

# Natomas Charter School



# Individualized Learning Program

Course Description Book

2010-2011

*Natomas Charter School  
Individualized Learning Program*

**Mission Statement**

The Individualized Learning Program is committed to providing high school students individualized attention in a safe, supportive, and cooperative learning environment that celebrates each student's diversity and unique educational needs. The caring staff and innovative program offerings help students discover their full potential, accomplish their academic goals, become active participants in their community, value lifelong learning, explore their future career, college, and personal goals, and succeed in whatever path they choose after high school.

**Vision Statement**

The Individualized Learning Program of the Natomas Charter School will be a high quality, innovative educational program for students in grades 9-12 offering different curricular pathways to pursue educational and career goals. We strive to develop each students' potential by providing not only meaningful and challenging coursework, but also a combination of instructional opportunities including: independent study, on-site classes, one-on-one tutoring, community college courses, project based learning, Sacramento Regional Occupational Program, and community learning experiences. We will help our students to empower themselves with the necessary skills and qualities to succeed in their future academic and/or career goals, allowing and encouraging them to contribute to the enrichment and the betterment of society as a whole.

Depending on which *academic pathway* a student chooses to pursue within the Individualized Learning Program, he/she will be prepared to enter the workforce in an entry level position, continue studies at a vocational institution, or attend a two or four year college to pursue a degree in higher education.

**ILP High School Requirements**

**Certificate of Completion**

English 40 credits  
Mathematics 20 credits  
Social Science 20 credits  
Science 20 credits  
Language/Fine Art 20 credits  
Health 2.5 credits  
Physical Education 20 credits  
Electives 30.5 credits  
Technology Not Required  
Senior Project Not Required

**General H.S. Diploma**

English 40 credits  
Mathematics 20 credits\*  
Social Science 30 credits  
Science 20 credits  
Language/Fine Art 20 credits  
Health 2.5 credits  
Physical Education 20 credits  
Electives 47.5 credits  
Technology 10 credits  
Senior Project 10 credits

**College Prep H.S. Diploma**

English 40 credits  
Mathematics 30 credits\*  
Social Science 30 credits  
Science 20 credits\*  
Language 20 credits\*  
Fine Art 10 credits  
Health 2.5 credits  
Physical Education 20 credits  
Electives 27.5 credits\*  
Technology 10 credits  
Senior Project 10 credits

**(PLANS) Diploma**

English 40 credits  
Mathematics 20 credits\*  
Social Science 30 credits  
Science 20 credits  
Language/Fine Art 20 credits  
Health 2.5 credits  
Physical Education 20 credits  
PLANS courses 20 credits  
Electives 27.5 credits  
Technology 10 credits  
Senior Project 10 credits

\*Check High School Diploma requirements and UC admission requirements for specific class requirements.

## 2010-2011 Course Catalog

### Academic Courses

#### ENGLISH

Course Title: **English 9 CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 9  
Prerequisite: Required course for all high school freshmen students  
Required for high school graduation

The basis of the course is the development of writing skills and literary analysis. Emphasis is given to grammar, mechanics, vocabulary, and basic literary techniques. Students will learn to develop and present their observations in both written and oral form, while studying both historical and contemporary cultures.

Course Title: **English 10 CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 10  
Prerequisite: Required course for all high school sophomore students  
Required for high school graduation

The basis of the course is the development of writing skills and literary analysis. Emphasis is given to grammar, mechanics, vocabulary, and basic literary techniques. Students will learn to develop and present their observations in both written and oral form, while studying both historical and contemporary World literature and cultures.

Course Title: **English 11 CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 11  
Prerequisite: Required course for all high school junior students  
Required for high school graduation

The basis of the course is the development of writing skills and literary analysis. Emphasis is given to grammar, mechanics, vocabulary, and literary techniques. Students will learn to develop and present their observations in both written and oral form, while studying both historical and contemporary United States literature and culture.

