

Dubai Schools High School Pathways Program

KHDA Advanced and General Pathways

The Advanced Pathways are designed for students seeking rigorous academic preparation for competitive university programs and specialized fields of study. These pathways include advanced coursework, higher-level analytical thinking, research opportunities, and specialized electives.

The General Pathways provide students with a strong academic foundation while allowing flexibility to explore interests, develop practical skills, and prepare for university, vocational study, or career-focused opportunities.

The pathways model allows students to personalize their educational experience through electives and specialized coursework connected to university majors and career interests. Students receive ongoing academic advising to ensure that course selections align with graduation requirements, university admissions expectations, and future aspirations.

The Dubai Schools Pathway is designed for students seeking a more rigorous academic program and preparing for competitive university pathways. Students in the Advanced Stream engage in higher-level coursework that emphasizes analytical thinking, research, problem-solving, innovation, and academic depth.

Dubai Schools Pathway Streams

Pathway	Description	Possible Electives
Medical & Health Sciences	Designed for students interested in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, biomedical sciences, nursing, veterinary sciences, and allied health professions.	Advanced Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Human Anatomy & Physiology, Psychology, Statistics, Medical Ethics, Research Methods
Engineering & Applied Sciences	Prepares students for engineering fields such as civil, electrical, mechanical, aerospace, and chemical engineering.	Advanced Mathematics, Physics, RoboThe Dubai Schools High School curriculum is designed to prepare students for a wide range of university majors, career pathways, and future opportunities. In alignment with KHDA requirements, Dubai Schools offers both Advanced Stream and General Stream options to ensure students are appropriately placed based on their



		academic strengths, interests, and post-secondary goals. tics, Coding, Engineering Design, CAD, Electronics, Artificial Intelligence
Information Technology & Computer Science	Supports students pursuing careers in computer science, cybersecurity, AI, robotics, software engineering, and data science.	Computer Science, Programming, Cybersecurity, Robotics, Data Analysis, AI Fundamentals, Web Development, App Design
Business, Economics & Humanities	Designed for students interested in business, finance, law, economics, international relations, psychology, and leadership fields.	Business Management, Economics, Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Psychology, Financial Literacy, Global Politics
Arts, Architecture & Design	Supports students pursuing creative industries such as architecture, interior design, graphic design, animation, visual arts, and media.	Visual Arts, Graphic Design, Architecture Fundamentals, Digital Media, Photography, Animation, Fashion Design, Art History

Student Guidance and Support

Students will work closely with counselors, teachers, and school leadership teams to select the stream and pathway that best aligns with their interests, academic profile, and future goals. Pathways remain flexible and allow students opportunities to explore interests, develop strengths, and refine future university and career plans over time.

Dubai Schools is committed to providing all students with meaningful, future-focused learning experiences that promote academic excellence, innovation, wellbeing, and lifelong success.

Math Selection

Grade 9 Math	Integrated Math I or II
Grade 10 Math	Integrated Math II or III
Grade 11 Math	Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, AP Pre-Calculus
Grade 12 Math	AP Calculus, Statistics, Fundamentals of Math

Science Selection

Grade 9 Math	Biology
Grade 10 Math	Chemistry
Grade 11 Math	Physics 1 – Elective Option- AP Biology
Grade 12 Math	Environmental Science, AP Chemistry, Physics II Elective- Human Anatomy and Physiology

English Selection

Grade 9 Math	English 9
Grade 10 Math	English 10
Grade 11 Math	English Language 11 or AP English Language 11



Grade 12 Math	English Literature 12 or AP English Literature 12
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Electives 9-12

Grade 9 Electives – 0.5	DSB- Podcast, 3D Art, Photography, Entrepreneurship and Leadership DSK- Design Technology, Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Performing Arts/Drama, 3D Art, Photography, Creative Writing DSN - Photography, Leadership, Coding, Engineering
Grade 10 Electives – 0.5	
Grade 11 Electives – 1.0	AP Biology, Economics, Human Geography, Computer Science
Grade 11 Electives – 0.5	AI Fundamentals, Psychology, Digital Media, Medical Ethics
Grade 12 Electives – 1.0	AP Chemistry, AP Art, AP Physics, Graphic Design
Grade 12 Electives – 0.5	Fashion Design, Global Politics, Financial Literacy, App Design, Research Methods

This structure provides a balance between required coursework and elective exploration, enabling both compliance with UAE mandates and preparation for diverse university admission standards.

