

*PINKERTON ACADEMY
FRESHMEN COURSE EXPECTATIONS BY LEVEL*

A Level Courses

*Students are assigned homework, expected to conduct research, or study for upcoming tests/quizzes on a nightly basis in most classes.

*Classes are fast-paced with the expectation that all outside class work is completed by deadline and that students are prepared to participate in class discussions, conduct labs, or work on projects based on having completed out of class work. Teachers typically do not go over each homework assignment as a class. Students are encouraged to ask for clarification if needed.

*As students progress, the emphasis is more on long-term projects than nightly assignments.

*It is understood that some questions on tests/quizzes are drawn from independent homework, studying and/or research assignments and not necessarily from direct teacher instruction.

*Often students may be juggling/managing more than one short-term and long-term assignment within the same class.

*Students are expected to be able to read literally and inferentially.

B Level Courses

*Students are assigned homework, expected to conduct research, or study for upcoming tests/quizzes several days of the week.

*Teachers expect that all outside class work is completed and that students are prepared to discuss out of class assignments, ask for clarification if needed, and participate in activities based on out of class work.

*Teachers forewarn students when items on quizzes/tests will be drawn from independent, out of class work.

There are only be “A” and “B” level Physical Science courses---C level Science does not exist. In order to accommodate the needs of all students, teachers will administer formative assessments, participate in differentiated instruction, parallel teaching, and be mindful of always accommodating the individual needs of all students.

C Level Courses

*Students are assigned homework, expected to conduct research, or study for upcoming tests/quizzes independently once or twice a week. When homework is assigned, teachers normally review assignment with class as a whole, prior to moving forward.

*Teachers allow for time in class to work on assignments. Assignments not completed in class may be sent home with student to complete on an independent basis, with the expectation that students bring completed work to class the next day.

*Teachers develop test/quiz questions based on items that have been directly taught to students.

Exploration Level Courses (permission required through PA Special Education Department)

*This course is designed for a select group of students who need the smaller setting and much more attention to organization and homework completion, thereby

*Much of the class work is completed during structured class time. Homework is typically an extension of what was started and often completed in class, with the aid of both the classroom teacher and any paraprofessional assigned to the group.

*Same expectations as C level, but in a smaller setting.

*Para-Educational Support available via IEP team decision.

Core-course selections and elective choices

Core courses required for all incoming 9th graders include:

English (1 full credit)

Math (1 full credit)

Science (1 full credit)

American Government (1/2 credit)

Cultural Geography (1/2 credit)

In considering the levels to recommend for both required and leveled elective courses, teachers are urged to look at the student's academic performance, work ethic and testing. The staff at Pinkerton Academy put a lot of faith in the recommendation of the eighth grade team teachers and encourages 8th grade core teachers and special educators to engage parents in conversation when there is a disagreement about suggested levels.

**DEADLINE FOR EXPLORATION LEVEL, READING & PERSONAL COMMUNICATION
ENRICHMENT**

COURSES: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2012

Typical courses taken by many freshmen include:

**Physical Education I (1/2 credit)

**Social Studies elective (1/2 credit)-----World History, Global Studies

Art class (1/2 credit)---Fundamentals of dance, Treble Singers (girls), Mixed Chorus (boys), Intro to Music Lab, Concert Band. **Students may also take only (1) of the following introductory classes: Intro to Studio Art, Intro to Graphic Art, Intro to Digital Photo Art, and Ceramics I.

**Computer Applications, Basic Computer Literacy, Desktop Publishing I, and Introduction to Computer Aided Drafting, Introduction to Engineering Design

Introduction to the World of Business can be taken freshman year and it will count as the Economics required course for graduation.

1 credit in a foreign language—choices from American Sign Language, French, Spanish, German, Latin, and Mandarin Chinese. Although Pinkerton does not require that students study a foreign language, most 4-year colleges require 2-4 years of the same language. Most 2-year colleges do not have this requirement. *It is suggested that if students struggle with English they may wish to postpone taking a foreign language until sophomore year.*

American Sign Language is accepted as a foreign language in many colleges. If a student is uncertain about its acceptance at certain colleges, families are encouraged to call schools to find out.

