

Core Course Guide

Covington High School

- ❖ Resource, Honors, Gifted, Talented, Dual Enrollment (DE) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses require recommendations and/or prerequisites.
- ❖ Honors, DE, and AP courses offer a more rigorous and in-depth curriculum than on-level courses. If a student does not maintain a “C” or higher, students will be moved to an on-level equivalent and will not receive the weighted credit for the class.
- ❖ Dual Enrollment Courses require a minimum ACT score; see course descriptions. Fees may also be associated with these courses.
- ❖ AP courses may earn college credit depending on the AP standardized test score the student receives upon completion of the course
- ❖ Gifted and Talented Classes require a current IEP identifying the student as “gifted” according to state criteria.
- ❖ Special Education classes (Resource) require a current IEP identifying the student as meeting special education criteria.

English

- **English I** (Regular, Resource, Honors, Gifted)
Grade 9; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite for Honors Enrollment: A or B in 8th grade English; Mastery or Advanced on LEAP 2025; and teacher recommendation.
-Students receive instruction in: traditional grammar, paragraph development, vocabulary, study skills, researching information resources, writing, and critical reading of drama, short stories, essays, poetry, and novels. Students are expected to apply the fundamentals of mechanics and usage to composition assignments. *Summer reading is a requirement for honors and gifted.* **All students are required to take the English I LEAP2025 test in the spring semester, upon completion of the B portion of the course. A passing score on the LEAP2025 is required for graduation.**
- **English II** (Regular, Resource, Honors, Gifted)
Grade 10; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: English I
Prerequisite for Honors Enrollment: A or B in English I; Mastery or Advanced on Eng. I LEAP 2025; and teacher recommendation.
-Students receive instruction in: grammar, composition, library skills, vocabulary, study skills, research, writing, and literature. Students are expected to apply the fundamentals of mechanics and usage to composition assignments, which focus primarily on expository and persuasive essays. *Summer reading is a requirement for honors and gifted.* **All students are required to take the English II LEAP2025 test in the spring semester, upon completion of the B portion of the course. A passing score on the LEAP2025 is required for graduation.**
- **English III** (Regular, Resource, Honors, AP)
Grade 11; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: English I, II
Prerequisite for Honors Enrollment: A or B in English II; Mastery or Advanced on Eng. II LEAP 2025; and teacher recommendation.
-Students receive instruction in: chronological review of American literature, research paper, speaking, listening, note taking, outlining, analyzing oral and written material, study skills and library usage for research as well as essay writing. *Summer Reading is a requirement for honors and AP.*

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- **English IV** (Regular, Honors)
Grade 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: English I, II, III
Prerequisite for Honors: A or B in English III and teacher recommendation.
-Students receive instruction in the following areas: chronological review of British literature, speaking, listening, analyzing, and evaluating of written material, and library usage for research as well as essay writing. Summer reading is a requirement for honors.
- **English IV** (Dual Enrollment)
Grade 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: English I, II, III
Prerequisite for DE: A or B in English III and teacher recommendation.
-Students receive instruction in the following areas: essay writing, chronological review of British literature, speaking, listening and evaluating of written material. Dual enrollment credit with Southeastern Louisiana State University. Courses completed are English IV high school requirement of British Literature and English 101 and 102 at collegiate level (extensive essay writing). Summer reading is a requirement. Requires a minimum ACT score of 18 in English.
- **Business English** (4th English for Tops Tech students)
Grade 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: English I, II, III
-Students will enhance written and verbal communication skills that are essential to success in business organizations and industry. Students are expected to read, comprehend, interpret, and analyze literary and informational texts and to create and publish documents such as reports, essays, letters, commercials, and technical manuals. Students study rhetorical devices and persuasive techniques and apply

research skills to identify a successful career path.

Mathematics

- **Algebra I** (Regular, Resource, Honors)
Grade 9; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite for Honors Enrollment: A or B in 8th grade math, Mastery or Advanced on LEAP, and teacher recommendation.
-This course includes understanding the language of algebra, performing operations with real numbers, solving linear equations and inequalities, problem solving with equations, graphing linear equations, solving linear inequalities, solving systems of equations, computations with polynomials, factoring polynomials, performing operations with algebraic fractions, solving expressions containing radicals, solving quadratic equations, and understanding the integration of algebra with other mathematics. **All students are required to take the Algebra I LEAP2025 test in the Spring Semester. A passing score on the LEAP2025 is required for graduation.**
- **Algebra I/Math Essentials Block** (*Regular, Resource*)
Grade 9; 1 Year Course; 2 Hour Block; 2 Credits
-This course is a two hour block that allows students time to master Algebra Skills during class time. Students pursuing the Tops Career Diploma will earn two of their four needed math credits. Included in this course are the following topics: understanding the language of algebra, performing operations with real numbers, solving linear equations and inequalities, problem solving with equations, graphing linear equations, solving linear inequalities, solving systems of equations, computations

