



CURRICULUM PROSPECTUS

(This Document is Nine Pages)

United Science International School Sulaymaniyah (USIS) is a private international school, and it follows an international curriculum in correspondence with American Common Core Standards. USIS has candidacy accreditation from Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges and Universities (**ASIC**).

Accreditation Code: AS28102/0519

1. CURRICULUM

United Science International School-Sulaymaniyah (USIS) offers students American and International educational traditions, as well as the benefits of access to the rich culture and heritage of Kurdistan, and Iraq.

USIS offers a mix of curricular and co-curricular activities, with a wide variety of programs that meet the needs and interest of its students.

The school has collaboratively developed and continues to implement an international curriculum based on clear measurable learning goals. The curriculum for the core subjects is aligned to the **American Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards** and benchmarks. Curriculum guides contain learning objectives that are aligned to the standards and teachers use them to plan their daily instruction in the classroom. The curriculum is endorsed with rich and various online resources and materials in technologically equipped classrooms and laboratories.

USIS offers a rigorous, well-balanced course of study. Educational materials used are selected for their viability in the American curriculum and adaptability to the local environment.

The curriculum is also designed to prepare the students for the **College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) General Test and SAT Subject Tests** with content and skills for the tests well-integrated in the curriculum. Thus, the SAT program is implemented at USIS. **As a graduation requirement from Ministry of Education, students must score 400 points from English and 400 points from Mathematics which is 800/1600 in total.**

2. GRADING

2.1. Grading Scale

Grading Scale										
%	100-95	94-90	89-85	84-80	79-75	74-70	69-65	64-60	59-0	Transfer Grades
Grade	A+	A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F	E*
GPA	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.0	Not Weighted

* E means the students passed the class in another system, but the grade is not eligible to be included in weighted GPA.

2.2. Grade Point Average (GPA)

Grade Point Average (GPA) on student transcripts and report cards at USIS refers to weighted GPA. GPA Grade Point Average is calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned to the total number of credit hours attempted.

Cumulative GPA for High School refers to the average of the four years at high school: Grade 9, 10, 11, 12. Both GPA for each year and Cumulative GPA of four years appear on USIS's transcripts. **A student who is able to collect 25 credits and achieves GPA of 2.00/4.00 will be eligible to graduate from USIS.**

Grades on USIS transcripts refer to the yearly grades being the average of two semesters a year.

3. HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS

3.1. Credit Units

Credits at USIS High School refer to *(American) Carnegie (Credit) Units*.

A full Carnegie unit (1 credit) refers to 7200 minutes of class or school contact. Credits for each class are calculated as following:

$$(\text{Weekly Class Hours}) \times (\text{Class Period in minutes}) \times (\text{Total Weeks of Instruction}) = \text{Total Minutes}$$

$$\text{Total Minutes} / 7200 = \text{Credit for that class}$$

Students at USIS earn full credit (1.2 credits) per year for successful completion of a course of 5 hours per week.

Students must pass 60% (D) for each class to earn the credit for that class at USIS.

Students are required to complete 25 credits to graduate.

3.2. Transfer Credits

For students who are transferred to USIS after grade 9, transfer credits are calculated by using the required information for the formula given above. Thus, USIS asks for the information required for the formula for

credit calculation, which must be provided by the school(s) the student is transferred from, during admission process. Students who are not likely to complete 25 credits for graduation –including prospective credits at USIS- are **NOT** accepted to USIS.

Transfer credits are calculated after student’s previous grades are converted to American grading system, which is implemented at USIS.

4. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

4.1. English Language Arts

Study of **English Language Arts** is standard based. It is designed according to Common Core Standards. Students will be able to learn, understand, appreciate, and use the language both in academic and informal platforms. This course focuses on the development of various advanced skills and strategies necessary for mastering in English Language (Arts). The standards for each strand in English Language Arts (*Reading Literature, Reading Informational Text, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language Conventions*) directly relate to the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for each strand. The Anchor Standards broadly outline the understandings and skills students should master by the end of high school so that they are well-prepared for SAT General and SAT Subject Test and college or for a career.

