EF Academy Pasadena Curriculum Overview

2022-2023

EF ACADEMY

Welcome from our Deputy Head of Academics

Dear students and families,

Studying abroad is one of the most important decisions a family can make. Giving students the opportunity to be part of an international boarding school community opens a world of opportunities and allows them to develop independence and initiative to make the most informed and uniquely personal decisions about their path to university and beyond.

The future demand is for originality of thinking, innovation and the ability to collaborate across multiple global perspectives. Bringing students together from different backgrounds creates an environment for intercultural understanding and appreciation that is hard to replicate in mono-culture schools. Inspiring new ways of thinking, each student brings a wealth of knowledge and students learn from one another both in and out of the classroom. Our students and staff represent over 60 countries, giving students the opportunity to expand their global awareness while building a network of peers across the world.

We offer a range of subjects and signature programs that allow our students to excel academically as well as a wide variety of co-curricular activities that help them become well-rounded, global citizens. Being able to make choices about what to study is an important step in determining what students are passionate about. It also instills confidence and allows them to take ownership of their decisions. Alongside teachers, advisors, coaches, residential staff and university and academic advisors, students are guided and supported in a caring environment that puts social-emotional learning at the forefront. We aim to be much more than a school, as we not only prepare students for university, but also for life!

We look forward to helping you uncover a world of opportunities at EF Academy Pasadena!

Kim Stein
Deputy Head of Academics, EF Academy Pasadena

"An international boarding and day high school in California committed to empowering students to become confident, resilient and responsible global citizens."

Academic Program

Students are enrolled in 8 classes each academic year. They take 1 class in each of the core academic areas (History, English, Math and Science) each year, and a minimum of 2 years of World Language, 2 years of Arts and 2 years of Physical Education/ Health & Wellness. Several classes are offered at the AP level (university level) and students can choose to sit for AP exams in May. Students can take special interest elective courses throughout high school that align with their Global Pathway/ future career interest.

The Global Pathways are 3 areas of concentration:

- Global Entrepreneurs – Business, Finance, Marketing
- Global Citizens – International Relations, Policy & Reform, Human Rights, Community Engagement, Environmental issues
- Global Innovators – S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) careers, Bio-medical, Architecture, City Planning

Global Leadership is a challenge-based curriculum that allows students to work together and interact with the local community through experiential learning. Teachers use a project-based learning approach that develops specific global competencies such as inquisitiveness, developing a global mindset, valuing all people across borders and cultures, collaboration, strategic thinking, empowerment, and influence. It is also our school's commitment to work on the 17 U.N. Sustainability Development Goals. Students work together to present solutions to real world challenges. Students choose projects that align with their area of interest or Global Pathway.

The Global Leadership Program culminates in a Capstone Project in Grade 12 where students put together a portfolio of work that is presented back to the school community and aims to serve as a substantial piece of work that can be presented to the Global Leadership Summit review committee or in university entrance interviews. Students will have 25 hours of logged experiential learning, volunteer, service learning or internships each year related to their Global Leadership Pathway.

All students have Advisory (Social Emotional and Life Skills topics) each year.

At EF Academy, we value language learning as one of the most important tenets of an international education. The study of languages and cultures promotes global understanding, appreciation, and interconnectedness. It also allows students to gain a better perspective on their own language and culture. Our students body represents a global society with students coming from over 60 different countries. A student may choose to enroll in a self-study language course to continue to study their native language.

Graduation Requirements

UC A-G*	Subject Area	Minimum credits	Requirements (satisfying California State requirements)
A	History/Social Science	4	Must include one year of World History & Geography, one year of U.S. History, and one semester of Economics and one semester of American Government.
B	English	4	Four years of college-preparatory English composition and literature required. Students in EAL must also take the English Language Lab.
C	Math	3	Three years of college-preparatory Math (Students are enrolled in Math every year at EF Academy) including Algebra I & Geometry and Algebra II.
D	Science	3	Two years of college-preparatory lab science including at least two of the three subjects: Biology, Chemistry or Physics. One year of an approved interdisciplinary Science (ie. Environmental Science) can be used to fulfill the third credit. (Students are enrolled in Science every year at EF Academy)
E	World Languages	2	Two years of college-preparatory Language study (other than English). Three years are recommended.
F	Visual & Performing Arts	2	Two years of college-preparatory Visual & Performing Arts classes (Music, Theater, Visual Arts or Film).
G	College Preparatory Electives	2	Two years of additional college-preparatory classes chosen from the subjects listed above.
	Physical Education/ Health	2	Two years of Physical Education/ Health & Wellness.
	Global Leadership/ Experiential Learning hours		Students study Global Leadership each year in grades 9-11 and present a Capstone Project in Grade 12. Students must complete 25 hours per year in Experiential Learning, Service Learning or Internships.
		22 total	