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with polynomials, factoring polynomials, performing operations with algebraic fractions, solving expressions containing radicals, solving quadratic equations, and understanding the integration of algebra with other mathematics. **All students are required to take the Algebra I LEAP2025 test in the Spring Semester. A passing score on the LEAP2025 is required for graduation.**

- **Math Essentials** (Regular)
Grades 10, 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: Algebra I
-This course builds upon conceptual understanding and foundations found in algebra and geometry. Topics include: ratio, proportion, probability, statistics, geometry of two and three dimensional objects, right triangle geometry and trigonometry, linear functions, special non-linear functions, quadratic functions, and other foundational math topics. **This course does not count for TOPS University Diploma.**
- **Geometry** (Regular, Honors, Gifted)
Grades 9, 10; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: Algebra I
Prerequisite for Honors Enrollment: Algebra I with a “B” average or better in Algebra I (H) or an “A” average in Algebra I
-This course includes the structure of geometric relationships in a plane; properties of angles and perpendicular lines; inductive and deductive reasoning; recognition and application of theorems about parallel and perpendicular lines and planes; identification of polygons, congruent and similar triangles and their properties; the characteristics of right triangles; circles and, perimeters, area, and volume of geometric figures. **All students are required to take the Geometry LEAP2025 test in the Spring Semester. A passing score on the LEAP2025 is required for graduation.**
- **Algebra II** (Regular, Honors, Gifted)
Grades 10, 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry.
Recommended: “B” average in Algebra I and Geometry.
Prerequisite for Honors Enrollment: “B” average in Algebra I and Geometry (H) or “A” average in Algebra I and Geometry
-This course covers all topics presented in Algebra I in greater depth. Additional topics include: conics, logarithms, polynomial and rational functions.
- **Algebra III** (Regular, Honors)
Grades 11, 12, 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
Prerequisite for Honors Enrollment: “B” average in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II (H) or “A” average in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
-Students will solidify topics learned in Algebra II, while focusing on work with many types of functions such as polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic. Modeling real-life problems and fitting data to those models will be an integral component of this course. This course will give students the work needed in preparation for College Algebra.
- **Pre-Calculus** (Regular, Honors, Dual Enrollment)
Grades 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Recommended for Regular or Honors Enrollment: “B” average or better in Algebra I and Geometry and have previously taken and passed Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.
Prerequisite for Dual Enrollment: “B” average or better in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. Requires a minimum ACT score of 19 in Math. Pre-Calculus can be dual enrolled for 3 credit hours each semester (Course fee per semester).

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-The first semester includes topics from trigonometry such as the unit circle, trig graphs, solving triangles and trig equations. The second semester covers many Algebra II topics in more depth. These include sequence and series, exponential, logarithmic, polynomial and rational functions.

- **Calculus** (Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment)
Grades 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: "B" average in Algebra I, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, and recommendation of math teacher.
-Topics covered include algebraic, trigonometric, exponential and logarithmic functions. Limits and derivatives of these functions will be included, as well as applications of derivatives. Differential calculus will include antiderivatives, in-depth techniques of integration, and applications of the definite integral. In Advanced Placement, students may earn college credit upon successful completion of the course and standardized test. Dual Enrollment requires a minimum ACT score of 19 in Math. Calculus can be dual enrolled for 3 credit hours each semester (Course fee per semester). Accessibility to a graphing calculator is strongly recommended.
- **Financial Literacy - formerly Financial Math** - (Regular)
Grades 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: Algebra I, and Geometry or Math Essentials
-This course focuses on personal finance. Students will explore important life skills through mathematical applications. Topics address decision making and personal responsibilities such as understanding paychecks and income, budgeting, banking, credit, loans, buying a house, buying a car, insurance, and investments. **This course**

does not count for TOPS University Diploma.

