GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate, a student must take and pass each course listed below, and complete the given Service Learning requirement. See below for the number of courses a student must take each semester, and for information on what are considered passing grades in the various courses at Sacred Heart Preparatory.

Computer Science

- Computer Science graduation requirements for the Class of 2020
  - Exploring Computer Science (one semester)

- Computer Science graduation requirements for the Class of 2021 & beyond
  - 1 semester satisfied by any Computer Science course

English

- 4 years
  - English 1 (freshman year)
  - US Literature (sophomore year)
  - AP English Language [Thematic elective / British Classics] (junior year)
  - Two senior semester electives (senior year)

Fine Arts

- Fine Arts graduation requirements for the Class of 2020
  - 1.5 years
    - Survey of the Arts (one semester freshman year) and one year-long UC-approved Fine Arts course OR
    - One year-long Chorus, Instrumental Music, or Dance course as a freshman AND
    - One additional semester of any UC-approved Fine Arts course

- Fine Arts graduation requirements for the Class of 2021 & beyond
  - 1.5 years
    - One year-long UC-approved Fine Arts course AND
    - One semester of a .5 Fine Arts elective

Health & Wellness

- Health & Wellness graduation requirements for the Class of 2021 & beyond
  - 1 semester
    - Many students will take the Health & Wellness (H/W) course as a freshman, although H/W can also be fulfilled post freshman year

Mathematics

- 2-3 years (depending on entry point)
  - Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 (if Algebra 1 is taken as a freshman) OR
  - Geometry, and Algebra 2 (if Geometry is taken as a freshman) OR
  - Algebra 2 and Precalculus (if Algebra 2 is taken as a freshman)

Religious Studies

- 4 years
  - Introduction to Catholic Christianity / Personal Morality (freshman year)
  - Hebrew Scriptures / Christian Scriptures (sophomore year)
  - Social Ethics / World Religions (junior year)
  - Two semester electives (senior year)

Science

- 2 years
  - Biology and Chemistry

Service Learning

- 4 years
  - Class Service Day (9th grade)
  - Community Partner Project (10th grade)
  - Social Ethics Urban Plunge (11th grade)
  - Senior Capstone Project (12th grade)

Social Science

- 3 years
  - Modern World History (freshman year)
  - US History (sophomore year)
  - Two semesters OR one year-long SHP Social Science seminar (junior/senior year)
World Languages 2-3 years (depending on entry point)
- Levels 1, 2, and 3 of the same language (for students who enter at Level 1);  OR
- Levels 2 and 3 of the same language (for students who enter at Level 2);  OR
- Level 3 and an advanced class in the same language (for students who enter at Level 3)

Periods A-G Course Load
Freshmen and sophomores typically have seven (7) classes each semester; juniors and seniors must have at least six (6) classes each semester. Some interdisciplinary courses will count for two (2) graduation requirements. Students will graduate with a minimum of 24 credits and a maximum of 28 credits.

SERVICE LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

9th Grade: Class Service Day
Combined with their fall semester Community Day, this day is an opportunity for students to think about the connection between God, self, and others. This service day will be an introduction to SHP’s close community partner organizations, as students serve alongside classmates and faculty in the community. Students will build community with their peers and with those on the margins.

Enduring Understandings: the connections between God, self, and others, a knowledge of and comfort with Goal III, the relationship between Goal III and Goals I & IV and the importance of service to a Sacred Heart education, an understanding of respect using the image of the iceberg to help students look twice to see what is beneath the surface of both their peers and those they serve, personal and civic responsibility.

10th Grade: Community Partner Project
After completing their 9th Grade Service Day, students will meet with a Service Learning Advisor to choose from a list of SHP’s six close community partner organizations for 25 hours of direct service. Journals and reflection are essential components of the experience and are recorded using x2Vol.com.

Community Partner options:
1) Siena Youth Center / St. Francis Center of Redwood City (youth/mentorship)
2) St. Elizabeth Seton School (educational equity)
3) Catholic Charities at St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club (youth/mentorship)
4) Boys & Girls Club (youth/mentorship)
5) St. Anthony’s Dining Hall (hunger/poverty)
6) Peninsula Bridge Program (educational equity)

Enduring Understandings: a deeper encounter with Goal III, specifically criterion 3: the school is linked in a reciprocal manner with ministries among people who are poor, marginalized, and suffering from injustice, an ability to ask critical questions and investigate issues and reasons that necessitate the volunteerism, recognizing and participating in efforts to make real the Kingdom of God as demonstrated in the ministry and teaching of Jesus; increased capacities of compassion and empathy for the suffering of others.

11th Grade: Social Ethics Urban Plunge
All students will enroll in Social Ethics and participate in one Urban Plunge as part of their junior level Religious Studies curriculum. An example of service-infused, experiential curricula, this all-day (8am-8pm) Urban Plunge will challenge students to get outside of their comfort zone by safely traveling to an impoverished urban area of San Francisco, San Jose, or Oakland. Students will identify, through direct experience, issues of poverty, gentrification, and inclusion within a local urban environment to deepen their discussions in the classroom.

Enduring Understandings: a direct experience of urban poverty, gentrification, and the effects of skyrocketing rents on the most vulnerable in our community, an ability to engage respectfully in difficult conversations with people from all walks of life, continued efforts to make real the Kingdom of God as demonstrated in the ministry and teaching of Jesus, a real appreciation for the struggle and hardships faced by people living on the streets.

12th Grade: Senior Capstone Project
Students will use all they have learned about charity and justice to design and complete a Senior Capstone Project. Each student’s Service Learning Advisor must approve project proposals. Preparation, reflection, and advocacy
components will be more emphasized to help move students from doing acts of charity to seeking justice. Here are three examples below:

1. **Service-immersion program:** a school-sponsored or school-approved service-based immersion program which includes educational, service, and reflective components.

2. **Service-infused elective/course:** a service-infused course, Inquiry Lab, or Independent Study which includes an ongoing commitment to an organization or issue (direct service at least once a month), as well as educational and reflective components.

3. **Civic Engagement Hourly Project:** students who enjoyed their Community Partner Project during sophomore year can continue to work with their chosen organization or can pick another with which to build a relationship. Recognizing that the goal is to authentically build community with a particular organization, details about commitment levels and duration for the project will be worked out with Service Learning advisors and the organization itself.

**Enduring Understandings:** a deeper understanding of the difference between charity and justice; an awareness of and comfort with key Catholic Social Teachings like a preferential option for the poor, human dignity, and solidarity; an increase in “critical consciousness that leads [them] to analyze and reflect on the values of society and to act for justice” (Goal III.2) specifically with regard to systematic and structural injustices; departing seniors will be challenged to consider how, moving forward, they will act for justice and sustainably become people of accompaniment and solidarity with the marginalized.

**Students who do not meet an annual service learning graduation requirement will not be allowed to begin their next year of classes until project completion; seniors may not participate in graduation ceremonies or receive a transcript until Capstone Project completion. Transfer students must complete the service learning graduation requirements beginning with their year of entry.**