

MEAD HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTION CATALOG

2024-2025

Mead Graduation Requirements

Math- 30 credit hours (10 hours required in Algebra I and 10 hours required in geometry) The other 10 hours must be taken during student's junior year. Students are strongly encouraged to also take a math course senior year.

Science - 30 credit hours (10 hours required in physical science and 10 hours required in biology)

Social Studies- 30 credit hours (10 hours required in American History and 10 hours required in government)

English- 40 credit hours (30 hours required in Eng I, Eng II & Eng III)

Speech - 5 credit hours

Health - 5 credit hours

Financial Literacy-5 credit hours (taken in grades 10, 11, or 12; either personal finance, consumer math, or an approved dual credit financial literacy course)

P.E. - 10 credit hours (5 hours required from PE 9)

Computer Applications- 5 credit hours

Elective Classes - 80 credit hours

Total Required - 240 credit hours

In addition, each student shall also complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid prior to graduation, unless the required opt-out form is completed by either: (1) the student's parent or legal guardian; (2) the Principal, if the Principal determines that good cause exists not to require the student to complete the FAFSA; or (3) an emancipated student or student of at least 19 years of age.

UNL ADMISSIONS STANDARDS

Below are the basic core entrance requirements for the University of Nebraska at Lincoln that is typical of many colleges or universities. Nebraska Wesleyan University is similar except NWU requires up to four years of natural science. Students should always check a college catalog or ask a college representative or the guidance counselor what high school classes are needed to prepare them for a particular college since admissions standards vary for each school.

UNL Admission Requirements

- 4 units of college preparatory English
- 4 units of math (including Algebra I, II, Geometry, and one that builds on algebra or geometry)
- 3 units of natural sciences (two from biology, chemistry, physics or earth sciences; one of these must include lab instruction. Students applying to the College of Engineering and Technology need two of the three units to include chemistry and physics.)
- 3 units of Social Studies (history, government, geography, economics, psychology, or other social science courses.)
- 2 to 4 units of foreign language. (UNL entrance requires 2, but graduating depends on the College enrolled in, e.g. College of Fine Arts requires 4 units to graduate from UNL. Students may be required to take a foreign language placement exam if they have less than four years of the same foreign language.)

UNL PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for admission, new freshmen must meet both the University's performance and high school core requirements for admission. Performance requirements are:

- Test scores: Achieve an ACT composite score of 20 or above, or an SAT score of 950 or above.
- OR**
- Class Rank: Rank in the top one-half of their high school class.

COLLEGE PLANNING FOR ATHLETES

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

The NCAA Clearinghouse has launched a series of services to support prospective student-athletes are noted below. ACT and/or SAT need to be sent directly from the testing agency to NCAA for student-athletes planning to enroll at Division I or Division II institutions.

Clearinghouse Customer Services

- Clearinghouse mailing address:
NCAA Clearinghouse
301 ACT Drive
Box 4043
Iowa City, IA 52243-4043
- Clearinghouse customer service hours:
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time Monday through Friday
- Toll Free phone numbers (domestic callers only):
Customer Service Line - 877/262-1492
- Fax Number: 319/337-1556

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

Agribusiness:

Grade Level: 10-12	Credit: 5
Elective	Semester

Class size: 20
Prerequisite: None

This semester course teaches students the basics and fundamentals of agribusiness and ag finance. Subjects will include fundamental equations used within the agribusiness industry. The curriculum will be based on BriefCASE, a program of the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Time will also be set aside for record books, proficiency awards and state degree applications.

Introduction to Agriscience:

Grade Level: 9-12	Credit: 10
Elective	Year

Class size: 20
Prerequisite: None

This is an introductory agriculture course focused on learning and understanding all parts of the agricultural industry. This course is designed as a beginner course for further agricultural education courses. Topics covered are National FFA Organization facts, fundamentals of leadership, careers in agriculture, supervised agriculture experience programs, record keeping, natural resource management, animal sciences, plant sciences and fundamentals of agriculture mechanics.

Nursery and Landscape (former Agronomic Science):

Grade Level: 10-12	Credit: 5
Elective	Semester

Class Size: 20
Prerequisite: None

This course allows students to apply knowledge from Plant Science. Students develop and hone skills within floral design, greenhouse production, gardening and other plant science areas including the plant kingdom, origin and structure of plants and anatomy of plants; working in the greenhouse and with live plants as often as possible.

