



# SOUTH O'BRIEN HIGH SCHOOL COURSE HANDBOOK

2025-2026



**Counseling Department**  
**Contact Information**  
**Sofia Seliger**

**7-12 School Counselor**  
307 W. Groesbeck St.  
Paullina, IA 51046

712-949-3454 ext. 0110  
[sseliger@soswolverines.org](mailto:sseliger@soswolverines.org)

# Table of Contents

Students at South O'Brien High School have important decisions to make about which courses will provide them with the best possible education to reach their future goals throughout their 9th grade year through their 12th grade year. This handbook includes important information about course offerings, graduation requirements, and more.

## **Section 1: Student & Parent/Guardian Information & District Course Policies**

**Letter to Parents/Guardians** **Page 3**

**Graduation Requirements** **Page 4**

**Curriculum Requirements** **Page 5-6**

**Dual-Enrollment Options** **Page 7-8**

**Advanced Placement Courses** **Page 8**

**Postsecondary Admission Requirements** **Page 9**

**Schedule Changes/Early Completion of Grad. Requirements** **Page 10**

**Elective Course Rotation Offerings 23-24** **Page 11**

## **Section II; Course Descriptions and Sequences**

**English** **Page 12-14**

**Math** **Page 15-17**

**Science** **Page 18-20**

**Social Studies** **Page 21-22**

**Health** **Page 23-24**

**Physical Education** **Page 25-26**

**World Language** **Page 27-28**

**Fine Arts (Art & Music)** **Page 29--31**

**CTE Programs** (Agriculture, Business, Health Sciences,  
Human Services/Family Consumer Sciences, Industrial Technology) **Page 32-45**

**Miscellaneous Electives** **Page 46-47**

**Career and Technical Education (CTE) Information** **Page 48-49**

**Appendices** **Pages 50-53**

**Helpful Links to Information** **Page 54**



South O'Brien Students and Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this 2025-2026 Registration Handbook is to provide students and parents/guardians information concerning graduation and curriculum requirements and to provide brief descriptions of the courses offered at South O'Brien. Additionally, it is to be used as a resource for questions you may have.

**ALL students and their parents/guardians** are urged to study the contents of this handbook carefully before completing their online registration for the next school year. The school counselor is available for students and/or parents/guardians to discuss matters concerning registration. All 8th-11th grade students will register for the following year's courses during the spring semester.

This handbook is to assist you in course selections as well as aid you in developing or altering your future post-secondary plans. We hope this handbook is informative and useful during this process. If you have any questions, please reach out to the school counselor.

Thank you,

*Mr. Wade Riley*  
*Superintendent*

*Mrs. Denise Phillips*  
*7-12 Principal*

*Mrs. Sofia Seliger*  
*7-12 Counselor*

## **Graduation Requirements for South O'Brien High School**

**49 credits** are *required* for graduation from South O'Brien High School.

**ALL** classes are equal to **1 credit per semester**.

A student must take a minimum of 6 full credit classes each semester in high school plus PE.

### **REQUIRED CREDITS FALL UNDER THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES**

#### **Class of 2026 & Beyond Graduation Requirements**

English	<b>8</b>
Mathematics	<b>6</b>
Science	<b>6</b>
Social Studies	<b>7</b>
Physical Education	<b>8</b>
Health	<b>2</b>
Workplace Readiness	<b>2</b>
Fine Arts	<b>1</b>
Electives	<b>9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>



## Curriculum Requirements

1. The minimum class load is **SIX** courses plus PE each semester (*6 classes + PE*).
2. Physical education is required each semester a student is enrolled.
3. *Ninth grade math course placement* will be determined by past school achievement in mathematics, the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test, and teacher recommendations.
4. *Transfer students will be expected to satisfy the graduation requirements of South O'Brien High School. Credits from other schools attended will be evaluated by the school counselor to determine courses needed to meet graduation requirements from South O'Brien.*

<b>Language Arts 8 Credits</b>	<b>Science 6 Credits</b>	<b>Social Studies 7 Credits</b>	<b>Math 6 Credits</b>
<b>Required</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Required</b>
English I (9) English II (10) English III (11) Speech Advanced Composition OR Applied English	Biology Physical Science <i>Choice of-</i> Earth Science, Physics, Chemistry I, Chemistry IA, Anatomy & Physiology, Forensics Science (1 sem)	World History Intro to Social Studies U.S. History Government (1 sem)	Algebra IA Algebra IB Informal Geometry Algebra I Algebra II Geometry PreCalculus Financial Algebra II Calculus
<b>Health Education 2 Credits</b>	<b>Physical Education 8 Credits</b>	<b>Career &amp; Tech Educ. 1 Credit</b>	<b>Fine Arts 1 Credit</b>
<b>Required</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Required</b>
Healthy Life I Healthy Life II	1 each semester PE, PE-Wellness, OR Strength & Agility	Workplace Readiness CTE Elective	Fine Arts Elective
<b>Electives 9 Credit s</b>			
<b>Required</b>			
<i>These classes are selected by the student based on interests &amp; future plans. 9 credits are needed to meet graduation requirements.</i>			

## **Required Courses by Grade Level**

### **9th Grade:**

<b>Year Long Courses</b>	<b>Semester Courses</b>
English I	Healthy Life I (may take in 9th or 10th)
World History	Healthy Life II (may take in 9th or 10th)
Math (Alg A, Alg 1, Geometry)	PE (2 semesters required)
Biology	

### **10th Grade:**

<b>Year Long Courses</b>	<b>Semester Courses</b>
English II	Healthy Life I (may take in 9th or 10th)
Intro to Social Studies	Healthy Life II (may take in 9th or 10th)
Math (Alg B, Alg I, Geometry, Alg II)	PE (2 required)
Physical Science	

### **11th Grade:**

<b>Year Long Courses</b>	<b>Semester Courses</b>
English III	Workplace Readiness (may take either 11th or 12th)
Math (Alg B, Alg I, Geometry, Informal Geometry, Alg II, Pre-Calculus, Probability & Statistics)	Speech (may take either 11th or 12th)
US History	PE
<b>Science Requirements</b>	
Chemistry (2 Semesters) <b>OR</b> Chemistry IA (2 Semesters)	

### **12th Grade:**

<b>Semester Courses*</b>
Applied or Advanced English
PE
US Government
Workplace Readiness (may take either 11th or 12th)

\*South O'Brien **HIGHLY** recommends students continue to take **math**, **science**, and **social studies** courses during their senior year.

## **Dual-Credit Enrollment Options**

### **Senior Year Plus (SYP) & Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)**

#### **PSEO & Concurrent Enrollment**

The district in conjunction with Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) and the College Board™ provides high school students with access to advanced course work through the Senior Year Plus program by which to earn secondary **and** post-secondary credit. Students who successfully complete college level courses receive **one high school elective credit** for each course. Students will receive the *appropriate number of college credits* as listed in the college catalog from Northwest Iowa Community College on their NCC transcript for PSEO & Concurrent courses. College credit earned from AP® courses is *dependent upon the score earned by the student on the AP® examination*. Courses **must** be completed successfully to earn both secondary AND post-secondary credit.

#### **Guidelines for Students**

- Classes offered from Northwest Iowa Community College receive *varying* amounts of college credit (typically between 1-4 credit hours).
- Each successfully completed course will receive **1 high school elective credit** towards graduation.
- This program is operational **ONLY** during the school year.
- Students may not take dual-enrollment courses in lieu of high school courses required for graduation. (ie. *Composition I in lieu of Advanced English.*)
- If a student is eligible for Advanced Placement classes, concurrent enrollment or a PSEO course, those courses will be in addition to their regular course load. ***Students may take an additional study hall which is dedicated to their college coursework offered through South O'Brien.***
- Students enrolled in up to 23 credits will **NOT** be charged for tuition, textbooks, materials, or fees at the post-secondary institution. Students enrolling in 24 credits or more in one school year **WILL** be charged for additional fees or costs not related to tuition which are also charged at the secondary level.
- Parents/guardians or students must furnish transportation for in-person courses.
- Students who **fail to complete or to otherwise receive credit** for an enrolled PSEO course, if 18 or older, are to reimburse the school district for the cost of the enrolled course. If the pupil is under 18, the pupil's parent/guardian/custodian shall sign the student registration form indicating they assume all responsibility for the costs directly related to incomplete/failed course work. *This differs from online courses accessed through SYP programs. Please see Appendix A for full description.*
  - *Students who fail to successfully complete college courses should be aware this may impact future eligibility for financial aid and admittance to other post-secondary institutions.*
  - Students who fail jointly administered college classes, or withdraw from them after the first drop date, will be **ineligible** for athletics for 30 days, starting with the first day of competition.

#### **Eligibility for NCC Courses through South O'Brien**

- Must be a South O'Brien High School student.
- Demonstrate **Proficiency** in:
  - Mathematics **and** English/Language Arts as evidenced by proficiency scores on the most recent Iowa Statewide Assessments of Student Progress (ISASP).
  - Some courses require additional testing such as: *EdReady* Math or Reading.
  - CTE courses do not require placement scores. (*Must still meet the SO' requirement of ISASP placement*)

#### **Enrolling in NCC Courses through South O'Brien**

- Students must include planned NCC courses on their course requests during registration.
- Students taking PSEO online courses **must** complete the registration form and return it to Mrs. Seliger in the counseling office to enroll.

<b>Concurrent Courses (NCC) Available at SO'</b>	
<b><i>Fall</i></b>	<b><i>Spring</i></b>
Introduction to Psychology	Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) - <i>upon instructor availability</i>
Applied Math Topics	Applied Math Topics

### Online SYP Courses

- A number of courses are available for students to take online through NCC.
- If a student is eligible for online college courses, those courses will be in addition to their regular course load.
  - *Students may take an additional study hall which is dedicated to their college coursework offered through South O'Brien.*
  - *Only one study hall is allowed per semester*

### Skills Required for Online Courses

Students taking online college courses should have above-average abilities in following skill areas:

- Time Management
- Self-Advocacy
- Self-Motivation
- Organization

Remember, you are a high school student and therefore, typically, have more obligations than a college student. If you are concerned about the workload of college classes, speak with Mrs. Seliger.

*Available Online Course can be found under **Appendix B.***

### Advanced Placement Courses

Students who are eligible for Advanced Placement (AP) classes must meet the same requirements for Concurrent Enrolment eligibility.

<b>Available AP® Courses</b>	<b>Length</b>
AP® Pre-Calculus	Year Long
AP® Calculus AB	Year Long

### Enrolling in AP® Courses

- Students must complete the College Board Registration for AP® Courses with their AP instructor. Checklist with Mr. Seliger prior to registration for approval. (See Appendix C).
- Students must include any planned AP® courses approved by the school counselor and the AP® course instructor on their course requests during registration.

### Receiving AP® College Credit

- To earn college credit for completed AP® courses, students test in May of each school year.
- Scores range from 1 to 5.
- College credit is most commonly awarded with a score of **4 or 5**.
- College credit is accepted at the discretion of the students' post-secondary institution of choice.

