.33 |
| 73 - 76 | C | 2.00 |
| 70 - 72 | C- | 1.66 |
| 67 – 69 | D+ | 1.33 |
| 63 – 66 | D | 1.00 |
| 60 - 62 | D- | 0.66 |
| Below 60 (Failing) | F | 0 |

AP Grading Scale

| % SCORE | LETTER GRADE | GRADE POINT |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 97 – 100 | A+ | 4.33 |
| 93 – 96 | A | 4.33 |
| 90 – 92 | A- | 4.00 |
| 87 – 89 | B+ | 3.66 |
| 83 – 86 | B | 3.33 |
| 80 – 82 | B- | 3.00 |
| 77- 79 | C+ | 2.66 |
| 73 - 76 | C | 2.33 |
| 70 - 72 | C- | 2.00 |
| 67 – 69 | D+ | 1.66 |
| 63 – 66 | D | 1.33 |
| 60 - 62 | D- | 1.00 |
| Below 60 (Failing) | F | 0 |

Honor Roll

Below is a sample model of how we would determine honor roll. While often similar, there is no standardized or universal formula for honor roll determination, so the school is looking at models and considering which model best fits our goal of a healthier high school.

Summa Cum Laude 3.80 – 4.00+

Magna Cum Laude 3.60 – 3.79

Cum Laude 3.30 – 3.59

In light of our school's philosophy around recognizing the whole student and different gifting, the school will also seek to find other opportunities to acknowledge different ways in which students showcase their God-given talents.

Class Rank

The school will not calculate class rank in alignment with our goal to be a healthier high school.

COURSE OFFERINGS BY SUBJECT

* means a required course. It does not represent all required courses needed within each subject area to graduate, but simply courses within a subject that all students need to take at some point in their high school years. For instance, in science, all students need to take biology and chemistry, so those courses have an asterisk, but every student still needs to take a third credit of science to graduate.

Short descriptions are provided for courses in which the course name may not be sufficiently descriptive.

Mathematics: 4 credits at least through Algebra 2. A math course must also be taken during senior year.

| Course name | Grade(s) | Notes |
|---|----------|--|
| Algebra 1* 1 credit | 9 | AACS students who successfully complete Algebra 1 in Grade 8 can generally take Geometry Accelerated in Grade 9. After Geometry, these students still need to take three more years of math. |
| Geometry (standard and accelerated)* 1 credit | 9, 10 | AACS students who successfully complete Algebra 1 in Grade 8 can generally take Geometry Accelerated in Grade 9. After Geometry, these students still need to take three more years of math. |
| Algebra 2 (standard and accelerated)* 1 credit | 10, 11 | This course can be completed across two years and considered as 2 credits. |
| Precalculus (standard and accelerated) 1 credit | 11, 12 | |

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| AP Calculus AB 1 credit | 12 | |
| Electives: Personal Finance, Accounting, Statistics 0.5 credit each | 12 | Semester-long electives |
| Computer Science 1 credit | 9-12 | This may be an online course or dual-enrollment course. |

English: 4 credits. There will be a high emphasis on high-quality literature, writing, grammar, and vocabulary, including works of exceptional Christian writers (e.g., C.S. Lewis).

| Course name | Grade(s) | Notes |
|--|----------|---|
| English 9 (Standard and Accelerated)* 1 credit | 9 | <p>English 9 is a survey course to provide a strong foundation in English skills focusing on writing technique and grammar used in essay writing. World literature will be explored and analyzed to complement the Social Studies curriculum for ninth grade.</p> <p>The accelerated course follows the same content areas, but will have less focus on foundational skills, move at a faster pace, and allow advanced students to be challenged with a deeper understanding of literature and level of writing. Accelerated students must have a teacher</p> |

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| | | recommendation and meet specific criteria. |
| English 10 (Standard and Accelerated)* 1 credit | 10 | Building upon the skills learned in previous years, English 10 will emphasize writing skills with a focus on cohesion, mechanics, MLA style, and formal literary analysis. Literature selections will be gleaned from American Literature. |
| English 11 1 credit | 11 | In English 11, students focus on using their knowledge of literary devices and techniques to analyze great works of British literature and apply writing skills to craft essays. Creative writing skills will also be explored as part of the curriculum. |
| English 11 AP Language & Composition 1 credit | 11 | See here for the difference between AP English Language and AP English Literature. |
| English 12 1 credit | 12 | This course will focus on 20th-century literature while continuing to develop writing skills. Exploration of speech, debate, social media communication, and journalism will also be developed as students prepare to communicate with a broader world after their high school years. |
| English 12 AP Literature | 12 | See here for the difference |