** Students with documented special educational needs may be offered an alternative graduation pathway requiring 22 credits or fewer, tailored to their individual strengths, goals, and learning profiles. This pathway will be collaboratively developed through ongoing consultation with the student, the Department of Student Support (DS), KHDA, and the student's family to ensure alignment with both regulatory expectations and the student's long-term aspirations.

As part of our commitment to being a culture of inclusion, we recognize that success can be achieved through multiple pathways. In addition to adjusted credit requirements, students may access specialized programming designed to support academic, social, and life skills development. This may include individualized or small-group instruction, adapted coursework, and opportunities to demonstrate learning through alternative assessments.

Where appropriate, students may also participate in modified or specialized courses that emphasize practical, vocational, or career-oriented skills. Internship placements, work-based learning experiences, and community partnerships can be integrated into a student's program to provide meaningful real-world exposure and to support post-secondary transition planning. These experiences are carefully selected and supported to ensure they are accessible, purposeful, and aligned with each student's interests and abilities.

Our inclusive approach ensures that every student is valued and supported in achieving a personalized definition of success, whether that leads to higher education, employment, or independent living. **



Course Repetition and Credit Recovery

A student may not repeat a class that he or she has failed. To recover the credit, the student may either:

- Enroll in an approved online course with prior approval from the school counselor, or
- Complete make-up coursework provided by Dubai Schools.

Both the original and the make-up course grades will appear on the student's transcript. However, only the higher grade will be counted toward the GPA calculation and earned credit.

Incomplete / Pass–Fail Grades

An Incomplete (I) may be issued when a student is unable to complete the required coursework due to a justifiable reason. Any "Incomplete" grade must be resolved within two weeks after the grading period ends. If not completed within this timeframe, and unless special permission is granted by the principal, the "Incomplete" will automatically convert to an "F."

Seminar/Pathway to Success and Capstone courses are assessed on a Pass–Fail basis. No letter grades are assigned for these courses; however, they are credit-bearing and appear on the student's transcript.

Grade Weighting

Advanced Placement (AP) are weighted to reflect the rigor, commitment, and dedication required for success. While this weighting impacts the internal Grade Point Average (GPA) at Dubai Schools, universities may use their own evaluation systems. Students must take the corresponding course examination for AP subjects.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Full year grades determine a student's cumulative GPA. Colleges and universities place significant emphasis on GPA as part of the admissions process. Since U.S. institutions typically review all four years of high school performance, students should begin building a strong academic record starting in Grade 9.

Grading

Course grades are reported as letter grades on report cards according to the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	AP
A+	97-100	4.00	4.50
A	93-96	4.00	4.30
A-	90-92	3.70	4.00
B+	87-89	3.30	3.60
B	83-86	3.00	3.30
B-	80-82	2.70	3.00



C+	77-79	2.30	2.60
C	73-76	2.00	2.30
C-	70-72	1.70	2.00
D+	67-69	1.30	1.60
D	65-66	1.00	1.30
D-	60-64	0.70	1.00
F	0-59	0.00	0.00

Reporting and Report Cards

High School students will receive report cards at the end of each semester. Quarterly progress reports will provide formative insights. Conferences and digital platforms will support continuous communication between teachers, students, and parents.

Students who complete three AP courses and the AP Capstone program, and who earn a score of 3 or higher on all required AP examinations, will graduate with a Dubai School Advanced Diploma. This distinction reflects not only academic accomplishment, but also a sustained commitment to intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and purposeful engagement with rigorous coursework.

At the core of this initiative is a broader philosophy: advanced programming should not be viewed as an exclusive track for a small group of students, but as a culture of excellence that is intentionally cultivated across the school. We believe that when high expectations are paired with the right structures of support, more students can access and succeed in challenging academic pathways. At Dubai Schools we aim to normalize aspirations—to create an environment where striving for advanced coursework is both encouraged and supported, and where success is visible, celebrated, and attainable.

This culture begins in Middle School, where we deliberately design opportunities that prepare students for future rigor. In mathematics, we will offer accelerated pathways that allow students to move at a pace aligned with their readiness, ensuring that those who are prepared can engage with advanced concepts earlier in their academic journey. At the same time, acceleration is balanced with thoughtful differentiation in every classroom. Recognizing the natural variability in student readiness, background knowledge, and learning profiles, our instructional approach emphasizes flexible grouping, targeted support, and extension opportunities so that all students are appropriately challenged.

