



ACADEMICA  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDIES

ACADEMICA INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
DUAL DIPLOMA PROGRAM  
COURSE CATALOG 2025-2026

The Mission of Academica International Studies (AIS) is to provide students with high-quality virtual learning content and services. AIS is committed to fostering the development of diligent and responsible life-long learners of the 21<sup>st</sup> century through the thoughtful use and continuous, data-driven improvement of interactive, media-rich educational opportunities in flexible, student-centered, virtual learning environments. Ultimately, AIS achieves success in surpassing national standards via the integration of student, teacher, parent, school, Governing Board, and community efforts in the direction of excellence in education.

**DUAL DIPLOMA PROGRAM:** The Academica International Studies Dual Diploma Program gives students in countries outside of the United States the opportunity to earn a U.S. high school diploma while simultaneously earning their secondary school diploma in their country of origin.

Academica International Studies provides the following services and benefits to its students:

**ACCESS:** Access to an extremely diverse, fully accredited course catalog. Our courses are aligned to both state and national standards.

**INNOVATION:** The possibility for student enrichment in a rich and engaging virtual classroom provided by a student-friendly Learning Management System (LMS). The LMS also gives teachers flexibility to enhance course content and adapt requirements and objectives to directly meet individual student needs when needed.

**RESPONSIVENESS:** Facilitation and feedback will be provided by highly experienced faculty members, who hold valid Florida teaching certificates. Our teachers are professionally trained in online education best practices and will communicate and collaborate with students adhering to our high standards for faculty responsiveness.

**MENTORSHIP:** Students will be closely monitored by teachers and administrators to ensure achievement and success, including a cohesive communications plan that alerts students and parents about progress and pacing so any potential problems or struggles are solved before they become major issues.

## Table of Contents

Academica International Studies Dual Diploma Program .....	Page 3
Course Descriptions.....	Pages 4 - 17
• English Language Arts.....	Pages 4 - 9
• Social Sciences.....	Pages 9 - 13
• Additional Electives.....	Pages 14 - 17

## Academica International Studies Dual Diploma Program

Graduation Requirements: In order to obtain the AIS High School diploma, the following course requirements must be completed.

Subject Area	Course Requirements 24 Credits
Native Language & Literature	4 credits, with major concentration in composition, reading for information, and literature
English	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits, one of which must be Algebra 1 or equivalent and one of which must be Geometry or its equivalent
Science	3 credits, two of which must have a laboratory component and one of which must be Biology 1 or equivalent course or series of courses
Social Studies	1 credit of World History 1 credit of US History .5 credit of US Government .5 credit of Economics
Fine Arts or Performing Arts	1 credit of fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts
Physical Education/Health	1 credit in physical education to include integration of health
Electives	4 credits
Grade Point Average	Minimum Cumulative Overall Unweighted GPA of 2.0 on 4.0 scale

Course of Study: A minimum of 6 of the 24 graduation requirements must be taken with AIS in order to earn the Dual Diploma. All students will take the 4 Required Courses: 2 Credits in English, United States History, and United States Government/Economics. Students will take 2 credits from the Electives.

**Electives** *Note that all electives may not be available each semester*

Course	Credits	Prerequisite
Advanced Placement Human Geography	1	Students must have an overall 3.0 GPA and successful completion of English II or the equivalent.
Advanced Placement Psychology	1	Students must have an overall 3.0 GPA and successful completion of English II or the equivalent.
College Entrance Exam Prep	1	None
Concepts of Engineering & Technology	1	None
Criminology	1	None
Digital Photography	1	None
Life Management Skills	1	None

Psychology	1	None
Public Speaking & Journalism	1	None

## ***Course Descriptions***

### **English Language Arts**

#### **English I**

In this class you are going to participate in a series of online tutorials, state-of-the-art learning modules, oral and written examinations, and creative projects. You will become more knowledgeable about everyday English vocabulary and grammar and highly proficient in practical conversation and day-to-day interaction. You will acquire a variety of skills related to both comprehension and communication in everyday English.

