



# NORTHLAND SCHOLARS ACADEMY

Course Catalog

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## Graduation Requirements

All students must complete the graduation requirements as established by Northland Scholars Academy(NSA) to be eligible for the NSA diploma. Students must obtain approval from the Academic Office prior to enrolling in courses for credit which are not offered by NSA. Students will not be permitted to participate in commencement exercises until all requirements and obligations are completed. This includes fees, fines, return of classroom materials, and detention time to be served.

Students need to earn 24 total credits in order to be eligible to graduate from Northland Scholars Academy. Upon admission, students will be required to provide transcripts from previous schools. Homeschool students should provide the Wisconsin EPI Form P1-1206 or the form from their state from the previous school year. The following required credits are specified by content area.

English: 4 total credits are required. Three credits must be in English grammar.

Math: 3 total credits are required.

Science: 3 total credits are required.

Social Studies/History: 3 total credits are required.

In order to receive a high school diploma in the state of Wisconsin, students must pass the 100 question civics test with a score of 65%.

Physical Education/Health: 2 credits are required.

Health class is a requirement for graduation.

Electives: 9 total credits are required

Various classes will be offered to fulfill this requirement.

Community Service: 20 hours are required

Students need to complete 5 hours of community service for every year they attend NSA.

## College Admission Information

Students are encouraged to research the entrance requirements for the colleges of their choice. Most four year colleges have admission standards which include grade point average and ACT/SAT test scores. Students will need to go online and schedule test dates for these standardized tests. Many colleges also require a certain number of credits in particular subjects and electives in foreign languages and fine arts.

## Drop/Add Policies

Students may only change classes during the designated Drop/Add time and must have approval from the Academic Office.

## Grade Point Average

Grades point averages are calculated on a 4.0 system.

A+	4.000	C+	2.333
A	4.000	C	2.000
A-	3.667	C-	1.667
B+	3.333	D+	1.333
B	3.000	D	1.000
B-	2.667	D-	0.667

F - 0.000

Incomplete - 0.000

## Course Descriptions

All courses may not be offered all semesters. Class offerings will be based on student needs and teacher availability.

### English

#### English Grammar 1 - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

This course provides students with a basis for forming a clear understanding of English grammar and vocabulary and increasing their proficiency in the use of English. Students will be introduced to parts of speech and learn about the usage of tense, voice, and number.

#### English Grammar 2 - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

This course is a review of the elements of grammar. Students examine sentence structure, correct verb forms, case of pronouns, agreement, punctuation, and restrictive and nonrestrictive clauses.

#### English Grammar 3- 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

Students receive further instruction in English vocabulary, grammar principles, and usage. This class provides students with an in-depth examination of the technical aspects of English grammar and usage.

#### Composition - 2 semesters - ¼ credit per semester

This class introduces students to the writing process as it applies to informative writing, personal narratives, and both descriptive and creative writing. The writing assignments focus on sentence structure and paragraph development in both in-class and research essays.

#### Advanced Composition- 2 semesters - ¼ credit per semester

This course provides students with the tools for increasing their ability to communicate clearly and concisely in writing. Composition assignments focus on expository writing, persuasive writing, and research reports.

#### Elements of Literature - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

Students will be introduced to the various elements of literature such as theme, imaginative comparison, allusion, symbol, and irony. The course focuses on analyzing and evaluating literary works and provides students with a basic literary vocabulary for technical discussions of artistic writing.

#### American Literature - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

A historical survey approach is utilized to explore America's literary heritage. Students engage with key texts and authors from colonial to contemporary times, examine surrounding circumstances and events, and apply critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate the content, structure, and artistry of selected literature pieces.

## **Math**

### **Business Math - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester**

In this class students learn about personal finances, checking and savings accounts, loans and buying on credit, automobile expenses, and housing expenses. Students may also apply basic mathematical concepts to common business usage covering such topics as percentages, interest, trade, bank and cash discounts, payroll, time value of money, and business loans.

### **Algebra 1 - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester**

This is a first year algebra course that helps students learn to reason symbolically. The key content involves writing, solving, and graphing linear and quadratic equations, including systems of two linear equations in two unknowns. Algebraic skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

### **Algebra 2 - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester**

This class explores the mathematical topics of functions, radical functions, rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, geometry, conic sections, systems of equations, probability, and statistics.

### **Geometry - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester**

Geometry involves the study of points, lines, planes and other geometric figures as they relate to our physical world. Students learn to measure geometric figures and their areas and volumes and to develop their logical thinking skills as well as inductive and deductive reasoning skills.

### **Pre- Calculus - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester**

Pre-calculus is a thoughtful introduction to advanced studies leading to calculus. The course briefly reviews linear equations, inequalities, and systems and moves purposefully into the study of functions. The course concludes with a short study of probability and statistics.

