

ANTELOPE VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SOAR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOK

SOAR (Students On Academic Rise) High School, an Early College High School, is formed as a partnership between the Antelope Valley High School District and the Antelope Valley Community College District to provide a unique opportunity for students who have the potential to graduate from high school but who may be at risk of not attending college. Entrance into the program requires a 2.0 GPA for Freshmen and a 3.0 for Sophomores as well as achieving Standards Nearly Met and above through the CAASP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress). Sophomores must also have completed Biology and Health. Students must also have minimal attendance and discipline issues. The student must also submit an application, then participate in an interview where standards and performance levels are explained. Participation in SOAR High School is voluntary. Students and parents sign a contract prior to admission agreeing to the standards and performance levels set forth by the program.

SOAR High School is designed to promote academic achievement, social maturity, and enhanced economic opportunities through the completion of high school and success in college. SOAR High School embraces the Core Principles of AVID and the Early College High School (ECHS) Initiative, including improving the graduation rates by creating a flexible high school year, by compressing the number of years to complete a college degree, and removing financial and other barriers to college.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to earn a diploma from SOAR High School, students must meet specific criteria:

- 1. Earn a total of 230 credits.
3. Meet the State Algebra requirement.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Table listing course requirements: ENGLISH 9, 10, 11, 12 (40 credits), MATHEMATICS (30 credits), SCIENCE (20 credits) including Physical (10) and Biological (10), SOCIAL SCIENCE (30 credits) including World History - 10th grade (10), U.S. History - 11th grade (10), and Civics/Economics 12th grade (10), HEALTH (10 credits), PHYSICAL EDUCATION (20 credits) for 9th and 10th grade, VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS, OR FOREIGN LANGUAGE (10 credits), and ELECTIVES (70 credits).

TOTAL CREDITS FOR GRADUATION:230 CREDITS (minimum)

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The SOAR High School Counseling Department's goal is to address the personal/social, academic, and career/college needs of each student. Although Antelope Valley College also has counseling services, it is the hope that students will access the high school services first either with a counselor for academic purposes and/or with a school psychologist for personal/social purposes

FOUR-YEAR EDUCATIONAL PLANS

Students are encouraged to develop a Student Educational Plan (SEP) through the AVC Counseling department in their Sophomore year. Prior to the Sophomore year, the high school counselor will review graduation and A-G requirements which will demonstrate the necessity to achieve their four-year plan/SEP when completed with the AVC Counselor. The plan will remain flexible and can be altered if plan or goals change.

SEP's will give students a framework within which to work during their four years at SOAR High School. Students will work with their high school and college counselor on developing and maintaining their plan on an ongoing basis.

CHOOSING A CAREER PATHWAY

A Personalized Educational Plan

Jobs in the twenty-first century will require both high academic and technical skills. Primarily because of ever-changing technology, our society will see many new job titles and work areas added each year. That makes it especially important for students to begin thinking early about what types of occupations they might want to pursue and then plan a program that will give them more opportunities for success.

School-to-Careers is a new approach to learning for all students. In 1994 the School-to-Work Opportunities Act was signed into law. The Antelope Valley Union High School District had identified eight Career Pathways

- Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources
- Arts, Media & Communications
- Business
- Consumer Family Science
- Health Care
- Information Technology
- Industrial Technology
- Law & Government, Public Services & Education



BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

HEALTHFUL LIVING (03094)

Summer School course

One-year Course – 10 credits

Open to grade: 9 (required)

Prerequisite: None

Healthful Living, a general health class, is based on the philosophy that prevention, education, and the application of this information is essential to lifelong wellness. The course offers enriching experiences for the pupil to recognize the extensive techniques available to deal with such teenage experiences as low self-esteem, stress, peer pressure, substance use and abuse, teenage sexuality, and decision-making leading to constructive life goals. Additional health subjects, such as nutrition and eating disorders, diseases, personal relationships, human reproduction, sexually transmitted diseases, and child abuse, are taught with an emphasis on the practical aspects of adjusting healthfully to life experiences. Students are encouraged to discuss the various healthful living topics with their families.

It is our intention that the values and morals of the family unit are strengthened as a result of this parent/child communication.