## **Postsecondary Admission Requirements & Entrance Guidelines**

### **4 Year Programs**

Entrance requirements for colleges vary, particularly within private colleges & universities., However, in general, public colleges & universities contain certain basic entrance criteria. For college-bound students it is *highly recommended*, but not required, that your high school program includes the following:

	University of Northern Iowa	University of Iowa	Iowa State University	South Dakota Universities
English	4 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
Math	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years
Laboratory Science	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years
Social Studies	3 years	3 years	2 years	3 years
World Languages	2 years	2 years	2 years	2 Years
Electives	2 Years	2 years		1 year Fine Arts (SDSU)

### **Regents Admission Index from Iowa Board of Regent Universities**

Admission of first year students who wish to enroll at any of the Iowa Regent universities (*see Iowa schools above*) will be based on the Regent Admission Index (RAI) equation described below. *In addition, applicants must meet the minimum high school course requirements* for the university they wish to enter. Freshman applicants from Iowa high schools who achieve at least a 245 RAI score and who meet the minimum number of high school courses required by the Regent universities will qualify for automatic admission to any of the three Regent universities.

### **RAI Calculation**

$(3 \times \text{ACT composite score})$   
 $+ (30 \times \text{Cumulative GPA})$   
 $+ (5 \times \text{Number of years of RAI-approved high school courses completed in the core subject areas})$   
 $= \text{RAI score}$

### **4 Year Programs & Entrance Exams**

Nearly every college or university requires entering first-year students to have taken the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). It is *recommended* that these tests be taken in the spring of your junior year, the summer between your junior and senior year, or, at the latest, early fall of your senior year. **The ACT is available to South O'Brien students twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. See Mrs. Seliger to register.**

### **2 Year Programs**

There are several community college programs and technical programs throughout Iowa and beyond. These programs typically require a high school diploma and placement tests. Placement scores may be required for some community college coursework or upon entry into specific programs. See the school counselor or your planned institution of choice for more information. NCC requires the EdReady writing and math placement tests for several programs. For more information on Future Ready Iowa opportunities through community colleges, **see Appendix D.**



## **Schedule Changes**

### **Beginning of Semester Changes**

Schedules may be changed during the **first 3 days** of each semester\*. Schedule change forms must be completed with teacher signatures before schedule changes will be made. Student schedules will be changed at the END of each day. Students should follow their original schedule until their schedule change is approved. Forms may be picked up in the office.

### **Changes throughout Semester**

Changes to a student's schedule may be made at the discretion of the school counselor and principal throughout the school year.

Changes may be made for the following reasons:

1. Failure in a required course attempted a previous semester
2. Special education placement
3. Significant change in college/career planning
4. Required course not on schedule
5. Failure to have necessary prerequisite for a course
6. Too many study halls (only ONE allowed)

**\*Schedule changes will NOT be made for student convenience**

**\*This is a Student Handbook POLICY**

## **Early Completion of Graduation Requirements**

Students who have met the necessary academic credits and have met all other curriculum requirements may elect to discontinue attending school the second semester of their senior year.

Early graduation applications must be turned in by the end of the first quarter to determine graduation eligibility after the first semester.

Necessary paperwork must be submitted to either the school counselor or principal by the end of the first quarter. Necessary documentation includes:

- Early graduation application, signed by student and parent/guardian
- Current transcript with most recent quarter one grades
  - Students failing a required course at this time will not be eligible for early completion.
- Letter addressed to the South O'Brien school board detailing the applicant's plans for the future upon early completion of graduation requirements.

A decision will be made by the school board no later than the December board meeting of the applicant's graduating year.

Diplomas will not be awarded to these students until the regular commencement date. Students who elect early completion should be aware they will not be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities during the second semester term.

## **Elective Courses 2025-2026**

### **Agriculture Science**

*Mr. Kumm & Ms. Davis*

Fall 2025

Turf, Trees, and Greenhouse:

Growing the Future

Blue & Gold Broadcasting

Engine Masters: Small Engines

Beginning Welding: Sparks & Arcs

Leadership - *co-taught*

Spring 2026

Advanced Welding: Mastering the Arc

Ag Tech in Motion: Drones &

Pulling Power

Prime Cuts: Meats Judging &

Processing

Greenscapes: The Art of

Landscape Design

Critter Care: Animal Science

Inside the Animal: Genetics,

Digestion & Reproduction

### **Art**

*Mrs. Struve*

Fall 2023

Basic Design

Drawing

Clay I

Crafts

Spring 2024

Basic Design

Painting

Clay II

Sculpture

### **Business**

*Mrs. Schmidt*

Computer Applications

Intro to Business

Marketing

Work Based Learning

CAPS

### **English**

*Mrs. Negus*

Publications

Sports Literature

### **Family & Consumer Science**

Basic Foods

Advanced Foods

World Foods

Family & Interpersonal

Relationships

Apparel & Furnishings

### **Industrial Technology**

*Ms. Davis & Mr. Kumm*

Fall 2025

Intro to Ind. Trades

Beginning Woods

Automotive Maintenance

Engine Masters: Small Engines -

*co-taught*

Intro to Construction Systems

Leadership - *co-taught*

Spring 2026

Intro to Ind. Trades

Advanced Woods

Graphic Communication &

Design

Coding & Robotics

Refinishing & Refurbishing

### **Math**

*Mrs. Aberson & Mrs. Weber*

AP<sup>®</sup> Precalculus

AP<sup>®</sup> Calculus

Math IV

NCC Applied Math Topics

### **Miscellaneous**

*Mrs. Seliger*

Peer Helper

NCC Intro to Psychology

### **Music**

*Mrs. Meyer*

Band

Chorus

### **Science**

*Mrs. Poeckes & Mr. Ruleaux*

Anatomy & Physiology - *year long*

Computer Science Principles - *one semester*

Chemistry I - *year long*

Chemistry IA - *year long*

Physics - *year long*

Forensic Science - *one semester*

Earth Science - *year long*

### **Social Studies**

*Mr. Hanlin & Mr. Yates*

Contemporary Issues

History on Film

Women in History

Economics

### **World Languages**

*Mrs. De Mars*

Spanish I - *year long*

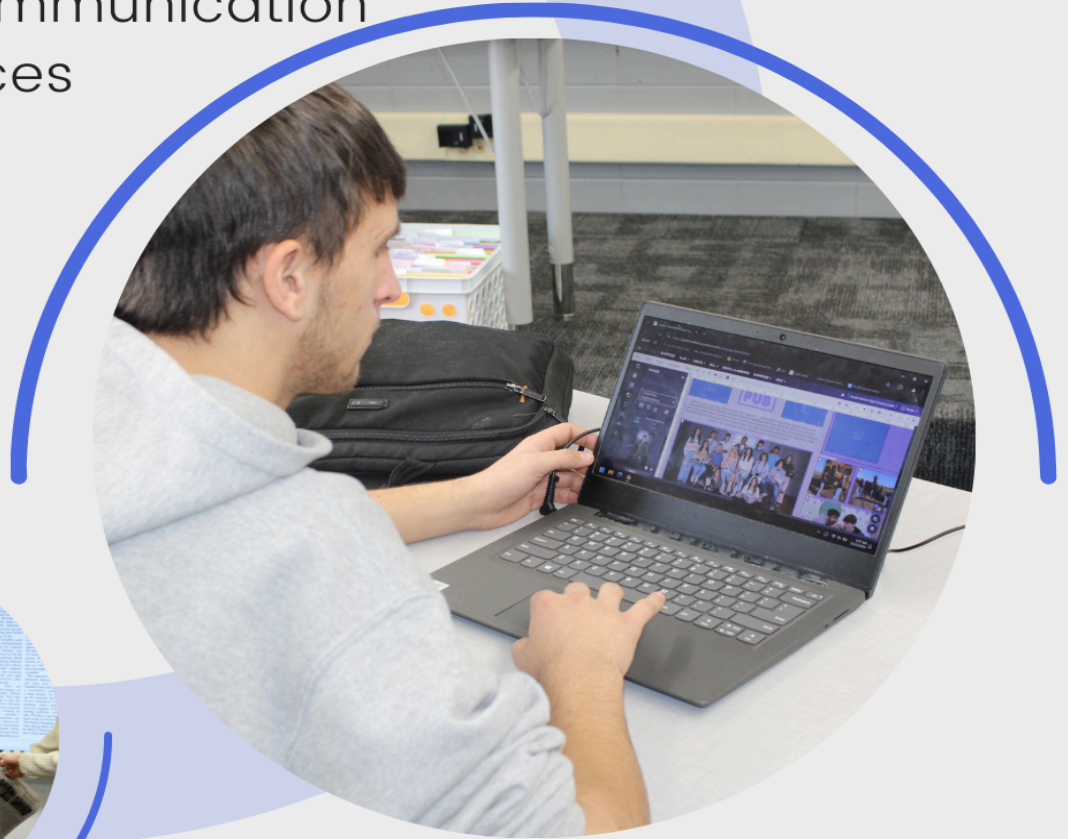
Spanish II - *year long*

Spanish III - *year long*

Spanish IV - *year long*

*Elective courses at South O'Brien are offered on a rotation schedule for many CTE courses. The following elective courses will be offered during the 2025-2026 school year. As a reminder, students should refer to the entirety of the course handbook for courses not on the current year rotation.*

Career Pathways  
AV, Arts & Communication  
Human Services  
Business



# ENGLISH

## Career Opportunities

Advertising

Teacher

Author

Interpreter

Editor

Librarian

Publisher

Paralegal

Journalist

Archivist

Web Content Specialist

## **ENGLISH (8 Required Credits)**

### **ENGLISH I** ***Required***

#### **Description**

This course will focus on basic skills of communication through the study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. To develop these skills emphasis is placed on vocabulary, grammar, composition, and reading strategies. Reading strategies are gained by studying a variety of literature: short stories, fiction, non-fiction, and drama. Additionally, this course keys in on creative writing (narrative and journals) and research writing (accomplished by collaborating on the Science Fair paper for Biology). The goal by the end of this course is for students to have an appreciation of literature, plus, write with more clarity and style.

### **ENGLISH II** ***Required***

#### **Description**

The focus of this year-long course is to build upon the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills gained in English I. Students will study a variety of literature, both fiction and non-fiction, through a thematic approach and each text will be accompanied by a written component. Students will develop critical thinking skills and become informed citizens by engaging in discourse on a variety of topics presented in the literature. This course will also explore film, specifically in the form of documentaries, and students will write and produce a documentary. Vocabulary and grammar will be incorporated into the coursework throughout the year to enhance writing and speaking skills.

### **ENGLISH III** ***Required***

#### **Description**

This year-long course will offer a broad range of experiences for students to continue to develop the skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The class will take a thematic as well as a historical approach to American literature, which will provide a springboard to various experiences involving interpretation, analysis, and research. Students will plan, research, organize, and create a project for the Regional History Day Competition based on a predetermined theme, which will require the use and documentation of primary and secondary sources. In addition, students will continue to develop writing and presentation skills to build on the skills acquired in English.

### **ADVANCED COMPOSITION** ***1 semester\****; *Prerequisite: English III*

#### **Description**

Advanced Composition is a one-semester class designed to prepare students for the expectations of college-level reading and writing. Students will read and discuss various models of writing. They will continue to develop their use of the writing process (including peer conferencing and self-assessment) and write a variety of essays that vary in length and purpose. Writing conventions (including grammar, mechanics, and usage) and the other 6 Traits of Writing (such as organization and voice) will be reviewed and reinforced throughout the semester. ***\*1 semester of EITHER Advanced or Applied Composition required for graduation.***

### **APPLIED COMPOSITION** ***1 semester\****

#### **Description**

Applied English and Communications is designed to engage students in communications experiences with real-world applications. Students will continue to develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills to prepare for vocational or technical training as well as for career readiness. The course will include career research and planning, life-long reading experiences, writing for specific audiences and purposes, and a variety of other communication experiences.