Plant Science:

Grade Level: 10-12	Credit: 5
Elective	Semester

Class size: 20
Prerequisite: None

This course is an introductory overview of the plant industry and skills needed for a career in this industry; including poinsettia production, nutritional requirements, propagation, soil science, and landscape management. Students will use the greenhouse and live plants as often as possible for the course.

Leadership

Grade Level: 10-12	Credit: 5
Elective	Semester

Class size: 20
Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on interpersonal skills. First focusing on career readiness through Habitudes, then Myers-Briggs personality type dynamics followed by developing successful habits. Students work in groups to develop team work and leadership skills through experiential activities. This self-reflective course requires group discussion and participation. Students will be required to participate in FFA Leadership Development Events.

Animal Science:

Grade Level: 10-12	Credit 5
Elective	Semester

Class size: 20
Prerequisite: None

This course provides an overview of the animal science industry. It includes animal selection, behavior, genetics, nutrition, disease, meat science and evaluation focusing on beef, swine, horses, sheep, goats, and poultry. If time permits, animal identification, restraint and immunization will be studied. This class allows students to develop skills within the livestock industry necessary for a career in animal science.

Natural Resources:

Grade Level: 10-12	Credit: 5
Elective	Semester

Class size: 20
Prerequisite: None

This class will explore topics integral to the history, importance, conservation and administration of wildlife management including habitat requirements, destruction and preservation, sport hunting and fishing, national parks and zoos. Several wildlife species found in Nebraska will be highlighted.

Ag Mechanics Grade Level: 10-12 Credit: 5
 Class size: 15 Elective Semester
 This course is an introduction to small gasoline engines. Students will gain basic knowledge in the areas of small engines. Subject areas will include small engine history, engine systems and operations and shop safety including small engine specific tools, hand tools and power tools. Students will spend most of the course in the shop using a variety of tools, equipment, and materials to tear down and reassemble Overhead Valve engines and L-Head engines.

Welding: Grade Level: 10-12 Credit: 5
 Class size: 15 Elective Semester
 This course is an introduction to shop safety for welding and the basic processes of welding including Oxyacetylene (O/A), Shielded Metal Arc Welding (Stick Welding), Gas Metal Arc Welding (Wire Welding) and Tungsten Inert Gas Welding (TIG). Each of these welding processes will be covered in class and students will have the opportunity to improve their skills of each of these welding processes in the shop.

ART

Fundamentals of Art: Grade Level: 9-12 Credit: 5/10
 Class size: 15 Elective Semester/Year
 Prerequisite: None
 Students will explore several art forms (e.g., drawing, painting, two- and three-dimensional design, and sculpture) and create individual works of art. Initial courses emphasize observations, interpretation of the visual environment, visual communication, imagination, and symbolism. Courses cover the language, materials, media, and processes of a particular art form and the design elements used. Students will be taught the basics of various art mediums and studies to give a broad overview of material use and processes. Courses may also include the study of major artists, art movements, and styles.

Art Studio (I, II, & Advanced): Grade Level: 10-12 Credit: 5/10
 Class size: 15 Elective Semester/Year
 Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art
 Students will explore one or several art forms (e.g., drawing, painting, two- and three-dimensional design, and sculpture) and to create individual works of art. This course emphasizes observations, interpretation of the visual environment, visual communication, imagination, symbolism, and independence. This advanced course encourages students to refine their skills while also developing their own artistic styles following and breaking from traditional conventions. Courses may also include the study of major artists, art movements, and styles. Students will be led by the instructor through “Big Ideas” teaching, but this is a student led course. The instructor will aid in advancing knowledge on various materials.

BUSINESS, MARKETING, AND MANAGEMENT

Accounting I: Grade Level: 10-12 Credit: 10
 Class size: 15 Elective Year
 Prerequisite: None
 Accounting is intended to be a basic accounting/record keeping class. This course will focus on the basic accounting principles of: assets, liabilities, owner’s equity, accounts payable, accounts receivable, revenue, and payroll.

Personal Finance: Grade Level: 10-12 Credit: 5
 Class size: 20 Financial Literacy Req. Sem
 Prerequisite: None
 This class is designed to prepare high school students to make wise financial decisions in personal situations. The program helps students realize that they are already making financial decisions and shows them how their decisions affect their future. The focus of the class will be on creating and maintaining a budget, making wise choices as a consumer, learning how to manage bank accounts, and finally using credit wisely. This course will also include a section on the skills one needs as a future employee. We will build resumes, write cover letters and talk about all the skills necessary to survive in the working world upon leaving high school.

