



**Center for Advanced Studies and the Arts**

**Course Catalog  
2023-2024**

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**[www.casa-online.org](http://www.casa-online.org)**



## Four important things you need to know before you apply to CASA:

**1. Attendance at CASA:** Since CASA serves students from seven different sending districts, with seven different school calendars, we work to create our own CASA calendar that may, on occasion, differ from the students' home school schedule. **Students are expected to attend CASA when CASA is in session, even if their home district is closed.**

Please pay careful attention to the CASA calendar. CASA Calendar dates are published in August, on-line, via email, and printed in the CASA Student Handbook.

### 2. Advanced Placement at CASA

Advanced Placement, or “AP” classes, are classes that are taught at the college level, with high expectations for student engagement in the classroom and extensive reading and work at home. At the completion of an AP course, students may elect to take the AP exam in May. Most colleges and universities reward credit for an AP exam score of 3 or higher (on a 5-point scale). Taking an AP class in high school gives students a taste of what to expect when they go to college.

CASA offers 14 Advanced Placement courses in six-different subject areas. CASA encourages every student to enroll into an Advanced Placement course. We believe all students will benefit from such an experience, and we advise students to also take the AP exam for that course.

**3. Prerequisites:** A prerequisite is a class you must complete before taking an advanced course, or other requirements you must fulfill before you may take an advanced class. Many of our classes at CASA have required prerequisites. For example, to be able to enroll in AP Calculus BC at CASA, student must have completed a pre-calculus course that covered trigonometry, logarithmic functions and polynomial equations. Or, to take AP Music Theory, a student must be able to read music and have had experience playing in a band or orchestra or taking private lessons on their instrument. Prerequisites are listed under each class in the CASA Course Catalog, and there is a chart of prerequisites included here as well.

**4. The Application Process:** Students should work on their applications with the counselor from their home high school in order to ensure that they are getting the proper credits they need for graduation, and that they are appropriately placed in classes. The application is on-line, and counselors must approve the students' class choices. Some CASA classes are very popular. Usually, students are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, however, for a few very popular CASA classes, Seniors will receive priority scheduling where appropriate. Occasionally, we do have to give students their second-choice class, so students should be sure to pick a second-choice class that they really want to take when completing the application.

**Apply online at [www.casa-online.org](http://www.casa-online.org)**

## CASA Course Prerequisites

Course Name	Prerequisites	Grade Level
<b>English</b>		
AP English Language and Composition	Completion of English 10 or Honors English with a B or better	11-12
AP English Literature and Composition	Completion of English 10 or Honors English with a B or better	11-12
<b>Arts</b>		
Advanced Dance	Prior dance experience	10-12
AP Studio Art 2D: Painting and Drawing	Portfolio of at least 5 completed pieces submitted by May 30 of the year prior to enrollment in CASA	10-12
3D Art	Must have prior formal art experience in school or private lessons	10-12
AP Music Theory	Ability to read music, experience in band, orchestra, or private music lessons	11-12
<b>Math</b>		
AP Calculus BC	Completion of a pre-calculus course that covered trigonometry, logarithmic functions and polynomial equations	11-12
AP Statistics	Working knowledge of Algebra II	11-12
<b>Personal Fitness</b>		
Yoga	Must be physically fit to participate	10-12
<b>Science</b>		
AP Chemistry	Completion of second year Algebra with a grade of B or higher, strong mathematic reasoning skills	11-12
AP Physics C, Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism	Calculus AB or higher (may be taken concurrently)	11-12
Astronomy	Completion of Geometry and Algebra I with B average or better	11-12
AP Research	AP Seminar	12
<b>Social Studies</b>		
AP Psychology	B average in social studies classes, strong reading ability	11-12
<b>World Language</b>		
Japanese II	Japanese I	11-12
Japanese III	Japanese II	11-12

### Table of Contents:

English	p. 4
Fine Arts	p. 4-5
Math and Science	p. 6-9
AP Capstone	p. 10
Social Studies	p. 10-11
Personal Fitness	p. 11
World Language	p. 12

## English

### AP English Language and Composition

Grades: 11 – 12

Credit: 1

*Prerequisite: "B" average in English; demonstrate above*

*average ability in reading and writing skills. Completion of English 10, or Honors English 10.*

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is a year-long (two-semester) college level course in which students will learn to read complex texts with greater understanding and develop richness, clarity, and complexity in their own writing. Students will have the chance to experiment writing with the stylistic elements and rhetorical techniques used by great writers. Students will discover how to produce narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative writing that introduces a complex central idea and develops it with specific evidence, insightful commentary, and clear organization.

