

## Bard High School Early College Curriculum: High School Program

BHSEC equips a broadly diverse group of students for upper-level college work through a rigorous 9th and 10th grade program and two years of a liberal arts college curriculum.

In their first two years at BHSEC, students undertake a course of study that provides a solid grounding in mathematics, science, history, English, and a foreign language. They participate in a variety of arts and physical education classes and athletic teams, and meet the state requirement in health. They are encouraged from the beginning to participate in extracurricular activities and community service.

Subject	Courses	Notes & Comments
Social Studies	Grade 9: The Americas I & II Grade 10: Global Studies I & II	The Americas is a comparative history course that surveys the major movements and events in North and South America from the colonial period to the present. The accompanying American Literature course is organized by genre, and covers historical documents and essays, poetry, classic novels, dramas, and short stories.
English	Grade 9: American Literature I & II Grade 10: World Literature I & II	Global Studies surveys the geography and history of Africa, Asia, and Europe from the earliest civilizations through the 20th century. The accompanying World Literature course includes an introduction to ancient mythic and sacred texts of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, as well as examples of epic and lyric poetry, significant political documents, drama, biography, and fiction from a variety of periods and countries.
Mathematics	Grades 9 and 10: Algebra, geometry, trigonometry	The mathematics curriculum ensures that all students master the basics of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Students with sufficient preparation may also take an accelerated program, including precalculus, while in the 10th grade.
Science	Grades 9 and 10: An introduction to scientific thinking, experimentation, and laboratory protocols in conceptual physics, chemistry, and/or biology	In the high school science program at BHSEC, students learn the essential skills and approaches scientists use in conducting research. Courses are laboratory intensive and inquiry based, developing students' ability to test hypotheses, analyze and describe results, and read and understand scientific literature. In preparation for more advanced courses in the college program, they take conceptual physics, introductory chemistry, and biology.
Language	Grades 9 and 10: An introduction to foreign-language study and immersion classes in Chinese, Latin, or Spanish	Students gain a strong introduction to foreign language study, electing to pursue Latin, Mandarin Chinese, or Spanish. The high school language program prepares students to work at an intermediate level and above when they reach the college program.
Arts	Grades 9 and 10: An introduction to the visual and performing arts; elective courses include design, drawing, digital photography, chamber orchestra, choir, guitar, piano, rock or jazz ensemble, dance, acting, scene study, and creative writing	In 9th grade, students receive a grounding in visual art, music, theater, and/or dance. The following year, students enroll in at least one art class each semester. These include visual art classes, music options (provided with the assistance of working musicians, including members of the American Symphony Orchestra), theater selections, dance, and creative writing.
Physical Education and Health	Grades 9 and 10: General physical education, health education	Students must complete eight semesters of physical education and one semester of health education while at BHSEC.
Regents Exams	English, one mathematics, one science, U.S. history and government, global history and geography	Prior to entry into the college program, students take all five required Regents exams. After successfully completing four years at BHSEC, they receive a New York State Regents diploma.

## Bard High School Early College Curriculum: College Program

In their final two years at BHSEC, students meet the requirements of the Bard College associate in arts degree, taking four semesters of our signature general education seminar sequence in the history of ideas, at least one year of college mathematics and laboratory science, at least two semesters of a foreign language or courses in other cultures and literatures, and a semester of arts at the college level. In addition, they take more advanced electives in their particular areas of interest. Graduates move on to four-year colleges with a broad introduction to higher education in the liberal arts, often with substantial transfer credits and having met the distribution requirements of the new institution.

Subject	Sample Courses (catalogue available)	Notes & Comments
History of Ideas (four semesters required)	First-Year Seminar I & II; Sophomore Seminar I & II	The four-semester seminar sequence is the signature humanities experience of the BHSEC college program. The seminars are modeled on a course in Bard College's common curriculum that introduces important intellectual, cultural, and artistic ideas through reading and discussion of core texts. The seminars develop student skills in critical reading and interpretation of significant works in the history of ideas. Readings include Plato's <i>The Last Days of Socrates</i> , Dante's <i>Inferno</i> , Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i> , Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> , Goethe's <i>Faust</i> , Darwin's <i>The Origin of Species</i> , Marx's <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , Freud's <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> , Forster's <i>A Passage to India</i> , Woolf's <i>To the Lighthouse</i> , Kafka's <i>The Trial</i> , and Frayn's <i>Copenhagen</i> , among others.
Humanities (four semesters required)	African American Literature; The American City; Caribbean Literature; Chinese Fiction and Film; Empire: Race, Wealth, and Nation; Freedom and Human Nature; Gender and History; German Idealism; God and Caesar; Latin American Literature; Liberty and the Law; Lyric Poetry; Memoir and Autobiography; Novels of Tolstoy; Political Ideas; Social Contract; Understanding Vietnam; Writer's Notebook	A wide variety of humanities courses are offered each semester by BHSEC faculty and by distinguished visiting writers and scholars in their areas of expertise. These fields include anthropology, art history, Asian studies, classics, cultural studies, economics, music history, philosophy, political science, and psychology, in addition to creative writing, history, and comparative literature. All classes are writing intensive, fostering students' ability to express their views with confidence and clarity.
Mathematics (two semesters required)	College Algebra; Precalculus; Calculus I & II; Multivariable Calculus; Linear Algebra; Applied Differential Equations; Finite Mathematics; Groups and Symmetry; Knots and Surfaces; Introduction to Statistics; Cryptology	The math program is designed to serve students eager to pursue careers in research science, medicine, engineering, business, and pure mathematics, as well as those interested in the social sciences, arts, and humanities. Students are required to take at least one year of college math.
Science (two semesters of laboratory science required)	Cell Biology; Organismal Biology; General Chemistry; Calculus-Based Physics; Neurobiology; Physiology; Genetics; Cancer Biology; Infectious Disease; Noninfectious Disease; Ecology and Evolution; Zoology; Organic Chemistry; Chemistry of Food and Cooking; Astronomy; Quarks and Cosmos	Students enroll in one year of biology, chemistry, or physics with calculus to meet the basic laboratory science requirement. They can then choose from a variety of more specialized science electives or undertake a student-initiated tutorial or research project.
Language (two semesters of intermediate courses required)	Intermediate Chinese, Spanish, and Latin; Chinese Civilization; Hispanic Cinema; Mysticism in Latin America; Soccer and Latin American Identity; Classical Greek; Hellas; Poetry of Virgil; Ars Poetica	Upon completing the high school program, students take intermediate-level college classes in Latin, Mandarin Chinese, or Spanish. In these courses, students read and translate texts and gain increased fluency in speaking, understanding, and writing in the target language. At the end of the year, they can move on to advanced courses focused on the literature of ancient Rome, China, or the Spanish-speaking world and to courses on the culture and history of these areas.
Arts (three credits required)	Art of Film; Introduction to Photography; Documentary Photography; Painting; Printmaking; Songwriting; Rock Ensemble; Chamber Music; Musics of the World; Method Acting; Mime and Mask; Theater Production Workshop; Playwriting; Dance Ensemble	Many students enroll in at least one art class each semester. These include studio art classes; music options including jazz ensemble, chamber orchestra, and concert choir; and theater, dance, and creative writing.
Electives	As long as students fulfill all early college requirements, they may elect to take additional courses in any of the preceding six categories.	Students must complete 60 college credits over the course of their two years in the college program to receive the Bard College A.A. degree.