The course is instructed with a textbook along with rich online and interactive resources.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
9	English Language Arts	5	1.2
10	English Language Arts	5	1.2
11	English Language Arts	6	1.44
12	English Language Arts	4	0.96

4.2. Mathematics

Mathematics studies at USIS cover the skills and concepts of Common Core Standards. *Integrated Mathematics 1, 2, 3* aims to address those standards and turn students into problem solvers who master concepts, become fluent with procedures, and apply the principles they’ve learned to real-world situations. While presenting algebra and geometry in a traditional three-course path, *Integrated Mathematics 1, 2, 3* delivers this content with a truly innovative, adaptive approach, offering the rigor, depth of coverage, and guidance needed to prepare students for success in SAT General and SAT Subject Tests for Math, in college, and in their careers. The courses are instructed with a textbook including various selections along with rich online and interactive resources.

Integrated Mathematics 1 Course covers the concepts of “Quantitative Reasoning, Equations and Inequalities, Algebraic Models, Functions and Models, One variable Data Distributions, Patterns and Sequences, Linear modeling and Regression, Linear Functions, Solving systems of Linear Equations, Forms of Linear Equations, Modeling with Linear Systems, Piecewise-Defined functions, Geometric Sequences and Exponential Functions, Exponential Equations and Models, Tools of Geometry, Transformations and Symmetry, Congruent Figures, Lines and Angles, Triangle Congruence Criteria, Applications of Triangle Congruence, Properties of Triangles, Special Segments in Triangles, Properties of Quadrilaterals, and Coordinate Proof Using Slope And Distance.”

Integrated Mathematics 2 Course covers the concepts of “functions and their characteristics, polynomial operations, quadratic functions, quadratic equations and models, extending quadratic equations, quadratic proofs, similarity and right triangles, properties of circles, volume, and understanding probability.”

Integrated Mathematics 3 Course covers the concepts of “Constructions Coordinate Proof Using Slope and Distance, Visualizing Solids Modeling and Problem Solving, Polynomial Functions Polynomials, Polynomial Equation Rational Functions, Rational Expressions and Equations Radical Functions, Radical Expressions and Equations Sequences and Series, Exponential Functions Modeling with Exponential and Other Functions, Logarithmic Functions Logarithmic Properties and Exponential Equations, Trigonometry with all Triangles Unit-Circle Definition of Trigonometric Functions, Graphing Trigonometric Functions Gathering and Displaying Data, Data Distributions Making Inferences from Data, Probability and Decision Making Angles and Segments in Circles, and Arc Length and Sector Area Equations of Circles and Parabolas.”

Pre-Calculus fully integrates topics from algebra, geometry, trigonometry, discrete mathematics, and mathematical analysis. Conceptually oriented problems that help prepare students for college entrance exams (such as the ACT and SAT) are included in the problem sets.

Passport to Advanced Math Course focuses on the concept and skills necessary for SAT General and SAT Subject Tests.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
9	Integrated Mathematics 1	5	1.2
10	Integrated Mathematics 2	6	1.44
11	Integrated Mathematics 3	5	1.2
12	Pre-Calculus	4	0.96
12	Passport to Advanced Math	2	0.48

4.3. Science Students take one Science subject each year of the high school.

4.3.1 Biology

Study of **Biology** is standard based. It is designed according to Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. The course focuses on scientific phenomena, facts, laws, definitions, concepts, theories related to the field of Biology. Students are required to understand scientific vocabulary, terminology, conventions and apply the principles they've learned to real-world situations. Biology course covers generally the concepts of, and the skills related to "Biological Sciences, Cell Biology, Genetics, Principles of Ecology, Virology and Prokaryotes, Nervous and Endocrine System." The concepts covered are related to SAT Biology Subject Test. **Advanced Biology** courses deepen the understanding and skills related to the standards and concepts. The courses are instructed with a textbook along with lab activities and rich online and interactive resources such as virtual labs.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
9	Biology	5	1.2
12	Advanced Biology	4	0.96