Intro to Business: Grade Level: 10-12 Credit: 10
Class size: 20 Elective Year
Prerequisite: None

This is a basic course in business preparing students for work in any business setting. Specific topics include types of businesses, basic economic principles, advertising, design, marketing, business operations and sales procedures. Careers in various aspects of business will be integrated throughout the course.

Economics: Grade Level: 10-12 Credit 5
Class size: 20 S.S. Elective Semester

Economics is the study of the production, the distribution and the consumption of goods and services. In this introductory class we will focus on those three areas as they relate to the world of business and also how they affect us as consumers of those good and services. We will also take a look at the laws of supply and demand and how they affect consumer prices.

Business Law: Grade Level: 10-12 Credit:5
Class size: 20 Elective Semester

This is a basic course in the area of Business Law. The students will be introduced to legal ethics as well as the differences between criminal law and civil law. After that the students will do a more in-depth study of Contract Law, Landlord Tenant Law, The law of Torts (negligence), Consumer Law, Wills and Trusts, and finally the law of Credit.

COMPUTERS

Introduction to Computer Science & Technology: Grade Level: 10 Credit: 5
Class size: 18 Required Semester

Prerequisite: Previous Keyboarding

Students will learn knowledge and skills related to computer literacy, digital citizenship, information technology, cybersecurity, computer science, and educational technology.

Computer Science Principles: Grade Level: 10-12 Credit: 5
Class size: 18 Elective Semester

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Computer Science Principles introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. In this course, students will learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They will incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students will also explain how computing innovations and computing systems, including the Internet, work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical. It is important to note that the course does not have a designated programming language.

ENGLISH

British Literature: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 5
Class size: 15 Elective Semester

Prerequisite: English III

British Literature exposes students to important works by British authors. Readings include some translation from Old and Middle English: Beowulf and The Canterbury Tales. Modern English works include Macbeth/ Hamlet, Seventeenth Century poets, Restoration period essayists, poems from the Romantic and Victorian Ages, and short stories and poetry from the Modern Age. Thorough discussion of the mystery genre and Agatha Christie's contributions to the genre. Students also get a sense of how the history of the nation affected the literature. Daily reading assignments are often lengthy and complex.

Creative Writing: Grade Level: 11 - 12 Credit: 10
Class size: 20 Elective Year

Prerequisite: English III

This class is designed to develop creative thinking and use of imagination which will be incorporated into written form. Students will be taught a variety of writing techniques which will help them improve their writing skills. The variety of writing assignments will be based on the needs, interests, and abilities of the individuals in the class. Proper mechanics, usage, and grammar, as well as computers use will be an integral part of the course. Focus will be on quality rather than on quantity. Students will be challenged to elevate their thinking levels and writing styles as well as learn to meet deadline requirements. Preparation for college, through writing, is a strong

focus in this class.

English I: Grade Level: 9 Credit: 10
Class size: 25 Required Year

Prerequisite: 8th Grade English

English I is composed of four integrated components: grammar, usage, writing and literature. The conventions of standard English will be the focus of the course, enabling students to speak and write correctly. The literature covered in English I builds upon short stories, and introduction to Greek Mythology, and social issues presented in two novels. The writing focus is on persuasive writing.

English II: Grade Level: 10 Credit: 10
Class size: 30 Required Year

Prerequisite: English I

English II will expand on the knowledge of correct usage and mechanics through review and written assignments. This course will be more literature based than English I. Short stories, drama, non-fiction, and one novel will be read. Writing includes short skills developmental writing, a literary analysis essay and an ACT persuasive style essay.

English III: Grade Level: 11 Credit: 10
Class size: 30 Required Year

Prerequisite: English II

The focus of English III is reading and writing. Several forms of literature will be read and discussed. American writers will receive the bulk of the attention. Students will be expected to expand on previous writing experience to compose thoughtful, coherent essays. The course will include at least one multi-page research paper.

Journalism (I, II, III, IV): Grade Level: 9-12 Credit: 10
Class size: 20 English or Elective Year

Prerequisite: application/approval

Journalism's main goal is to produce a top-quality yearbook. Class members will be responsible for developing theme, designing pages, writing copy, taking photos, and advertising and sales. All of these will be developed through reading and writing assignments, and actual hands on projects. Student work will be entered in the Nebraska Schools Activities Association (NSAA) state journalism contest. Students not actually in the class may also contribute to the yearbook and state journalism material.