Course Title: **English 11 Honors CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 11  
Prerequisite: Grade of 90% or higher in English 10 and teacher recommendation  
Meets requirement for high school graduation

This course is designed to challenge serious students' critical thinking and writing skills. Students will integrate reading and writing skills through the critical analysis of various periods and genres of literature of the United States. This course demands a higher level of skills development in the extensive variety and level of critical reading and writing requirements. Honors English 11 is designed for students desiring a more rigorous and challenging approach to the English 11 CP curriculum.

Course Title: **English 12 CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 12  
Prerequisite: Required course for all high school seniors students  
Required for high school graduation

The basis of the course is the development of writing skills and literary analysis. Emphasis is given to grammar, mechanics, vocabulary, and advanced literary techniques. Students will learn to develop and present their observations in both written and oral form, while studying both historical and contemporary British literature and culture.

# MATHEMATICS

Course Title: **Pre-Algebra**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No prerequisites

The primary purpose of this course is to empower the student in the fundamentals of mathematics. Students will acquire the ability to discern mathematical relationships, reason logically, and use mathematical techniques to solve problems for which the methods of solution are not clear at the outset. Students will be able to pose, argue, prove, or demonstrate mathematical statements. The students should have studied all of the “strands” of mathematics (STATEMENT ON COMPETENCES IN MATHEMATICS, 1989).

Course Title: **Math Concepts**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This one-semester course is designed to enable those who have not completely acquired those skills necessary to succeed in first semester Algebra time to remediate those skills while, at the same time, attain the skills necessary to succeed in a full year Algebra course. Extra time and attention are spent working on key Algebra I concepts. Students will be introduced to a variety of problems and problem solving techniques, use hands-on manipulatives to help them understand core concepts and work to develop algebraic reasoning and thinking.

Course Title: **Algebra 1S CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: A grade of C or higher in Pre-Algebra

This one-year course is designed to enable those who have not completely acquired those skills necessary to succeed in Algebra 1P. The course focuses on remediation of those skills while, at the same time, attaining the skills necessary to succeed in algebra. Extra time and attention are spent working on key Algebra I standards. Students will learn to reason symbolically and will solve increasingly complex problems. Students will be introduced to a variety of problems and problem solving techniques and then use those techniques to solve problems that are interwoven into the other “strands” of mathematics as required by the state standards for Algebra I.

Course Title: **Algebra 1P CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: A grade of C or higher in Pre-Algebra  
Required for high school graduation

This is a college preparatory course intended to meet the standards set by the schools in the state college system. As stated in the math standards, students will learn to reason symbolically and the complexity and the types of problems that they are able to solve will increase dramatically. This is also an integrated course that will demonstrate to them ways that the topics that they are practicing now are interwoven into the other “strands” of mathematics.

Course Title: **Geometry CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: A grade of C or higher in Algebra

This is a college preparatory course the main purpose of which is to develop geometric skills and concepts and the ability to construct formal logical arguments and proofs in a geometric setting. According to California Math Standards, it is important to impress upon students that the main point of a proof is the mathematical correctness of the argument, not the literary polish of the writing or adherence to a particular proof format.

Course Title: **Algebra 2 CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: A grade of C or higher in Algebra and Geometry

This course complements and expands the mathematical content and concepts of algebra I and geometry. Students who master algebra 2 will gain experience with algebraic solutions of problems in various content areas, including the solution of systems of quadratic equations, logarithmic and exponential functions, the binomial theorem, and the complex number system.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

Course Title: **World History CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 10  
Prerequisite: Required course for all high school sophomore students  
Required for high school graduation

This course provides a survey of modern world history. Students will study enlightenment, revolution, industrialism, world wars, and revolutions, and contemporary world issues. Students will leave this class with a basic understanding of world governments, the methods to study these, and a survey of world history.