4.3.2 Chemistry

Study of **Chemistry** is standard based. It is designed according to Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. The course focuses on scientific phenomena, facts, laws, definitions, concepts, theories related to the field of Chemistry. Students are required to understand scientific vocabulary, terminology, conventions and apply the principles they've learned to real-world situations. Chemistry course covers generally the concepts of and the skills related to "Matter and Change, Atoms: The Building Blocks of Matter, Arrangement of Electrons in Atoms, The Periodic Law, Chemical Bonding, Chemical Formulas and Chemical Compound, Chemical Equations and Reaction, Stoichiometry, States of Matter, and Gases." The concepts covered are related to SAT Chemistry Subject Test. **Advanced Chemistry** courses deepen the understanding and skills related to the standards and concepts. The courses are instructed with a textbook along with lab activities and rich online and interactive resources such as virtual labs.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
10	Chemistry	5	1.2
12	Advanced Chemistry	4	0.96

4.3.3. Physics

Study of **Physics** is standard based. It is designed according to Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. The course focuses on scientific phenomena, facts, laws, definitions, concepts, theories related to the field of Physics. Students are required to understand scientific vocabulary, terminology, conventions and apply the principles they've learned to real-world situations. Physics course covers generally

the concepts of and the skills related to “Mechanics: One Dimensional Motion, Vectors, Forces And Laws Of Motion, Work, Energy And Power, Momentum And Impulse, Circular Motion, Harmonic Motion; And Optics: Reflection, Mirrors, Refraction, Lenses, Colors.” The concepts covered are related to SAT Physics Subject Test. **Advanced Physics** courses deepen the understanding and skills related to the standards and concepts. The courses are instructed with a textbook along with lab activities and rich online and interactive resources such as virtual labs.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
11	Physics	5	1.2
12	Advanced Physics	4	0.96

4.4. Social Studies

4.4.1. World History

World History courses were designed to help students understand historical concepts, terminology, and methods and to explore historical phenomena vivid instructions, activities and discussions. World History courses are given in two years. **World History 1** course investigates the topics from “Prehistoric Times” through “Age of Imperialism.” **World History 2** course explores the topics from “Age of Imperialism” through modern times including “Cold War Conflicts.” **Advanced World History** investigates the world history from ancient civilizations to modern times with a comprehensive perspective. The courses are instructed with a textbook along with various activities and rich online and interactive resources.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
9	World History 1	4	0.96
10	World History 2	4	0.96
12	Advanced World History	4	0.96

4.4.2. Sociology

Sociology course aims to help students read and discuss fundamentals of Sociology as a social science along with experiences and examples from everyday life. This course fosters the academic curiosity and intellectual development that are integral to continued success in the program. Students learn, examine, present, and critique significant social phenomena. The curriculum is structured so that students attain both practical skills and theoretical knowledge. Sociology course investigates the concepts of “Culture and Social Structure, The Individual in the Society, Social Inequality, Social Institutions, The Changing Social World”. The courses are instructed with a textbook along with various activities and rich online and interactive resources.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
11	Sociology	5	1.2

4.4.3. Economics

The course provides students with an understanding of economic theory, terminology and principles; an understanding of, and ability to use, basic economic numeracy and literacy; an understanding of the economies of developed and developing nations and economic models. The course investigates economic models with real life examples and applications. The courses are instructed with a textbook along with various activities and rich online and interactive resources.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
12	Economics	4	0.96

4.4.4. Political Science

The course aims to enable students to better understand political realm of life as both a thinker and a citizen. The course introduces to the discipline's concepts, terminology, and methods and to explore instances of applied political science through real world examples. In Political Science Class, students read and discuss fundamentals of Political Science as a social science along with experiences and examples from both historical and contemporary politics. Students learn, examine, present, and critique significant socio-political phenomena. The curriculum is structured so that students attain both practical skills and theoretical knowledge. The course covers the topics of "Basic Concepts of Politics, State and Theories of State, Law and Constitution, Democracy, Rights, Political Institutions, Concept of power and hegemony, and Ideologies."