**It is important that any student wishing to attend a California State university, or a University of California school fulfills all the requirements for the UC A-G list. To meet minimum admission requirements, students must complete 15 yearlong high school courses with a letter grade of C or better and at least 11 of them prior to their last year of high school. Our school graduation requirements align with the UC A-G list and our classes are approved yearly. Our program of study also meets the requirements of the State of California.*

Course Offering

Subject	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11
History	World Governments, Societies, and Economies	World History, Culture & Geography AP Human Geography*	U.S. History & Government AP U.S. History*
English	English 9	English 10	English 11 AP English Language & Composition*
Mathematics	Algebra I Algebra II/Geometry	Algebra I Algebra II/Geometry II Pre-Calculus	Algebra II/Geometry II Pre-Calculus AP Calculus AB/BC*
Science	Conceptual Physics	Chemistry	Physics AP Chemistry* AP Biology*
World Languages or English Support	Spanish French English Language Lab	Spanish French English Language Lab	Spanish French AP Spanish Lang & Culture* Self-Study Native Language
Arts and electives	Art & Design Drama Computer Science	Art & Design Drama AP Computer Science*	Art & Design Drama Business AP Computer Science* Environmental Science AP Psychology*
Global Leadership	Global Entrepreneurs Global Citizens Global Innovators *25 hours in Experiential Learning*	Global Entrepreneurs Global Citizens Global Innovators *25 hours in Experiential Learning*	Global Entrepreneurs Global Citizens Global Innovators *25 hours in Experiential Learning*
P.E./ Health & Wellness	Physical Education/ Health & Wellness	Physical Education/ Health & Wellness	Physical Education/ Health & Wellness
Advisory	Advisory 9	Advisory 10	Advisory 11

All courses subject to enrollment numbers.

***Advanced Placement (AP)** is a program of university level courses that are approved by the College Board. Enrollment in an Advanced Placement course requires commitment to the rigors associated with the coursework. The demands and workload that often accompany an AP course are not appropriate for all high school students. The academic advisors will work with students to select the most appropriate classes.*

Course Descriptions

History/ Social Sciences

World Governments, Societies, and Economies: Study the political, socio-cultural, and economic systems and their historical context that make up the world.

World History, Government & Culture: Study the significant movements and events that shaped the course of history across the world. Study the origins, structure, concepts and policies of government and political systems.

AP Human Geography: Explore how humans have understood, used, and changed the surface of Earth. You'll use the tools and thinking processes of geographers to examine patterns of human population, migration, and land use.

United States History, Government & Culture: Study the significant movements and events that shaped the course of history across the Americas. Study the origins, structure, concepts and policies of the U.S. Government and political systems.

AP United States History: Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped the United States from c. 1491 to the present. Analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments.

English

Based on their level of English language skills (initially assessed through the EF SET and Pathway Call, then through placement tests in September) students will be placed in the appropriate class.

English 9,10,11: Students will develop their English language skills through reading and analysis of literary texts, as well as developing writing, speaking and listening skills. For students whose English language level is intermediate to advanced.

AP English Language and Composition (CEFR= B2, C1, C2).: This is introductory college-level composition course. Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style.

English Language Lab: (CEFR= A2): This class focuses on all areas of English language development and is for students whose level is below intermediate level. We recommend students in this group study English Language Lab instead of a World Language.

Mathematics

Algebra I: Master algebraic skills such as factoring, first degree equations and inequalities, polynomials, statistics and probability, which are essential for the study of higher mathematics.

Algebra II & Geometry: Develop mastery of algebraic techniques and a thorough knowledge of elementary functions and the graphs of these functions. Topics studied include properties of the real number system; polynomial and exponential functions, applications of geometry, probability and statistics. Learn about the nature of geometric shapes and angles and their applications to the real world.

Pre-Calculus: Students will study functions and graphs; lines and rates of change;

sequences and series; polynomial and rational functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; analytic geometry; linear algebra and matrices; probability and statistics

AP Calculus AB/BC: Explore the concepts, methods, and applications of differential and integral calculus. Work to understand the theoretical basis and solve problems by applying your knowledge and skills.

Math Lab (after-school): Practice additional Math skills alongside a tutor.