### AP English Literature and Composition

Grades: 11-12

Credit 1

*Prerequisite: "B" average in English; demonstrate above average ability in reading and writing skills. Completion of English 10, or Honors English 10*

The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading, and critical analysis of Imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments includes expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

## Electives

### CASA Achievement Skills- One semester only, Semester I or 2

Grades: 10-12

Credit: .5

This elective course is designed to help students strengthen their study and organizational skills to help them be successful CASA learners. The course will give students the opportunity to improve upon skills such as critical thinking, time management and organizational skills. Leadership training, creativity and teamwork are also explored throughout the semester.

### Peer to Peer I and II

Grade: 12 only

Credit: .5 each semester

Peer to Peer is an elective course that provides students opportunities to support and model academic and social skills. Neurotypical and neurodiverse students work together in a integrated, positive environment to promote socialization, independence, and strong friendship bonds that last throughout high school and beyond. CASA students will work with Berkley Adult Transition special education students to support meaningful, positive and social interactions. The curriculum includes reflective journaling activities, multi-media content related to disabilities and inclusion, pre/post assessments, classroom participation with peers, and a final project.

## Fine Arts

### Advanced Dance

Grades: 9– 12

Credit: 1; 2 if taken during both B and C hours

(Dance may be taken as a one-hour class; or two-hour block for 2-credits)

*Prerequisite: This performance- based class is designed for serious students who have had previous dance experience or who have excellent movement aptitude. To ensure students' proper placement, the instructor will conduct a personal interview after enrollment.*

This course is designed to enhance the students' knowledge of dance as a performing art. B hour dance may concentrate on modern, hip-hop, and theatrical styles of dance. C hour may emphasize jazz, ballet, and tap. Advanced Dance students will have many opportunities to perform throughout the community and to attend local professional dance performances. Students may repeat this course for additional credit. Attendance daily is crucial to be successful in this performance class and is factored into the final grade. Students will provide their own personal dance clothes and shoes.

### AP Studio Art 2D/ Drawing & Painting

Grades: 10 – 12

Credit: 2 if taken during both B and C hours

*Prerequisite: This class is designed for the serious art student who wishes to achieve college credit with the compilation of a supervised portfolio. **To ensure proper placement, potential AP Studio Art students must present their art portfolio for review the spring before enrollment into the class.***

Students will learn to use multiple two-dimensional design principles. They will demonstrate mastery of several two-dimensional media. Drawing, painting, collage, and other approaches to creating 2-D art will be explored. Students will develop technical skills and develop a strong artistic vocabulary to assemble a portfolio of works demonstrating quality, concentration and breadth for submission to the College Board.

\*Students may also take this as a one-hour class for 1 credit.

### AP Studio Art 3D

Grades 10-12

Credits: 1; 2 if taken during both B and C hours.

*Prerequisite: This course is designed for the serious art student who wishes to achieve college credit with the compilation of a supervised portfolio. To ensure proper placement, potential AP Studio Art students must present their art portfolio for review the spring before enrollment into the class. Students may email photographs of their work to the art teachers or the director through the CASA website.*

This course is an opportunity for students to explore sculptural issues and concepts of volume, space, and surface. Students will have access to a spacious sculpture studio with a range of tools and materials. A hands-on survey of techniques will include installation art, assemblage, metals, fibers/fabrics, and ceramics. After initial explorations of materials, the course emphasizes independent work with student choice. Therefore, the course can be tailored to the individual's interest in 3D Art, ranging from fashion design, architecture, jewelry, woodworking, ceramics and more. Students will complete a portfolio for submission to the College Board.

## **Sculpture I & II**

Grades: 10 – 12

Credit: .5 each semester

*Prerequisite: Must have prior formal art experience in school or private lessons*

This course is an opportunity for students to explore sculptural issues and concepts of volume, space, and surface. Students will have access to a spacious sculpture studio with a range of tools and materials. A hands-on survey of techniques will include installation art, assemblage, metals, fibers/fabrics, and ceramics. If a student elects to take the course for two semesters, they will also pursue independent work with student choice of materials. Students taking the course for two semesters will also complete a portfolio.

