

Bridgeport International Academy

CURRICULUM GUIDE AND CATALOG

2014 - 2015



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Table of Contents

	Page
Academic Program	1
Graduation Requirements	2
Core Curriculum	3
Courses	6
English	7
Science	8
Mathematics	9
Social Studies	10
Computer Science	12
Physical Education	13
Modern Languages	14
Electives	15
English Language Learner Program	16
Standardized Testing – SAT, ACT, TOEFL, PSAT	19

The following briefly summarizes BIA’s academic program, graduation requirements, and core curriculum. The comprehensive discussion of these and other academic topics can be found in the *Student/Parent Handbook*. This summary is followed by a discussion of BIA’s course offerings.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The BIA academic year consists of two semesters, with the first semester during the autumn, and the second semester during the spring. Each of the semesters is split in half, yielding four quarters, with report cards issued quarterly.

Academic Evaluation Policy

Academic grades are awarded based on a 4-point scale and reflect demonstrated mastery of the subject matter. During each school year, teachers maintain a record of a student’s significant achievements to effectively evaluate each student’s progress and development.

Letter Grades	Percentage Equivalents	Grade Points	Grading Scale
A	93 to 100	4.0	Outstanding
A-	90 to 92	3.7	Excellent
B+	87 to 89	3.3	Very good
B	83 to 86	3.0	Good
B-	80 to 82	2.7	Satisfactory
C+	77 to 79	2.3	Average +
C	73 to 76	2.0	Average
C-	70 to 72	1.7	Average -
D+	67 to 69	1.3	*
D	63 to 66	1.0	*
D-	60 to 62	.7	*
F	Below 60	0.0	No credit awarded

* A student who receives these grades is on academic probation and needs to improve grades by the end of the school year to remain a student at BIA.

College Courses

As a college preparatory school, BIA has made easily available, and at reduced cost, the opportunity for its students to take college courses. In particular, many students take advantage of enrolling in courses at the nearby University of Bridgeport (UB) campus and the proximate Housatonic Community College (HCC). For each semester-long college course taken, the student earns one high school credit (1 credit), as well as the college credit; however, the student must achieve a final grade of C or better in the college course for the credit to transfer to BIA.

To take college courses, the student must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and receive parental and administrative permission. Qualifying juniors and seniors at BIA may take up to two UB college courses per semester and one HCC course, as long as the times do not conflict with the students BIA schedule.

Midyear and Final Examinations

Bridgeport International Academy conducts midyear and final examinations in most academic subjects. These take place during dedicated examination periods. The Midyear Examinations are held at the end of the Fall Semester, after the second quarter has concluded. The Final Examinations are held at the end of the Spring Semester, after the fourth quarter has concluded.

The examination grades are used in calculating the student's final grade for the course. For a year-long course, the Midyear Examination counts as ten percent of the course grade, and the Final Examination likewise counts as ten percent of the course grade. For a semester-long course, the Midyear Examination serves as the Final Examination, counting as twenty percent of the course grade.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended that students take more than the minimum graduation requirements. In order to graduate, a *minimum of 23 credits* must be earned, with the minimum requirements by subject area as follows:

English	4.0 credits
Social Studies	3.0 credits
Mathematics	3.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Foreign Language	2.0 credits
Physical Education	2.0 credits
Health and Human Biology	1.0 credits
Computer Science/Graphic Arts	1.0 credits
Elective Courses	<u>4.0 credits</u>
Total Credits	23 credits

To graduate, a student is to have completed four credits in high school English, and three credits each in high school social studies, mathematics, and science. While qualifying students are encouraged to supplement their education with dual-credit college courses, each student must also fulfill the above-mentioned high school credits, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

While it is recognized that students who participate in the ESL/ELL program may complete many of their English language credits through that program, such students must still complete at least one credit in a mainstream English class in order to graduate.

Students are required to fulfill 75 hours of community service during their four-years in high school. For students attending BIA for less than four years, the required hours of community service is 25 per year. In other words, a student who transferred into BIA for just his or her senior year would have to complete 25 hours; a student who transferred for the junior and senior years would have to complete 50 hours; and students attending BIA beginning in their freshman or sophomore years would have to complete 75 hours to graduate.