***\*1 semester of EITHER Advanced or Applied Composition required for graduation.***

### **CREATIVE WRITING** ***1 semester; Elective*** *Prerequisite: English I & II*

#### **Description**

Students in this elective writing course will consistently keep a reflective journal and study models of various types of writing. They will also write in multiple genres for a variety of audiences and purposes. Emphasis will be placed on creating the writer's voice by using concrete details, appropriate diction, and effective syntax. Students will review and continue to develop as writers using the 6 Traits of Writing. Members of the class will support each other as they work through the writing process, including peer conferencing. Students will be encouraged to start blogs, enter contests, and publish writing.

### **PUBLICATIONS** ***1 semester; Prerequisite: English I; Elective***

**Description**

This two-semester elective focuses on newspaper and yearbook production and writing as well as photography. It is designed as a workshop class for students to gain journalism and photography knowledge and experience. The class will produce “The Wolverine Roar,” the student news section of the local newspapers, and the high school yearbook. Students who join the class for a second and third year will be required to serve in leadership and editorial positions. Extension projects beyond newspaper and yearbook publication will also be expected for students who return after the first year.

**SPEECH COMMUNICATIONS**

*1 semester; **Required***

*Prerequisite: English I, & II*

**Description**

Speech Communications begins with a study of personal communication and listening skills. Students then learn to write and present speeches of various types for different occasions. Emphasis is placed on research skills, organization, and practice as well as delivery and evaluation of speeches. Students will develop skills in using effective visual aids and in engaging with the audience. The semester will conclude with practice in real-world communication skills, such as making introductions, engaging in effective conversations, and working effectively in small groups.

**SPORTS LITERATURE**

*1 semester; Elective*

*Prerequisite: English I & II*

**Description**

Students in this one-semester elective course will explore society’s passion for sports through literature and the topics and themes that emerge in sports writing. They will read, view, and listen to various genres of sports-related literature. Course materials will include novels, biographies, autobiographies, editorial columns, features, blogs, newscasts, films, and podcasts. Sports literature will be used as a springboard for critical analysis, discussion, research, and writing. Additionally, students will plan, research, organize, and create a variety of projects, presentations, and writing based on sports-related topics in society.

**STRATEGIC READING**

*2 semesters; Elective*

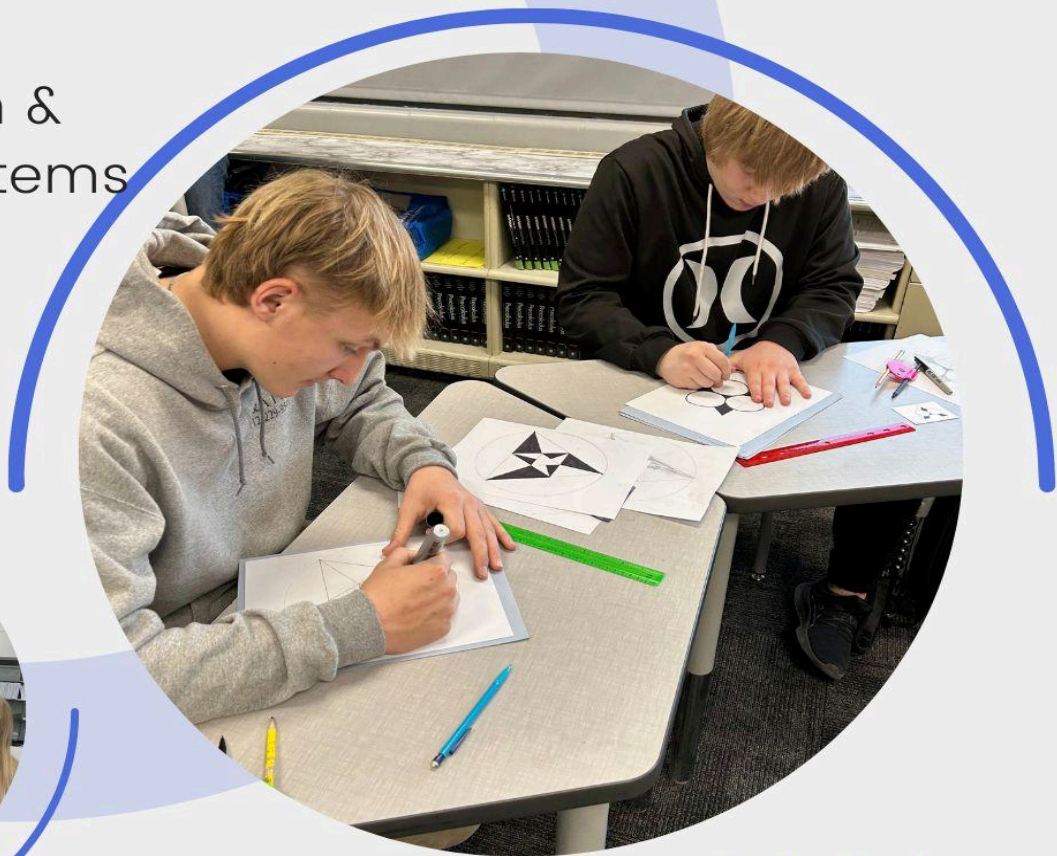
*Teacher recommendation only*

**Description**

Strategic Reading is intended to improve a student’s vocabulary, critical-thinking and analysis skills, plus their reading rate and comprehension level. Additionally, this course reinforces the literacy foundations that students need while strategically using authentic text to engage and accelerate them to grade-level proficiency.



Career Pathways  
Business  
Engineering  
Communication &  
Information Systems



# MATH

## Career Opportunities

Actuary

Auditor

Mechanical Engineer

Computer

Construction

Programmer

Manager

Economist

Software Developer

## **MATH (6 Required Credits)**

### **ALGEBRA I**

*2 semesters; 8th or 9th Grade*

#### **Description**

This course includes a study of the use of mathematical concepts such as variables, proportions, solving equations/inequalities, linear functions, systems and equations, exponents, powers, roots/radicals, exponential functions, operations of polynomials, factoring, and quadratic functions. Students will be educated about the essentials of these math concepts and how to apply or model those concepts in a multitude of ways. (Prerequisites: none)

### **GEOMETRY**

*2 semesters; 9th-12th Grades;*

*Prerequisite: Algebra I or Algebra IA AND Algebra IB*

#### **Description**

This course is an extension of Algebra I. Topics include points and lines, language and logic of geometry, angles and lines, congruence transformations, proof using congruence, polygons and symmetry, applications of congruent triangles, length area, and volume. Proof writing is systematically developed throughout the course using the definitions, postulates, and theorems of Euclidean Geometry. Theoretical as well as practical applications are explored and developed throughout the course. A student planning to attend a post-secondary school should seriously consider taking this course.

(Prerequisite: Algebra I)

### **ALGEBRA IA**

*2 semesters; 9th Grade*

#### **Description**

This is the first year of a two-year course focusing on the same concepts in the first half of Algebra I. Algebra IA includes a study of the use of mathematical concepts such as variables, proportions, solving equations/inequalities, linear functions, systems and equations, exponents, and powers. Students will be educated about the essentials of these math concepts and how to apply or model those concepts in a multitude of ways. Students who complete Algebra IA should register for Algebra IB. *Registration for this course is by teacher recommendation only.*

### **ALGEBRA IB**

*2 semesters; 10th Grade*

#### **Description**

This course follows Algebra IA as the second year of a two-year course focusing on the same concepts of the second half of Algebra I. It includes the study of roots/radicals, exponential functions, operations of polynomials, factoring, and quadratic functions. Students will be educated about the essentials of these math concepts and how to apply or model those concepts in a multitude of ways. *Registration for this course is by teacher recommendation only.*

### **INFORMAL GEOMETRY**

*2 semesters; 9th-12th Grades;*

*Prerequisite: Algebra IA AND Algebra IB*

#### **Description**

This course encourages students to “learn by doing.” Topics include number patterns, angles, perpendicular lines, parallel lines and planes, congruent triangles, similar polygons, right triangles, circles, constructions and loci, coordinate geometry, transformation, tessellations, area, and volume. Inductive reasoning is stressed as a method to help students discover Geometry definitions and theorems. Deductive reasoning is also an integral part of this course, but not in the form of formal proofs. *Registration for this course is by teacher recommendation only.*

### **ALGEBRA II**

*2 semesters; 10th-12th Grade*

*Prerequisite: Algebra I or Geometry with recommendation of previous math instructor*

#### **Description**

The students in this course will use hands-on activities and realistic problems to develop their mathematical skills. Topics include functions, sequences, variation, transformations, and matrices. Theoretical as well as practical applications are explored and developed throughout the course. A student planning to attend a post-secondary school should seriously consider taking this course.

**Students will only be allowed to take courses past Algebra II with teacher approval.**

## **FINANCIAL ALGEBRA II**

*2 semesters; 9th-12th Grades*

### **Description**

This course applies students' interpretation of algebraic concepts to common financial topics such as employment basics, budgeting, banking services, consumer credit, automobile ownership, independent living, business modeling, and retirement planning. *Registration for this course is by teacher recommendation only.*

## **AP<sup>®</sup> PRECALCULUS**

*2 semesters; 11th-12th Grades;*

*Prerequisite: Algebra II & recommendation of previous math instructor*

### **Description**

Pre-calculus is designed to prepare students for math skills needed for calculus and other post-secondary math courses. This course will continue the development of concepts and skills as presented in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II with emphasis on statistics and trigonometry.

## **AP<sup>®</sup> Calculus**

*2 semesters; 12th Grade;*

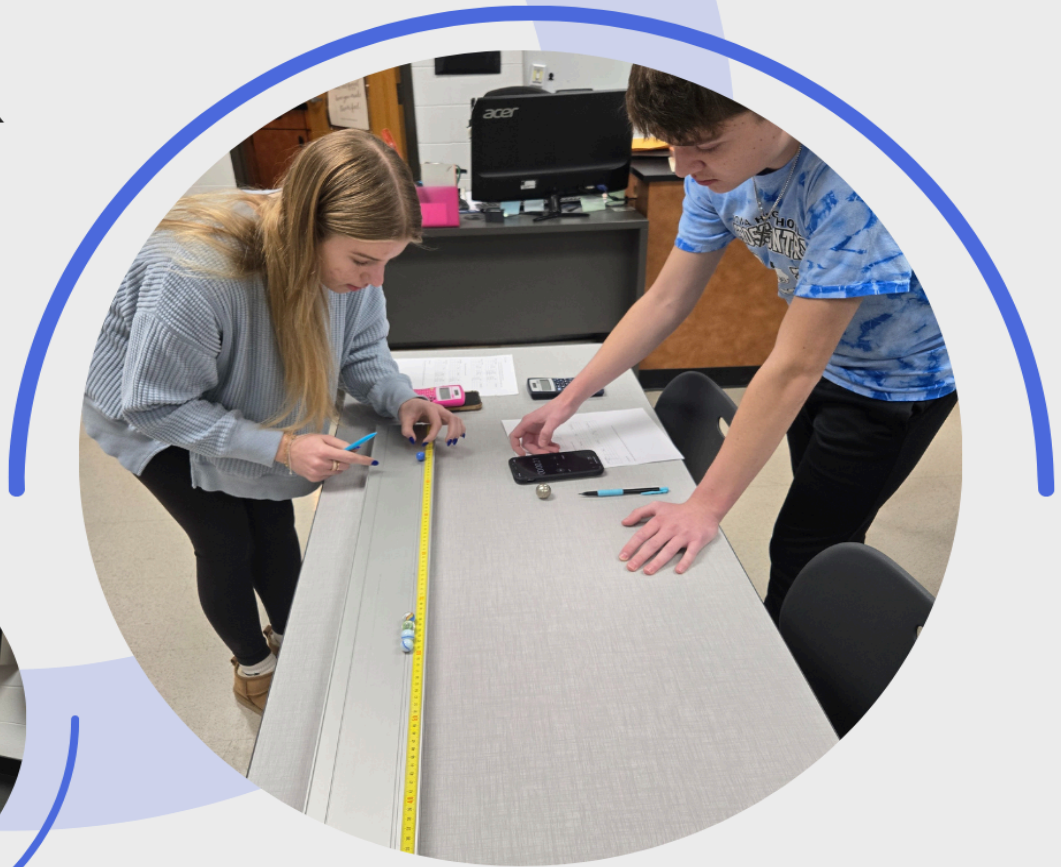
*Prerequisite: Precalculus with recommendation of previous math instructor\**

