

The AVID Elective Course

Grade: 9–12

(Students must have enrolled in the AVID program by no later than the second semester of the sophomore year.)

Pre-Requisite: Acceptance is by application-interview process

Prospective students must apply and be accepted to enroll in the AVID program at Legend High School. Students and parents must successfully complete all of the steps necessary to have the opportunity to be selected into the AVID program. For further information on the AVID program, please go to Legend High School's Moodle website (www.moodle.legendtitans.org) and select AVID and login as a guest. You can download the Legend AVID application and follow the necessary steps to apply.

AVID Mission: AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

Course Philosophy

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is offered as an elective course that prepares students for entrance into four-year colleges. There is an emphasis on analytical writing, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, study skills and test taking, note taking, and research.

Course Description/Structure

AVID meets four days per week (on an alternating block schedule). Students receive two hours of instruction per week in college entry skills, two hours per week in tutor-led study groups, and one hour per week in motivational activities and academic survival skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading to support their growth academically.

The AVID curriculum, which is based upon the following books in the AVID library—*College Path*, *The Student Success Path*, and the *Writing Curriculum*—lays the groundwork for the lessons taught in the AVID elective.

College Path prepares students for their future with lessons on test-taking skills. Preparation includes instruction in math and English language concepts frequently seen on college entrance tests, as well as practice on "mock" SAT and ACT exams. In the ninth, tenth and eleventh grades, students are encouraged to take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) or the PLAN (Preliminary American College Test). In the eleventh and twelfth grades, students take the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) and ACT (American College Test).

In *The Student Success Path*, AVID students learn skills such as time management, note taking, textbook reading, library research, and maintaining the AVID binder. Students are expected to maintain an organized binder, including an assignment calendar, class and textbook notes, assignments, and homework, which are graded regularly.

Through the *Writing Curriculum*, AVID stresses the importance of "writing as a tool for learning?" This strategy forms the basis of all assignments. Writing preparation revolves around the improvement of writing in all subject areas because writing clarifies thought. In AVID, students learn that writing is a process. Students are expected to use this process in all grade level writing assignments.

On tutorial days, students work with college tutors, many of whom are former AVID students and graduates of the schools in which they work.

Tutors assist students in small groups with academic questions that students bring to tutorial. Students are required to take notes during tutorial and use class and textbook notes to inform their discussions during tutorial. Tutors help students with the process of learning through inquiry, rather than giving students the answers to their questions. Students learn the value of working with others in tutorial.

In AVID, students also participate in motivational activities including college and career research, college and career outreach speakers, field trips to colleges and businesses and other educational opportunities in their communities, and service learning experiences. These activities provide students with the resources they need to learn about many positive opportunities available to them in the community that will impact their future.

Objectives of the Course

1. Students will take courses that meet four-year college entrance requirements.
2. Students will participate in tutorials for academic courses.
3. Students will learn and apply AVID skills including note taking, organization, time management, and goal setting.
4. Students will improve their oral communication skills through a variety of activities, including presentation and Socratic Seminar.
5. Students will participate in writing to learn activities, including note taking, learning logs, and essay writing.
6. Students will learn to evaluate their own and other's writing, using the rubrics and scoring guides modeled after UC and CSU requirements.
7. Students will prepare for college entrance examinations, including the SAT I and II and ACT.
8. Students will complete and present a Multi-Grade Level Portfolio of their work in AVID.