Definition of Credit

One credit (1 credit) is earned by completing a course of study where the class meets for 200 minutes per week for 36 weeks, which equals one full year of study (i.e., two semesters). **One half credit** (0.5 credits) is based on completion of one semester course of study for 200 minutes per week for 18 weeks or 100 minutes per week for 36 weeks. For students who do not complete a full semester, such as late transfers to the school, partial credit may be earned for the time invested in class.

Credit for Physical Education and Other Activities

Students are required to participate in physical education, which includes team sports and individual sports. These activities take place each semester for two hours a week (.25 credits per semester). Students also are encouraged to participate in various other co-curricular sports. In addition, each semester students participate twice a week in an activity period where they have the option of diverse activities, including music, art, drama, dance, mentoring, yoga, and such sports activities as basketball, soccer, volleyball, and so forth. Furthermore, character education classes are held once a week to foster the development of shared, universal values, such as taking responsibility for one's actions, care and respect for others, honesty and integrity, and caring for the environment.

Transfer Credit

With a grade of C- or higher, credit will be accepted for transfer students from other high school institutions and from recognized home school and distance learning programs. In some cases, transfer students have coordinated with the administration to arrange for accredited, online programs to achieve high school credit in areas in which they need additional credit to meet the Academy's graduation requirements. International transcripts should be translated when submitted.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

Grade 9

ENG-101	English I (Elements of Writing)
HIS-101	World Civilizations I
SCI-101	Earth Science
MA-101	Algebra I or Geometry*
PE-101	Physical Education
CS-101	Introduction to Computers Foreign Language Electives

Grade 10

ENG-201	English II (World Literature and Composition)
HIS-201	World Civilizations II
MA-201	Geometry and/or Algebra II*
SCI-201	Biology
CS-201	Computer Networking and Graphics
PE-201	Physical Education Foreign Language Electives

Grade 11

ENG-301	English III (American Literature and Composition)
MA-301	Algebra II or Pre-Calculus*
SCI-301	Chemistry
HEA-301	Health
HIS-301	American History and Government
PE-301	Physical Education
CL-301	College & Careers
	Electives

Grade 12

ENG-401	English IV (British Literature)
MA-401	Calculus or Advance Math courses*
SCI-401	Physics
SS-401	Social Sciences Elective (Psychology, World Religions)
PE-401	Physical Education

*Testing and prerequisites will determine the appropriate math placement for each student

Activities electives for each of the four years include dance, drama, chorus, band, sports, fine arts, digital arts and filmmaking.

A character education class that take place for one period each week is required.

A mandatory one-week global seminar is offered school-wide for which students earn 0.125 credits.

Courses

English

- **Elements of Writing, 1 credit**

This course encompasses instruction in the various elements of the English language, including grammar, writing, reading, and vocabulary. Employed will be a variety of writing strategies. The goal of this class is to help the student write successfully for high school and prepare them for college and careers. While some of the writings will be factual, informative, or persuasive, others will allow greater opportunity for the student's creativity to be expressed. Vocabulary development and reading of novels is also incorporated into this class.

- **World Literature and Composition, 1 credit**

This course uses classic global literature as a bridge to teaching skills mastery: critical reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, listening, and speaking with clarity. Diagnostic tests are administered to determine the student's comprehension level, and progress is charted throughout the school year. In order to fully engage the student, a diverse methodology is incorporated into the daily lessons: oral interpretation, discussion groups, images of art, group projects, interactive direct instruction and multi-media presentations. There is a special focus on themes of self-identify, national identity, and cross-cultural comparison of personal and rational meaning.

- **American Literature and Composition, 1 credit**

This course familiarizes students with all aspects of American Literature, from Puritan writings to modern works. The student covers various styles and genres of renowned authors, such as Mark Twain and Ernest Hemingway, to the famous speeches of American presidents and personalities, such as Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. Students study poetry, prose, and even songs by noteworthy figures from American history, all of which helped shape America's unique culture and establish America's place on the world stage.

This introduction to American literature emphasizes reading and writing skills. Students use these skills, as well as public speaking strategies, to read challenging pieces of American Literature and to respond intelligently and thoughtfully to them through writing, test taking, oral presentations, and group projects. Students learn to edit and revise compositions. Issues of importance to the American experience will be regularly addressed. Students also will increase their SAT/ACT preparation through vocabulary and timed writing prompts.