### **Description**

This course is designed for students intending to pursue college majors in mathematics, engineering, physics, business, or the life sciences which require the study of calculus. Topics include functions, parametric, logarithms, polynomials, trigonometry, limits, continuity, derivatives, and integrals. At the end of the course, students will take the Calculus Exam paid for by the high school. Students who pass the Calculus Exam will earn college credit. *\*AP<sup>®</sup> exam must be taken upon completion of the course.*

Career Pathways  
STEM

Health Sciences  
Environmental &  
Ag Systems  
Engineering



# SCIENCE

Career Opportunities

Microbiologist

Dentist

Agronomist

Psychologist

Forensic Scientist

Research Scientist

Lab Technician

Biomedical Engineer



## **SCIENCE (6 Required Credits)**

### **BIOLOGY**

*2 semesters; 9th Grade; **Required***

#### **Description**

Biology is an introductory science course designed to provide information regarding the fundamental concepts of life and life processes. This course includes topics such as cell structure and function, general plant and animal physiology, genetics, and taxonomy. Students are also taught fundamental lab skills.

### **PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

*2 semesters; 10th Grade; **Required***

*Prerequisite: Biology*

#### **Description**

Physical science introduces students to the core concepts in both chemistry and physics. This course includes topics such as atomic structure, elements, chemical reactions, speed, acceleration, graphing, energy, waves and electricity. Students will use both actual and virtual lab activities in order to further their understanding.

(Note: Students who wish to accelerate their science study may, with previous permission from the instructor, complete the physical science requirement by completing BOTH chemistry I and physics.)

### **ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY**

*2 semesters; 11th-12th Grades; Elective*

*Prerequisite: Biology*

#### **Description**

This course will cover the eleven major body systems in extensive detail including cells, tissues, skin, bones, muscles, nerves, digestion, circulatory, urinary, reproductive, and endocrine systems. Integrated into the study of these systems will be anatomical study (where things are located) and physiological study (how they work.) Students will complete lab activities to reinforce their understanding. This course is strongly recommended for all juniors or seniors contemplating any medical or health profession, including pre-med, veterinary science, nursing, research, med-tech, physical therapy, radiology, etc., or are simply interested in the human body and how it works.

### **CHEMISTRY I**

*2 semesters; 11th-12th Grade; Elective*

*Prerequisite: Biology & Physical Science*

#### **Description**

Chemistry is the study and investigation of structure and the properties of matter. In this course students are exposed to both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of chemistry, along with the laboratory skills needed to go further in this field. This course is strongly recommended for all college-bound students as all of Iowa's state universities require students to have a minimum of three years of science including biology, chemistry or physics for admission. Students interested in pursuing a degree in a science related field should take four years of science courses.

(Prerequisite: Students should have successfully completed Biology and Physical Science.)

### **CHEMISTRY IA**

*2 semesters; 11th-12th Grade; Elective*

*Prerequisite: Biology & Physical Science*

#### **Description**

This course introduces students to the chemistry concepts frequently encountered in high school chemistry courses. The purpose of this course is to provide students who wish to take chemistry an option for a course that has a slightly different pace with additional opportunities for practice and teacher support.

### **EARTH SCIENCE**

*2 semesters; 10th-12th Grade; Elective*

*Prerequisite: Biology*

#### **Description**

Earth science is the exploration and the interconnections between the land, ocean, atmosphere, and life of our planet. These include matters, rocks and minerals, energy and other concepts such as the continental drift, plate tectonics, water and erosion, which continuously shape, influence, and sustain the Earth. This course is a full year elective course which can be used to fill the 3-Year science requirement at South O'Brien beyond Biology and Physical Science.



## **FORENSIC SCIENCE**

*1 semester; 10th-12th Grade; Elective*

*Prerequisite: Biology*

### **Description**

Forensic Science is the application of science (chemistry, physics, and biology) to the criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system. Topics may include the investigation of fingerprinting, fiber analysis, ballistics, arson, trace evidence analysis, poisons, drugs, blood spatters, and blood samples. Whether students desire to be a crime scene investigator, forensic pathologist, police officer, or love to solve mysteries, this course will help them hone their investigative skills.

## **PHYSICS**

*2 semesters; 12th Grade; Elective*

*Prerequisite: Algebra II*

### **Description**

Physics emphasizes quantitative and conceptual understanding of the topics of introductory physics without the use of calculus. Many lab activities are included to help the students connect the problem solving they do with real-life situations. This course is recommended for college-bound students as all of Iowa's state universities require students to have a minimum of three years of science including biology, chemistry or physics for admission. Students interested in pursuing a degree in a science related field should take four years of science courses.

Career Pathways  
Human Services  
STEM  
Business  
Communication &  
Information Systems



# SOCIAL STUDIES

Career Opportunities

Journalist

Teacher

Historian

Politician

Police Officer

Social Worker

Market Research Analyst

Librarian

City Planner/Manager

Lawyer

Psychologist

## **SOCIAL STUDIES (7 Required Credits)**

### **World History**

*2 semesters; 9th Grade; Required*

#### **Description**

The first semester is designed to give the student an understanding of world history from ancient civilizations through the Renaissance. The second semester will give the student an understanding of the development of modern man by studying the rise of the modern nation, the development of new political philosophies, the advancement of technology, and the strife between nations.

### **Intro to Social Studies**

*2 semesters; 10th Grade; Required*

#### **Description**

This is a required social studies course. We will cover basic concepts of geography, psychology, sociology and economics. Each topic will be addressed for one nine-week period. Geography is the study of the distribution and interaction of physical and human features on the earth. Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Sociology is the scientific study of social structure. Economics is the study of how individuals and societies satisfy their unlimited wants with limited resources.

### **U.S. History**

*2 semesters; 11th Grade; Required*

#### **Description**

We will cover such topics as White House Reformers, World War I, Roaring Twenties, Great Depression, New Deal, World War II, Cold War, administration of Kennedy and Johnson, Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam War, Watergate and presidencies of Carter, Bush, Reagan, Clinton and Bush. The time period that will be covered starts in the 1900s and concludes in the 2000s. Students will examine the social, political, economic, and geographic effects of each topic. This course is the basis for a firm understanding of the present-day United States and American Government.

### **U.S. Government**

*2 semesters; 12th Grade; Required*

#### **Description**

This course will be an advanced study of the American political structure. Students will examine the foundations of government, the United States Constitution, the three branches of the federal government, political parties and voting and elections. Students will develop a political philosophy.

### **Contemporary Issues**

*1 semester; 10th-12th Grade; Elective*

#### **Description**

Contemporary Issues is a student-led discussion class which asks students to research current issues at the local, state, national, and world levels.

### **History on Film**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective*

#### **Description**

This is a semester-long class where students will watch historical films, each dedicated to an event, person, or era of history. Prior to watching the films, students will learn about the geographic and historic factors that combined to create the historical topic of the film. They will use maps, and primary and secondary source documents to create a framework for understanding the area and time period before watching the film. After watching the film, students will participate in activities that require research, writing, and presentation skills to evaluate the film in comparison to actual events.

### **Women in History**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective*

#### **Description**

This is a semester-long class where students will research historical female figures throughout history. Students will learn about geographic, historic, and cultural factors and how these factors influenced the women and history of the time.

Career Pathways

Health Sciences

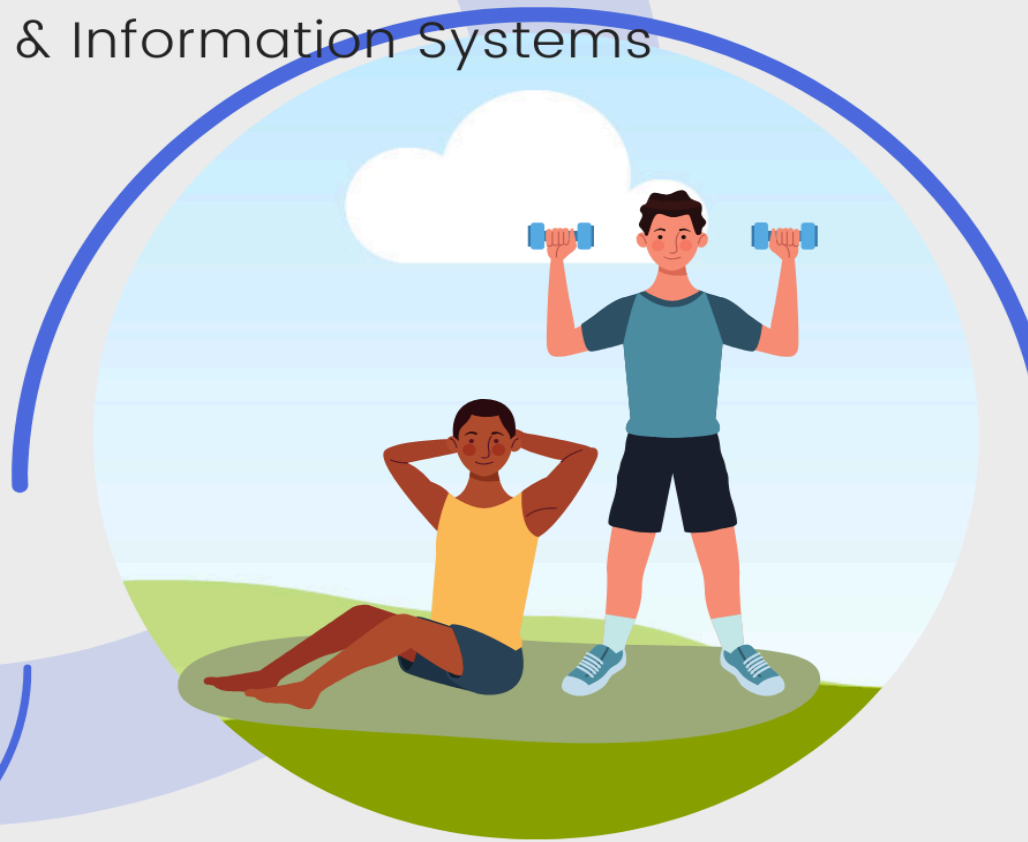
AV, Arts, & Communication

Communication & Information Systems

Human Services

STEM

Business



# HEALTH

## Career Opportunities

PE Teacher

Athletic Trainer

Nurse

Physical Therapist

CNA

Speech Pathologist

Nutritionist

Sports Management

## **Health (2 Required Credits)**

### **Healthy Life I**

*1 semester; 9th or 10th Grade; **Required***

#### **Description**

Two semesters of healthy life coursework are required for graduation. These courses do not need to be taken consecutively or sequentially. Wellness, a way of life, is stressed throughout the course. Anyone considering a future in the medical or science fields would benefit from this course, as well as those interested in their own well-being. Healthy Life I topics include: Making Healthy Decisions and Choices, Mental Health, Preventing Disease, and Substance Abuse.