Course Title: **U.S. History CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 11  
Prerequisite: Required course for all high school junior students  
Required for high school graduation

This course provides a survey of United States History from the colonists to the year 2000. Students will study social reform, revolutions, revolts, world wars, military actions, government, economic, and cultural changes. Students will leave this class with a basic understanding of United States History, the methods to study these, and a survey of U.S. interactions with the world.

Course Title: **U.S. History Honors CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 11  
Prerequisite: Grade of 90% or higher in World History and teacher recommendation  
Meets requirement for high school graduation

This course is designed for the college bound or those who seek challenging academic curriculum in US History. In this course, students will examine major turning points in U.S. History with a focus on the twentieth century. The course will begin with a review of U.S. History from Colonial America to the Civil War. In the following units, students will examine immigration and industrialization, the Progressive Era, World War I, The Roaring Twenties, The Great Depression, World War II, The Cold War, Civil Rights and contemporary issues. Students will leave this class with an *in depth* understanding of United States History.

Course Title: **Economics CP**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 12  
Prerequisite: Required course for all high school senior students  
Required for high school graduation

This course provides a survey of economics. Students will study practical economics, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and international economics. Students will leave this class with a basic understanding of economics, the methods to study them, and a survey of business economics.

Course Title: **American Government CP**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 12  
Prerequisite: Required course for all high school senior students  
Required for high school graduation

This course provides a study of the United States Government. Students will study foundations of American government, citizenship and civil liberties, the legislative branch, the executive branch, the judicial branch, public policies and services, state governments, and local governments. Students will leave this class with a basic understanding of the United States government, the methods to study this, and a survey of state and local governments.

## SCIENCE

Course Title: **Biology CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisites  
Required for high school graduation

The basis of this course is the development of students' understanding of biology, the study of life and its relationships. Students will understand unity within diversity, evolution, energy, homeostasis, systems and interactions, the nature of science, the human body, vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, viruses, bacteria, protists, fungi, genetics, cell organelles and function, and ecology. This course is designed to develop a basic knowledge of life in order to understand how life continues and passes on its genetics, how life forms are related and diverse from each other, and especially how we can use this knowledge for the benefit of humankind. Satisfies UC lab requirement.

Course Title: **Earth Science**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-11  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisites

The basis of this course is the development of students' understanding of Earth Science. Students will observe and study the world around them. This course is designed to develop a basic knowledge of the history and current cycles of our planet. Students will be able to gain knowledge in making observations that will allow predictions and responses to environmental events, such as floods and severe winters, well in advance of their occurrence.

Course Title: **Health**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: Required course for all high school students  
Required for high school graduation (2.5 units)

Health education at the high school level is designed to engage students in activities that foster the development of each individual's optimal physical, mental, and emotional health. The class is developed around the understanding that students are becoming more independent and increasingly more subject to peer approval. They are concerned with changes in their bodies and they often begin to focus on themselves and to be critical of themselves and others. The class curriculum focuses in part on the personal health habits appropriate to the changing needs of adolescents. Students will be given the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to make healthy decisions and to build positive relationships with the intent to continue lifelong good health.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course Title: **Independent Study P.E.**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: Required course for all high school students  
Required for high school diploma

The basis of the course is the development of a physically active lifestyle. Emphasis is given to consistent activity, health benefits, and skill improvement through goal setting. Students will exercise independently a minimum of four hours a week in addition to any written assignments. It is suggested that students find a gym or activity that they like and can do consistently throughout the year.

## TECHNOLOGY

Course Title: **Multimedia CP**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: None

Students in this introductory course will learn how to use the productivity tools in Microsoft Office. Students will learn the basics about word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation tools. Students will participate in bi-weekly workshops to receive group and individual instruction, and will be led through the course with a step by step manual.

Course Title: **Web Design**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: Passing grade in Business Technology recommended

This course is an introduction to publishing on the Internet's World Wide Web. Topics will focus on creating web pages using Hyper Text Markup Language (html), organizing a series of pages into a website, and uploading web pages to a server. Students will attend bi-weekly workshops during which they can receive face-to-face training.