- **British Literature and Expository Writing, 1 credit**

This course uses British literature through the ages to help students understand how culture, history and communication all interact. The course examines the roots of literature in the English language, the works and impact of William Shakespeare, the impact on colonialism on non-English people and the range of writing styles. Students are expected to work on maturing their own "writing voice", and to become critical consumers of the written, spoken, visual and electronic media. Emphasis will be placed on preparation for writing at the college level.

COURSES

Other English courses are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and Housatonic Community College, including such courses as:

- Composition and Rhetoric
- Advanced Exposition
- Creative Writing
- Poetry Writing
- Major Figures in Literature
- Introduction to Drama
- Contemporary Drama
- Introduction to Fiction
- Science Fiction

SCIENCE

- **Earth Science, 1 credit**

This course covers the four main areas of earth science: geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. Topics examined in depth include minerals, rocks, Earth's resources, weathering, glaciers, deserts, earthquakes, plate tectonics, volcanos, mountain building, geologic time, the ocean floor, ocean water and life, ocean circulation and processes, structure of the atmosphere, moisture, clouds and precipitation, air pressure, wind and storms, modern astronomy, and our solar system and the sun.

- **Biology with lab, 1 credit**

This course is a thorough sampling of all main areas studied in the field of biology, the study of living organisms. Topics examined in depth include the science of biology, the chemical basis of life, the molecules of life, the cell, respiration, photosynthesis, the cellular basis of inheritance, genetics, DNA and the language of life, evolution, viruses, prokaryotes, protists, fungi, plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates. In order to allow students to make observations, laboratory work is correlated with classroom studies, including multiple vertebrate dissections.

- **Health and Human Biology**

This course focuses on health issues and human biology concurrently. Topics examined in depth include health decision making, stress, mental disorders and suicide, family and peer relationships, food and nutrition, exercise and lifelong fitness, alcohol, tobacco and drug Abuse, reproduction and heredity, pregnancy and childbirth, childhood, adolescence and adulthood, diseases—infectious and sexually transmitted, the digestive and excretory systems, circulatory and respiratory systems, the muscular and skeletal systems, the integumentary system, the nervous system, and the immune system.

- **Chemistry with lab, 1 credit**

This course teaches the fundamental principles of chemistry, including organic and inorganic chemistry. Topics examined in depth include atomic structure, scientific measurement, atomic structure, the nature of electrons, the periodic table, ionic and metallic bonding, covalent bonding, chemical names and formulas, chemical quantities, chemical reactions, states of matter, solutions, thermochemistry, reaction rates and equilibrium, acids and bases,

COURSES

salts, oxidation-reduction reactions, electrochemistry, hydrocarbon compounds, functional groups, and nuclear chemistry. In order to allow students to have practical experience, laboratory work is correlated with classroom studies.

- **Physics, 1 credit**

This course is an introduction to physics, the study of matter and energy and their various forms and applications. Students will gain an understanding of the physical laws and principles that influence every aspect of our lives; utilize the scientific method and systematic observation as approaches to problem solving; investigate the effects of quantitative theory in developing modern physics concepts; integrate mathematical applications with physical concepts; and gain insights into possible careers related to physics as well as science and engineering in general.

Other science courses are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and Housatonic Community College, including such courses as:

- General Biology I, II
- Microbiology
- Anatomy and Physiology I, II
- Ecology
- Genetics
- Microbiology
- Cell Biology
- General Chemistry I, II
- Biochemistry
- Organic Chemistry I, II
- Geology
- Principles of Physics I, II
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Atomic and Nuclear Physics

Mathematics

- **Algebra I, 1 credit**

Introduction to algebraic concepts including variables, equations, applications and problem-solving, number line, transforming equations, factoring, fractions, polynomials, ration and proportion, fractional equations, linear equations, and functions.

- **Geometry, 1 credit**

This course will cover the State of Connecticut's Standards for high school geometry course. The objectives of this class are to give the student knowledge of Euclidean Geometry. The student will learn inductive and deductive reasoning. The student will understand the concepts of parallel, perpendicular lines, congruency of line, angles, and triangles. Students will learn how to construct midpoint and bisection of lines and angles. Students will understand similarity and quadrilaterals, trigonometric functions, transformations, and area and volume formulas

- **Algebra II, 1 credit**

This course will cover the State of Connecticut's Standards for a second year high school algebra course. The objective of this class is to give students knowledge of algebraic expressions, functions, equations, graphs, linear systems, matrices, quadratic equations, polynomials, radical functions and rational exponents, logarithmic functions, rational

COURSES

functions, conics and translations, sequences and series, statistics, probability, and trigonometric functions.