Prerequisites: None. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

Semester 1

- Students will be able to demonstrate, orally and in writing, a clear understanding of everyday English grammar.
- Students will learn strategies for clear and articulate pronunciation of English vocabulary.
- Students will learn how to successfully converse in diverse English-language settings and environments.
- Students will acquire a variety of skills related to both comprehension and communication in everyday English.
- Students will master the following grammatical structures: the verb to be, pronoun and noun forms, possessive forms, the simple present tense, the present continuous tense, the simple past tense, the present perfect tense, adverbs, modals, and future forms.
- Students will master vocabulary related to the following themes: greetings and introductions, talking about the past, talking about the future, things we have done, routines and actions, past experiences, let's trade apartments, and comparing people and things.
- Students will complete creative projects throughout the course where they will be required to apply the knowledge of the English language that they are acquiring and demonstrate proficiency in both written and oral form.

Semester 2

- Students will continue to learn strategies for clear and articulate pronunciation of English vocabulary.
- Students will master the following grammatical structures: the simple past tense, the present perfect tense, adverbs, modals, and future forms.
- Students will master vocabulary related to the following themes: greetings and introductions, talking about the past, talking about the future, things we have done, routines and actions, past experiences, let's trade apartments, and comparing people and things.

- Students will complete creative projects throughout the course where they will be required to apply the knowledge of the English language that they are acquiring and demonstrate proficiency in both written and oral form.

## **English II**

In this class you will continue to participate in a series of online tutorials, state-of-the-art learning modules, oral and written examinations, and creative projects. You will continue to improve your English vocabulary and grammar skills as well as become proficient in more formal settings.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English I or the equivalent. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

### Semester 1

- Students will continue to learn strategies for clear and articulate pronunciation of English vocabulary as well as develop skills necessary for communication in more formal settings.
- Students will review all grammatical structures from English I.
- Students will learn how to successfully converse in diverse English-language settings and environments.
- Students will acquire a variety of skills related to both comprehension and communication in everyday English.
- Students will master vocabulary related to the following themes: community, career trends, house and home, inventions, the environment, finance, safety preparedness and the arts.
- Students will complete creative projects throughout the course where they will be required to apply the knowledge of the English language that they are acquiring and demonstrate proficiency in both written and oral form.

### Semester 2

- Students will review the grammatical structures taught in Semester 1 and will learn how to apply higher order thinking skills when dealing with written and spoken texts.
- Students will complete creative projects throughout the course where they will be required to apply the knowledge of the English language that they are acquiring and demonstrate proficiency in both written and oral form.
- Students will use text evidence to support thesis, poetry analysis, using a mentor text to mimic style, main idea, author's purpose, theme, responding to text with personal connections
- Students will analyze word choice, tone, claims, context to create inferences, and parts of an argument. Students will defend or refute a thesis/claim.
- Student will practice proofreading, public speaking techniques, and presentation skills.

## **English III**

The purpose of this course is to provide students, using texts of high complexity, integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language in preparation for college and career readiness.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English II or the equivalent. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

#### Semester 1

- Identifying theme and how it develops
- Text connections
- Recognizing point of view
- Tone
- Figurative Language
- Allegory
- Compare and Contrast
- Comparing and contrasting mediums
- Using context clues
- Finding the main idea
- Rhetorical devices
- Write literary analyses to support claims
- Writing an effective summary
- Poetry
- Poetic elements
- Assess internet sources
- Researching and organizing information
- Avoiding plagiarism/citing sources
- Making inferences to support comprehension
- Identifying conflicting points of view
- Syntax and diction
- Analysis of literature and informational texts from varied literary periods

#### Semester 2

- Elements of literature
- Analysis of literature and informational texts from varied literary periods
- Identifying conflicting points of view
- Using supporting evidence
- Presenting information in different mediums
- Evaluating modes of communication
- Analyzing theme
- Figurative language
- Syntax and diction
- Interpreting implicit and explicit ideas
- Compare and contrast
- Cause and effect

- Point of view
- Analyzing central ideas and author's choices
- Interpreting symbolism
- Identifying multiple perspectives on an issue
- Analyzing the validity of claims
- Making inferences to support comprehension
- Create a digital presentation
- Context Clues
- Finding credible sources
- Knowing your audience
- Argumentation vs. persuasion
- Making and supporting a claim
- Acknowledging counter-claims
- Concluding an argument
- Writing an introduction, supporting paragraphs, and the conclusion to an essay