Importantly, our philosophy of advanced programming is grounded in equity and access. Rather than relying solely on fixed entry points or narrow definitions of “advanced,” we aim to create multiple on-ramps for students to enter and thrive in rigorous pathways. This includes continuous monitoring of student progress, intentional advising, and opportunities for students to accelerate as they demonstrate readiness over time. We also prioritize skill development—such as analytical thinking, research, writing, and problem-solving—so that students are not only prepared to enroll in advanced courses, but also to succeed in them.



Ultimately, the Dubai School Advanced Diploma represents more than a set of course completions; it is the culmination of a coherent, school-wide commitment to fostering high achievement. By aligning our Middle School preparation, differentiated instruction, and High School advanced offerings, we seek to build a system where excellence is developed over time, supported at every stage, and accessible to all students who are willing to engage with the challenge.

Honors and High Honors Distinction

Honors distinctions are determined based on a student's cumulative GPA at the end of the first semester of their senior year.

- Honors: Students who achieve a cumulative GPA between 2.7 and 3.3 will receive Honors distinction at the end of the school year.
- High Honors: Students who achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher will receive High Honors distinction at the end of the school year.

Final Transcript

A final transcript will be given with a final school diploma at the end of grade 12

End-of-Year Examination Period

In High School, a formal end-of-year examination period occurs once, at the end of Semester 2 in grade 11 and in grade 12.

During this period, exams are administered in all year-long courses. To support student preparation, no summative assessments will be given during the one week preceding the formal exam period. Exams are a total of 15 percent of the final year grade for that course.

Homework Policy

Homework Philosophy

Home Learning will be short, targeted, and student-centered. It will be:

- Purposeful: Homework will reinforce class learning objectives.
- Balanced: We will avoid excessive homework across subjects.
- Will have Feedback: Assignments will be reviewed and discussed.
- Differentiated: Assignments will meet the needs of the student.

Attendance Policy

At Dubai Schools, meaningful learning is rooted in the connections between faculty and students, as well as active engagement in courses. These interactions are vital and cannot be replicated outside the classroom; therefore, regular attendance is essential to the learning process.

Scheduling and Holidays

School holidays are published well in advance in the official school calendar approved by KHDA. Families are strongly encouraged to plan vacations, medical appointments, college visits, and other personal commitments during study blocks, after-school hours, weekends, or scheduled school breaks to avoid interrupting learning.



Attendance Requirements

To earn course credit at Dubai Schools, students must attend at least 85% of each class. This allows for no more than six (6) unauthorized absences per semester per course. Students who exceed this limit will receive a grade of NC (No Credit) on their transcript, and a 0.0 may be included in their cumulative GPA.

Students who lose credit due to excessive absences may be placed on a conditional enrollment contract for the following semester.

Extra-Curricular and Enrichment Requirements

Dubai Schools is committed to fostering the holistic development of students, emphasizing skills and experiences beyond academics. The enrichment program is designed to prepare students for both higher education and workforce readiness, with a focus on transferable skills applicable across disciplines.

Required Components:

- Capstone/Seminar Project:
 - Students undertake a research or passion project that encourages inquiry-based learning and the application of interdisciplinary knowledge. This will be part of the Capstone and Seminar Project. A pass/fail grade will be given for the class and final project. A required 0.25 credit is allocated to each course.
- Community Service:
 - Structured service-learning requirements are integrated across Grades 9–12.
 - Students must complete a total of 100 service hours over four years, fostering civic responsibility, leadership, and community engagement.
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Equalization Requirements

Students are required to complete international assessments, which are funded by their parents. These examinations are necessary for Ministry of Education (MOE) equalization purposes. Please note that some of these assessments may be scheduled outside regular school hours, and parents are responsible for registering their child.

Required Assessments:

SAT Math: Minimum score of 450

Academic IELTS: Minimum overall score of 5.0 or TOFEL iBT- minimum score of 61

Program of Studies Grade 9 Courses

Integrated Math I

Integrated Math 9 builds a strong foundation in algebraic reasoning, proportional thinking, and mathematical modeling. Students explore linear relationships, equations, inequalities, and introductory functions while making connections to geometry and statistics. Through real-world applications and collaborative problem-solving, students develop logical reasoning, precision, and perseverance.



Emphasis is placed on mathematical communication, using appropriate vocabulary, representations, and technology to explain and justify solutions.