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
12	Political Science	4	0.96

4.4.5. Psychology

Psychology course aims to help students read and discuss fundamentals of Psychology as a social science along with experiences and examples from everyday life. This course fosters the academic curiosity and intellectual development that are integral to continued success in the program. The course provides students with an understanding of psychological theories, terminology and principles; an understanding of, and ability to use basic psychological methods. The course covers the topics of "The History of Psychology, Schools of Psychology, Research Methods in Psychology, and Major Fields in Psychology."

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
12	Psychology	4	0.96

4.5. Kurdish Language / Arabic Language

The course adheres to the Kurdish and Arabic language requirements established by the Kurdistan Ministry of Education. Students are expected to develop their ability to communicate effectively in the Kurdish or Arabic language. The course focuses on Kurdish or Arabic vocabulary, grammar and their application in both speaking and writing. Students are also expected to display their ability to read and extract details from various forms of passages written in the Kurdish or the Arabic language. The courses are delivered according to the level of the student groups in Kurdish or the Arabic language with a constructive and communicative method.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
9-10-11-12	Kurdish Language	2	0.48
9-10-11-12	Arabic Language	2	0.48

4.6. Religious Studies (Religion)

The course covers the standards of Islamic Studies established by the Kurdistan Ministry of Education. The course provides students with essential knowledge, skills and values needed to have a sound understanding of Islamic faith exploring different aspects such as: The Prophet's life and other Prophets' lives, Islamic Jurisdiction for life, Basics of Islamic Theology, Quranic verses and Hadith.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
9-10-11-12	Religious Studies (Religion)	1	0.24

4.7. Computer Science

The course is designed to equip students with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills by providing an understanding of ICT terminology and applications such as media, computer networks, and data management through theoretical and practical application. Computer Science courses focus on certain skills and applications each year: Microsoft Excel for Grade 9, Microsoft Expression Web for Grade 10, and Android App Inventor for Grade 11.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
9-10-11	Computer Science	1	0.24

4.8. Physical Education

The purpose of Physical Education course is to enable students to demonstrate individually and with others, the physical skills, practices and values to enjoy a lifetime of active, healthy living. Students explore, learn and play different types of sports, which will also help them explore their athletic potential.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
9-10-11-12	Physical Education	1	0.24

4.9. Creative Writing (English Writing)

Writing courses encompass narrative, literary, expository, argumentative and informational forms, with attention to analysis. The student learns to demonstrate correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics by applying grammatical conventions in writing, which is also planned to help them in SAT writing studies. The course covers the theoretical and practical knowledge of various writing forms: Argumentative Essays, Narrative Essays, Analytical Essays, Informational Essays, and Compare and Contrast Essays.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
9-10-11-12	Creative Writing (English Writing)	1	0.24

4.10. English Speaking

The course is designed to provide an atmosphere for students to excel their communication skills in English Language. Students learn to correspond with Common Core Speaking Standards by demonstrating correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics by applying grammatical conventions in speaking. They practice speaking on different topics, making debates, presenting speeches, and having collaborative classroom discussions.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
9-10-11	English Speaking	1	0.24

4.11. Second Language

Students may choose a foreign language along with Kurdish and Arabic, which are required by Kurdistan Ministry of Education. Students are assisted to develop their ability to communicate effectively in the selected language. The course focuses on vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and their application in both speaking and writing.

Grade Level	Course	Number of Periods per Week	Credits
9	Second Language	2	0.48