- **Business Math** (Regular)
Grades 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: Algebra I, Financial Math, and Math Essentials or Geometry
-This course focuses on mathematics in business situations. Students will explore how businesses function through mathematical applications. Topics include all facets of managing a business such as personnel, production, purchasing, sales, marketing, storage, distribution, services, accounting, and planning. **This course does not count for TOPS University Diploma.**

Science

- **Environmental Science** (Regular, Honors)
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite for Honors: A or B in 8th grade math, Mastery or Advanced on LEAP, and teacher recommendation.
-This course is designed for students who do not plan to major in the sciences. First semester deals with ecosystems and how they work, population problems, soil and water ecology, and pollution problems. Second semester deals with toxic wastes, air pollution, pest control, natural resources, biota land use and energy.
- **Biology** (Regular, Honors)
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite for Honors Enrollment: Honors Environmental Science with a "B" or better average; Algebra I with a "B" or better average, Mastery or Advanced on LEAP, and teacher recommendation.
-The student will use process skills in a laboratory setting to develop an understanding and knowledge of living

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things. First semester includes a study of the chemistry of life, cell biology, molecular biology, genetics and ecology. Second semester includes the study of taxonomy, the anatomy and physiology of living things, human systems, and evolution. **All students are required to take the Biology LEAP 2025 test in the Spring Semester. A passing score on the LEAP 2025 is required for graduation.**

- **Chemistry I** (Regular, Honors)
Grades 10, 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite for Honors Enrollment: "B" or better average in all honors science and math courses.
-In this course laboratory experiences, demonstrations, and problem solving are stressed. Scientific notation and measurement, significant digits and graphing skills are developed.
Nomenclature, bonding, balancing equations, stoichiometry, states of matter, electron configuration, periodic trends, and gas laws are included in first semester. Solutions, acid-base theory, equilibrium and oxidation-reduction processes are included second semester.
- **Biology II** (Regular, Honors, Dual Enrollment)
Grades 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite for Honors and Dual Enrollment: Students should have a B or better in Biology I, Chemistry I, and a teacher recommendation. *Dual Enrollment additionally requires* a minimum ACT score of 18 composite. Biology II can be dual enrolled with Southeastern Louisiana University for 3 credit hours each semester (Course fee per semester).
-Biology II is designed for the student who has a strong interest in biology. Students explore advanced topics selected from cellular biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, genetics, microbiology,

evolution, behavior, ecology, plant and animal anatomy, and physiology. Research and advanced laboratory techniques are emphasized.

- **Physics** (Regular, Honors)
Grade 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite: Recommended by teacher, A or B in all Science classes.
-This course is designed for the college-bound student who will not major in science. It deals with applications of natural laws and with problems solving. First semester will cover force and motion. Second semester will cover magnetism, electricity, sound and light.

Social Studies

- **World Geography** (Regular, Honors, Gifted)
Grade 9; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite for Honors Enrollment: A or B in 8th grade social studies, Mastery or Advanced on LEAP, and teacher recommendation.
-This is a study of the physical and cultural geography of the world. Emphasis will include the development of geography skills with a focus on the connections between people and places and the relationship between humans and their environment.
This course does not count for TOPS University Diploma.
- **U.S. Government** (Regular, Honors)
formerly titled Civics
Grade 9, 10; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite for Honors Enrollment: A or B in 8th grade social studies, Mastery or Advanced on LEAP, and teacher recommendation.
-In this course students learn about the duties, rights, and responsibilities of U. S.

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citizens. Students examine the Constitution and Bill of Rights and learn how our local, state, and federal governments are organized. It is also a general survey of the American free enterprise system including basic economic theory and practice. Economic concepts, including resources, market, supply and demand, profit, etc., will be emphasized.

Industrial Revolution during the first semester. The second semester will include events from the Industrial revolution to the present.

- **U.S. History** (Regular; Honors; Dual Enrollment)
Grades 11, 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite for Honors and DE Enrollment: An A or B in all English and Social Studies classes. *Dual Enrollment additionally requires* a minimum ACT score of 18 composite. American History can be dual enrolled with Southeastern Louisiana University for 3 credit hours each semester (Course fee per semester).
-This is a survey course that examines American history from the post-Civil War to the present. The study will be chronological. Students will analyze the themes of American history that tie historical events and developments to one another. Research and analytic writing is required.
All students are required to take the U.S. History LEAP2025 test in the Spring Semester. A passing score on LEAP2025 is required for graduation.
- **World History** (Regular, Honors, Dual Enrollment)
Grade 12; 1 Year Course
Prerequisite for Honors and Dual Enrollment: An A or B in all Social Studies classes. *Dual Enrollment additionally requires* a minimum ACT score of 18 composite. Dual Enrollment Course is enrolled with Southeastern Louisiana University for 3 credit hours each semester (course fee per semester).
- This is a survey course that examines world history from the Renaissance to the