- **Pre-Calculus, 1 credit**

This course will cover the State of Connecticut's Standard for a high school pre-calculus course. The objective of this class is to give student knowledge of functions and graphs, modeling and finding the zeros of polynomials, exponential, logistic and logarithmic functions. The student will be exposed to trigonometric functions, identities and applications of trigonometry. The student will solve systems of equations; learn matrices, conics, discrete math and an introduction to limits, derivatives and integration.

Other mathematics courses are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and Housatonic Community College, including:

- Calculus and Analytic Geometry I, II, and III
- Statistics
- Linear Algebra
- Advanced Calculus I, II

Social Studies

- **Ancient Civilizations I, 1 credit**

This course begins with foundations of civilization in prehistory and ends with the late Middle Ages. Among the civilizations highlighted are those in Africa, the Fertile Crescent, the Mediterranean, Europe, Asia, and the Americas, including Ancient Sumer, Egyptian civilization, the rise of civilizations in India, Pakistan, and China, Ancient Greece, the Roman Republic and Empire, civilizations of Mesoamerica and Andean cultures, and the Byzantine empire. The rise of Christianity and Islam are addressed, as well as Muslim civilizations, kingdoms and trading states in Africa, and the spread of civilization in East and Southeast Asia. During each historical period, the focus will be on vital political economic, intellectual, geographic, social, cultural and religious themes. Students should emerge with a keen awareness of the impact geography has had on the development of civilization, the richness of contribution of the world's religions to human development, and a very practical knowledge of where countries are located.

- **Modern Civilizations II, 1 credit**

Modern Civilizations covers the period from the Renaissance through the present. As an introductory course, students will be introduced to global history from early modern times including an investigation of how various cultures were influenced by historical events. The course introduces students to the cultures, people and events that have shaped the modern world. Students will be exposed to the roots of Western Civilization and the development of the political system that culminates in democracy. Addressed will be the Renaissance, the Age of Exploration, Religious Reformation, the Era of Enlightenment the American and French Revolutions, the Scientific Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the World Wars, the Cold War, and the world today. The course traces the development of humankind, the making of nations, international relations and values, traditions and cultures of various civilizations worldwide.

COURSES

- **American History and Government, 1 credit**

This course begins with the arrival of the first English colonists in 1607 and follows the emergence of America as the supreme Western power during the last 100 years. Students study America's political, social, economic and religious beliefs, practices and institutions. Consideration is given to the unique conditions that characterize American life: racial, ethnic and religious diversity; geographic mobility; and immigration. The course seeks to help students to develop their historical understanding, improve their writing and research skills, and understand how historical events and people are variously interpreted.

The course also provide an in-depth understanding of American government, with some treatment of international bodies and of the politics of other nations. It provides a portrait of how the American political system works. Topics discussed include citizenship, development of democracy, separation of powers, division of powers, and the federal system. The branches of government (the executive, legislative, and judicial) are explored in detail. An additional objective is to motivate students toward positive citizenship.

- **World Religions, 1 credit**

Religions have been, and continue to be, a central part of the human experience, influencing individuals, cultures, and societies, inspiring some of the world's greatest artistic achievements, while influencing the development of history across the globe. This course immerses the students in a board understanding of the origins, history, practices, beliefs, impacts, historical figures and major characteristics of the world's major religions. Among the religions covered are Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and various indigenous and new religions. Study is supplement with readings from primary texts.

- **Psychology, 1 credit**

This course provides an introduction to the field of psychology, including such topics as the brain, neuronal structure, memory, learning, sensation, perception, consciousness, sleep and dreaming, cognitive and social development, personality, social influence, and psychopathology.