### **Calculus - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester**

This course introduces calculus using analytic geometry functions. Topics include limits and continuity, derivatives, optimization, related rates, graphing and other applications of derivatives, definite and indefinite integrals, and numerical integration.

### **Statistics - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester**

This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of descriptive and inferential statistics. Topics include the measures of central tendency, standard deviation, combinations and permutations, probability, sampling, and various distributions.

## **Science**

### **Earth Science - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester**

This course introduces scientific investigations, methods, observations and communication regarding the earth and its environments. Students examine topics such as landforms, volcanic activity, earthquakes, water, erosion, weather, climate, and the solar system.

Biology - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

Students are introduced to the fields of cytology, genetics, botany, zoology, ecology, taxonomy, evolution, chemistry, and microbiology and explore how these topics impact their lives.

Chemistry - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

This class examines matter and the changes it undergoes. Students develop an understanding of interconnections among the sciences, technology, society, and the environment as well as how the elements of chemistry can be applied to benefit society.

Physics - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

Students will explore the interactions of matter and energy, velocity, accelerations, force, energy, momentum and charge. Students will be challenged to apply their knowledge of the laws of physics as they relate to thermodynamics, light, sound, wave, and vectors to solve critical thinking problems related to physics.

Forensic Science - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

Forensic Science is the application of science to the investigation of fingerprinting, fiber analysis, ballistics, arson, trace evidence analysis, poisons, drugs, blood spatters, and blood samples. Students are taught the proper collection, preservation, and laboratory analysis of various samples.

**History/Social Studies**

Cultural Geography 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

Using the framework of physical geography and landforms, students study the culture, climate, resources, economy, religion, and government of countries around the globe.

World History 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

Beginning with the ancient worlds and continuing to modern times, students explore significant world cultures and how their ideas and practices influence current thinking.

United States History - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

This class introduces students to the story of America's development beginning with indigenous peoples and continuing to modern events.

American Government - 1 semester - ½ credit per semester

This in depth study helps students explore the intricacies of the American government system. Students examine important historical documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution as well as significant court cases that have shaped American culture.

Economics - 1 semester - ½ credit per semester

Economics introduces students to the basics of economic principles and economic systems. Students will analyze and interpret data to understand the laws of supply and demand and other fundamental economic principles.

### Law - 1 semester - ½ credit per semester

This course will provide students with an overview of legal concepts, procedures, terminology and current issues in law including constitutional law, criminal law, contracts, food law, education law, and wills.

## **Physical Education**

### Health - 1 semesters - ½ credit per semester

This course helps students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions that allow them to stay active, safe, and informed. Students learn about the components of a healthy lifestyle and learn strategies for making healthy choices. Topics of study include personal physical, mental, and emotional health; injury prevention, basic first aid principles; nutrition and physical activity; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and human growth and development.

### Individual Fitness - 2 semesters - ¼ credit per semester

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn fitness concepts and conditioning techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning.

### Team Sports - 2 semesters - ¼ credit per semester

Students are exposed to rules, strategies, organization and skill development in a variety of team sports. Emphasis is placed on the teaching and learning process throughout the various grade levels, and on certain fundamental movement and tactical principles that apply to team sports.

### Weightlifting - 2 semesters - ¼ credit per semester

The emphasis in this course is on muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, and safety. Weight room safety, warm-up/cool down procedures, lifting technique and safety for all lifts, major muscle identification, and individual goal setting are all important components in this course.

### Cross Country - 1 semester - ¼ credit per semester

This class is designed to introduce students to long distance running. The class helps students understand the techniques and science behind long-distance running and gives them a chance to build strength and endurance.

## **Electives**

### **Language**

#### Spanish I - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

This introductory class provides the student with a general introduction to the Spanish language. It includes the sound system, pronunciation, functional vocabulary related to everyday life, cultural information and basic grammatical structures. The goal is to give the students the ability to carry on a simple conversation.



Spanish 2 - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

Spanish 2 builds upon knowledge gained in Spanish 1. This course will also reinforce the skills learned in Spanish I: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis is on perfecting pronunciation, mastery of the basic grammatical structures, and increased communicative proficiency.

Spanish 3 - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

Spanish 3 focuses on the past, future and compound tenses, vocabulary usage, and contextual comprehension. This course builds up on fundamentals presented in Spanish 1 & 2. Important elements of this class include pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, useful phrases and the ability to understand, read, write, listen and speak Spanish.

Spanish 4 - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

Spanish 4 is an advanced course that increases student proficiency through an intense approach involving listening, grammar, reading, vocabulary (including idiomatic expressions), speaking and writing skills. Students are required to use more sophisticated vocabulary and more complex grammatical structures. Reading and writing assignments are more challenging as they include more authentic literature and essays. Students will regularly practice conversational skills.

French 1 - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

This introductory class provides the student with a general introduction to the French language. It includes the sound system, pronunciation, functional vocabulary related to everyday life, cultural information and basic grammatical structures. The goal is to give the students the ability to carry on a simple conversation.