Novels: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 5
Class size: 15 Elective Semester

Prerequisite: None

This course will focus on reading for comprehension, understanding, and enjoyment. It is also intended to improve students' ability to write about literature in traditional essays. Students can expect lengthy reading assignments on a daily basis, many of which will be self-administered.

Research Writing: Grade Level: 11-12 Credits: 5
Class size: 15 Elective Semester

Prerequisite: None

Research Writing will benefit college-bound students. The semester long course will focus on improving student's ability to analyze culture, historical elements, form and symbolism from advertisements, vintage radio shows, cartoons, poetry and short stories. Students will also locate, analyze and accumulate research and resources for a future job or career and an APA style term paper. This course is designed to touch on the critical thinking and writing skills students will use in a variety of courses in college.

Speech: Grade Level: 10 Credit: 5
Class size: 20 Required Semester

Prerequisite: None

Speech aims at building confidence and ability for public speaking. Class assignments will teach students the basics of public speaking, which will then be used in speeches ranging from one to eight minutes in length.

Composition I: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: Dual Credit
Class size: min. 8 in conjunction with SECC (4.5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

Composition I is designed to develop writing skills. Students write short papers and essays based upon

Pre-Calculus: Grade Level: 12 Credit: 10
 Class size: 19 Elective Year
 Prerequisite: Algebra II
 Includes review of the topics from Algebra II and analytical geometry. Major areas of study include exponential decay and growth, translating functions, piecewise functions, polynomial equations, logarithms, and trigonometric functions. This class does count as a 4th year of math above Algebra II for college acceptance.

Consumer Math: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 5
 Class size: 19 Financial Literacy Req. Semester
 Prerequisite: None
 Topics include personal finance such as income, record keeping, checkbooks, savings and charge accounts, budgets, insurances and investments, as well as business math as sales, marketing, production and services. (Not counted as a high school math credit for UNL and other similar four year colleges)

Applied Math I Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 10
 Class size: 10 Elective Year
 Prerequisite: Algebra I
 This course includes topics in algebra and geometry, charts and graphs, spread sheets and graphs, area, volume, and coordinate systems. This class helps prepare those not in Algebra II for the ACT test. (Not counted as a high school math credit for UNL and other similar four year colleges)

MUSIC

Band: Grade Level: 7-12 Credit: 10
 Class size: 50 Elective Year
 Prerequisite: Participation in 5/6th Band, 2 years of private lessons, resulting in the completion of two levels of method books; or passing a playing skills test.
 Band is offered as a performing instrumental music group. Marching band may perform in the fall. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors will have the opportunity to try out for All-State Band, as well as other honor bands. Small ensembles and soloists can perform for contests, and some concerts. Students will also perform in the Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, Pops Concert, Spring Concert, Graduation, Pep Band, ECNC Senior High Honor Band (selected students), and the District Music Contest.

Chorus: Grade Level: 9-12 Credit: 10
 Class size: 50 Elective Year
 Prerequisite: None
 Chorus is offered as a performing vocal music group. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors will have the opportunity to try out for All-State Choir, as well as other honor choirs. Small ensembles and soloists can perform for contests, and some concerts. Students will also perform in the Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, Pops Concert, Spring Concert, Graduation, ECNC Senior High Honor Choir (selected students), and the District Music Contest.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Advanced Physical Education: Grade Level: 10-12 Credit: 5
 Class size: 30 Elective Semester
 Prerequisite: PE 9
 This course is designed so that all students regardless of ability will enjoy a fun and positive atmosphere learning and playing activities ranging from weight lifting, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, pickleball, basketball and other group activities.

Health: Grade Level: 9 Credit: 5
 Class size: 30 Required Semester
 Prerequisite: None
 Health is a required course that focuses on the health of individuals both physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally. Major unit topics include stress management, reproduction, physical fitness, nutrition, drugs, and STD's.

Ninth Grade Physical Education: Grade Level: 9 Credit: 5
 Class size: 30 Required Semester

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed so that all students regardless of ability will enjoy a fun and positive atmosphere learning and playing activities ranging from weight lifting, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, softball, pickleball and other group activities.

Weights:

Class size: 24

Grade Level: 10-12
Elective

Credit: 10
Year

Prerequisite: None

This course will stress weight training and other types of conditioning. The emphasis will be on weight training for athletic improvement. Stretching, rope jumping, running, plyometric activities, and other types of physical activity will be included in the course. Students who wish to take this course for a second year for credit must have teacher approval before being allowed to enroll.