## **English IV**

The purpose of this course is to provide students, using texts of high complexity, integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language in preparation for college and career readiness.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English III. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

Semester 1

- Theme, Thematic analysis, and Thesis Statement
- Idea and Theme Development
- Character Development
- Plot Analysis
- Syntax
- Context
- Compare and Contrast
- Understanding the Role of Conflict in a Story
- Proper Use of Conventions
- Text Structures
- Figurative language and symbolism
- Context Clues
- Tone and Mood
- Diction, Dialect, Connotation and Denotation

- Structure
- Analyzing Historical Documents
- Rhetoric Appeals and Devices
- Appeals to Logic, Emotion, and Ethics
- Evaluating the Validity of Claims

## Semester 2

- Informational Texts, Text Features
- Digital Literacy
- Analyzing Credible Sources and Citing Sources
- Logical Organization When Presenting Information
- Writing Types
- Figurative language and symbolism
- Context Clues
- Tone and Mood
- Poetry
- Dialect
- Syntax
- Appeals to Logic, Emotion, and Ethics
- Logical Reasoning
- Summarizing, Paraphrasing and Notetaking
- Argument analysis, Argument writing process
- Characteristics of an Effective Claim, Counterclaim
- Research skills, Ethical Researching and Writing Practices

## English V Honors

The purpose of this course is for students to develop knowledge of great literature through reading, writing, speaking, and listening, and language. Students will explore a variety of “great books”, as well as plays, poems, films, and articles, that include cultural influences and highlight major genres, issues, and themes.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English IV. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

### Semester 1

- Identifying theme
- Connotation, Denotation, and Imagery
- Tone and Syntax
- Poetry
- Symbolism



- Plot, Pacing, and Point of View
- Plot Structure
- Writing a Thesis Statement
- Making Personal Connections to a Story
- Writing an Outline
- Understand Various Types of Writing, Determine an Author's Purpose in Writing, Make a Prediction about a Topic
- Historical Context and Human Rights
- Point of View
- Grammar
- Analyze the Techniques that Authors Use to Explore and Communicate Themes
- Using Word Parts to Decipher the Meaning of Words

## Semester 2

- Humor and Tone
- Narrative Writing
- Pre-writing Process
- Writing Tips
- Understanding of Universal Themes
- Symbolism
- Analyze the Techniques that Authors Use to Explore and Communicate Themes
- Analyzing Writing Prompts, How to Identify Topics, Gathering Information
- Analysis, Research and Citations
- Reading a Play
- Evaluate a Director's Use of Literary and Film Techniques
- Poetry
- Argumentative Writing, Claims and Counterclaims
- Develop Your Position
- Outline Your Argument
- Write your Argument
- Using Word Parts to Decipher the Meaning of Words
- How to Use Phrases and Fragments for Effect

## **Social Sciences**

### **Advanced Placement Human Geography**

In this course, students will explore the patterns and processes that impact the way humans understand, use, and change Earth's surface. Geographic models, methods, and tools will help students examine the effect that human social organization and interconnections have on our world.

Prerequisites: Students must have an overall 3.0 GPA and successful completion of English II or the equivalent. Credits 1.0

\*Counts as Dual Diploma Elective

Major Topics Covered:

- What is Geography?
- Population
- Movement
- Culture and Languages
- Religion
- Ethnicity and Gender
- Political Geography
- Agriculture and Rural Land Use
- Industrialization and Development
- Cities and Urban Land Use

### **Advanced Placement Psychology**

In this course, students will explore Psychology, the science of behavior and mental processes which encompasses the mind, brain, and behavior and affects all aspects of everyday life. Students will examine the evolution of Psychology from its early beginnings to the cutting-edge research shaping our understanding of the science today, including various theoretical perspectives and methodologies employed by psychologists to study human behavior. Students will develop critical thinking skills to evaluate psychological research and gain insights into the ethical considerations that guide scientific inquiry.

\*As part of this course, there are additional textbooks/e-books that students will need to purchase.