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| & Composition 1 credit | | between AP English Language and AP English Literature. |
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Science: 3 credits including one physical and one life science

| Course name | Grade(s) | Notes |
|---|----------|---|
| Biology* 1 credit | 9 | |
| Chemistry* 1 credit | 10 | Algebra 1 prerequisite |
| Physics 1 credit | 11 | Algebra 2 prerequisite or enrolled concurrently with Algebra 2 |
| AP Physics 1 1 credit | 11 | Algebra 2 prerequisite or enrolled concurrently with Algebra 2 |
| AP Biology 1 credit | 11, 12 | This AP course is to be taught as a second year course in biology. AP Biology should have biology and chemistry as prerequisites. |
| AP Chemistry 1 credit | 11, 12 | This AP course is to be taught as a second year course in chemistry. |
| Anatomy and Physiology 1 credit | 10-12 | |
| Environmental Science 1 credit | 10-12 | |

Social Studies: 3 credits, including one credit of U.S. history & geography, one credit of world history & geography (non-U.S.-based), a half credit of economics, and a half credit of government/civics.

| Course | Target Grade | Notes |
|---|--------------|--|
| World History and Geography* 1 credit | 9 | |
| Economics* 0.5 credit | 10 | Content from this course is on the ACT, which is generally taken in Grade 11. |
| US History and Geography 1 credit | 11 | |
| AP US History 1 credit | 11 | Meets requirement for U.S. history and geography |
| U.S. Government* 0.5 credit | 10-12 | |
| Psychology 0.5 credit | 11-12 | |
| Law 0.5 credit | | Examining the role of law established by the core principles of the U.S. Constitution and the nation's legal system, students will study past and current cases and issues while also growing in their understanding of how Christians can participate in shaping the laws in our country. |

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| AP World History and Geography 1 credit | 12 | |
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World Languages: 2 credits in one language

| Course name | Grade(s) | Notes |
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| Spanish 1-4 1 credit each year | 9-12 | For students who soundly completed Spanish during their middle school years (must be equivalent to Spanish 1 and confirmed by their middle school Spanish teacher), they may take Spanish 2 in Grade 9 and AP Spanish by Grade 12. |
| AP Spanish 1 credit | 12 | For students who complete Spanish 3 |
| Mandarin Chinese 1-4 1 credit each year | 9-12 | Initially, this will be offered as an online option - likely through Concordia University, Michigan Virtual, or Oaks Christian Online. This course may transition to an in-person class over time if there is a clear need. |
| Latin 1-4 1 credit each year | 9-12 | Initially, this will be offered as an online option - likely through Concordia University, Michigan Virtual, or Oaks Christian Online. This course may transition to an in-person class over time if there is a |

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| | | clear need. |
| French 1-4 1 credit each year | 9-12 | Initially, this will be offered as an online option - likely through Concordia University, Michigan Virtual, or Oaks Christian Online. This course may transition to an in-person class over time if there is a clear need. |
| American Sign Language | 9-12 | Initially, this will be offered as an online option - likely through Concordia University, Michigan Virtual, or Oaks Christian Online. This course may transition to an in-person class over time if there is a clear need. |

Theology: 4 credits

| Course name | Grade(s) | Notes |
|-------------|----------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theology is not required by the Michigan Department of Education, but it is a graduation requirement of AACCS. We believe in the importance of using the mind not only to win others to Christ but also to experience personal spiritual growth. • To maximize the time we have between now and the summer, the school will be exploring different options for a rich, engaging, and transformative theology program. • Recognizing the more developed minds of high schoolers, goals will include a deeper and formal understanding of the core theology of the Christian faith, its implication for personal decisions, and its impact on community decisions and on others. In addition, an emphasis will be placed on exposure to great Christian thinkers, acting on our faith, applying our faith into contemporary issues, apologetics, opportunities to practice articulating our faith, and a willingness to ask and explore hard questions. Carrying out the great commission will be a particular emphasis during the senior year. |

- There will be a final year-long senior capstone project in which each senior will be asked to deeply explore and present an area of faith. At the conclusion, each senior will present and defend their project to an invited panel of judges.
- The school is working on plans to have a senior class trip to Israel. This trip will be partly funded by families, class fundraisers, and designated gifts from supporters.
- The school plans to work closely with [World Vision and its Ignite Program](#) for Christian high schools, which seeks to educate students on the needs outside of our country and to grow as global citizens who are better aware of how to meet those needs.
- Non-faith based colleges usually see Theology as a “philosophy” or “comparative religion” course.