Other social studies courses are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and Housatonic Community College, including such courses as:

- Philosophy
- Principles of Economics
- Major Figures in World History
- Roots of Modern Culture
- Counseling
- Human Services
- Economics and Development
- Introduction to Political Economy
- Business Law
- Marketing
- Ethics
- Philosophy of World Religions
- Political Theory
- Child Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- History of Psychology
- Principles of Sociology
- Marriage and the Family

Computer Science

- **Computer Science, 1 credit**

This course will offer an introductory level of hands-on computer lab training. Initial lessons begin with the study of Primal PC and Network systems, followed by keyboarding practice. Lessons advance to Microsoft application software for documentation, spreadsheet, and database practices. Graphic application software and presentation software lessons are provided as the student progresses during the Fall semester.

The spring semester includes instruction and practical experience in building websites using HTML and JAVA languages and learning the basic concepts of application programming. Mini and term graphic design projects include making posters, web banners, and web pages. With the accumulation of computer lab training, students will construct a school website as a cooperative project. There will be presentation practice for students' work utilizing projectors. While most of the class will be hands-on instruction, there will be occasional video presentations to increase knowledge of technology applications and history of computer industries.

- **Computer Applications, 0.5 credit**

This course is an intermediate-level course of hands-on computer lab training designed for students who have the Computer Science course or its equivalent. The course covers software application training of spreadsheet, relational database, and database programming using PHP. Advanced graphic designing applications such as Photoshop, advanced HTML programming, web-designing application software, and visual basic programming will be introduced.

In the second semester, students will be learning movie editing using diminutive equipment and Adobe Premier, MS Movie Maker, and they will create video movies using the software application. Students will be introduced to many projects using the above software applications. Students will understand the concept of these software applications and the process of advanced website production and movie editing.

- **Computer Internship, 1 credit**

This course is a project-oriented course of instruction and practical computer science application under the supervision of the BIA computer department. Among projects students may be engaged in are contributing to the BIA computer system architecture and development of the BIA website. To be a candidate for selection for the internship, the student must have a substantial knowledge of HTML web development and PC–Network structure. Students will be required to use computer skills learned in previous computer classes, clear thinking and problem solving skills. In the process of the internship, students will learn to support basic systems programming across computer network systems, and gain experience in development of system application programs based on client-server model, website structural design, and analytical skills for decomposition of computer systems.

Other computer courses, as well as engineering courses, are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and Housatonic Community College, including

COURSES

such courses as:

- Introduction to Computing I, II
- Introduction to Engineering I, II
- Computer Ethics
- Digital System Design
- Electrical Engineering with Lab
- Microprocessor System Design
- Visual Basic Programming
- Java Programming
- Database Theory

Physical Education

- **Physical Education, .5 credit (whole year)**
Gym class meets by gender two times per week. The physical education program provides knowledge and skills to engage in a life of physical activity and other healthy lifetime practices. Intramural sports such as basketball, tennis, volleyball, swimming, soccer, softball, handball, and other sports are available at that time and other times. Physical education activities take place both at the Wheeler Recreation Center on the University of Bridgeport Campus and in Seaside Park.
- **Martial Arts (PE Alternative), .25 credit (one semester)**
This course offers introductory to intermediate martial arts training of Tae Kwon Do. The style in this course is recognized as part of the official American Tae Kwon Do Association, and is a part of World Tae Kwon Do Federation. In addition to skills training, the objectives of the course includes the unity of mind and body (Jung Shin Tong IL), self-discipline, and to teach the student to reach down inside and find the way he or she can release inner power with mental training. Students will be guided also to develop management of emotions, the sense of politeness to others, respectful attitude to elders and seniors, and responsible attitude to community and country.
- **Contemporary Dance (PE Alternative), .25 credit (one semester)**
- **Yoga (PE Alternative), .25 credit (one semester)**

P.E/Sports Electives

- **Basketball, .25 credit (one semester)**
- **Soccer, .25 credit (one semester)**
- **Volleyball, .25 credit (one semester)**

COURSES

- **Yoga, .25 credit (one semester)**
- **Swimming, .25 credit (one semester)**

Other PE-related courses are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and Housatonic Community College, including such courses as:

- Taekwondo Practicum 1-15
- Martial Arts and East Asian Thought
- History of Martial Arts