Biology

Biology introduces students to the study of living systems, emphasizing scientific inquiry, data analysis, and laboratory skills. Students investigate topics such as cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolution, ecosystems, and human body systems. Through hands-on experiments and research-based projects, students learn to design investigations, interpret scientific data, and draw evidence-based conclusions. The course encourages curiosity about the natural world and highlights the connections between biological concepts and everyday life.

English 9

English 9 focuses on developing students' reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills through the study of diverse literary and informational texts. Students engage with a range of genres—including short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction—while practicing close reading and textual analysis. Writing instruction emphasizes narrative, argumentative, and informative forms, with attention to organization, clarity, and voice. Students also participate in discussions and presentations, building confidence in expressing ideas, and supporting them with evidence.

Physical Education

Physical Education promotes lifelong fitness, teamwork, and personal well-being. Students participate in a variety of individual and team activities designed to improve cardiovascular endurance, strength, flexibility, and coordination. The course also emphasizes goal setting, sportsmanship, and collaboration. Students learn about health-related fitness concepts, injury prevention, and the importance of maintaining an active and balanced lifestyle both in and out of school.

Arabic

Arabic develops students' skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening through meaningful communication and cultural exploration. Students engage with a variety of texts, including literature, media, and informational sources, to build vocabulary and grammatical accuracy. The course emphasizes effective communication in both formal and informal contexts while fostering an appreciation for Arab culture, traditions, and identity. Students are encouraged to express ideas clearly and confidently in Arabic.

Islamic Studies

Islamic Studies focuses on developing moral values, ethical behavior, and an understanding of Islamic beliefs and practices. Students explore key concepts such as faith, worship, character, and social responsibility through the study of the Qur'an, Hadith, and the life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The course encourages reflection on how Islamic teachings guide daily life, promote respect for others, and support active, responsible participation in the community.



Geography

Geography examines the relationships between people, places, and environments at local, regional, and global scales. Students study physical geography topics such as landforms, climate, and natural resources, alongside human geography topics including population, urbanization, and economic development. Through the use of maps, geographic tools, and data analysis, students develop spatial thinking skills and investigate current global challenges such as sustainability and environmental change.

UAE History

UAE History explores the historical development of the United Arab Emirates, from early human settlement and tribal life to the formation of the federation and its rapid modernization. Students examine key historical events, influential leaders, and cultural traditions that have shaped the nation. The course emphasizes critical thinking, use of historical sources, and appreciation for the UAE's heritage, identity, and role in the global community.

Electives

Grade 9 Elective Options (Dubai Schools Al Khawaneej)

Design and Technology

This course introduces students to the technological side of the design process through hands-on, real-world projects. Students use tools such as CAD, 3D modelling and printing, basic electronics, and coding while working through the full design cycle from research and ideation to prototyping and testing. The course develops creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, preparing students for further study in technology, engineering, and design. Y

Leadership

Leadership helps Grade 9 students develop confidence, communication, and teamwork skills. Through reflection, discussion, and collaborative activities, students explore what it means to be a leader and how to positively contribute to their school community.

This course is mainly focused on communication and personal development, with a light emphasis on writing and discussion.

Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship introduces students to innovative thinking and basic business concepts. Students learn how ideas become solutions by identifying problems, working in teams, and developing simple business or project proposals.

This course is math and communication skills focused, with elements of problem-solving and planning.

Performing Arts/Drama

This course introduces students to the foundations of drama and theatre through practical performance, creativity, and collaboration. Students develop core skills in acting, voice, movement, and improvisation while exploring how meaning is



communicated on stage. They also engage in scripted and devised performance work, applying basic staging and production elements.

Throughout the course, students work both individually and in groups to build confidence, creativity, and communication skills. They reflect on their performances and develop an appreciation for theatre as an art form and a means of storytelling.

Creative Writing:

This course introduces students to creative writing as a form of expression, communication, and storytelling. Students explore multiple genres including short stories, poetry, descriptive writing, and narrative nonfiction, while developing their own voice, style, and creativity.

Instruction is aligned with the New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards, particularly in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. Students engage with mentor texts to analyze how writers develop ideas, structure narratives, and use literary techniques effectively.

Students apply these skills in their own writing through drafting, revising, and editing processes. Emphasis is placed on developing clear structure, purposeful language, and creative expression, while also strengthening critical thinking and communication skills.

By the end of the course, students will be able to produce original written work, respond thoughtfully to texts, and demonstrate growth in writing proficiency in line with NYS ELA expectations.