Arts (visual, performing, or applied): 1 credit

| Course name | Grade(s) | Notes |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---|
| Visual art | | |
| Art Foundations 0.5 credit | 9, 10 | |
| 2D Design 0.5 credit | 9, 10 | Prerequisite: Art Foundations |
| 3D Design 0.5 credit | 10, 11, 12 | Prerequisite: Art Foundations 2D Design |
| Drawing 0.5 credit | 10, 11, 12 | Prerequisite: Art Foundations 2D Design |
| Painting 0.5 credit | 11, 12 | Prerequisite: Art Foundations 2D Design |

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| Sculpture 0.5 credit | 11, 12 | Prerequisite: Art Foundations 2D Design 3D Design |
| Digital Art 0.5 credit | 10, 11, 12 | Prerequisite: Art Foundations 2D Design |
| Studio Art (independent art study) 0.5 credit | 11, 12 | Prerequisite: Art Foundations 2D Design 3D Design preferred Instructor's approval |
| Music | | |
| Choir 0.5 credit | 9-12 | Two semesters may be taken for a year-long course |
| Band or Instrumental Music 0.5 credit | 9-12 | Two semesters may be taken for a year-long course |
| Worship Music 0.5 credit | 9-12 | Chapel music team |
| Theater/Drama | | |
| Initially, if there is enough interest, this will be an extracurricular activity. The goal is to make it a formal art course option in the future. | | |

Physical Education & Health: 1 credit, of which 0.5 credit must be in health

| Course name | Grade(s) | Notes |
|---|----------|---|
| Health and Conditioning* 0.5 credit | 9-12 | Meets Health requirement |
| Sports and Recreation 0.5 credit | 9-12 | |
| Sports/Athletics Team 0.5 credit | 9-12 | Students can meet the 0.5 credit PE requirement by participating in an AACS sports team for one full season |

ATHLETIC OFFERINGS FOR 2023-2024

The table below represents sports that we are committed to having and sports that we are actively considering as additional options if there is sufficient interest and numbers. Our intention is to add more permanent teams each coming year in our goal to provide a high-quality sports experience centered around Christian sportsmanship and values.

| Season | Level | Notes |
|-------------------|-------------|---|
| Fall | | |
| Girls' volleyball | Freshmen/JV | We are excited to have our own AACS volleyball team, and scheduling has begun! Some games and tournaments have officially been scheduled for the fall high school volleyball season. In addition to use our own existing gym, we are actively exploring rental arrangements with facilities with a gym. Most teams that we will compete against will be either freshmen or JV. |
| Boys' soccer | Freshmen | We have agreed to enter into a co-operative |

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| | | agreement with Father Gabriel Richard High School for soccer. The co-op is a 2 year agreement, after which we could re-evaluate the need/desire to continue. For year one, they will be asking us to provide 5-10 students to play on the soccer team. If we have 10+ students by May 15, we may plan to field our own AACS team and will not do the co-op arrangement. |
| Co-ed cross country | | We are thrilled to have our own AACS co-ed cross country team. |
| Boys' football | | We have agreed to enter into a co-operative agreement with Father Gabriel Richard High School for football. The co-op is a 2 year agreement, after which we could re-evaluate the need/desire to continue. |
| Winter | | |
| Girls' basketball | Freshmen | Most teams that we will compete against will be either freshmen or JV. |
| Boys' basketball | Freshmen | Most teams that we will compete against will be either freshmen or JV. |
| Being considered: Boys'/Co-Ed Swimming | | A co-op arrangement with Father Gabriel Richard High School is being considered as one option. |
| Being considered: Boys' Hockey | | |
| Being considered: Boys' Wrestling | | |
| Spring | | |
| Track & Field | Freshmen | |
| Being considered: Softball | Freshmen | Most teams that we will compete against will be either freshmen or JV. A co-op arrangement with Father Gabriel Richard High School is being considered as one option. |
| Being considered: Baseball | Freshmen | Most teams that we will compete against will be either freshmen or JV. |

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| | | A co-op arrangement with Father Gabriel Richard High School is being considered as one option. |
| Being considered: Co-Ed Golf | | A co-op arrangement with Father Gabriel Richard High School is being considered as one option. |
| Being considered: Girls' Soccer | | A co-op arrangement with Father Gabriel Richard High School is being considered as one option. |