

Amador Valley High School

Welcome to 9th grade

Frequently Asked Questions

What classes will I take as a freshman?

Freshmen will be taking English, math, PE, a semester of health and a semester of global studies, and get to choose two electives. These electives could be a world language, science, fine art, career prep, or another elective course.

You can use the 9th grade scheduling sheet and program guide (located on the Amador website) to find out more about what electives are available at the freshmen level.

What science should I take if I choose to take one my freshmen year?

If you are taking math I as a freshman, then you can either not take a science or you can take conceptual physics. If you are taking geometry or a higher level of math, then you can sign up for no science, biology or conceptual physics. Two years of science are required for graduation and for a 4 year college. Some 4 year colleges, including the UCs, recommend 3 years of science.

Which level of world language should I choose?

If you have an A or strong B in your second year of world language in middle school, you may select the level 2 course at Amador such as Spanish 2, French 2, ect. Please make sure that you have a strong foundation in the world language before moving on to level 2. Check with your middle school teacher to see which class he or she suggests. A high school world language course is taught at a much faster pace than middle school. Two years of middle school world language counts as one year of high school world language.

What AP courses are available to freshmen?

AP courses aren't available at the freshmen level. There are honors courses available in English, math and global studies. Honors courses are open access, however enrolling in an honors course is a year-long commitment. Dropping the course and going into a regular college prep course may not be an option due to the space availability in regular classes.

How do I get into an honors course?

For honors geometry, students who are currently in eighth grade and have an A in algebra SII may want to sign up for honors geometry. All students interested in getting into honors sign up for honors geometry. For honors intermediate algebra, eighth graders who have an A in geometry may want to select honors intermediate algebra. No application or test is required to sign up for honors math.

For honors English, just select honors Freshmen English on the drop down menu. There is no placement test or application.

To get into honors global studies, just select honors global studies on the drop down menu. There is no placement test or application.

When will I sign up for my classes?

Freshmen will be hearing about graduation requirements, college requirements, and freshmen course offerings during 8th grade scheduling night on Wed., Jan. 19. The program guide, which contains descriptions of all of the courses offered at Amador, will be available on the Amador counseling website on Jan. 12. You will receive your schedule selection sheet at your middle school a few days before the scheduling night. Students will be selecting and entering their own courses into student zangle between 8:00 a.m. on Jan. 25 through midnight on Feb. 6th. Directions for logging into student zangle will appear on your schedule selection sheet.

Where can I find a description of classes, graduation requirements and college requirements?

Our program guide, which is posted on our counseling website, has a description of each course that Amador offers in addition to graduation and college requirements.

When will we find out our student's schedule?

Schedules will be picked up in August at walk through registration at Amador Valley High School.

What if I want to play a fall sport at Amador?

In the spring, we will provide a flier to the middle schools with the dates, times and contact person for the various fall sports. Remember that to be eligible to play a sport a student must maintain a 2.0 GPA with no Fs. For fall sports, we will be using your 8th grade second semester grades to determine eligibility.

Are there courses for GATE students?

There are no courses designed as GATE only at Amador. We do have honors courses available in English, global studies and math at the freshmen level and offer challenging courses in various subjects at all grade levels. We also offer a wide range of clubs and extra curricular activities. The GATE liaison at Amador is Kevin Kiyoi. Our GATE information night for incoming freshmen is Wed. Jan. 12, at 7pm, in the MP at Amador.

If I play a sport, do I have to take PE?

All freshmen must enroll in PE. State law requires students to take two years of physical education (PE) classes in order to graduate from high school. Starting with the graduating class of 2011, students are also required to take the new California Physical Fitness Test, known as the FITNESSGRAM, in order to fulfill high school physical education requirements. If students do not earn a passing score on the FITNESSGRAM assessment (by scoring 5 out of 6 healthy fitness zones), they will be required to enroll in a physical education class (grades 11 and 12) until they earn a passing score. The assessment is given once a year in the spring.

A total of 10 PE credits can be waived, 20 credits of PE are required for graduation.

A student is allowed to waive 5 credits for every 2 seasons of a sport played during 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, with a maximum of 10 waived credits. In addition, if a student plays 1 sport all four years, the student can get 5 credits of PE waived.

Do freshmen grades count for college?

Yes. Students will be taking courses during their freshmen year which will help them meet the four year college requirements; for example: Freshmen English, math, world language and others. If a student receives a D in a college prep course, i.e. Freshmen English, then that course will not count for college. Private colleges use a student's overall GPA (all grades 9-12) to determine college acceptance. Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and some UCs also will use a student's freshmen year grades to determine acceptance for admission.

What if I want to change my schedule?

We ask that you select your courses carefully; you will have from Jan. 25 through Feb. 6 at midnight to make adjustments to your schedule on student zangle. Schedule changes are often difficult to accommodate. We encourage you to use the program guide, which is available on the Amador counseling web site, your current teacher's recommendations, and the information provided to you by the counselors on Jan. 19 at 8th grade scheduling night, to help you make your decision for course selections.

Once again, there may not be room in the master schedule to make changes to your student's schedule once you have made your course selections.