## **AP Music Theory**

Grades: 11-12

Credit: 1

*Prerequisite: Prospective students should be able to read and write musical notation and have basic performance skills with voice or an instrument.*

The AP Music Theory course covers topics such as musicianship, theory, musical materials, and procedures. Musicianship skills, including dictation and other listening skills, sight-singing, and harmony, are considered an important part of the course. Students develop the ability to recognize, understand, and describe basic materials and processes of tonal music that are heard or presented in a score. Development of aural skills is a primary objective. Performance is also part of the curriculum through the practice of sight-singing. Students understand basic concepts and terminology by listening to and performing a wide variety of music. Notational skills, speed, and fluency with basic materials are also emphasized. This is a challenging course designed to improve and prepare the music literacy of students beyond high school.

# **Math & Science**

## **Advanced Forensics Science**

(Second Semester Only)

Grades: 11-12

Credit: .5

*Prerequisite: Geometry and Algebra I with a B average or better.*

This class explores how evidence is gathered at a crime scene, analyzed, and used in the prosecution of a criminal. Students will need to have a good understanding of trigonometry and geometry. Topics that will be covered include blood spatter patterns, gunshot trajectory, fingerprinting, blood typing, and chromatography. Students should expect daily assignments, independent research, in-depth reading and writing, and group activities.

## **AP Calculus BC**

Grades: 11 - 12

Credit: 1

*Prerequisite: The completion of a pre-calculus course that covered trigonometry, logarithmic functions, and solutions to polynomial equations.*

This course is intended for students with outstanding ability in mathematics. Students will study topics covered by the Calculus BC Advanced Placement Test. The material covered is roughly the equivalent of two semesters of freshman college calculus. This course is more comprehensive and faster paced than Calculus AB. Students should expect two hours of homework each day.

## **AP Chemistry**

Grades: 11 - 12

Credit: 1

*Prerequisite: Second-year Algebra with a grade of B or higher coupled with strong mathematical reasoning skills; The AP College Board strongly recommends incoming students have already completed (with an A or B) a first-year high school Chemistry course.*

The AP College Board has modeled the AP Chemistry course after a typical two-semester introductory inorganic Chemistry course at the college-level. Universities may award credit based on the results of the AP Chemistry Exam and evidence of laboratory work. This is a fast-moving course which requires students to communicate in-depth understanding of complex ideas. Students regularly engage in problem solving, creation of scientific investigations, guided-inquiry investigations, analysis of data, presentation of conclusions, and application of concepts to multiple content areas within the chemistry framework and beyond. Students should expect to devote a large amount of time outside of class for independent learning. Approximately 25% of class time is devoted to laboratory investigations, which includes performing laboratories as well as preparation and analysis.

## **AP Environmental Science**

Grades: 10-12

Credit:1

In this class, students investigate environmental issues, scientific principles, and interrelationships within the natural world. We identify and analyze natural and man-made environmental problems, evaluate risks, and examine solutions for resolving or preventing them. This is a lab based, interdisciplinary class where we look at topics from biology, geology, chemistry, geography, as well as social issues and impact. This one-year course is designed to be an equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course in environmental science.

## **AP Physics: C – Mechanics** (First Semester Only)

Grades: 11 - 12

Credit: .5

*Prerequisite: Calculus AB or higher (may be taken concurrently)*

This one-semester class will cover the principles of Physics including Kinematics, Rotational Motion, Momentum, Work, and Energy using Calculus-based equations. There is a significant lab portion to this class.

## **AP Physics: C – Electricity and Magnetism** (Second Semester Only)

Grades: 11 - 12

Credit: .5

*Prerequisite: Calculus AB or higher (may be taken concurrently), AP Physics C- Mechanics*

This one-semester class will cover the principles of Physics including Electric Circuits, Transformers, Magnets, and Induction using Calculus based equations. There is a significant lab portion to this class.

## **AP Statistics**

Grades: 11 - 12

Credit: 1

*Prerequisite: Working knowledge of Algebra II*

This course is the equivalent of an introductory college Statistics course required by many non-mathematical majors (i.e., social science, business, health, science, and engineering). Examples of the use and abuse of statistics in these fields and in politics and advertising will be used to foster critical thinking about research design. Activity-based learning will be used to demonstrate how unbiased data can be collected and dramatically presented to reveal patterns.

## **Astronomy (First Semester Only)**

Grades: 11 - 12

Credit: .5

*Prerequisite: Geometry and Algebra I with a B average or better.*

This college-level course is for the student that is interested in the science of space exploration. Student activities will include, but are not limited to, simulations, article interpretations, research, and projects. Topics of Astronomy will include planetary motion, Kepler's Laws, the history of space exploration, and the life cycle of stars. Students should have a strong background in mathematics and expect daily homework assignments, independent research, in-depth reading and writing, and group activities.