**** these courses fulfill the state requirement for graduation and must be taken before a student graduates from Pinkerton. Though many students decide to take the courses freshman year, many students will postpone them until sophomore year or later.**

There are students who may indicate an interest in more accelerated freshman courses—for example, students who wish to take Algebra 2A, Biology and the 2nd year of a foreign language. Please be aware of the following regarding these students.

For Math course selection: the teacher will recommend the highest level the student is capable of (Algebra IA) . If the middle school math teacher feels that the student is capable of Algebra 2A, the math teachers at each sending school will send the names of the qualified Algebra 2A students to Lee Dailing, Pinkerton's math chair, who will pass the list of names on to the guidance department for input into the students' schedules. The counselor will change the course from Algebra IA to Algebra 2A. No call from parent/guardian is needed for this change.

For Science selection: the teacher will recommend the highest level the student is capable of (Physical Science A). If the middle school science teacher feels that the student is capable of Biology A, the science teachers will send the names of the qualified Biology A students to Deb O'Connor, Pinkerton's science chair. Deb will then pass on the list of qualified students to the guidance department for input into the students' schedules. No call from a parent or middle school will be needed for this change

Students who are recommended for and choosing Biology A should be students with a passion for science and an interest in ultimately enrolling in AP science courses his/her senior year. **Reminder: students must be concurrently enrolled in Biology A and Algebra 2A. The Algebra 2A and Biology A lists will be cross-referenced to assure that this occurs.**

For Foreign Language: If the current foreign language teacher of the student recommends that the student sign up for the second year of the language (French 2A, Spanish 2A, etc.), the 8th grade foreign language teacher will sign off on the student's course selection sheet.

Elective courses:

There are many elective courses available to freshmen. Students can select from a variety of courses in the Fine Arts department, Career and Technical Education (CTE) department, Foreign Languages, ROTC and Mathematics.

Other important information And Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

When advising students, how many credits should students take?

It really varies from student to student. Many times we recommend that students choose 6 credits and have 1 full study and 1 lunch period= 8 periods per day. That being said, there are some students who are capable of handling 7 full credits and those who are more comfortable with 5.5 credits. This is very individual and considering the individual student is the most important factor to remember.

How many credits does a student need to advance to sophomore status?

In order to become a sophomore, a freshman needs to have 5 full credits.

How many credits does a student from the Class of 2016 need to graduate?

All students need to graduate with 22 credits. They need: 4 credits in English, 3 credits in Math, 3 credits in Science, 1 full-credit in US History, half-credit in American Government, half-credit in Cultural Geography, half-credit in a Computer technology course, 1 full credit in Physical Education, half-credit in Economics, half-credit in Health and half-credit in the arts. (total of 15 credits in required courses). Students also must take a minimum of 7 elective courses in order to achieve 22 credits overall.

There are so many courses I want to take, can I take 8 classes?

No, students can take a maximum of 7 credits. It is the policy of Pinkerton Academy that all students have a lunch period. If students are interested in taking Advancement classes in the summer, this is a suggestion that is worth exploring. During the summer, for a fee, students can enroll in Physical Education I, Health, Computer Applications and Art. If this is of interest, more information on how to sign up will be forthcoming in the spring.

I've heard about NH Scholars. Should I know something about it as an incoming freshman?

Definitely! To be a NH Scholar a student needs to have taken the following courses over the course of the 4 years of high school: 4 years of English, 3 years of Math (must include Algebra, Geometry and Algebra 2---at B level and above), 3 years of Science (must include Biology, Chemistry, Physics or AP level courses -also accepted would be the combination of Anatomy and Physiology with Botany), 2 years of the same foreign language, and 3.5 years of social studies, including US History, American Government, Economics, Cultural Geography and one more credit from the list (could include Psychology, Contemporary Problems, two half credit courses, or AP European history.

What are the benefits of being a NH Scholar?

You will receive an emblem designation on your diploma, receive a medallion to wear for graduation, an opportunity for application waivers fees from NH private colleges (except for Dartmouth). Opportunity to receive NH Scholar Scholarships and an opportunity to attend the NH State Scholars Convention in Concord at the capitol in May.