3D Art

This introductory course explores three-dimensional art through sculpture, ceramics, and mixed media. Students develop creative problem-solving skills while learning design principles and safe studio practices.

This course is primarily arts-focused, with hands-on creative and design work.

Photography

Students explore the fundamentals of digital photography with an emphasis on image analysis, editing, and visual storytelling. The course focuses on understanding composition, lighting, and how these elements shape meaning in existing photographs. Students will examine a range of genres, including portrait, landscape, and documentary photography, while developing their critical and creative perspectives.

This course is primarily arts-focused, with writing and analyzing elements

Grade 10 Courses

Integrated Math II

Integrated Math 10 builds upon prior mathematical knowledge, deepening students' understanding of algebra, functions, geometry, and data analysis. Students explore quadratic relationships, systems of equations, exponential functions, and geometric concepts such as similarity and trigonometry. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, logical reasoning, and the application of mathematics to real-world



contexts, including modeling and data interpretation. Students use multiple representations—graphs, tables, equations, and technology—to analyze problems and communicate solutions clearly. The course prepares students for advanced mathematics by strengthening perseverance, precision, and analytical thinking.

Chemistry

Chemistry introduces students to the composition, structure, and behavior of matter through both theoretical study and hands-on laboratory work. Students investigate atomic structure, periodic trends, chemical bonding, reactions, and the conservation of mass. Laboratory experiences emphasize safe practices, accurate measurement, and data analysis, allowing students to design experiments and interpret results. The course also explores real-world applications such as environmental chemistry, energy resources, and the role of chemistry in industry and daily life. Students develop scientific literacy, critical thinking skills, and an understanding of how chemistry connects to global challenges.

English 10

English 10 extends students' analytical reading and academic writing skills through engagement with increasingly complex literary and informational texts. Students analyze themes, structure, and rhetorical strategies across genres such as fiction, drama, poetry, and nonfiction. Writing instruction focuses on crafting well-developed arguments, integrating textual evidence, and refining organization, style, and voice. Students also participate in structured discussions, presentations, and collaborative activities that build confidence in speaking and listening. The course emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, and effective communication as preparation for advanced academic work.

World History (Medieval to Renaissance)

World History examines major global developments from the medieval period through the Renaissance, focusing on political systems, cultural achievements, economic networks, and social change. Students explore topics such as the rise of empires, the influence of religion, trade routes like the Silk Road, and the intellectual and artistic advancements of the Renaissance. Through the analysis of primary and secondary sources, students develop historical inquiry skills, evaluate multiple perspectives, and make connections between past and present. The course fosters a deeper understanding of how historical events and ideas continue to shape today's world.

Physical Education

Physical Education in Grade 10 continues to promote physical fitness, teamwork, and personal responsibility through a variety of individual and team-based activities. Students work to improve cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and coordination while developing sport-specific skills. The course emphasizes goal setting, leadership, and collaboration, as well as knowledge of fitness principles, nutrition, and injury prevention. Students are encouraged to reflect on their progress and take ownership of their physical and mental well-being, supporting a lifelong commitment to healthy living.



Arabic 10

Arabic 10 strengthens students' proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening through the study of more advanced texts and themes. Students engage with literature, media, and informational content to expand vocabulary, improve grammar, and enhance comprehension. The course emphasizes effective communication in both formal and informal contexts, encouraging students to express ideas clearly and thoughtfully. Cultural exploration remains a key component, helping students deepen their understanding of Arab heritage, identity, and contemporary issues.

Islamic Studies 10

Islamic Studies 10 deepens students' understanding of Islamic beliefs, values, and ethical principles, with a focus on their relevance in contemporary life. Students study selected verses from the Qur'an, Hadith, and examples from Islamic history to explore themes such as justice, compassion, responsibility, and community. The course encourages critical reflection and discussion, helping students apply Islamic teachings to real-life situations and modern challenges. Emphasis is placed on character development, ethical decision-making, and active, responsible citizenship.

Pathway to Success

Pathway to Success is designed to equip students with the academic, personal, and organizational skills needed for success in high school and beyond, with a particular focus on university preparation. Students develop effective study habits, time management strategies, and goal-setting techniques while learning how to manage workload and maintain balance. The course also introduces research skills, academic integrity, and foundational writing practices aligned with post-secondary expectations. Students explore career interests, university pathways, and future planning, including building portfolios and applications. Emphasis is placed on self-reflection, resilience, and developing the independence and confidence needed to thrive in higher education and future careers.