Prerequisites: Students must have an overall 3.0 GPA and successful completion of English II or the equivalent. Credits 1.0

\*Counts as Dual Diploma Elective

Major Topics Covered:

- Scientific Foundations of Psychology
- Biological Basis of Behavior
- Sensation and Perception
- Learning
- Cognitive Psychology
- Testing and Individual Differences
- Developmental Psychology
- Motivation and Emotion
- Personality
- Clinical Psychology
- Social Psychology

## **Economics Honors**

In this course, students will recognize examples of economics in their daily life. Students will see how the economic choices of larger groups, like businesses and governments, affect themselves and others.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English I or the equivalent and United States Government.  
Credits .5

Major Concepts Covered:

- Study of Economics, Scarcity and Choice
- Opportunity Cost
- Supply and Demand
- Money, Wants and Needs
- Career and Income
- Taxes
- Saving and Investing, Credit and Loans
- Role of Financial Institutions
- Budgets
- Entrepreneurship
- Factors of Production
- Business Organization, Market Competition
- Marginal Cost Analysis
- Production Possibilities
- Business Cycle
- Government and the Economy
- The Federal Reserve, and the Securities and Exchange Commission
- Monetary Policy and Fiscal Policy
- Economic Goals and Measurement
- Comparative Advantage and International Trade
- Inflation
- Circular Flow
- Public Policy Analysis

## **Psychology**

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the subfields within psychology.

Prerequisites: None. Credits 1.0  
\*Counts as Dual Diploma Elective

Major Concepts Covered:

- Foundations and Evolution of Psychology

- Biological Bases of Behavior
- Psychological Research
- Personality Traits
- Individualism and Collectivism
- Human Development
- Classical and Operant Conditioning
- Learning, Memory, and Intelligence
- Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Psychological Disorders and Therapy
- Stress Management
- Social Psychology

### **United States Government Honors**

You will gain a greater understanding on the history of the United States of America's beginnings, and knowledge of how government functions at the local, state, and national levels.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English I or the equivalent. Credits .5

Major Concepts Covered:

- Origins and Foundations of Modern Government
- Types of Government
- Purposes of Government
- Declaration of Independence
- Articles of Confederation
- The Constitution
- Branches of Government, Checks and Balances and Federalism
- Judicial Branch, the Court System, and the Supreme Court
- The Amendments and the Bill of Rights
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- The Legislative Branch, Powers of Congress and Congressional Elections
- Role of Political Parties and Interest Groups
- How a Bill Becomes a Law
- The Executive Branch, Presidential Elections, and the Cabinet
- Citizenship, and the Rights and Responsibilities of United States Citizens
- Voting Rights and Responsibilities
- Immigration

### **United States History**

In this course, you will look at some of the most profound questions that thoughtful United States still debate. You will research many important events throughout the history of the United States of America. In the process, you will witness the development of the United States throughout its history to today's superpower status.

Prerequisites: None. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

Semester 1

- Understanding the chronological order of historical events
- Understanding the connections between historical events
- Generating inferences around historical events
- Interpreting Primary and Secondary sources
- American Revolution
- War of 1812
- Industrial Revolution
- Westward Expansion
- Civil War
- Reconstruction
- Westward Expansion
- Industrial Revolution
- Populism
- Push and Pull Factors of Immigration
- Social Reform
- Imperialism
- Spanish American War
- World War I

Semester 2

- The Roaring Twenties
- The Great Depression
- World War II
- Cold War
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Civil Rights Movement
- Women's Rights Movement
- 1970s
- 1980s
- 1990s
- The Millennium
- Terrorism

## **Electives**

### **College Entrance Exam Prep**

In this course, you will practice thinking strategies, build verbal competence, and sharpen your mathematics reasoning. You will acquire essential test-taking strategies. This course is a test prep course that is designed specifically for students who are planning to take the ACT and/or SAT which are standardized tests required as part of the college application process at many universities across the United States.