French 2 - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

French 2 builds upon knowledge gained in French 1. This course will also reinforce the skills learned in Spanish I: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis on perfecting mastery of basic grammatical structures, pronunciation, and increased communicative proficiency.

**Fine Arts**

Beginning Instrumental Lessons - 2 semesters - ¼ credit per semester

Instrumental lessons for beginners focus on basics such as learning to read notes, read rhythms, play basic chords and other tools essential to play any style of music. Students may choose piano, flute, or violin. Students must provide their own instruments for flute and violin.

Advanced Instrumental Lessons - 2 semesters - ¼ credit per semester

Instrumental lessons for advanced students expand on basic skills and introduce an in-depth study of topics such as intervals, note value, improvisation, and harmony. Students may choose piano, flute, or violin. Students must provide their own instruments for flute and violin.

Choral Singing - 2 semesters - ¼ credit per semester

This course explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through study and performance. The core curriculum emphasizes the basics of vocal technique, sight-reading, music theory, and music history.

Music Appreciation - 1 semester - ½ credit per semester

Music Appreciation is an introductory course to music. Students explore music's various functionalities in order to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for all types of music. The course introduces basic music literacy and core musical elements such as melody, rhythm, harmony, form, and texture.

Public Speaking - 1 semester - ½ credit per semester

This course offers an overview of the process of communication and provides a variety of public speaking experiences. Students study the techniques of effective communication to develop critical speaking and listening skills. Required speeches are the classmate interview speech, self-introduction speech, the sales pitch speech, an impromptu speech, a speech for a special occasion, the persuasive speech, and the informative speech.

Interpretative Speech - 1 semesters - ½ credit per semester

This is a general study of the techniques of individual and group interpretative performances. Students explore a variety of performance styles such as humorous and dramatic interpretation, duet acting, poetry, prose, and storytelling.

**Computer**

Computer 1 - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

This course will help students learn essential computer applications and Internet technology skills for personal, academic, and professional success. Students use a Windows operating system and Google Suite with appropriate file management resources; develop and refine keyboarding skills on computers for speed and accuracy; apply word processing and desktop publishing functions to create, edit, manipulate, format, cite resources, print, and store common documents. Students will learn to use the Internet in an ethical manner to research, communicate, collaborate, and retrieve information.

Computer 2 - 1 semester - ½ credit per semester

This class builds on the basic computer skills that students learned in Computer 1 and further explores the concepts of computer hardware, networking, and robotics. Students will continue to learn to use the Internet in an ethical manner to research, communicate, collaborate, and efficiently retrieve information.

Computer Aided Drafting - 1 semester - ½ credit per semester

In this course, students are introduced to engineering, learning the basics of CAD software such as creating points, lines, other geometric forms, isometric drawings, and 3D models. Students learn how to translate initial concepts into functional designs and 3D walkthroughs and explore career options in this hands-on introductory-level course.

Advanced Computer Aided Drafting - 1 semester - ½ credit per semester

This course teaches students to use modern CAD software to produce two-dimensional drawings for manufacturing applications. It also covers coordinating systems, proper dimensioning, use of sectioning and projections for visualization, symbol libraries, file management, and collaborative techniques.

## General Electives

### Social Linguistics - 1 semester - ½ credit

Sociolinguistics, or culture and language, studies the interactions between language and the culture where the individual is living. It also includes the relationship between language variation and social factors like identity, class and power and language change. The course emphasizes the insights into the use of language in society.

### Culture through Film - 2 semesters - ¼ credit per semester

This class examines how screen images both in movies and television use sound and image to build culture and communicate ideology. Students will explore and analyze, and different types of productions through both written and verbal critical analysis.

### Beginning ESL - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

This class focuses on basic communication skills in English with both listening and speaking development. The formal skills of writing, reading, vocabulary development and grammar principles are introduced in this course.

### Advanced ESL - 2 semesters - ½ credit per semester

This course builds on the basic skills introduced in Beginning ESL to provide students with a deeper understanding of English grammar concepts as well as listening and speaking development. The formal skills of writing, reading, vocabulary development and grammar principles are reviewed and practiced in this course.

### Ethics - 1 semester - ½ credit per semester

Ethics is the study of how humans ought to live and behave towards one another. This course will consider and critique different principles and theories which seek to explain what makes an action right or wrong, and what sort of character traits humans ought to develop.

### Psychology - 1 semester - ½ credit per semester

As an introduction to the field of psychology, this course includes consideration of psychological principles, terminology, major theories, careers, methods of experimentation, and practical applications. Special topics include personality development, problem-solving, group dynamics, and motivation.

### World Religions - 1 semester - ½ credit

This class examines and compares the major religions of the world through a historical, social, political, and economic lens. Units of study include Ancient Religion, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Eastern Religions, African Religions, and Modern Religions.