ENGLISH

(Four Years Required)

ENGLISH 9 HONORS (07202)

One-year Course – 10 credits

English credit; UC “A-G” English credit

Open to grade: 9 (required)

Summer reading required

The first level of high school English. Students develop skills in higher order reading comprehension, language usage and writing, literary analysis, critical thinking, speaking and listening, and academic research through the study of literature.

ENGLISH 10 HONORS (07212)

One-year Course – 10 credits

English credit; UC “A-G” English credit

Open to grade: 10 (required)

Summer reading required

The second level of high school English. Through the study of literature, develop skills in higher order reading, comprehension, language usage and writing, literary analysis, critical thinking, speaking and listening, and academic research.

ENGLISH 11 HONORS (07232)

One-year Course – 10 credits

English credit; UC “A-G” English credit

Open to grade: 11 (required)

Summer reading required

The third level of high school English. This course is designed to introduce and expose students to American literary movements in a chronological approach and to align horizontally with the study of American history.

ENGLISH 12/EXPOSITORY READING AND WRITING (07535)

One-year Course – 10 credits

English credit; UC “A-G” English credit

Open to grade: 12 (required)

Summer reading required

The Expository Reading and Writing Course prepares college-bound seniors for the literacy demands of higher education. Through a sequence of

rigorous instructional modules, students in this yearlong, rhetoric-based course develop advanced proficiencies in expository, analytical, and argumentative reading and writing.

Note:

English 101 and 102 may be taken beginning the summer prior to senior year at Antelope Valley College as dual credit based on college assessment scores, in place of Expository Reading and Writing.

*(Please refer to “**Things You Need to Know**” for more information)*

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Taken as Dual Credit through Antelope Valley College under the Early College High School Program (refer to **Things You Need To Know** for more information.

MATHEMATICS

(Three Years Required)

Algebra or its equivalent must be completed for high school diploma

ALGEBRA 1 (10401)

One-year Course – 10 credits
Math credit; UC “A-G” Math credit
Open to Grade: 9-12

Prerequisite: *Placement based on teacher placement and assessment.*

A full year course devoted to the development of algebraic skills as problem-solving tools and as the foundation for geometry and other college preparatory courses and entrance exams. Emphasis is on the development and recognition of problem-solving paradigms, use of calculator technology, logical reasoning, and the consistent application of formal algebraic techniques integrated into a variety of

interdisciplinary, “real-world” contexts. Symbolic reasoning and calculations with symbols are central in algebra. Through the study of algebra, a student develops an understanding of the symbolic language of mathematics and the sciences. In addition, algebraic skills and concepts are developed and used in a wide variety of problem-solving situations. Algebra will be presented in accordance with the California Standards.

The California Standards can be viewed at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/> .

ALGEBRA 2 (10402)

One-year Course – 10 credits
Math credit; UC “A-G” Math credit
Open to grades: 9-12

Prerequisite: *Algebra 1 or Teacher placement and assessment.*

This discipline complements and expands the mathematical content and concepts of Algebra 1 and Geometry. Students who master Algebra 2 will gain experience with algebraic solutions of problems in various content areas, including the solution of systems of quadratic equations, logarithmic and exponential functions, the binomial theorem, and the complex number system. Algebra 2 will be presented in accordance with the California Standards. Students will be prepared for the SAT; college placement tests; and mathematical courses involving Trigonometry.

The California Standards can be viewed at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/> .

GEOMETRY (10409)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Math credit; UC “A-G” Math credit

Open to grade: 9- 12

Prerequisite: *Open to students who have completed Algebra 2 or Teacher placement and assessment.*

This course is a formal development of the geometric skills and concepts necessary for students who will take Algebra 2 and/or other college preparatory math courses. The course closely integrates algebra with fundamental geometric concepts: logical proof, properties of geometric objects (points, lines, planes, angles, circles, triangles, polygons, etc.), geometric measurement (perimeter, area, volume, etc.), among others.

The California Standards can be viewed at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/> .

TRIGONOMETRY/PRE-CALCULUS (10413)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Math credit; UC “A-G” Math credit

Open to grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: *A grade of “C” or better in previous math class.*

A study of periodic functions, circular functions, graphs, identities, polar coordination, complex numbers, matrices, and selected topics in analytic geometry for preparation for calculus. This course is needed for college majors in the fields of science, engineering, and mathematics and is a prerequisite for the study of calculus.

