



COMBINE ACADEMY

COURSE OFFERINGS & DESCRIPTIONS

Social Studies

Students are required to complete three social studies courses to earn a North Carolina diploma. The NCAA requires two years of social sciences.

Civics

The "Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy" course in North Carolina provides a deep dive into American democracy, focusing on the U.S. Constitution, state and federal systems, rights, responsibilities, and history to develop informed, active citizens, emphasizing critical thinking, source analysis, and taking informed action on civic issues. Students study governmental functions, constitutional principles, and how these apply to real-world issues of equality, justice, and participation in both state and national politics.

United States History

US History explores the nation's development from the late French and Indian War period (1763) through the present day, using inquiry-based learning to analyze themes like government evolution, migration, culture, and foreign relations. It focuses on multiple causation,, examining perspectives of diverse groups to understand change and continuity

World History

This course is designed to inform students about how mankind developed into various societies, cultures, and belief systems from ancient times to the modern day. You will finally understand what is going on around you in the world, and why!

Science

Students are required to complete three science courses to earn a North Carolina diploma. The NCAA requires two years of natural/physical science.

Earth and Environment Science

This course serves as an introduction to the fields of Earth Science and Environmental Science. In this class a variety of topics are covered including: Earth Systems, longitude and latitude, minerals and rocks, weathering, soil, 4 cycles of life, earthquake epicenter determination, atmosphere, weather and climate, biomes, and renewable vs. non renewable resources. Discussion also includes how humans impact all of the above topics. This is a required class for graduation in NC.

Biology

Students will develop an appreciation for biological processes that impact their everyday lives. They will learn about the inner workings of cells and investigate how observable traits are expressed, starting from DNA, to RNA, to proteins, as well as learn about genetics and apply that knowledge to analyze genetic cause and effect in living organisms. Students will also cover species interactions, adaptations, and ecology. This is required for graduation.

Physical Science

Students will learn about all of Earth's systems and consider human impact and what alternative choices societies have toward stewardship of the earth.. This course will also have some international focus; allotting insight for students to better understand the environment they spend most of their time in. There will be an introduction to physics concepts such as work, force, and all of Newton's Laws. This is a North Carolina required course for graduation.

English

Students are required to complete four years of English courses to earn a North Carolina diploma. The NCAA also requires four years of language and literature courses.

English I

This course allows for grammar in the English language, starts advancing in reading, and develops critical thinking and reading skills through exposure to a reading of great authors. Critical thought and reading are crucial to a well-functioning person but also essential to a developed mind. This is a North Carolina required course for graduation.

English II

This course further develops critical thinking and reading while teaching the importance of sentence structure and grammar for the intended communication. Revered authors will be taught throughout. Nonfiction will also be an area of focus during this course. This is a North Carolina required course for graduation.

English III

English III focuses on the in-depth study of American literature and literary nonfiction, from the foundational works of the 17th century to the early 21st century. The course emphasizes analyzing texts in relation to social perspectives and historical significance, developing skills in reading, writing (including argumentative and informative modes), speaking, listening, and digital presentations. Key activities include critical analysis of texts, research projects, and understanding how language functions in various contexts. This course is required for graduation.

English IV

English 4 is a class focused on analyzing literature, media, and communication to refine advanced skills in writing and public speaking. Students engage with various examples of British literature and U.S. documents, to develop critical thinking and analysis, culminating in various writing assignments such as literary analysis and research papers, and build their ability to work independently to communicate effectively in both written and spoken forms. This course is required for graduation.

Math

Students are required to complete four mathematics courses to earn a North Carolina diploma. The NCAA requires three years of math (Algebra 1 or higher).

Algebra I

This course will focus on developing basic algebraic skills and vocabulary and reviewing pre-algebra concepts. There will be an emphasis on factoring and evaluating polynomials using basic operations, as well as graphing and recognizing various forms of linear equations. We will also look at how to evaluate functions and solve basic systems of equations.

Algebra II

This course will be focused on advanced algebraic concepts. We will develop skills for solving, factoring, and simplifying advanced polynomials and systems of equations. There will be an emphasis on parent functions and transformations with linear, quadratic, and absolute value equations. We will also cover graphing and solving different types of linear and non-linear inequalities.

Geometry

This course will be focused on the vocabulary and proofs of basic geometric concepts. We will be looking at the area, volume, and transformations in the coordinate plane of basic shapes. There will be an emphasis on angle relationships with transversal and parallel line, as well as triangle congruency and basic trigonometry.

Introduction to College Algebra

Introduction to College Algebra is a high school mathematics course designed to prepare students for entry level college math. The course reviews and strengthens algebra skills while introducing new concepts that are commonly taught in beginning college algebra classes. They learn how to solve equations, inequalities and graphs functions and interpret key features such as intercepts and rate of change. The course introduces topics such as systems of equations, radicals, complex numbers, matrices, and polynomials. By the end of the course, students will have a stronger foundation in algebra and be better prepared for the first college algebra math class.