### **Healthy Life II**

*1 semester; 9th or 10th Grade; **Required***

#### **Description**

Two semesters of healthy life coursework are required for graduation. These courses do not need to be taken consecutively or sequentially. Wellness, a way of life, is stressed throughout the course. Anyone considering a future in the medical or science fields would benefit from this course, as well as those interested in their own well-being. Healthy Life I topics include: Social Health, Nutrition and Physical Fitness.

### **NCC Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)**

*2 Credit course - NCC CREDIT*

*MAXIMUM OF 10 STUDENTS*

*Based on Instructor Availability*

#### **Description**

This course is designed for junior and senior students interested in training and working as a nursing assistant. This course meets the state requirements and will include a minimum of 30 hours of classroom work, 15 hours of laboratory (practicing skills on fellow students) and 30 hours of clinical experience performed at a local nursing home and/or hospital.

### **NCC EMT**

*2 Credit course - NCC CREDIT*

*MAXIMUM OF 10 STUDENTS*

*Based on Instructor Availability*

#### **Description**

This course is designed for junior and senior students interested in training and working as an emergency medical technician. This course meets the state requirements and will include a minimum of 30 hours of classroom work, 15 hours of laboratory (practicing skills on fellow students) and 30 hours of clinical experience performed at a local nursing home and/or hospital.



Career Pathways  
Human Services  
STEM  
Business  
Health Sciences



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Career Opportunities  
Teacher  
Athlete

Sports Medicine  
Sports Management  
Athletic Trainer  
Physical Therapist

## **Physical Education (8 Required Credits)**

Physical Education is required for graduation from South O'Brien High School.

One of the following courses is **required each semester**. Students may choose to take the same course all year or take a different course each semester.

### **PE**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; **Required***

#### **Description**

General PE class will focus on games and activities. There will be team sports and dual activities. These types of games will be geared for the individuals interested in athletics.

### **Strength & Agility**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; **Required***

#### **Description**

This physical education course will focus on activities and programs that will enable the student to establish and improve on all areas and aspects related to physical fitness and personal wellness. Activities will include, but are not limited to: various cardiovascular training methods and options, weight training, fitness running, speed and agility exercises, and personal fitness assessments.

Career Pathways

AV, Arts, & Communication

Communication & Information Systems

Human Services

STEM

Business

Health Sciences



# WORLD LANGUAGE

Career Opportunities

Interpreter

Translator

Computer Tech

Lab Technician

Linguist

HR Consultant

## **World Language**

### **Spanish I**

*2 semesters; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

First-year Spanish uses a conversational approach to introduce the Spanish-speaking world. The main objective of the course is to develop the student's skills in listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, as well as develop cultural awareness of Spanish-Speaking countries. Emphasis is placed on learning vocabulary and grammatical structure which is useful in describing situations in his/her everyday life. Class is conducted so that each student uses Spanish orally through pair and group work and also in reading and writing. Videos, music, food, and other activities are used extensively to expose students to native speakers and the cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking countries. Successful completion of Spanish I would enable the student to carry on simple conversations and to read and write Spanish within reasonable limits.

### **Spanish II**

*2 semesters; 10th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisite: Spanish I*

#### **Description**

Spanish II is a continuation of Spanish I. Its goal is to maintain and improve the skills acquired in first-year Spanish with a continued emphasis on listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing and cultural awareness. Conversational and writing skills are expanded through additional study of grammatical structures and vocabulary. Videos, music, food, and other activities are used extensively to expose students to native speakers and the cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking countries. By the end of the second year, the student should be able to express himself/herself on a simple level about a wide variety of topics.

### **Spanish III**

*2 semesters; 11th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisite: Spanish I & II*

#### **Description**

Students in Spanish III build upon the basic knowledge gained in Spanish I and Spanish II. Fluency in both speaking and writing and knowledge of Spanish-speaking countries continues to develop. There is an emphasis on the ability to express oneself in speaking and writing in Spanish. Videos, music, food, and other activities are used extensively to expose students to native speakers and the cultural aspects of Spanish-Speaking countries. At the end of the third year of Spanish, the student should be able to read, write, and speak at an intermediate level.

### **Spanish III**

*2 semesters; 11th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisite: Spanish I, II, & III*

#### **Description**

Spanish IV provides a review and extension of material previously studied. Students learn to improve both written and verbal communication through project-based learning. The course is designed to enhance the student's enjoyment of and ability to use Spanish in a real-world context.



Career Pathways

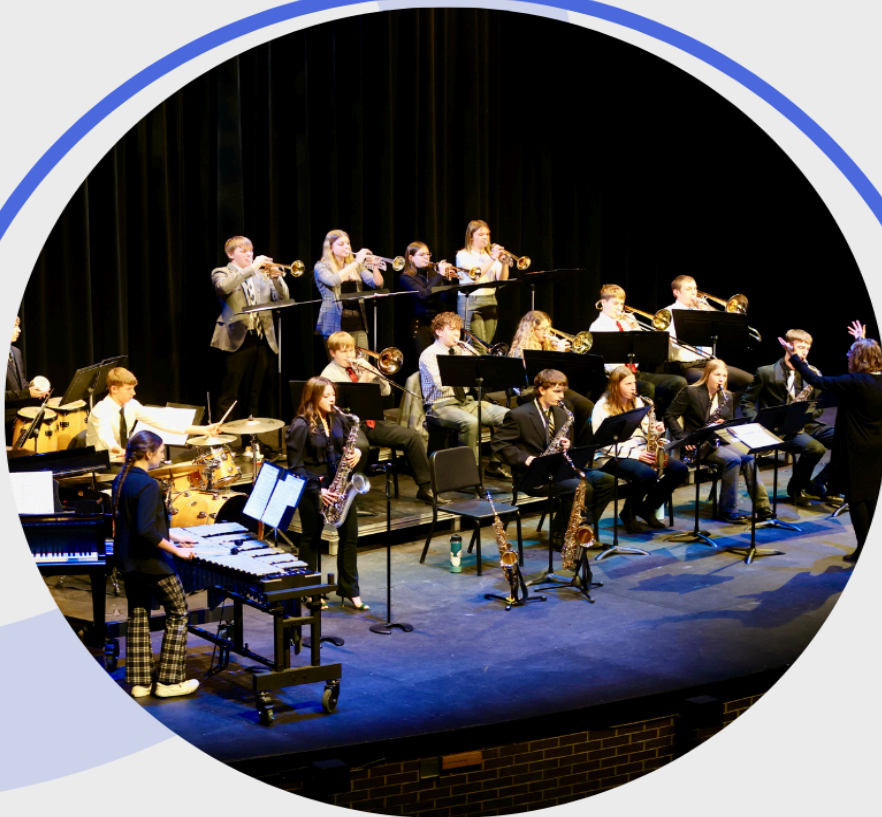
AV, Arts, & Communication

Communication & Information Systems

Human Services

STEM

Business



# FINE ARTS

Career Opportunities

Teacher

Community Educator

Musician

Composer

Advertising Specialist

Graphic Designer

Content Creator

## **FINE ARTS**

One credit in the area of fine arts is required for all students. Additional fine arts courses will be considered electives upon the completion of the course.

### **Art**

#### **Basic Design**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade  
No Prerequisites*

##### **Description**

Basic Design is a beginning level course that concentrates on the basic elements of design. There will be general introductory units in drawing, watercolor, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media, etc. ***This is a prerequisite to several other art courses.***

#### **Drawing**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade  
Prerequisites: Basic Design*

##### **Description**

Students will use mediums such as pencil, ink, gel pens, charcoal, colored pencils, chalks, and oil pastels to learn new drawing techniques. They will learn to make and present their artwork. Second year students will use what they learned the first year to produce an improved quality of artwork. Independent projects will be part of the second year.

#### **Painting**

*1 semester; 10th-12th Grade  
Prerequisites: Basic Design & Drawing*

##### **Description**

Painting is a studio art course in which students will experience painting with watercolors, watercolor pencils, and acrylics. A number of painting techniques will be attempted. Various artists' painting styles will be studied throughout the course. Students may take two semesters of painting.

#### **Clay I**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade  
No Prerequisites*

##### **Description**

This course will give the student experience working with the 3-D qualities of design. Hand building techniques such as pinch, coil, and slab will be covered along with wheel throwing. Limit 15 students.

#### **Clay II**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade  
Prerequisite: Clay I*

##### **Description**

This class is a continuation of Clay 1. Students will study more advanced techniques of mold, slab, coil, and thrown methods. Clay as a sculpture medium will be explored. Emphasis will be on creativity of design in form and glaze techniques.

#### **Crafts**

*1 semester; 10th-12th Grade  
No Prerequisites*

##### **Description**

This course emphasizes that crafts are an important part of contemporary life as well as past cultures. Mirror etching, origami, jewelry making, weaving, clay, card making, etc. will be explored.

#### **Sculpture**

*1 semester; 10th-12th Grade  
Prerequisites: Basic Design*

##### **Description**

This class will enable students to design 3-D art in the form of representational and abstract. Students will be introduced to hand-built clay sculpture, wire, paper, printmaking, copper tooling, tape, etc.

## **Music**

### **Band**

*2 semesters; 9th-12th Grade  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

High School Band consists of several different ensembles, including but not limited to Marching Band (fall season), Pep Band (varsity basketball games) and Concert Band (6-10 performances throughout the year including concerts, IHSMA Marching Band, Solo/Small Ensemble and Large Group Festivals, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, and Graduation). Auditions may be held to determine instrumentation and seating of the Concert Band and Marching Band. Leadership opportunities are available for those who wish to take advantage of them.

***Jazz Band** is a non-credit, music elective composed of select band members determined through audition. Jazz Band will meet before school beginning in the fall semester. Students in the Jazz Band will learn to perform varied repertoire and improvise music in the proper style. The competitive jazz season runs each year from January through March or April. A second, non-audition jazz ensemble will be formed if there is sufficient interest. The second jazz band will be open to musicians on any instrument, provided that proper musical balance can be maintained. Band students will receive one lesson per cycle. These lessons will include study in individual method books, studies in solo literature and chamber music, and study of the literature being used in concert bands. Lessons will be scheduled either during study hall, non-core class or outside of the school day.*

### **Mixed Chorus**

*2 semesters; 9th-12th Grade  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

Mixed chorus is open to all students in grades 9-12. Tryouts are not required for acceptance, but will be held to determine placement into a particular section (soprano, alto, tenor, or bass). Required concerts and performances include the Veteran's Day Program, the Winter Concert, the Pops Concert, the Fine Arts and Awards Concert, the large Group Festival, Baccalaureate and Graduation. Both sacred and secular music are performed. Individual lessons are also a required part of the class with one lesson in every six day cycle. Students in Mixed Chorus have the opportunity to audition for All-State Chorus in the fall and participate in the Solo and Small Ensemble Festival in the spring. Freshman have the opportunity to audition for OPUS Honor Choir in the fall. At the beginning of the school year, Mixed Chorus members are encouraged to audition for Jazz Choir. It meets before school three days per six day cycle beginning Fall Semester. Jazz Choir members learn how to sing in close harmony and vocally improvise or scat. They sing with microphones and are accompanied by an instrumental ensemble made up of a keyboard, a bass guitar, drums, and other percussion instruments. Their schedule includes at least six performances in concerts or competitions from January through March.