Prerequisites: None. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

- College Entrance Exam vocabulary, requirements, and facts
- Vocabulary: word meaning, roots, prefixes and suffixes, sentence types, sentence completion, literary terms, and transitional words
- Critical reading
- Inferences
- Point of view
- Author's tone and attitude
- Long and short reading passages
- Understanding reading passages and Determining main idea
- Web use for self enhancement in vocabulary
- Algebraic expressions and Algebraic mistakes
- Changing word problems into math problems
- Math – Rate, Distance, Work, Cost and Mixture problems
- Simultaneous Equations
- Factoring Quadratics
- Inequalities
- Binomials and Trinomials
- Direct and Inverse Variation
- Functions
- Probability
- Rational and Radical Equations
- Graphing equations and absolute value
- Geometry including: coordinate geometry, Pythagorean theorem, parallel and transversal lines, area and perimeter, triangles, rectangles, polygons, and circles surface area
- Permutations and combinations: Alphanumeric problems, Logic, Graphs/Charts
- Writing Essays: using essay prompts, brainstorming, and planning, word choice, elaboration sentence type
- Grammar: identifying errors and punctuation

### **Concepts of Engineering & Technology**

In this course, you will be studying the various fields of engineering, how engineers function on a daily basis, and what a career in engineering looks like. Then, you will explore advancements in technology and how they impact our day-to-day lives.

Prerequisites: None. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

- The Engineering Design Process
- The Engineering Design Team
- The Tools of an Engineer
- Models and Simulations
- Foundations of Computers
- Artificial Intelligence: AI and its effects on the world around us.
- Coding: Coding languages and how they are used.
- Quantum Computing: How quantum mechanics is used to solve world problems.
- Cybersecurity and Cloud Storage and Data Science: Storing information in the cloud, how companies collect our data, and protecting private information.
- Emerging Technologies: Blockchain and virtual reality and other new technologies.

### **Criminology**

In this course, students will explore the field of criminology or the study of crime. In doing so, students will look at possible explanations for crime from psychological, biological, and sociological standpoints, explore the various types of crime and their consequences for society, and investigate how crime and criminals are handled by the criminal justice system.

Prerequisites: None. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

- Learn what defines a crime and the different types of crime
- Discuss what criminology is and its impact on our society
- Look at some of the research methods that criminologists use to study crime
- Discuss the goals of the American legal system
- Analyze the federal and state court systems
- Examine the criminal justice system and its goals to reduce crime
- Outline the stages of a criminal case process and investigation
- Understand how a crime scene is processed
- Examine crime statistic sources and the issues with each
- Define the psychological, sociological, biological theories that explain crime
- Evaluate and analyze the development and nature of deviant behavior and criminal intent
- Examine how the corrections process can impact crime
- Discuss how punishment varies for different crimes
- Examine the steps of the civil case process.

### **Digital Photography**

In this course, students will learn creative photographic skills and processes. As part of this course, students will explore how to apply basic camera settings for both smart phone and DSLR cameras in order to capture various types of photographs. The course also explores famous photographers and

photographs throughout history that set the tone for modern photography. The course focuses on hands-on application of skills using cameras and editing software to improve photography skills, regardless of photography experience. Students will build a portfolio of work and explore the fields of photography and graphic arts.

Prerequisites: None. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

- Introduction to the Art of Photography
- Focus and Depth
- Motion and Lighting
- City and Natural Environments
- Self-Portraits and Selfies
- Formal Portraits
- Candid
- Close-Ups and Food
- Editing Photographs
- Storytelling using Photographs

### **Life Management Skills**

This course is designed to equip students with essential strategies and practical skills needed to navigate and manage various life challenges effectively. The course includes topics like goal setting and effective time management, fostering healthy habits for a balanced lifestyle, developing stress management techniques to handle tough situations, and making informed, prudent decisions under pressure. Through interactive learning methods and real-life examples, this course aims to empower students with the knowledge and resilience to lead a well-rounded, productive life.

Prerequisites: None. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

- Effectively Planning Your Study Time
- Creating Action Steps to Reach Your Goals
- Leading a Healthy Lifestyle
- Managing Stressful Moments in Your Life
- Making Decisions in Challenging Situations
- Exploring Careers and Hobbies You Are Passionate About
- Navigating the Digital World in Your Daily Life
- Contributing to the World Around You

### **Public Speaking & Journalism**

In this course, students will learn how to write and deliver great speeches. Students will watch and analyze speeches and explore techniques for becoming effective public speakers. This course will



also focus on journalism, including the principles of journalism, and how to become a good journalist.

Prerequisites: None. Credits 1.0

Major Concepts Covered:

- Understanding Great Speeches
- How to Write Great Speeches
- Speech Delivery
- Giving Presentations
- Reading and Analyzing Good Journalism
- Spotting Bad Journalism
- Research Process for Journalists
- Creating Journalism