Math 4

Math 4 is the last math class in high school needed for NC graduation requirements. It is a good refresher tool that prepares students for college math by building on the skills learned earlier in other math courses. Students work with different types of equations and functions and learn how to graph and solve more challenging problems. Students learn about more advanced math topics like radicals, complex numbers, matrices, polynomials, exponential and logarithmic functions. They also practice thinking critically and everyday problem-solving applications.

Introduction to Probability and Statistics

This course will familiarize students with the principles of statistical theory. Primary topics include: summarizing and graphing data, measures of central tendency, introduction to probability, estimation, hypothesis testing, regression and correlation.

Precalculus

Pre-calculus prepares students for Calculus and future college math courses. This class strengthens the algebra and geometry skills students have already learned and helps them think more deeply about how math works in real life situations. This class focuses on trigonometry, including the unit circle and solving problems involving triangles. This is a year-long course that helps build strong problem solving and thinking skills. We will also try to focus on some math comprehension-translating words into numbers, applying critical thinking to solve problems using learned skills. It is a good class for students who plan to study math, science, or engineering in college.

Foreign Language

Students are required to complete two consecutive terms of a foreign language (the same language) to earn a North Carolina diploma. This language has to differ from the student's native language. The NCAA requires four "additional" courses: foreign language can meet two of those four requirements.

Spanish I

Spanish 1 is a beginner-level course designed to give students the ability to communicate in everyday situations while building cultural awareness of the Spanish-speaking world. The program blends grammar instruction, thematic vocabulary, and project-based learning with a modern, real-world focus for international student-athletes preparing for American universities and global careers.

Spanish II

Spanish 2 is a continuation of Spanish 1 designed to help students move from basic communication to confident, real-life use of Spanish. Students develop stronger speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills while deepening their cultural understanding of the Spanish-speaking world. This course blends grammar instruction, thematic vocabulary, reading, writing, listening, speaking, music, stories, and project-based learning. Students apply imagination, creativity, and real-life connections such as family, culture, food, sports, travel, and identity, while building meaningful communication skills.

French I

French 1 is an introductory world language course designed for beginning learners who want to build strong foundations in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in French. Students develop the ability to communicate in everyday situations while learning about Francophone cultures around the world.

French II

French II expands upon the foundational skills acquired in French I and guides students toward more confident, independent communication in French. The course emphasizes speaking, listening, reading, and writing through meaningful, real-world applications. Students engage with short stories, songs, dialogues, cultural explorations, and project-based learning to strengthen vocabulary, grammar accuracy, and expressive ability.

Electives

Students may choose any number of these courses to apply towards graduation credits, or for personal enrichment.

Academic Advisory

Students meet with an advisor to discuss their course selections and academic plans. This class will provide supportive guidance on curriculum, resources, and strategies for success, ultimately empowering students to make informed decisions about their path to graduation and future careers.

Arts Education

This course invites students to explore their unique interests and the world around them through a unique creative lens. Learning the fundamentals of art: mediums, color, design, drawing, and perspective, for example. Students will have the opportunity to evaluate artwork, developing an intentional perspective and clear communication skills, as well as relate to the visual arts from a personal, historical, or cultural perspective. Students will create a variety of original artwork independently and collaboratively.

College Readiness

This course introduces college, career, and vocational readiness concepts, emphasizing executive function development and 21st century skills. Students will evaluate their current position, set goals, and develop strategic plans to excel in higher education, employment, and personal development.

Creative Writing

This course introduces several genres of creative writing, including nonfiction, poetry, and storytelling, and provides a foundational understanding of the process and purpose of creativity itself from an artistic and psychological perspective. Throughout the course, students will have opportunities to write various original works and develop an understanding of their strengths and goals related to artistic expression and writing.

Current Events in Contemporary Times

This course explores events taking place around the world and locally, including politics, sports, science, entertainment, human interest stories, and topics of personal interest. At the course's conclusion students will demonstrate understanding through writing and projects.

ESL (English as a Second Language)

ESL is designed for multilingual international students who are developing foundational skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course builds confidence through highly supported activities, simple readings, structured grammar practice, vocabulary development, repetition, visuals, and daily communication tasks.

Health

This course introduces students to the principles of health, wellness, and nutrition, focusing on how daily choices influence lifelong well-being. Students will learn about nutrition, physical activity, mental health, disease prevention, and interpersonal relationships. Emphasis is placed on applying knowledge through interactive projects and personal reflection.