Career Pathways  
Human Services  
STEM  
Business  
Health Sciences  
Environmental &  
Ag Systems



# Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

Career Opportunities

Agronomy

Seed Sales

Biochemical Engineer

Operations Manager



## **Agriculture Science**

### **FFA Participation Reminder**

Students must be enrolled in at least one agriculture class taught by Mr. Kumm to participate in FFA activities beyond the chapter level. This requirement ensures that members are actively engaged in agricultural education while preparing for leadership roles, competitions, and other FFA opportunities.

### **New Courses Starting 2025-2026**

#### **Turf, Trees, and Greenhouse: Growing the Future**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

##### **Description**

This is a hands-on, science-based course designed to introduce students to the principles of turf management, arboriculture, and greenhouse operations. Through practical experiences, including greenhouse plant care, tree maintenance, and turf management techniques, students will develop skills applicable to careers in horticulture, landscaping, and environmental conservation. This course emphasizes real-world applications, critical thinking, and problem-solving to prepare students for future opportunities in the green industry.

#### **Inside the Animal: Genetics, Digestion & Reproduction**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

##### **Description**

This explores the biological systems driving animal growth, health, and reproduction. Students will study genetics and heredity, including trait selection, breeding programs, and advancements in animal biotechnology. The course will also cover digestive physiology, comparing monogastric and ruminant systems, nutrient absorption, and feed efficiency. Additionally, students will examine reproductive anatomy, artificial insemination, embryo transfer, and factors affecting fertility. Through hands-on labs, dissections, and real-world case studies, students will develop a deeper understanding of livestock management, animal health, and the science behind efficient and sustainable animal production.

#### **Critter Care: Paws, Fins & Hooves**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

##### **Description**

This is a hands-on course designed for students interested in the care and management of a variety of animals, including dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, and aquatic species. Students will learn about proper nutrition, housing, disease prevention, animal behavior, and basic veterinary care. The course will also cover essential skills such as handling techniques, grooming, first aid, and pet CPR. Through interactive labs, guest speakers, and real-world applications, students will develop practical knowledge for careers in veterinary science, animal training, aquaculture, and pet care while gaining a deeper understanding of responsible and ethical animal care practices.

#### **Prime Cuts: Exploring Meat Science**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

##### **Description**

This is a hands-on course that delves into the science, processing, and evaluation of meat products. Students will explore topics such as muscle structure, meat grading, processing techniques, food safety, and the role of meat in human nutrition. The course includes hands-on experiences in meat fabrication, identification of retail and wholesale cuts, and understanding factors that impact meat quality. Students will also learn about careers in the meat industry, including butchery, meat inspection, and food science. Through labs, industry tours, and real-world applications, students will develop a deeper appreciation for the science and technology behind meat production.

## **Blue & Gold Broadcasting**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

### **Description**

This is a hands-on course where students will create digital content to promote FFA, agriculture classes, and local agricultural businesses. Students will develop skills in video production, photography, social media management, and website development while producing engaging content for the South O'Brien FFA Chapter. Projects will include creating promotional videos, event recaps, interviews, and feature stories that highlight agricultural education and industry. Additionally, students will be responsible for maintaining and updating the chapter website to showcase FFA activities, achievements, and important announcements. This course provides real-world experience in agricultural communications and marketing while strengthening leadership, teamwork, and technical skills.

## **Ag Tech in Motion: Drones and Pulling Power**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

### **Description**

This is an interactive course that explores the mechanics and technology behind modern agricultural machinery. Students will study the physics of tractor pulls using RC tractors, focusing on gears, tires, weight distribution, and friction, culminating in a competitive tractor pull event. The course also introduces drone technology, covering safety, regulations, controls, and programming. Students will develop flight skills through a drone flight simulator and hands-on practice, progressing from beginner to advanced maneuvers. This course provides a dynamic learning experience in agricultural engineering, mechanics, and emerging ag technologies.—**Limit of 10 students**

## **GreenSpaces: The Art of Landscape Design**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

### **Description**

This explores the art and science of landscape design, focusing on creating functional and visually appealing outdoor spaces. Students will learn the benefits of landscape design, identify common landscaping plant materials, and conduct site analyses to assess environmental factors. The course covers fundamental design principles, including balance, proportion, and harmony, while incorporating computer-aided landscape design software. Through hands-on projects and creative problem-solving, students will develop skills applicable to careers in landscaping, horticulture, and environmental planning.

## **Courses in Ag Science Rotation**

### **Ag Marketing & Sales**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

### **Description**

Students will learn the basics of marketing agricultural commodities, along with skills used in ag sales.

Marketing topics include: marketing basics; fundamental analysis; technical analysis; using cash markets, forward contracts, futures contracts and options strategies; and in-class marketing activities. Ag Sales topics include: advertisement design for radio, video and publications; salesmanship skills and customer relations; radio broadcasting; and ag entrepreneurship. Any student considering a career in any type of marketing, sales, or business should consider taking this class.

### **Ag Mechanics I**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

### **Description**

Land Surveying and electrical wiring will be the areas studied during the semester. Various lab activities and projects will be utilized to supplement classroom instruction. (Prerequisite: None)

### **Agronomy**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

Areas of study include crop nutrition, plant genetics, grain grading, weed/insect ID, sprayer calibration and pesticides safety. In addition, production techniques for Iowa's two main crops—corn and soybeans—will be studied. Field trips to co-ops, guest speakers, nutrient & chemical lab experiments and the chapter test plot will be utilized to supplement classroom instruction.

### **Landscape Design**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites; Plant Science I & II Recommended*

#### **Description**

Students that have an interest in landscape principles and design, tree/shrub care, and turf management should consider this semester class. Landscape drawings and computer programs, and field trips when possible will supplement the classroom instruction.

### **Natural Resources II**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

This course provides students experiences in the fields of natural resources and ecology. Students will explore hands-on projects and activities while studying topics such as: Energy in Ecosystems; Plant Life in Ecosystems; Wildlife Habitat; Ag Stewardship; Forestry; Managing Minerals & Oil; Urban/Human Influence on Natural Resources; and Wildlife Management. If there is interest, students may complete a pheasant taxidermy project.

### **Plant Science I**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

Students are exposed to the world of agriculture, plant science, and career options. Students will have experiences in various plant science concepts through exciting “hands-on” activities, projects, and problems. Students will work on projects similar to those that plant science specialists, such as horticulturalists, agronomists, greenhouse and nursery managers, and plant research specialists, face in their respective careers. Projects and labs will include the areas of lawn care and maintenance, wreath design, soils, hydroponics, plant anatomy & physiology, and plant taxonomy.

### **Plant Science II**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites; Plant Science I Recommended*

#### **Description**

Students will manage the greenhouse to produce vegetables and flowers to market to the community. In addition to managing the greenhouse, students will study Apiculture (honey bees) and assist with managing the programs bee hives in the spring. Areas of study will also include: Anatomy and Physiology – Taxonomy – Growing Environment – Reproduction – Pest and Disease Management – Crop Production and Marketing. Students will be immersed in inquiry-based exercises filled with activities, projects, and problems to teach plant concepts through laboratory and practical experiences. Lessons include working in teams and exploring hands-on projects.

### **Vet Science I**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

Students will have experiences in various animal science concepts with exciting hands-on activities, projects, and problems involving the study of animal classification & domestication, animal cells, and anatomy & physiology. Students will explore hands-on labs (baby pig dissection) and activities to learn the characteristics of animal science and work on major projects and problems similar to those that animal science specialists, such as veterinarians, zoologists, livestock producers, and industry personnel, face in their respective careers.

### **Vet Science II**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

Vet Science II is a continuation of the concepts learned in Vet Science I, which is to expose students to the world of agriculture, animal science, and career options. Students participating in Vet Science II will have experiences in various animal concepts with exciting hands-on activities, projects, and problems. Students' experiences will

involve the study of animal reproduction, health, selection, and marketing. For example, students will acquire skills in dissection procedures to investigate the functions of livestock reproductive tracts. Students will explore hands-on projects and activities to learn the characteristics of animal science and work on major projects and problems similar to those that animal science specialists such as veterinarians, zoologists, livestock producers, and industry personnel, face in their respective careers.

### **Vet Science III**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

Students will have experiences in various animal science concepts with exciting hands-on activities, projects, and problems involving the study of animal welfare/rights, diseases, parasites, vaccination/sutures, and small animal first aid/CPR. Contingent on student interest, other areas of study may include aquaculture, dogs, poultry, rabbits, and horses. The ag department aquaculture fish tank, egg incubator and brooder, as well as field trips and student resources will be utilized when possible. Students interested in a career concerning vet science, pet store management, or pet sales should consider taking this class.

### **Ag Business Management**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

Students will learn how to analyze and calculate business inventories and balance sheets, income statements, statements of cash flows, owner equity, financial performance, and business/enterprise planning. Computer record keeping programs, simulated farm programs, and guest speakers will be utilized when available to assist in better understanding these topics. Any student considering a career in business should consider enrolling in this class.

Career Pathways  
Human Services  
STEM  
Business  
Health Sciences  
Environmental &  
Ag Systems



# BUSINESS

Career Opportunities

Hospital Administrator

Accountant

Office Manager

HR Consultant

Insurance Broker

Entrepreneur

Marketing Manager

Real Estate Agent

## **Business**

### **Workplace Readiness**

*1 semester; 11th-12th Grade; **Required**  
Recommended - CAPS Course*

#### **Description**

This course is designed to prepare high school students for life after high school and entering the workplace. Topics covered will include saving, budgeting, banking, debt & credit, resume-building, job applications, interviewing, career exploration, learning about yourself, and more. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a job-shadowing experience and build a plan for their life after high school. This is a course packed with practical and relevant real-world experience. Speakers from the local business community will be brought in as time allows. It is a graduation requirement that is recommended to be taken during a student's junior year.

### **Introduction to Business**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

This course is designed to give students an introduction into basic business principles. Topics covered include: Economic Decisions and Systems, Economic Activity, Business Organization, Entrepreneurship, Management & Leadership, Marketing, Finance, Consumer Credit, Savings & Investments, and Insurance. This course is an introduction to business and the South O'Brien business program. Some highlights of the course include a stock market simulation and preparing business plans. This should be the first business elective chosen and is recommended for freshman and sophomores.

### **Accounting I**

*2 semesters; 10th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisite: Algebra I*

#### **Description**

Students will be introduced to double-entry accounting and its general concepts. Students will analyze business transactions, journalize them, and prepare financial statements for various types of businesses. The course takes students through the full accounting cycle for a service business organized as a proprietorship and a merchandising business organized as a corporation. Students will be given the opportunity to gain realistic experience by completing a business simulation. Students will be encouraged to incorporate technology into their accounting work whenever possible. Students will be challenged to think deeply by analyzing real business financial statements and making realistic recommendations for improvements. This course is an upper-level business elective recommended for juniors and seniors.

### **Business Law**

*1 semester; 10th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

This course will give students an introduction to the law for business and personal use. Topics covered will include: Laws and Their Ethical Foundations, Contract Law, Offer & Acceptance, Genuineness of Assent, Consideration, Legal Capacity to Contract, Contractual Obligations, Sales, Consumer Protection, Ownership and Leasing of Real Property, Insurance Law, and more. Students will be challenged to apply the law by conducting three mock trials throughout the semester. This course is an upper-level elective and is recommended for juniors and seniors who have already taken a class or classes in the business program.