Trigonometry/ Pre-Calculus will be presented in accordance with the California Standards. Students will be prepared for the SAT, college placement

tests, and the CAASP.

The California Standards can be viewed at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/> .

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

9th and 10th Grade (required)

Taken as Dual Credit through Antelope Valley College, under the Early College High School Program

SCIENCE

(1 year Life/1 year Physical required)

ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY (12511)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Life Science credit; UC “A-G” Lab Science

Open to Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: *Biology and Chemistry with a “C” or better AND/OR instructor permission.*

The course is designed specifically for those whose college or career plans include a possible emphasis on the medical or biological. Importance will be placed on student initiative and responsibility in doing laboratory work, meeting examination deadlines, and coping with the rigorous requirements of the program.

BIOLOGY (12513)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Life Science credit; UC “A-G” Lab Science

Open to grades: 9-12

This course will be a one-year lecture and laboratory courses. The major emphasis of the course will be placed on knowing and understanding Biological Science.

Biology will give the student the capability to continue their science training at higher levels. This course may require one hour of homework at night, and a willingness to seek instructor help if needed.

CHEMISTRY (12515)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Physical Science Credit

UC “A-G” Lab science

Open to grades: 10-12

Prerequisite: “C” or better in *Algebra I and Biology (both semesters)*, or teacher permission.

Chemistry is a college preparatory course meeting the requirements of the University of California. Theoretical, quantitative, and laboratory approaches are used so the student may understand the basic concepts of chemistry. Students will need a calculator for homework. Taken as an articulated course that receives Antelope Valley College credit.

PHYSICS (12526)

One-year course – 10 credits

Physical Science Credit; UC “A-G” lab science

Open to Grades 10-12

Prerequisites: *Completed Biology, Algebra I, concurrent enrollment in Algebra II (or higher math) recommended.*

Physics is a lab science course surveying motion and forces, energy and momentum, heat and thermodynamics, waves and optics, electronic and magnetic phenomena. Computer interface laboratories, which use the computer as a data collector, will be used extensively for the lab portion of the class. The course is designed to meet the need of a wide variety of individuals.

It is a rigorous course for the college bound individual pursuing a career in math, science or engineering. It may also be useful for students intending to attend trade or technical school, or pursuing a career in a technical field after graduation.

This course meets the lab science entry requirement for Cal State or UC schools.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

CIVICS/ECONOMICS

Can also be taken as Dual Credit through Antelope Valley College. under the Early College High School Program.

CIVICS (16623)

Half Year Course – 5 credits

Civics credit; UC “A-G” History

Open to grade: 12

The basic requirement for a democracy is an informed population. Civics builds upon student’s knowledge of U.S. History to explore the working of government including the Constitution, the court system, federal, state and local government.

ECONOMICS (16624)

Half Year Course – 5 credits

Economics credit; UC “A-G”

(“G” Elective)

Open to grade: 12

Economics is a course which introduces students to the world of money and finance. Students learn about various aspects of the economy—from balancing a checkbook to balancing the national deficit. This course helps to prepare the student to function in our market economy.

U. S. HISTORY HONORS (16621)

One-year Course – 10 credits
UC “A-G” U.S. History credit
Open to grade: 11

Students in the Honors United States History class will delve into a challenging, college level course which guides the students to describe, debate, analyze and evaluate how historical figures and significant events have altered the course of the country and the lives of the next generations. At the end of the course, students should be able to research, analyze, debate and justify, using specific historical evidence, a given topic as well as demonstrate critical thinking skills and mastery of content material. As part of this course, students will adhere to the following course outline in order to ensure that all critical material is covered and all content standards are met.

WORLD HISTORY HONORS (16630)

One-year Course – 10 credits
Subject area: History / Social Science ("a") / World History / Cultures / Historical Geography
Open to grade: 10

In this course, students examine major turning points in the shaping of the modern world from ancient times to the present, with major emphasis on the twentieth century. The course will begin with an examination of current world issues and will proceed to connect with students' past learning by studying the rise of democratic ideas. Other major topics will include: The Industrial Revolution, the Rise of Imperialism and Colonialism, World War I, Totalitarianism in the 20th Century, the

second World War and nationalism in the contemporary world.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Taken as Dual Credit through Antelope Valley College under the Early College High School Program.

AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination

One-year Course - 10 credits
Open to Grades: 9-12

AVID 1: Grade 9 (02323)
AVID 2: Grade 10 (02324)
AVID 3: Grade 11 (02325)
AVID Senior Seminar: Grade 12 (02326)
Elective credit; UC “A-G” elective

AVID is a mandatory elective course which addresses the needs of students “in the middle” as having the potential to be successful in a rigorous college preparatory program. The course provides the support and encouragement necessary for students to be successful, employing WIC-R (writing to learn, inquire, collaboration, reading) strategies, tutorials, skills, time management skills, test preparation strategies for the PSAT, SAT and ACT, college visitations, and motivational speakers. Students are taught Cornell note-taking skills and are required to maintain a well-organized three-ring binder containing notes, calendars, learning logs, assignments, etc. They participate in collaborative projects which require higher-level thinking skills and problem solving.

COLLEGE PREPRATORY ELECTIVES (“G”)

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN AMERICAN SOCIETY (16614)

Half Year Course (5 credits)

Elective Credit

Subject area: College-Preparatory

Elective ("g") / History / Social Science

Grade levels: 11, 12

From affirmative action to physician-assisted suicide, parental notification for teen abortions, states efforts in the Midwest and South limit abortions, to mandatory military service, "Contemporary Issues in American Society" will engage students in the study, discussion and debate of contentious topics in the United States today. In grappling with these moral questions, students will dig into the research on these issues, apply concepts of political philosophy, evaluate conflicting source material and arguments, and attempt to answer the question, "what is the right thing to do?"

ETHNIC STUDIES (03085)

One-year Course - 10 credits

Elective Credit

Subject area: College-Preparatory

Elective ("g") / History / Social Science

Open to Grades: 11, 12

The Ethnic Studies course aims to educate students to be politically, socially, and economically conscious about their personal connections to local and global histories. By studying the histories of race, ethnicity, nationality, and culture, students will cultivate respect and empathy for individuals and solidarity with groups of people locally, nationally, and globally so as to foster active social engagement and

community building. Honoring the historical legacy of social movements and mass struggle against injustice, including the establishment of ethnic studies programs in public schools and university curricula, this course aims to provide an emancipator education that will inspire students to critically engage in self-determination and seek social justice for people of color.

FORENSIC BIOLOGY (12556)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Elective Credit

Subject area: College-Preparatory

Elective ("g") / Laboratory Science –
Biology / Life Sciences

Open to Grades: 10-12

The class is designed to provide knowledge and information, as well as build skills in the conduct of science in the context of forensics. Students will be assessed in a variety of ways; a portion of their evaluation will include testing their ability to conduct laboratory investigations to solve crimes using scientific knowledge, accrued experience, and critical thinking skills. Assessment will be based on individual and team achievement.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE (05155)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Elective Credit

Subject area: College-Preparatory

Elective ("g") / Mathematics - Computer
Science

Open to Grades: 10-12

This course will teach students how to develop computer software, and through that development, students will learn the skills of logical reasoning and problem solving, skills that are fundamental to

the development of computer software. The course addresses the goals of the mathematics requirement by fostering mathematical thinking and teaching students how to be mathematical problem solvers who can tackle unfamiliar problems and create mathematical models and computational algorithms using symbolic logic. Developments in computing have far-reaching effects on society and have led to significant innovations. These developments have implications for individuals, for society, for commercial markets, and for innovation. Students in this course will study these effects and connections, and learn to draw connections between different computing concepts.

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN JOURNALISM (07290)

One-year Course – 10 credits
Elective Credit
Subject area: College-Preparatory
Elective ("g") / English
Open to Grades: 10-12

Throughout modern history, people have depended on the mass media to spread the word about events and people of interest to the general public. This course introduces students to the exciting world of print, online and broadcast media. Law, ethics and the history of journalism with complement the major units of study: reporting, writing, editing, photography, advertising, design, management and teamwork.