Modern Languages

- **Spanish I and Spanish II, 1 credit each**
Introductory and intermediate Spanish course work is designed to familiarize the students with Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and culture. Student will practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing Spanish. Pronunciation, aural comprehension and conversation are practiced daily.
- **Chinese I and Chinese II, 1 credit each**
Introductory and Intermediate Chinese are basic courses for beginning students of Chinese. The course introduces the student to the Chinese language, including speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural knowledge. The student gains expertise in both spoken and writing Chinese, with the objective to be able to use Chinese in the classroom and communities where the Chinese language is used.
- **Korean I and Korean II, 1 credit each**
Introductory and Intermediate Korean are designed to help students develop the five language competencies – speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural knowledge.
- **Japanese I and Japanese II, 1 credit each**
Introduction to the Japanese language, including speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural knowledge. The course introduces the student to the Japanese writing system, pronunciation, and basic conversation. Vocabulary and grammar skills will be taught using situational contexts.

Other languages are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and Housatonic Community College, including:

- Arabic
- French
- Russian
- Sign Language

Electives

- **College and Careers, .5 credit (whole year)**

This course offers a survey of colleges and careers, practical skills for completing college applications, applying for scholarships, taking SAT and PSAT tests, writing application essays, resume writing and interviewing skills.
- **Yearbook, .5 credit (whole year)**

This hands-on class offers an opportunity to create a yearbook publication from start to finish. In addition, students will learn the basics of journalism and create the school newsletter. Students are solely responsible for the digital production, the group-imposed and administration imposed deadlines, and the journalism and photography that is used in the publication.
- **Fine Arts, .25 credit (one semester)**

Students learn the importance of art, study the particular styles of famous artists, and are guided to utilize different media in their own artistic expressions. The classroom study portion includes presentations and discussions on what inspired certain artists and how they contributed to the world through their art, including such as Georgia O’Keeffe, George Pierre Seurat, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso, and Frida Kahlo. Students practically learn the fundamentals of drawing and painting through color, line, shape, and structure. Individual attention is paid to each student to learn proportions, lighting, outlining, and perspective. Oil paint, chalk pastels, charcoal, watercolors, and acrylic paints are used as mediums. There is drawing from observation, portraits, and still life. Students start with line drawing with charcoal to learn about light and shadows and progressively move onto painting with acrylic and oils. A technique called “like Picasso” is taught and explored for the more abstract mind.
- **Mentoring .25 credit (one semester)**

Students work with elementary students, one-on-one or in small groups, at a nearby elementary school, helping them to learn basic skills in reading, mathematics, and other subjects.
- **Drama and Musical Theater, 25 credit (one semester)**

Students develop skills in various areas in theatre production: acting, set construction, costumes, lighting and sound effects, and production management. Students focus these energies on production of the school play, which may be a musical, comedy, or drama.
- **Chorus, .25 credit (one semester)**

An assortment of topics that involved singing are studied and students apply their musical skills and techniques by rehearsing and performing a variety of songs. Some students also prepare songs for presentation in the school drama production, particularly for musical productions.
- **Ensemble/Band, .25 credit (one semester)**

Student musicians learn and develop a deeper understanding of musical concepts and practice and perform a variety of quality ensemble/band literature.

COURSES

- **Filmmaking, .25 (one semester)**

Students are taught multimedia skills including video photography and editing. Students create video clips on a regular basis for cablevision programming.

- **Digital Arts, .25 (one semester)**

The digital arts course focuses on digital literature in the 21st Century, preparing students in such areas as digital filmmaking, graphic design, computer-aided design, web design and development, and communication arts. Students produce videos for TV and school presentations and develop familiarity with using the green screen stage for productions.

Other courses are available to qualified juniors and seniors through the University of Bridgeport and Housatonic Community College, including such courses as::

- Accounting
- Art & Design
- Art History
- Video
- Photography
- Interior Design
- Fashion Fundamentals
- Public Communication
- Music
- Music Education
- Conducting
- Introduction to Theatre

English Language Learner Program

The English Language Learner (ELL) program is based on a series of intensive English courses for the student whose limited English fluency inhibits the ability to perform at an acceptable level in mainstream courses. The focus is on the language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening with attention given to the grammar and structure of the English language. Most ELL courses count partially toward the English credits required for graduation. Some subject courses, such as ELL American History and Government and ELL Health, also fulfill particular non-English credits required for graduation. Specifics related to placement and graduation from ELL courses to particular mainstream courses is outlined in the *Student/Parent Handbook*.