## **Biology of Food I (First Semester)**

Grades: 10 – 12

Credit: .5

*Prerequisite: completion of Biology with a grade of B or better*

Do things like ice cream and fruit drinks really have a flavor “enhancer” taken from a gland near beavers’ anuses? Are strawberry *Frappuccinos*® pink because they have ground up bugs in them? What’s that “pink slime” in my McNuggets®, anyway?

You eat three times a day, or more. Wouldn’t you like to know more about where your food comes from and what foods truly contribute to good health? Would you like to know how to produce your own food safely and without damaging the environment? This class will help you gain a greater understanding of food and food production. We will take a hands-on approach. The first semester will focus on food preservation, canning, botulism, microbiology, food safety, food technology, longevity, vegetarianism, veganism, meat, and GMOs. The student will also learn basic ways to preserve food.

## **Biology of Food II (Second Semester)**

Grades: 10 – 12

Credit: .5

*Prerequisite: completion of Biology with a grade of B or better*

Second semester will focus on dieting and obesity, nutrition, basic biochemistry, organic gardening, compost, soil, pesticides, pests, bees and farm animals. Students will learn how to grow their own organic food.

## **Invasive and Poisonous Species (Second Semester Only)**

Grades: 10 – 12

Credit: .5

Throughout history, the movement of humans has been the cause of many species spreading from continent to continent. The Great Lakes has had an unfortunate series of invaders including the alewife, sea lamprey, zebra mussels and now, quite possibly, the Asian carp. In places like Guam, the brown tree snake has decimated the bird population. Closer to home, both Florida and Hawaii have been experiencing problems with invasive species. In addition to animals, our survey of invasive species will also include plant species like puncture vine and insects like the emerald ash borer.



## Metaverse Studies and Applications

Grades: 10-12

Credit: 1

*The metaverse can be defined as a simulated digital environment that uses augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and blockchain, along with concepts from social media, to create spaces for rich user interaction mimicking the real world. Think Ready Player One, but more accessible and pragmatic. Think social media as it exists today, but more integrated and immersive. The notion of the metaverse-recently propelled into the mainstream by Facebook's rebranding as Meta- will transform how we inhabit the world around us. (xrtoday.com, 1.10.22).*

Metaverse Studies and Applications at CASA will develop students' understanding of the metaverse and the skills and dispositions necessary to thrive in this new environment. A considerable portion of the class will be centered on working on a real-world task in collaborative teams to include in their digital portfolios.

Students will explore a general Introduction to:

- 3-D virtual environments/ marketplaces
- Virtual Reality/ Augmented Reality
- Artificial Intelligence
- Natural Language Processing
- Professional Expectations in Metaverse organizations

Programming, Application programming, Business Applications

- CRM
- Cloud technology
- Information management systems
- API Connectivity

Game Design

Digital Marketing

- Websites
- Excel applications for targeted marketing

Metaverse Studies and Applications students will prepare for and have the opportunity to interview for summer internships through CASA's partnership with TAG Multimedia Group. It is recommended that students enrolled in Metaverse Studies also enroll in one of the following CASA classes: Genius Hour, AP Seminar, AP Computer Science Principles, or Advanced Multidisciplinary Design.

## Plagues and Pandemics (First Semester Only)

Grades: 10 – 12

Credit: .5

More than 50 million people died during the 1918 flu pandemic, and as many as 500 million people were killed by the "black death" in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

With headline-grabbing modern threats, like antibiotic resistant "super bacteria," many Americans are asking: Will another disease circle the globe spreading death and destruction? This course will survey the plagues and pandemics that have occurred in recorded history. It will include not only diseases that have infected humans, but also diseases that have infected plants thus reducing our food supply, causing starvation. Finally, we will examine current public health threats, as well as attempts to prevent outbreaks by organizations like the Center for Disease Control.

## **AP Capstone Program**

### **AP Seminar**

Grades: 11 or 12

Credit: 1

This latest addition to the Advanced Placement program is designed to develop students' reading, writing, research, and critical thinking skills. Investigate real-world topics of your choice from multiple perspectives. Learn to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision. Develop arguments based on facts and effectively communicate them. Examine materials such as news stories, research studies and literary works so you can craft arguments to support your point of view and communicate effectively using various media. Students will work on individual and group projects and presentations, often on topics of their own choosing. (Students may use this course for a science or an elective credit.)