Course Title: **Advanced Web Design**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: Grade of B or higher in Web Design 1 or teacher approval.

This course introduces students to more advanced skills in web design and gives students real-life experience in web development. As a major part of this course, students will develop and maintain the ILP Internet website. Students will attend weekly workshops, during which they will receive one-on-one training, as well as the opportunity to work with other students in a web development team.

## FINE ARTS/FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Course Title: **Art History CP**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisite: Satisfies fine art graduation requirement

The basis of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop his/her understanding of art history. The class will focus on visual communication, trends and influences in art, and the history of art in the western world. Students will learn to develop and present their understanding of the techniques through projects and written responses.

Course Title: **Art Survey**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisite: Satisfies fine art graduation requirement

The basis of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop his/her understanding of visual art. The class will focus on appreciating the visual arts, the elements of art, and the principles of design. Students will learn to develop and present their understanding of the techniques through artistic projects and written responses.

Course Title: **Drama**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisite: Satisfies fine art graduation requirement

The basis of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop his/her understanding of drama. The class will focus on terms and vocabulary, special topics in drama: exploration, preparation, performance, and specialization. Students will learn to develop and present their understanding of the techniques through drama projects and written responses.

Course Title: **Drawing I CP**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisite: Satisfies fine art graduation requirement

The basis of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop his/her understanding of drawing. The class will focus on terms and vocabulary, special topics in drawing, and types of drawing: realistic, structural, and expressive. Students will learn to develop and present their understanding of the techniques through drawing projects and written responses.

Course Title: **Graphic Design**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisite: Satisfies fine art graduation requirement

This course will cover the foundations of graphic design. Students will have a clear idea of the business aspects of the career by the completion of the course. The topics that will be covered are: visual perspectives, creativity, tools and techniques, readying for press, teamwork, and graphic design innovators.

## ELECTIVES

Course Title: **Academic Apprenticeship**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 11-12  
Prerequisite: Must pass Career Exploration, Skills for Success, and Work Readiness with a B or higher and teacher recommendation – PLANS pathway requirement

Academic Apprenticeship's goal is to provide students with workplace skills, through project-based learning in a real-world environment. Additionally, the program is designed to provide local businesses and non-profit organizations with a well supported intern who can make a valuable contribution. Students will spend an average of four hours a week at a local business and are required to put together a project surrounding their internship, write journals, and communicate with their employers, mentors and their school.

Course Title: **Career Exploration**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisite – PLANS pathway requirement

*Career Exploration* teaches self-awareness, decision-making skills, and career exploration. Emphasis is given to self assessment and planning. As students uncover their unique abilities and ambitions, they develop skills and attitudes needed to build successful careers and lives in rapidly changing times. Students must pass Career Exploration with a "B" or better to continue in the PLANS Pathway.

Course Title: **Child Development**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisite (Elective Credit)

The basis of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop his/her understanding of child development. The class will focus on children, parenting, pregnancy, childbirth, childhood ages newborn to age twelve, and health and safety. Students will learn to develop and present their understanding of the material through projects and written responses.

Course Title: **Creative Writing I CP**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation based on writing level.

The basis of the course is the development of creative writing skills through the elements of the short story. Emphasis is given to setting, plot, theme, narration, descriptive writing, dialogue, characterization, and imaginative writing. Students will learn to develop and present their creative ideas in many creative formats that culminate in a short story.

Course Title: **Creative Writing II**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation (writing level) and completion of Creative Writing I

The basis of the course is the development of creative writing skills. Emphasis is given to grammar, mechanics, and literary techniques. Students will examine the process of writing. They will learn to recognize the qualities of good writing and apply what they learn to improve their own writing. They will learn to organize, revise and craft their work into effective prose.

Course Title: **Driver Education**  
Course Length: One Quarter (2.5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: Must be 15 ½ years of age by the end of the class.