- **ELL Intro Grammar and Vocabulary, 1 credit**

This is designed as a beginner's level English grammar course, focusing on verb tenses, word order, parts of speech, sentence structure and grammatical points related to the foregoing, as well as building the students' use of basic vocabulary through the grammar text and its accompanying workbook. Added to this is a listening component comprised of short passages followed by basic listening comprehension questions.

- **ELL Intro Reading and Literature, 1 credit**

This is designed as a beginner's level reading course. Initially, beginning readers will be used to establish basic reading skills, as well as augment the range of vocabulary. Later, a beginner's level short story literature text will be introduced, encouraging students to understand human experience across time and space, and to introduce them to the specialized language of literary texts. Conversational and listening skills are important as

COURSES

students are encouraged to discuss the readings intelligently.

Note: Students will also engage in a graded reading program during which simplified and shortened versions of certain classic or well-known novels and short stories will be read.(Oxford Bookworms Library).Summaries of each 'story' will be required.

- **ELL Intro Writing and Speaking, 1 credit**

The student will learn academic writing skills, as well as practicing speaking English in a variety of settings. This is a practical course that requires the student to work with his/her own writing, in order to develop academic writing skills.

- **ELL Intro to Mathematics, 1 credit**

This class introduces the vocabulary of math in a content rich environment. The purpose of the class is for ELL students to prepare for regular course work in Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus. All topics of Algebra I are covered in the fall semester. In the spring semester the concepts of algebraic expressions and equations are introduced, and preparation for geometry is made. The students who successfully complete this course are not expected to repeat the mainstream Algebra I course.

The following topics are covered in Algebra I: algebraic expressions and integers, solving one-step equations and inequalities, decimals and equations, factors, fractions, and exponents, operation with fractions, ratios, proportions, and percentages, solving equations and inequalities, linear functions, graphing, area and volumes, right triangles in algebra, data analysis and probabilities, non-linear functions, and polynomials.

- **ELL General Science, 1 credit**

This course helps the student to develop English language, academic skills by introducing scientific concepts and terminology in the English language. It employs texts that cover all the fundamental branches of the natural sciences.

- **ELL Health, 1 credit**

This course follows the content in the mainstream Health/Human Biology course and serves as both a language course and a required health course. Students not quite ready for the rigor of the mainstream course are placed this class.

- **ELL Intermediate Reading and Literature, 1 credit**

Students will read short stories by well-known writers. Emphasis is placed on reading out-loud as well as individual reading at home. The stories are divided into parts with comprehension questions and practice exercises using new language acquired and grammar presented. Students will practice drawing conclusions, making predictions and comparing and contrasting characters in stories. They will also practice finding the main idea, summarizing, and making inferences in short stories.

- **ELL General Vocabulary I and II, 1 credit**

The General Vocabulary courses I and II are designed to prepare students for mainstream classes working from the beginner level and moving to intermediate and advanced. While covering general English vocabulary, the class also addresses vocabulary related to science,

COURSES

mathematics, and social science and acts as a foundation to prepare students for TOEFL and SAT exams. Some emphasis on accent reduction and verbal communication is included

- **ELL Intermediate Grammar, 1 credit**

This is designed as an intermediate-to-advanced level English grammar course, focusing on verb tenses, word order, parts of speech, sentence structure and grammatical points related to the foregoing. This course offers a systematic study of English language structure, covers English word order in basic sentence types, and emphasizes verb forms from simple to perfect tenses. Students will become familiar with higher verb tenses, noun and adjective clauses, as well as articles, prepositions, idiomatic expressions, and other structures specific to English. Added to this is a listening component comprised of short passages followed by basic listening comprehension questions.

- **ELL Intermediate Writing, 1 credit**

The student will learn intermediate-to-advanced level academic writing skills, as well as practicing speaking English in a variety of settings. This is a practical course that requires the student to work with his/her own writing, in order to develop academic writing skills.