### **AP Research**

Grade: 12

Credit: 1

*Prerequisite: AP Seminar*

AP Research allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Through this exploration, students design, plan, and conduct a year-long research-based investigation to address a research question. In the AP Research course, students further their skills acquired in the AP Seminar course by understanding research methodology; employing ethical research practices; and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information as they address a research question. Students explore their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of the development of their scholarly work in a portfolio, culminating with a final paper, presentation, and oral defense. Upon successful completion of AP Research and AP Seminar, students will be eligible for the AP Certificate or the AP Diploma.

## **Social Studies**

### **AP Psychology**

Grades: 11-12

Credit: 1

*Prerequisite: "B" average in Social Studies with strong reading skills.*

AP Psychology will introduce students to the fascinating discipline of psychology from classical conditioning to the biology of psychology, from motivation and cognition to visual perception, personality theory and psychological disorders and therapies. Students will perform original research in the field of psychology, participate in experiments, demonstrations, case studies, projects and much more. The class will provide students with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed on the AP Exam in May, which can provide students with college credit.

## **Heroes and Villains (Mythology) I & II**

Grades: 10-12

Credit: .5 each semester

The course will follow the history of the world's greatest civilizations through stories of adventure, magic, epic love, and tragic loss. We will discuss Egypt, Greece, Rome, Britain, The Norse, and many others. We will compare great heroes like Gilgamesh, Achilles, Hector, Thor, King Arthur, and Beowulf to modern heroes such as The Avengers, Luke Skywalker, and Harry Potter. Through stories of their battles with Ice Giants, and projects investigating when if ever great kings (and queens) can live forever, we will gain vast historical, geographical, and social knowledge of the world, and find deep connections to our own lives, that we never knew existed.

## **AP European History**

Grades: 11-12

Credit: 1

AP European History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university European history course. In AP European History students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in four historical periods from approximately 1450 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing historical evidence; contextualization; comparison; causation; change and continuity over time; and argument development. The course also provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction of Europe and the world; poverty and prosperity; objective knowledge and subjective visions; states and other institutions of power; individual and society; and national and European identity.

## **Personal Fitness**

## **Yoga I & II**

Grades: 10 - 12

Credit: .5 each semester

*Prerequisite: Must be physically fit to participate*

CASA yoga is a one semester or year-long opportunity to cultivate a daily yoga practice. It includes breathing and centering techniques, and meditation to help students manage their lives. To be able to experience a daily yoga practice during school is an incredible offering. Yoga is a mind and body workout. Students should become stronger and more flexible, as well as more mindful, relaxed, and better able to handle the daily stresses of life with equanimity and grace. It is important to note, however, that, as in all classes, students will get out of this class what they put into it.

# World Language

## Japanese Level I

Grades: 10 – 12

Credit: 1

*Please note: Students should expect daily homework assignments and should be prepared to speak, write, and memorize words and phrases.*

This course is the first of a two-year sequence designed to prepare students for Japanese at the university level. This course emphasizes the fundamentals of speaking, reading, writing, and the basic linguistic structures of Japanese. Students must learn two separate writing systems, and a third writing system will be introduced. They will begin to understand basic Japanese and comprehend simple paragraphs and dialogues written in Japanese. Students will also study various aspects of the Japanese culture, such as geography, people, and customs.

## Japanese Level II

Grades: 11-12

Credit: 1

*Prerequisite: One year of Japanese I and a "C" or better in Japanese*

This intermediate course will provide second year students with an extension of basic knowledge, enabling them to construct a firm foundation in the Japanese language and culture. Students will reinforce the grammatical base acquired in Japanese I through dialogues and conversational contexts. They will increase the number of characters that they can read and write from the third writing system. Students will continue to study various aspects of Japanese culture.

## Japanese Level III

Grades: 11-12

Credit: 1

*Prerequisite: Japanese I and II, with a B or better average.*

This course is primarily an independent study. Assignments will include listening and reading passages, as well as reading and writing kanji. Students may choose to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (N5 level) in December.

## Latin 1

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1

Latin introduces reading and understanding authentic Latin passages at sight. Students learn pronunciation, grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and English derivatives. Culture is highly integrated into the course, focusing on the ancient city of Pompeii, Greek and Roman mythology, Egypt, and Britain.

*Prerequisite: none*

## Latin 2

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1

In Latin 2 students continue to develop an understanding of the grammar and syntax components of the language. Students increase their ability to read and comprehend authentic Latin at sight. Students study in-depth the impact of Roman history and culture in the modern world, particularly in the fields of medicine, science, literature and law.

*Prerequisite: Latin 1 with a B or better average.*