### **Computer Applications**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

Students will be encouraged to explore computers and their various applications. Students will be given a choice on their particular focus of study. Possible choices include word processing, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, presentation applications, coding, web 2.0 applications, and more. Students will be encouraged to explore computer applications by working on authentic projects that have an impact on the world beyond the walls of the classroom. This course is recommended for any student who needs to refresh their computer application skills or needs it as a college prerequisite.

### **Computer Science Principles**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

Computer Science Principles (CSP) is a semester entry-level course that introduces high school students to the foundations of modern computing. The course introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. The course covers a broad range of foundational topics such as programming, algorithms, the Internet, big data, digital privacy and security, and the societal impacts of computing. No prior programming experience is required. Students will use [code.org](https://code.org) CSP curriculum.

## **Work-Based Learning I & II**

*1 semester; 11th-12th Grade; Elective  
Recommended - CAPS Course*

### **Description**

Work-based learning opportunities are available in various businesses and settings in South O'Brien and surrounding communities. Work-based learning serves to link the academic and occupational course of study with on-the-job supervised training. The experiences are relevant to the student's identified career goals and objectives. Work-based learning students are released from school for one to two class periods. All jobs must be assigned and approved by the school district and the work-based learning coordinator. Students are required to fill out an application and complete other applicable paperwork to be eligible for this program. Students must also conduct an interview with the work-based learning coordinator, guidance counselor, and/or building principal. Placement will depend upon the application, interview, student grades, and job availability.

### **CAPS**

*1 semester; 11th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

### **Description**

CAPS (Center for Advanced Professional Studies) is a new program being offered at South O'Brien starting in 2024-2025. It is a collaborative program between community, business and education providing students with professional learning experiences. Students go outside of the typical classroom setting and immerse themselves in a professional environment while focusing on innovation, problem solving, career exploration, and professional skills. The mission at CAPS is to prepare all students for their purpose and add value to the businesses and organizations throughout the South O'Brien school district area. **Students will earn two elective credits upon completion of this course. .**



Career Pathways  
Human Services  
STEM  
Business  
Health Sciences  
Environmental &  
Ag Systems



# FACS

## Career Opportunities

Interior Designer  
Chef

Hotel Manager

Restaurateur

Tour Guide

Social Worker

Daycare Provider

Fashion Designer

Community Educator

## **Family & Consumer Science**

### **Basic Foods**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

This course is an interactive, experiential course of all grade levels designed for students to get to know the Kitchen; the Use of Basic Kitchen Equipment; Reading and Measuring Recipes; the Nutritional Value of Foods; Knife Skills; and the Basic Food Preparation Techniques applied to Foods in all food groups. Limit - 12

### **Advanced Foods**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisite: Basic Foods*

#### **Description**

This course is designed to enhance skills learned in the Basic Foods course. Students will get a better understanding of the food in the kitchen and why they act as they act while cooking with certain products and in different ways. Food Safety and Sanitation, Kitchen Basics, Introduction to Hospitality, Leavening Agents, Cakes, Yeast Breads, and Protein will be the units covered in this course. Limit - 12

### **World Foods**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisite: Basic Foods*

#### **Description**

This course is a continuation of preparatory food and nutrition skills. Students will get a better understanding of food around the world and various cuisines. Limit - 12

### **Family & Interpersonal Relationships**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

This course emphasizes building and maintaining healthy interpersonal relationships among family members and other members of society. This course often emphasizes, (but is not limited to) topics such as child development, human sexuality and reproduction, marriage preparation, parenthood and the function of the family unit, the family life cycle, and life stages. It also covers topics related to stages of growth and social/dating practices.

### **Apparel & Furnishings**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

This course will prepare men and women for family life as well as for occupations based on family life skills. The focus is on practical living skills that will improve the quality of individual and family life through development of attitudes, knowledge, and skills. The units covered include: arranging furniture in living quarters, design elements and principles, types of sewing, and fashion design and merchandising.

### **Interior Design**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

This course will prepare men and women for family life as well as for occupations based on family life skills. The focus is on practical living skills that will improve the quality of individual and family life through development of attitudes, knowledge, and skills. The units covered include: housing needs and options, design elements and principles, history of housing in the United States.

Career Pathways  
Human Services  
STEM  
Business  
Health Sciences  
Environmental &  
Ag Systems



# Industrial Technology

Career Opportunities

Manufacturer

Construction Manager

Welder

Robotics Engineer

Machinist

Mechanical Engineer

## Industrial Technology & Engineering

### Co-Taught Courses

#### **Engine Masters: Small Engine Repair and Tech**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisites: Intro to Industrial Trades*

##### Description

This is a hands-on course designed for students interested in the mechanics and technology of small engines. Students will learn the fundamentals of engine operation, including internal components, fuel and ignition systems, lubrication, cooling, and troubleshooting. Through engine tear-downs, inspections, and reassembly, students will develop technical skills in diagnosing and repairing common engine issues. Proper use of measurement tools such as calipers, micrometers, and torque wrenches will be emphasized. This course provides practical experience applicable to careers in mechanics, power equipment technology, and engineering while reinforcing problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.—**Limit of 14 students**

### New Courses for 2025-2026

#### **Introduction to Industrial Trades**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisites: Intro to Industrial Trades*

##### Description

This course introduces students to the basics of industrial technology, including essential vocabulary, fundamental techniques, and safety expectations. Students will develop foundational skills needed for success in advanced industrial technology courses. **This course is a required prerequisite for all other industrial technology classes.**

#### **Beginning Woods**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisites: Intro to Industrial Trades*

##### Description

This course provides students with the fundamental skills and knowledge needed for woodworking. Students will learn about wood properties, safe tool usage, measurement techniques, and basic project construction.

#### **Advanced Woods**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisites: Intro to Industrial Trades & Beginning Woods*

##### Description

This course builds on the foundational woodworking skills learned in beginning woods. Students will expand their knowledge through advanced project planning and problem solving, and independent work. **Prerequisite:** Beginning Woods and Introduction to Industrial Trades

#### **Automotive Maintenance**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisites: Intro to Industrial Trades*

##### Description

Course will provide students with the knowledge and hands-on skills needed to confidently maintain and care for their vehicles. Students will learn essential automotive basics, including fluid checks, tire maintenance, battery care, brake inspections, and general troubleshooting. Course is intended for female students.

## **Refurbishing and Refinishing**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisites: Intro to Industrial Trades*

### **Description**

This course provides students the skills needed to restore and repurpose a variety of wood based materials. Students will learn techniques for stripping old finishes, sanding, staining, painting, and repairing damaged wood.

## **Introduction to Construction Systems**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisites: Intro to Industrial Trades*

### **Description**

This course introduces students to the basics of industrial technology, including essential vocabulary, fundamental techniques, and safety expectations. Students will get to practice their skills and expand their knowledge through hands-on experiences and industry tours.

## **Leadership and Service**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

### **Description**

This course empowers students to develop leadership skills while making a positive impact in their school and community. Emphasis will be placed on responsibility, initiative, and collaboration as students take on leadership roles in planning and executing service-based activities.

## **Graphic Communications and Design**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisites: Intro to Industrial Trades*

### **Description**

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of visual communication and digital design. Students will explore principles of design, typography, color theory, and layout while using industry-standard software to create professional-quality graphics. Projects will include logo design, advertising materials, digital illustrations, and other visual media.

## **Coding and Robotics**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisites: Intro to Industrial Trades*

### **Description**

This course provides students with a hands-on introduction to the fundamentals of coding and robotics. Students will learn basic programming concepts, problem-solving strategies, and logical thinking while designing and controlling robots. Using block-based and text-based coding languages, students will complete interactive projects that explore automation, sensors, and real-world applications of robotics.

## **Additional Courses in Industrial Technology Rotation**

### **CAD**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

### **Description**

Students will receive hands-on experience in the aspects of designing with Solid Modeling and Parametric Modeling using the SolidWorks program. CAD is used in the manufacturing industry to design and create new products and parts. Students who have an interest in entering the manufacturing, drafting, or engineering fields should consider taking this class.

## **CNC Machine Operations**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

### **Description**

Students will receive hands-on experience in operating CNC lathes, mills and PlasmaCam. NC Code programming and the Mastercam program are utilized. CNC machines are used by industry to manufacture parts out of various materials (plastic, metal, wood, etc.). Students interested in entering the manufacturing or engineering fields should consider taking this class.

## **Intro to Woods & Manufacturing**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

### **Description**

Students will construct teacher-directed projects with wood after learning woodshop safety procedures and safe use of the equipment to be used.

## **Advanced Woods & Manufacturing**

*1 semester; 10th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisite: Intro to Woods & Manufacturing*

### **Description**

Students will work with various types of wood to produce an advanced product of their choice, subject to instructor permission, as well as teacher-directed projects. Wood, hardware, and other related costs for individual projects are the responsibility of the student. Limited to 14 students due to equipment and space available.

## **Metal Fabrication**

*1 semester; 9th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

### **Description**

Students will receive hands-on experience in working with sheet metal and metal forming. Skills to be acquired include: reading drawings; measuring and laying out work; sheet metal processing; metal forming; and safety. Students interested in entering the manufacturing or engineering fields should consider taking this class.



## Career Pathways

Health Sciences

AV, Arts, & Communication

Communication & Information Systems

Human Services



# MISCELLANEOUS

Career Opportunities  
Teacher

Social Worker

Content Creator

HR Consultant

Business Office Manager

Sales Representative

City Administrator

Youth Parks & Recreation Director



## **Miscellaneous Electives**

### **Peer Helper**

*1 semester; 11th-12th Grade; Elective  
No Prerequisites*

#### **Description**

This course is designed to promote a person's passion for altruism, community, and lifelong commitment to others. Students learn how to develop and promote healthy relationships with peers, adults, children, and diverse populations through community service. Developing empathy, fostering community involvement, inspiring advocacy and activism, and building healthy relationships are the main goals of this course. One's ability to relate with a variety of people has a direct impact on the success students experience in their careers and personal lives. This is a one semester course students may repeat 2x for credit.

### **Internship**

*1 semester; 11th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisites: CAPS or Peer Helper*

#### **Description**

Internships provide students the opportunity to gain professional and technical skills while working under the supervision of an industry professional in a career path of interest. Internships are structured experiences for a set period of time that requires student interns to complete real work to reach specific learning goals. Internships provide student learners with the opportunity to participate in training while gaining experience in problem-solving, decision-making and skill-building projects or activities at the internship site. Internships may be paid or unpaid opportunities.

### **Apprenticeship**

*1 semester; 11th-12th Grade; Elective  
Prerequisites: CAPS or Peer Helper*

#### **Description**

Apprenticeships are training experiences that provide on-the-job learning (OJL) with related instruction provided in a classroom, virtual or on-line setting, enabling students to earn compensation while they learn a career or trade. Apprentices are directly employed and treated as part- or full-time employees by the employer/organization during an apprenticeship. There are various models of apprenticeship to consider, such a competency-based, time-based or a hybrid to best fit individual district or student schedules and career plans. There are two distinct categories of apprenticeships, registered apprenticeship (Iowa Chapter 84D, section 19.a.) and non-registered apprenticeship. Both qualify as work-based learning in Iowa.

- 1) Non-Registered Apprenticeship
  - a. Meets the above definition.
- 2) Youth Apprenticeship
  - a. Meets the above definition.
  - b. Is designed specifically for an apprentice eighteen years of age or under, (specific definition found in Iowa Chapter 84D, section 25).
- 3) Registered Apprenticeship
  - a. Meets the above definition, (specific definition found in Iowa Chapter 84D, section 19.a.).
  - b. Is accepted and recorded with the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship.
  - c. Results in receipt of a nationally recognized credential.