Leadership (Student Government/GOAT Ambassadors)

The Student Leadership and Government organization provides students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills while actively contributing to the school community. Members serve as representatives of the student body, working collaboratively with faculty and administration to plan events, promote school spirit, and address student concerns. Through organizing activities, leading initiatives, initiating community engagement, and serving as role models for their peers. Student leaders gain valuable experience in communication, teamwork, and decision-making. This group of students take ownership of their school environment while fostering a culture of responsibility, service, and positive change.

Media Arts and Design

This project-based course will dive into varying levels of digital media and design. Students will learn the importance of clear communication, audience, purpose, and tone when it comes to creating deliverables and will then create logos, flyers, presentations, and audio broadcasts while completing "client" work, for example. Students will need a working computer to participate in this course.

Personal Finance

The course presents essential knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about real world financial issues. Students will learn how choices influence occupational options and future earning potential. Students will also learn to apply decision-making skills to evaluate career choices and set personal goals. The course content is designed to help the learner make wise spending, saving, and credit decisions and to make effective use of income to achieve personal financial success.

Psychology/AP Psychology

This course introduces psychology as the scientific study of the human mind and behavior. Students will have opportunities to grow academically through in-depth study, projects, experiential learning, discussion, and scientific practices.

Research & Composition - postgraduates and select seniors

This capstone course in academic research and writing allows students to explore a topic of personal interest while developing college-level skills in research, critical thinking, writing, and presentation. Students will complete a research-based thesis project, including a formal presentation and oral defense.

SAT Prep

This course explores the concepts tested on the SAT and teaches the skills and strategies needed for a successful testing experience. Both math and English preparation are included in this test prep class. It is preferred that upperclassmen (11th & 12th graders) complete this test by December. The PSAT, for underclassmen, is facilitated in October. Please consider these dates when choosing this course. This course is prioritized for 12th graders.

Yearbook/Photojournalism

The Yearbook class offers students a creative and collaborative opportunity to document and celebrate the school year. Students learn skills in photojournalism, photography, graphic design, layout, and writing as they contribute to the creation of the school's official yearbook. The class emphasizes teamwork, organization, and attention to detail, as students work together to capture memorable moments and tell the story of the student body. Beyond technical skills, the Yearbook class encourages creativity, time management, and leadership, giving students a meaningful and lasting contribution to their school community. The Yearbook class meets twice a week for the duration of the year, and a full academic course credit is earned.

Advanced Placement

These rigorous courses are a full year in length. They are intensive, particularly as it relates to reading, analysis, and writing. They are optional and recommended based on academic history and motivation. Students can earn college credit by taking and passing the elective AP exam at the end of the year, and students also earn a GPA bump +1.

AP World History

Modern is an introductory college-level modern world history course. Students cultivate their understanding of world history from c. 1200 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

AP United States History

An introductory college-level U.S. history course. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. history from c. 1491 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures.

AP European History

AP European History is a college-level survey course covering major events, trends, and processes in Europe from roughly 1450 to the present. It develops historical thinking skills by analyzing primary/secondary sources and crafting arguments across social, economic, political, and intellectual themes. Key areas include the Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment, revolutions, and world wars. Students learn to analyze evidence, evaluate claims, and make connections over time (continuity and change). The AP Exam includes multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, a document-based question (DBQ), and a long-essay question.

AP English Language and Composition

The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts, including images as forms of text, from a range of disciplines and historical periods.

AP Psychology

An introductory college-level psychology course. Students cultivate their understanding of the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes through inquiry-based investigations as they explore concepts like the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology.

AP Earth & Environmental Science

The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to (1) provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, (2) to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human made, (3) to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and (4) to examine alternate solutions for resolving and/or preventing them (College Board, Advanced Placement Program).

AP Biology

Students will develop an appreciation for biological processes that impact their everyday lives. They will learn about the inner workings of cells- the building blocks of living organisms. Students will investigate how living organisms express observable traits starting from DNA, to RNA, to proteins, as well as learn about genetics and apply that knowledge to analyze genetic cause and effect in living organisms. Students will also cover species interactions, adaptations, and ecology. This is an AP course which means that passing an exam at the end of the school year will allow students to use this as a college credit.

Dual Enrollment Offerings/Gaston College

These rigorous semester-long courses are offered through our partnership with Gaston College. They are academically intensive and require much effort. These courses are optional and available to 11th & 12th grade students - a 2.8 GPA is a requirement. Students can earn college credit by passing the course, and students also earn a GPA bump +1. A supplemental application is required for these courses.

Eligible students can apply for Combine's Dual Enrollment Academic Program with Gaston College, starting their junior year. They will complete coursework at both Combine Academy and Gaston College. Upon successful completion of the coursework, they receive dual credit. Students must select a pathway with the College: [Associate in Arts Pathway](#) or [Associate in Science Pathway](#).

*Notes:

Honors = +0.5 GPA weight

AP/Dual Enrollment= +1.0 GPA weight

*Last updated 6/1/2026