Lowell High School

Course Offerings and Prerequisites

Please read this document carefully before you select your courses for Fall 2018.

1. **Minimum Course Load:** All students in grades 10 & 11 must enroll in at least six (6) classes. Seniors are required to take a minimum of five (5) courses if they have met all other requirements; however, this is not recommended by counselors and college admissions representatives.

2. **Maximum Course Load and 7th Course Approval:** Students who request a 7th course MUST have a GPA of 3.0 or above for the 1st grading period in spring 2017. Students taking a 7th course MUST understand that they may not have a designated lunch block due to scheduling difficulties. Students may NOT take eight (8) classes.

3. **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:** AP courses are college level courses and require more commitment, efforts and time than regular courses. Please refer to the Advanced Placement Course Expectations sheet. You are required to complete this form, sign it and submit it to the counseling office.

4. **Math for Class of 2021 — Algebra 1:** Students who were not able to double up during the 2017-18 school year, are eligible to request both Geometry and Algebra 2 for sophomore year during the online course selection process. This applies ONLY to Class of 2021 students who did not double up in Math during this current year. As always, those who cannot double up in algebra may request a second regular math course only after all have received their first math class via the Arena process.

5. **Compression Course:** Algebra 2 + Precalculus (also called "Compression Course") is a course designed by SFUSD to prepare students for AB Calculus without the requirement of a regular Pre-Calculus course. The course does NOT meet UC requirements for an honors course and COVERS LESS THAN 25% of the Precalculus Content Standards identified as "additional mathematics to prepare students for advanced courses" in the California State Framework for Mathematics. Topics not covered include polar coordinates, vectors and matrices, and parametric equations, topics essential for BC Calculus and advanced science courses and topics which most universities and the state of California would consider part of a normal Pre-Calculus course. These content standards are covered in regular and honors Pre-Calculus courses at Lowell. The Math Department believes you take this course at your own risk and that you should expect to learn the topics not covered on your own. Lowell Math Department strongly suggest Pre-Calculus or Honors Pre-Calculus as the preferred alternative.

6. **Honors Pre-Calculus:** Honors Pre-Calculus is the non-AP honors math course approved by UC. It is broader and deeper than the normal Pre-Calculus course and is recommended only for students with a strong background in Mathematics. Those taking this course should have received "A" grades in prior Lowell math courses.

7. **Courses/Teachers/Blocks NOT guaranteed:** Students are not guaranteed their selection of courses, sections, or teachers. The limit on course offerings, section numbers, and class size may make it necessary to balance some classes and to close others, particularly singleton electives.

8. **Illegal Schedules:** All students MUST have a Block 1-7 or 2-8 schedule to fulfill state requirements for instructional minutes. If students have 7 classes, they MUST be prepared to have a Block 1-8 schedule in an effort to provide all students with complete schedules, to balance class size, and to meet the State requirements on instructional minutes.

9. **Schedule Exemption Application Procedures:** Students requesting exemption from Block 8 must submit a request in writing to Ms. Chu, by Friday, April 14, 2017. The Schedule Exemption form is available in the Counseling Office. Approval will only be granted for:
   a. Students who participate in after school Mayor’s Youthworks, or MYEEP internships, and/or are engaged in internships related to district sponsored programs;
   b. Students with medical/health reasons;
   Applicants with reasons specified under category “a” and/or “b” must submit a letter on letterhead from the approved employer or from the doctor with contact information.

10. **UC/CSU Requirements:** Courses that can be used to satisfy UC a-g requirements are labeled accordingly. All courses used to meet UC/CSU requirements must have a grade of C or better.

11. **Weighted/Honors Courses:** The University of California assigns extra weight to grades received in honors level courses to encourage students to undertake more challenging work at the advanced secondary level. While all honors courses taught at Lowell are acceptable in meeting the UC a-g course requirements, not all honors courses are assigned extra weight. AP courses are weighted.

12. **PE/PEIS Requirements:** PE Independent Study is offered only to 9th and 10th graders with a combination enrollment in a JROTC course. Please refer to SFUSD Board of Education policy regarding PE requirements for students in grades 10-12.

13. **Teacher Assistant and Student Aide:** A maximum of ten (10) credits for Teacher Assistant and ten (10) credits for Student Aide may be earned while attending Lowell. Students who would like to work as a Teacher Assistant or a Student Aide should obtain a TA form from the Counseling Office and talk with the teacher with whom they wish to work. Within the first two weeks of the semester, students must return the completed TA form to the Counseling Office.