For more information on High-Quality Pre-Apprentice and Apprenticeships, please visit the Iowa Office of Apprenticeships website: [The Iowa Office of Apprenticeship | Iowa Workforce Development](#).

# **Career and Technical Education**



## **Iowa Department of Education & CTE Programs**

Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Iowa includes organized educational programs offering a sequence of courses that are directly related to the preparation of individuals in employment in current or emerging occupations. These programs include competency-based applied learning, which contributes to an individual's academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, general employability skills, and occupational-specific skills.

SO' aims to provide several areas of CTE pathways for students, including: Agriculture, Arts, Business, Information Technology, Health Sciences, Human Services (FCS), and Industrial Technology. CTE courses offered can be found in the following section.

## **Future Ready Iowa Initiative**

SO' supports the State of Iowa Future Ready Initiative through the offerings of CTE courses.



### **ABOUT FUTURE READY IOWA**

- Future Ready Iowa is an initiative to build Iowa's talent pipeline
- Education or training beyond high school is the new minimum to earn a living wage
- Careers today and in the future require advanced knowledge and/or technical skills
- The goal of Future Ready Iowa is for 70 percent of Iowa's workforce to have education or training beyond high school by 2025

### **FUTURE READY IOWA GOALS**

- Progress toward reducing the socioeconomic, ethnic and racial achievement gaps in kindergarten through 12th grade and increasing equity in postsecondary enrollment
- Progress toward increasing the percent of traditional-age students and adult learners who earn postsecondary degrees, certificates or other quality credentials
- Progress toward how well degrees, certificates and other credentials awarded by Iowa postsecondary institutions align with high-demand job needs and job-placement rates

### **HIGH DEMAND JOB CATEGORIES IN THE STATE OF IOWA**

- Advanced Manufacturing Production, Installation & Maintenance
- Advanced Manufacturing, Installation & Maintenance
- Construction
- Engineering & Architecture
- Service & Administrative Support
- Construction & Engineering
- Education
- Engineering
- Healthcare & Biosciences
- Information Technology
- Information Technology & Mathematics
- Management, Business, & Financial Operations

For more information, visit the Iowa Department of Education - Future Ready Iowa [website](#).

## **Industry-Recognized Credentials**

### **What is an Industry-Recognized Credential?**

An industry-recognized credential is a certification that has been widely acknowledged as holding value within a specific industry or field. Recipients of such credentials have demonstrated that they possess the knowledge, skills and competencies required to perform specific tasks or roles within that industry. IRCs are awarded by certifying bodies, trade associations or professional organizations that have established standards for proficiency and knowledge within that domain. Designated as a validation of an individual's expertise, IRCs serve as a trusted benchmark for employers and stakeholders.

### **Why are Industry-Recognized Credentials Important?**

By earning an industry-recognized credential, individuals enhance their employability and professional credibility as well as their career advancement prospects. IRCs are developed in close collaboration with industry experts to ensure outcomes align with current and future job market needs. In offering IRCs, districts effectively equip students with specific in-demand knowledge and skills employers are seeking. Alignment of IRCs to district CTE pathways allows students to explore diverse career paths while gaining exposure to different industries and acquiring real-world skills and experiences that may help shape their career trajectories. IRCs can also foster stronger partnerships between districts and local businesses, community organizations and postsecondary organizations. These partnerships may help develop or strengthen increased collaboration in areas such as work-based learning (WBL) opportunities for students.

### **The Role of Industry Recognized Credentials and Education Pathways**

Industry-recognized credentials help define structured program pathways for students and families. Many IRCs are stackable, meaning they can be accumulated and built upon over time. Students earning entry-level credentials may pursue additional related credentials as they progress through programs. In addition, certain IRCs have established pathways for college credit or articulation agreements with higher education institutions.

### **IRCs @ SO'**

In support to the State of Iowa's Work-Based Learning Initiatives, South O'Brien will offer IRCs to South O'Brien high school students through a variety of embedded experiences and course opportunities. South O'Brien will utilize the approved list of Industry Recognized Credentials approved by the Department of Education. More information on approved IRCs can be found here: [Approved Industry-Recognized Credentials List](#)

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix A**

#### **Senior Year Plus Guidance. [Senior Year Plus | Department of Education](#)**

##### **Additional Guidance.**

##### **[Accessing Online Postsecondary Courses through Senior Year Plus Programs](#)**

Provided the student enrolls through the school district, the district remains responsible for the cost of enrollment for all online courses. SYP provisions require that neither the secondary or postsecondary institution, under any circumstances, pass along the cost of tuition to a student and/or the student's family or to charge a student who fails to successfully complete or pass a concurrent enrollment course (281 IAC 22.11(6)). Please note that failure of a student to successfully complete a PSEO course is the only exception to this provision and the amount of tuition reimbursement for each separate course under PSEO shall equal the lesser of the actual and customary costs of tuition, textbooks, materials and fees directly related to the course taken by the eligible student or two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) (281 IAC 22.22). Lastly, this guidance impacts only those online program opportunities that fall within Senior Year Plus (SYP) programs. Online opportunities provided to students outside of SYP do not apply.

**Appendix B*****Available online courses through Northwest Iowa Community College:***

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Course</b>
Fall/Spring	ART101 Art Appreciation 3
Fall/Spring	FIN101 Principles of Banking 3
Fall/Spring	HIS110 Western Civ: Ancient to Early Modern 3
Fall/Spring	HIS111 Western Civ: Early Modern to Present 3
Fall/Spring	HSC114 Medical Terminology 3
Fall/Spring	MUS100 Music Appreciation 3
Fall/Spring	PHI101 Introduction to Philosophy 3
Fall/Spring	PHI105 Introduction to Ethics 3
Fall/Spring	PSY111 Introduction to Psychology 3
Fall/Spring	PSY121 Developmental Psychology 3
Fall/Spring	SOC110 Introduction to Sociology 3
Fall/Spring	SPC112 Public Speaking 3
Fall/Spring	BIO151 Nutrition Online 3
Fall/Spring	BIO165 Human Anatomy & Physiology I 3
Fall/Spring	BIO167 Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lab 1
Fall/Spring	BIO170 Human Anatomy & Physiology II 3
Fall/Spring	BIO172 Human Anatomy & Physiology II Lab 1
Fall/Spring	ECN120 Principles of Macroeconomics 3
Fall/Spring	ECN130 Principles of Microeconomics 3
Fall/Spring	MKT110 Principles of Marketing 3
Fall/Spring	EDU213 Introduction to Education 3
Fall/Spring	CRJ100 Introduction to Criminal Justice 3
Fall/Spring	ENG-105A Composition I
Fall/Spring	ENG-106A Composition II

## **Appendix C**

### **AP® Student Readiness Checklist**

(Adapted from Project Excel Teacher Recommendation Form developed by Hoffman Estates High School presented by the Iowa Online AP® Academy)

Prospective AP® students and mentors should fill this out together.

Please indicate your perspective on the following information below:

#### **1 – Weakness 2 – Average 3 – Strength**

##### School Work Habits/Independent Functioning

\_\_\_\_\_ Homework Completion

\_\_\_\_\_ Self-Advocacy Skills

\_\_\_\_\_ Organizational Skills

\_\_\_\_\_ Note-Taking Skills

\_\_\_\_\_ Willingness to Access Resources (i.e. tutoring, teacher assistance, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Class Preparedness

\_\_\_\_\_ Class Participation

##### Classroom Function Behaviors/Motivation

\_\_\_\_\_ Ability to Stay Focused

\_\_\_\_\_ Ability to Stay on Task

\_\_\_\_\_ Desire to Do Well

\_\_\_\_\_ Attempts All Tasks Assigned

\_\_\_\_\_ Takes Responsibility for Own Learning

Each person has relative strengths and weaknesses. In addition to having taken the appropriate prerequisite courses, the above characteristics may be important for a successful experience in AP® coursework. Please discuss the areas you or your mentor have identified as areas of both strength and weakness. How will you address these areas, as they relate to your participation in AP® courses?

## **Appendix D**

### ***Future Ready Iowa & Work-Based Learning***

#### **Iowa Department of Education & CTE Programs**

Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Iowa includes organized educational programs offering a sequence of courses that are directly related to the preparation of individuals in employment in current or emerging occupations. These programs include competency-based applied learning, which contributes to an individual's academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, general employability skills, and occupational-specific skills.

SO' aims to provide several areas of CTE pathways for students, including: Agriculture, Business, Computer Technology, Health Sciences, Human Services (FACS), and Industrial Technology. CTE courses offered can be found in the CTE offerings section.

#### **Future Ready Iowa** - *from the Iowa Department of Education site*

SO' is a strong supporter of Future Ready Iowa through the offerings of CTE courses and the CAPS program.



#### **ABOUT FUTURE READY IOWA**

- Future Ready Iowa is an initiative to build Iowa's talent pipeline
- Education or training beyond high school is the new minimum to earn a living wage
- Careers today and in the future require advanced knowledge and/or technical skills
- The goal of Future Ready Iowa is for 70 percent of Iowa's workforce to have education or training beyond high school by 2025

#### **FUTURE READY IOWA GOALS**

- Progress toward reducing the socioeconomic, ethnic and racial achievement gaps in kindergarten through 12th grade and increasing equity in postsecondary enrollment
- Progress toward increasing the percent of traditional-age students and adult learners who earn postsecondary degrees, certificates or other quality credentials
- Progress toward how well degrees, certificates and other credentials awarded by Iowa postsecondary institutions align with high-demand job needs and job-placement rates

#### **LAST DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIP**

This program, as the name implies, is intended to cover any remaining gap between federal and state grants/scholarships and tuition and qualified fees. Credentials include post-secondary certificates, diplomas and associate degrees.

#### **Eligible Students**

The Last-Dollar Scholarship is available to:

- Students who recently completed an Iowa high school diploma, a homeschool program, or high school equivalency diploma, enroll at least part-time in an eligible program of study, apply for all other available state and federal grants and scholarships, and meet ongoing requirements.
- Students (age 20 and older) who enroll at least part-time in a qualified program of study, apply for all other available state and federal grants and scholarships, and meet ongoing requirements.
- Student and parent/guardian must have an EFC equal to or less than \$20,000 as reported on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

#### **Eligible Schools**

Eligible institutions are Iowa community colleges or accredited private colleges in Iowa that offer qualified programs of study and that agree to provide student services (including orientation and academic and career advising) and to facilitate the assignment of a volunteer mentor if a student requests one.

#### **Eligible Programs**

Because this list is based on job demand, it might change from year to year. Students whose programs are removed from the list will still be eligible for the Last-Dollar Scholarship until they complete their credentials or leave school, as long as they meet all other eligibility criteria.

For more information, visit the Iowa Department of Education - Future Ready Iowa [website](#).



### **Helpful Links to Information**

- [Senior Year Plus | Department of Education](#)
- [Work-Based Learning in Iowa](#)
- [The Iowa Office of Apprenticeship | Iowa Workforce Development](#)
- [Measures of College Readiness for Senior Year Plus Programs](#)
- [Family and Consumer Sciences Education and Studies - Department of Human Development and Family Studies](#)
- [What Can You Do With a Social Studies Degree? \(With 11 Jobs\) | Indeed.com](#)
- [Careers and Opportunities | English - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences | The University of Iowa](#)
- [35 Top-Paying Jobs for Those With a Science Degree | Indeed.com](#)
- [Career and Technical Education Teachers](#)