In addition, students will have the opportunity to use state-of-the-art computer-aided publishing tools and other hands-on production tools as well as modern photo techniques. The course

may provide students insights in college and career choices.

KINESIOLOGY (12558)

One-year Course – 10 credits
Elective Credit
Subject area: College-Preparatory
Elective ("g") / Laboratory Science –
Biology / Life Sciences
Open to Grades: 10 - 12

Students who take a course in kinesiology will have the ability to analyze movement and communicate with professionals regarding human movement. Kinesiology is an intense course of language skills related to the health career fields that includes thorough background knowledge of the skeletal and muscular systems. The students will research the Internet for studies of both systems, as well as present research on technical advances to injuries and diseases of these systems.

PSYCHOLOGY (03087)

One-year Course – 10 credits
Subject area: College-Preparatory
Elective ("g") / History / Social Science
Open to grades: 11, 12

An introductory course designed to increase the student's understanding of the discipline Psychology, the study of how and why human beings act, think, and react. This course should increase the student's understanding of their own mental processes. The course has emphasis on theories, cognitive development, and socio-cultural processes and human behavior. The elements in this course will stimulate students' interest and enhance their knowledge of the field of Psychology.

WRITING FOR PUBLICATION (07294)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Subject area: College-Preparatory

Elective ("g") /

Grade levels: 9-12

Prerequisite: *Consent of the advisor*

Students will explore various modes of writing, both fiction and nonfiction, developing skills in writing short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and journalistic writing. By reading and discussing sample works (from fiction anthologies, major news outlets, etc.), students will understand the characteristics of different modes of writing, paying particular attention to voice, style, and audience, to be emulated in their own writing. Students will explore and research the various roles of the writer within society. Students will learn the fundamentals of online publication, including layout and design. This is a writing intensive course in which students will create a portfolio of major assignments of publishable quality.

NON-A-G ELECTIVES

AVID PEER TUTOR (14596)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Elective Credit

Open to grades 11-12 ONLY

The AVID elective courses at all grade levels are designed to prepare, in an academic context, students for entrance into four year colleges, with emphasis on analytical writing, preparation for college entrance exams (PSAT, SAT, ACT), college study skills and test taking, notetaking, and research. The course features college students who support student learning primarily in

small groups in the AVID Elective class during the school day.

STUDENT AIDE (14570)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Elective Credit

Open to grades 11-12 ONLY

As a student aide, students will help with the efficient running of the SOAR High School front office. Students will have the opportunity to improve clerical and communication skills. A student aide's duties will include, but are not limited to, answering phones, running errands, taking messages, filing and operation of office machines.

LAB ASSISTANT (12522)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Elective Credit

Open to grades 11-12 ONLY

The laboratory assistant will be responsible for preparing solutions and other lab set up for Biology, chemistry or physics laboratories. Assist in maintaining organized laboratory work stations. Attending labs from the beginning until all students have completed their lab work; and help in cleaning up at the end of the lab. Assists teachers and students in the use of equipment in the laboratory. Prepares and issues material and equipment for student use. Prepares instructional materials and equipment for instructor demonstrations. Adjusts, maintains and performs minor repairs on equipment. Operates a variety of equipment related to assigned labs including, balances, pH meters, interfaces, computers, and other equipment. Performs other related duties as may be assigned. Meet schedules and time lines.

LEADERSHIP (22068)

(Open to all grade levels)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Elective Credit

SOAR High School's ASB Leadership Class roots itself in the SOAR High School tradition of strong academic success and outstanding extra-curricular participation as our core principles, as students prepare to serve and lead in an ever-changing global community. SOAR High School's ASB embodies all of the elected and appointed class officers, clubs, and student led activities on our campus. These organizations exist so that students may foster strong leadership skills, promote community involvement on and off campus, and build school spirit and camaraderie within a diverse community of students. SOAR High School's ASB wants students to be actively engaged and connected to their learning through involvement in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. This leadership group seeks to model the skills of successful teamwork, civic responsibility, strong leadership and altruistic service.

AV CAREER TECH ED

(Open to 12th grade students ONLY)

One-year Course – 10 credits

Elective Credit

Links to descriptions of the career technical education courses offered by the AVUHSD can be found @ <http://www.avrop.avhsd.org/> .