Sciences

AP Chemistry: Learn about the fundamental concepts of chemistry including structure and states of matter, intermolecular forces, and reactions. Participate in hands-on lab investigations and use chemical calculations to solve problems.

Conceptual Physics: Explore introductory concepts of systems, energy fields, force interactions, change, laws of motion, and waves. Participate in inquiry-based laboratory work.

AP Biology: Study the core scientific principles, theories, and processes that govern living organisms and biological systems. Participate in hands-on laboratory work to investigate natural phenomena.

Environmental Science: (can be taken as 3rd Science or Elective) Explore and investigate the interrelationships of the natural world and analyze environmental problems, both natural and human-made. Take part in laboratory investigations and field work.

World Languages

World Language & Culture: Students may choose to study a language at beginner or intermediate level.

French I or Spanish I: Begin to get acquainted with the language by studying the four key areas of language study: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Become aware of the cultural influences of the cultural heritage.

French II or Spanish II: Continue the study of the language by expanding knowledge and use of vocabulary and sentence structure in both speaking and writing. Participate in conversations, analyze the cultural context of language and participate in interactive activities.

AP Spanish Language and Culture: (Intermediate level) Develop your Spanish language skills and learn about the cultures in Spanish-speaking parts of the world. You'll practice communicating in Spanish and study real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books.

Self-Study Native Language: Alongside a tutor, study the literary works of your mother tongue language. A language teacher supervises the daily work of students and a tutor, who meets weekly with students, assesses the work.

The Arts

Art & Design: Create a portfolio of work that demonstrates inquiry and development of ideas through the exploration of materials and processes. Communicate your ideas about art and design through written reflection and visual expression.

Design Technology: Get creative with a diverse set of technology concepts, fundamentals, and tools. Explore topics such as internet and website design, block and text based coding, circuitry, e-textiles, artificial intelligence, IoT, cloud computing, virtualization, cyber-security and digital/audio production.

Drama: Study important woks through a hands-on approach. Participate in the process

of bringing drama productions to life as creators, stage and costume designers, and performers. Develop voice, and performance techniques. Explore meaning through movement and expression. Work individually and collaboratively as part of an ensemble.

Music: (After-school club) Study aspects of composition, musical elements and structure. Analyze and reflect on music from a variety of historical and socio-cultural contexts. Participate in individual and ensemble performance. Create individual pieces.

Film (After-school club): Develop an appreciation for the world of filmmaking by studying and analyzing characterization and techniques from different countries and cultures over time. Become aware of perspectives and bias and develop a further appreciation for cultural diversity. Develop technical skills working individually and collaboratively to create a short film.

Physical Education + Health & Wellness

Physical Education: Achieve and maintain a level of physical fitness by establishing and following personal fitness goals and participating in team sports. Demonstrate knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. Discuss the relationship between nutrition and physical fitness.

Health and Wellness: Explore age-appropriate topics surrounding physical, social and emotional health. Using a case study approach, dialogue about responsible actions, reactions and decision-making and building healthy relationships using the CASEL framework.

Electives

Business: (Can be taken once History requirements have been met or as an elective) Learn about the structure of business, as well as the socio-economic contexts in which different organizations operate. Analyze, discuss and evaluate business activities by reviewing case studies. Gain an understanding of ethical concerns from both a local and global level. Finalize the course with a business plan.

AP Computer Science: Get familiar with the concepts and tools of computer science by exploring programming language, doing hands-on work to design, write, and test computer programs. Use creative problem solving to devise solutions to real world applications employing the Five Big Ideas of creative development.

AP Psychology: Explore the ideas, theories, and methods of the scientific study of behavior and mental processes period examine the concepts of psychology and analyze data from psychological research studies.

Global Leadership + Experiential Learning

Global Leadership: Participate in project-based learning to develop leadership and collaboration skills. Become familiar with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and uncover what you are most passionate about. Use your skills to present solutions to real world challenges.

Experiential Learning: Connect with the local community to gain real world experience on projects of your interest that align with your Global Leadership Project. Work with a mentor while taking part in internships, volunteer work or service-learning. Reflect on 25 hours of experiential learning over the academic year.

Advisory

Advisory: Work in small groups or individually with an Advisor who ensures you are achieving success in all academic areas and balance in school life in general. Reflect on one's own strengths and defining skills to further improve. Share experiences in small group discussions about boarding school life and current events. Discuss important themes surrounding digital citizenship. Reflect on the CASEL core

competencies in connection with Health class.
Participate in discussions around diversity,
equity, and inclusion.