SCIENCE COURSES

Biology:

Class size: 25

Grade Level: 10
Required

Credit: 10
Year

Prerequisite: Physical Science

Biology is a general course that studies the unique properties of living organisms and the diverse variety of life on the earth. Subject matter includes: Human and cellular biology, classification, heredity, microbiology, botany, zoology, anatomy, ecology, physiology, and molecular biology.

Chemistry:

Class size: 15

Grade Level: 11-12
Elective

Credit: 5/10
Semester/Year

Prerequisite: Physical Science/Biology

Chemistry is the study of the properties of matter. Topics studied include scientific measurement, phases of matter, classification of matter, atomic structure, atomic models, periodic table of elements, chemical bonding, chemical nomenclature and formulas, chemical equations and reactions, stoichiometry, solution chemistry, gas laws, thermodynamics, and nuclear chemistry.

Physical Science:

Class size: 25

Grade Level: 9
Required

Credit: 10
Year

Prerequisite: None

Physical science introduces students to key concepts and theories that provide a foundation for further study in other sciences and advanced science disciplines. The course includes an introduction to the fundamental concepts of the physical world as it relates to concepts from chemistry, physics, earth and space science disciplines. Topics that will be studied include: fundamental science skills such as graphing, scientific measurement, matter, the periodic table, elements, mixtures, compounds, chemical reactions, the solar system, stars, nuclear chemistry, motion, and Newton's laws, along with mathematical reasoning and basic laboratory practices.

Physics:

Class size: 15

Grade Level: 11-12
Elective

Credit: 5/10
Semester/Year

Prerequisite: Physical Science and Biology

Physics is the study of physical phenomena; nature's laws and how those laws can be used to understand the universe in which we live. Topics studied include scientific observation and measurement, mechanics including: kinematics, forces and Newton's laws, projectile motion, inclined planes, circular motion and gravitation, momentum and collisions, work and energy, electricity, and light.

Anatomy:

Class size: 15

Grade Level: 11-12
Elective

Credit: 5
Semester

Prerequisite: Physical Science/Biology

Anatomy is a course that will enable students to develop a basic understanding of the relationships between the structures and functions of the human body. In this course we will be learning about all of the systems in the human body and how they function.

Astronomy:

Class size: 15

Grade Level: 11-12
Elective

Credit: 10
Year

Prerequisite: Physical Science/Biology
Every other year course

Astronomy is the study of the universe. Topics covered will include constellations, stars, planets, and their moons, formation of the solar system and the universe, and space exploration.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Academic Decathlon:

Class size: 6-12

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Credit: 5

Semester

Academic Decathlon is designed to prepare students for regional and state competitions in ten separate events covering seven academic subjects. The 2024-25 theme is “Our Changing Climate.” Science will be an introduction to environmental science. Literature will include critical reading, one long work of literature and selected shorter works. The long work of literature will be *Solar Storms* by Linda Hogan. Art will explore environmentalist art. Music will focus on topic of music and the natural world. Social Science will examine climate change in the past and present. Economics will cover fundamental concepts, micro- and macroeconomics, and a thematic section on the economics of climate change. Mathematics will cover permutations, combinations, Algebra and statistics.

American Government:

Class size: 20

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 12

Required

Credit: 10

Year

Government is designed to be taken by students in the 12th grade year. The class outlines the legal, historical, and philosophical foundations of the American system along with different government and economic systems of the world. This course covers the foundations of democracy and government at the federal, state, and local levels. In addition, the course outlines basic economic and personal finance concepts, and what it means to be a responsible citizen within our society.

American History:

Class size: 20

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 11

Required

Credit: 10

Year

This class covers American History from the beginning of the Civil War to present-day current events.

World Geography- East Hemisphere:

Class size: 23

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Credit: 5

Semester

World Geography- East Hemisphere is designed to introduce students to the Five Geographic themes of: Location, Place, Human/Environment Interaction, Movement, and Region as it pertains to Asia, Africa, Oceania, Australia, and Antarctica.

World Geography- West Hemisphere:

Class size: 23

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Credit: 5

Semester

World Geography Western Hemisphere is designed to introduce students to the Five Geographic themes of: Location, Place, Human/Environment Interaction, Movement, and Region as it pertains to Europe, North and South America.

World History:

Class size: 21

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Credit: 10

Year

An overview of the major civilizations and events from prehistoric times to the present. Each civilization's political, social, economic, and cultural developments will also be discussed throughout the course.