The basis of the course is the development of driving skills. Emphasis is given to rules of the road, DMV handbook and gaining an understanding of the responsibility of driving. Students will study through computer programs, videos, DMV handbook, and a textbook.

Course Title: **Food/Nutrition**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisite (Elective Credit)

The basis of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop his/her understanding of Food and Nutrition. The class will focus on food nutrition, workspace, tools, techniques, consumer decisions, meals, snacks, and international foods. Students will learn to develop and present their understanding of the material through projects and written responses.

Course Title: **Life Skills**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisite (Elective Credit)

The basis of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop his/her understanding of Life Skills. The class will focus on personal development, relationship skills, families, friendships, childcare and development, consumer decisions, food, nutrition, and wellness, clothing and textiles, and housing. Students will learn to develop and present their understanding of the material through projects and written responses.

Course Title: **Lifestyle Math**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 11-12  
Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation  
Meets math elective requirement

The primary purpose of this course is to empower the student in the fundamentals of life skills and the application of mathematics. Students will acquire the ability to create a personal budget, link careers to monetary lifestyles, financial planning, savings and investments, credit, and insurance.

Course Title: **Psychology CP**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 11-12  
Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation (Academic Elective Credit)

The basis of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop his/her understanding of psychology. The class will focus on the biology of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, memory, cognition and language, intelligence, motivation and emotion, development, personality, psychological disorders and treatments, and social psychology. Students will learn to develop and present their understanding of the material through projects and written responses.

Course Title: **Senior Project**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 12  
Prerequisite: Required course for all high school senior students  
Required for high school diploma

The basis of the course is to **provide an opportunity for seniors to demonstrate what he/she knows and to showcase his/her achievement.** The class will focus on the development of **skills in time-management, research, problem solving, human interaction, organization, and public speaking.** Students will learn to develop and present their research and learning in written, hands on, and oral form.

Course Title: **Skills for Success**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-11  
Prerequisite: Strongly recommended for freshmen and students new to ILP  
No Prerequisite – PLANS pathway requirement

This is a course designed to help students make a smooth and successful transition to high school. Additionally, this is the first of three required courses for the PLANS Pathway. Students must pass Skills for Success with a “B” or better to continue in the PLANS Pathway. Some of the skills students will acquire include: study, planning, organization, personal development and conflict resolution.

Course Title: **Sociology**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: No Prerequisite (Academic Elective Credit)

The basis of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop his/her understanding of sociology. The class will focus on society and culture, social structure, continuity and change, social problems, socialization, and social institutions. Students will learn to develop and present their understanding of the material through projects and written responses.

Course Title: **Study Skills**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grades 9-12  
Prerequisite: Suggested for all new students

The basis of the course is the development of basic organization, study skills, test taking skills, and writing skills. Emphasis is given to study techniques, reading and writing strategies. Students will learn to develop and present their skills in both written and oral form, while learning to study for all types of courses.

Course Title: **Work Readiness**  
Course Length: One Semester (5 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 10-12  
Prerequisite: Must pass Skills for Success and Career Exploration with a “B” or better.  
PLANS pathway requirement

This course will expand upon what was learned in the Skills for Success and Career Exploration courses and prepare students for the Work Readiness Certificate *or* the apprenticeship they will be completing the following semester. The purpose of this course is to help students identify work interests and acquire crucial job skills in order to set students on the path toward a successful apprenticeship or job. Students must pass Work Readiness with a “B” or better to continue in the PLANS Pathway.

Course Title: **World Geography CP**  
Course Length: One Year (10 credits)  
Grade Level: Grade 9-12  
Prerequisite: Suggested for all 9<sup>th</sup> grade college preparatory students  
No Prerequisite (Academic Elective Credit)

This course provides a combination of physical and cultural geography. Students will study the land, climate, vegetation, population, history, government, culture, and current issues in the ten geographic regions of the world. Students will leave this class with a basic understanding of geographic skills, of their world surroundings, the methods to study these, and a survey of world culture.