- **ELL American History & Government, 1 credit**

This course follows the content in the mainstream American History and Government course while being specifically tailored to the language needs of English language learners. Students not quite ready for the rigor of the mainstream course are placed this class. Students will learn underlying principles and concepts related to key events in American history with a perspective as to how US government works and functions. The course provides an insight into American culture and politics, including an understanding of basic political processes, citizenship, and historic development of important American trends that have shaped the nation's consciousness. Along with learning the content, the students will develop the English language skills, vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and communicative skills they need for studying in an American high school and/or college. Instruction will be augmented by activities, documentaries, and film clips in order to fill in background knowledge and aid in English instruction. Students who complete this course are not expected to re-take US History/Government.

COURSES

STANDARDIZED TESTING – SAT, ACT, TOEFL, PSAT

Standardized tests are opportunities for students to demonstrate their mastery of a given subject and general reasoning abilities. Tests provide a standard measure independent of local school or country norms. Standardized test scores are recognized credentials in most college admission applications.

The Academic Counseling Office and the Office of the Academic Dean will inform and help to prepare students for upcoming testing dates, registration deadlines, and test date information for SAT, ACT, and TOEFL tests. The College and Careers course offers detailed information on taking standardized tests (as well as practical skills for completing college applications, applying for scholarships, writing application essays, and college interview skills). BIA also conducts yearly the PSAT test. The CEEB number for BIA, a number needed for students to register for any of these national tests, is 070060.

Students and their families can obtain testing schedules, registration information, and helpful preparation information for the SAT at the College Board's web site: www.collegeboard.com. Information on the ACT can be found at ACT, Inc., website at www.act.org. Students can register for these online with a credit card, or may register by mail. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The PSAT is organized and administered at BIA during the Fall, and is taken by the junior class and by interested sophomores.

The Tests

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) The PSAT is a standardized test that provides practice for the SAT, gives the student an assessment of where her or she stands relative to other college applicants, and provides a student feedback on his or her strengths and weakness for college study, allowing them to better prepare for both the SAT and for college. It also allows students to enter the competition for National Merit Scholarships.

Students register for the PSAT only through high schools that are members of the College Board. BIA, as a member of College Board, conducts the PSAT test for members of the junior class (11th grade) and any interested sophomores (10th grade).

The PSAT is composed of the three sections of Math, Critical Reading, and Writing Skills. Each of these sections is scored on a scale of from 20 to 80 points (for a composite maximum score of 240 points), reflecting the SAT, whose three sections are scored on the basis of 200 to 800 points (for a composite maximum score of 2400).

Students should register for the PSAT at BIA. There is a fee.

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

Most college admissions (but not all) require freshman applicants to take either the SAT or ACT. While originally titled Scholastic Aptitude Test, the main test required for entry is now simply known as the SAT Reasoning Test (and sometimes, from an earlier incarnation, as the SAT I). Many colleges, particularly those more selective, also require SAT Subject Tests (which earlier was known as SAT II), although this later requirement is often waived if one submits ACT scores rather than the SAT.

The SAT tests are owned and published by the College Board and administered by the Educational

COURSES

Testing Service.

- **SAT Reasoning Test**

The SAT Reasoning Test is a four-hour test that assesses the three areas of verbal, mathematical reasoning, and writing ability. It is scored on a scale of 200-800 on each of the verbal, math, and writing sections. Students often take up to three SAT Reasoning Tests, since many colleges only use the highest score for each of the three sections when three or less tests are taken. Many colleges, however, do use all scores.

- **SAT Subject Tests**

The SAT Subject Tests are offered in about 20 subject areas, such as Biology, Physics, Mathematics Level I, Mathematics Level II, Spanish, French, Literature, and so forth. These one-hour tests are scored on a scale of 200-800. Up to three subject tests can be taken in one testing day. The most competitive colleges in the United States often require one or more Subject Tests (which may be waived if the student is submitting ACT scores). The Subject Tests may be taken in any year, on dates specified by the SAT Program, but it is most appropriate to take a Subject Test when the student has just completed a course that deals with the test content. Students should consult the colleges to which they are applying to see if, and which, subject tests are required for admission.

ACT (American College Test)

The ACT is a three-hour standardized test with four sections of 40 minutes. In some instances, ACT may be substituted in the admissions process for the SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests, or both. Students are encouraged by their college counselors to take the ACT if it is determined to be advantageous to them in the college admissions process. If a student's SAT tests seem to undervalue the student's actual achievement and ability, the student may be recommended to take the ACT.

Remember: Check with each college or university to which you apply to find out what tests that particular university requires!