

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Paul's rooftop steeple is a neighborhood beacon, a symbol of welcome to the diverse scholars from across the District of Columbia who seek a program offering academic rigor in a character-building culture. Paul was awarded its charter status in 2000, becoming the first conversion public charter school in Washington, DC (and only DCPS to charter conversion).

As the founder of Paul PCS, Cecile R. Middleton spent two years steadily challenging the status quo, and gained nation-wide respect as a pioneer in the charter movement. Ms. Middleton was a trailblazer in education for decades in Washington, DC, and she spent her final chapter at Paul ensuring that Paul scholars were given an opportunity to excel beyond meager expectations. Although she passed in 2008, Ms. Middleton left a legacy of excellence.

Paul continues to provide its scholars with an exceptional education. The Cecile R. Middleton Ninth Grade Academy opened its doors in 2009, as Paul expanded its program to offer freshmen scholars an opportunity to successfully transition into high school. Paul International High School opened its doors in the fall of 2013 with 125 9th graders and 100 10th graders from across the District of Columbia.

Mission

Paul International High School is a public college preparatory school whose primary mission is to educate our scholars and to develop in them the capacity to be responsible citizens, independent thinkers, and leaders.

Method to Use This Catalog

Each of the courses offered by Paul, listed in this catalog by department, is granted either a full or half credit based on Carnegie Units. For each course you will find a course description, credit value and prerequisite information. Not every course in this catalog is currently offered but remains a viable part of our curriculum and may be offered in subsequent years.

Any core content courses scholars take that are in excess of the required number of Carnegie Units, will carry over as electives, as shown on the student's MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

High School Graduation Requirements

In order to earn a diploma from the Paul International High School, a student must complete one hundred (100) hours of community service and earn a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits. A

full year course is valued at one (1) credit and a semester course is valued at one half (0.5) credit; semester courses taken every day are valued at one (1) credit.

The twenty-four (24) credits required to earn a diploma must include the following:

- Four (4) credits of English
- Four (4) credits of Mathematics
- Four (4) credits of Social Studies to include the following:
 - World History I
 - World History II
 - US History or AP US History
 - American Government/DC History or AP US Government and DC History
- Four (4) credits of Science, to include three (3) lab sciences
- Two (2) credits of World Languages
- One and one half (1.5) credits in Health/Physical Education
- One half (0.5) credit in Art
- One half (0.5) credit in Music
- Three and one half (3.5) credits through elective offerings*

*At least 1 of the elective credits must include Global Studies or Global Citizenship.

At least two (2) of the credits must include College Level or Career Preparatory (CLCP) courses. The courses may fulfill subject matter or elective requirements and may include courses at other institutions.

In addition to the above listed requirements, in **order to participate in senior activities and Paul International High School's graduation ceremony**, high school scholars must also:

- Take the SAT or ACT college admissions test
- Submit proof of one (1) 2- or 4-year college acceptance

Grade Level Promotion-High School

In order to earn a diploma from Paul International High School, scholars must earn 25 credits. The guidelines for promotion to the next grade are below:

9th Grade to 10th Grade

- Earn 6.0 credits
- Includes: 4 core classes (Algebra 1, 1 science credit, 1 history credit, 1 English credit)

10th Grade to 11th Grade

- Earn 6.0 credits (12 cumulative credits)
- Includes: 4 core classes (1 math credit, 1 science credit, 1 history credit, 1 English credit)

11th Grade to 12th Grade

- Earn 6.0 credits (18 cumulative credits)
- Includes: 4 core classes ((1 math credit, 1 science credit, 1 history credit, 1 English credit) and 1 Global Citizenship/College Preparation course

Many high school courses must be taken in a particular sequence. Thus, there might be limitations on the number of courses taken per year in a particular subject area. Scholars are encouraged to consider the requirements for graduation in addition to requirements for promotion from grade to grade.

Program of Study

General Education Courses

These courses are standards-based and taught by teachers who, according to ESSA standards, are highly qualified. Unless otherwise noted, all courses offered at Paul International High School are general education courses. All scholars have access to these courses and, as they earn more credits, they are afforded more choices in the classes they can take.

Honors Courses

Paul International High School is committed to preparing all scholars for success in college and beyond. To meet the needs of scholars that are ready for accelerated work, honors courses are offered. Honors courses are designed to challenge the scholar beyond the level offered in a college prep level course and, to prepare scholars for the rigor of future AP courses and exams. Scholars should consider that projects and exams may overlap and can result in work-load fluctuations. Summer work is often required.

Advanced Placement Courses

The College Board administers a program of college-level courses and examinations called Advanced Placement. Scholars who obtain certain scores on the exams may qualify for college credit, or exemption from college courses. Courses in this catalog that fit this description are designated AP. Due to the level of rigor required by these courses, their grades carry a weighted average and scholars must apply and be accepted into each course each year.

In agreement with the College Board's statement that "all scholars who are willing to accept the challenge of a rigorous academic curriculum should be given consideration for admission to AP courses" and the strong correlation between taking AP courses and success in college, any PIHS student may apply for enrollment in an AP course within their grade level course sequence. Scholars may, with approval from the Principal, apply for enrollment in AP courses outside their