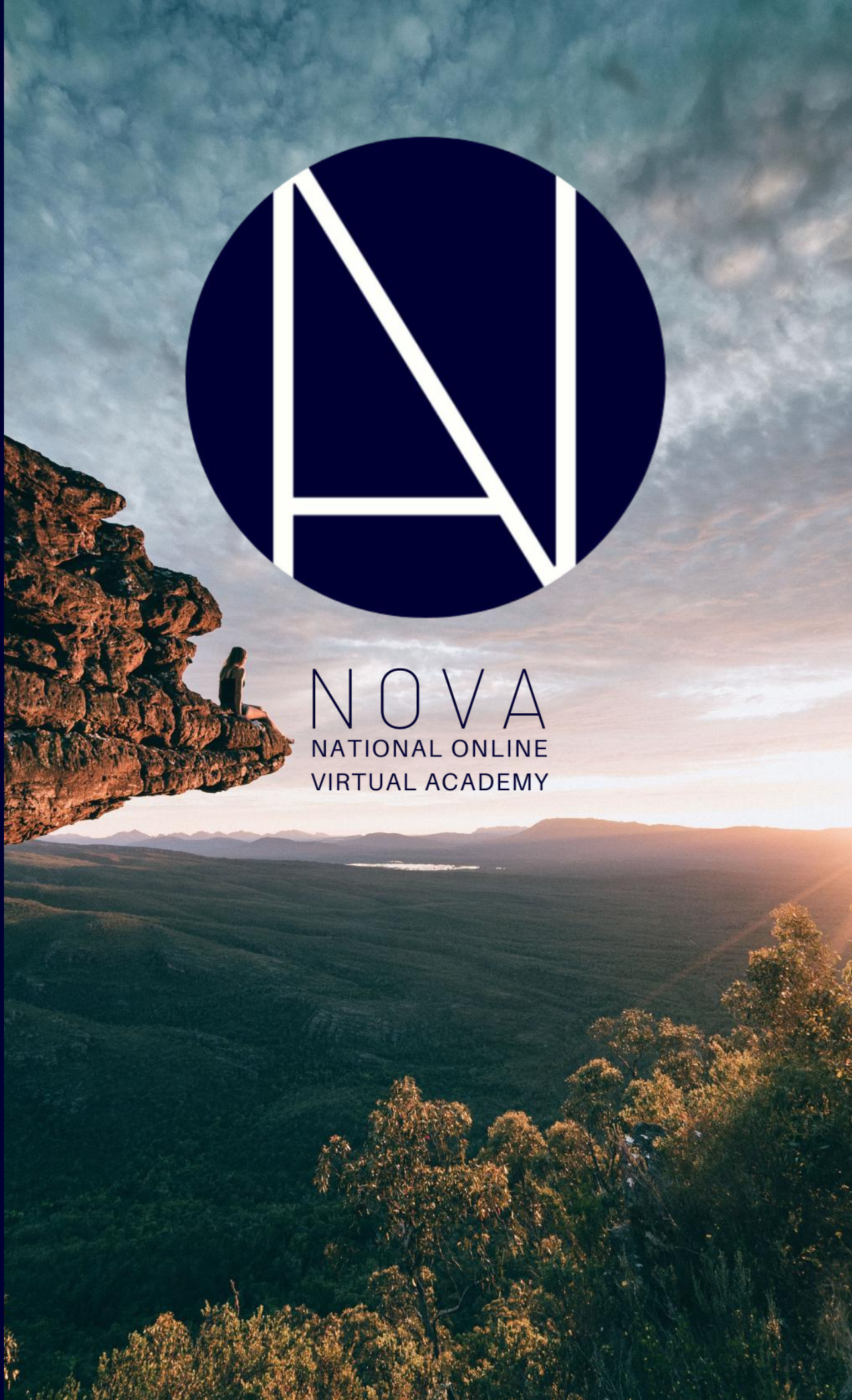
COURSE CATALOG

NOVA



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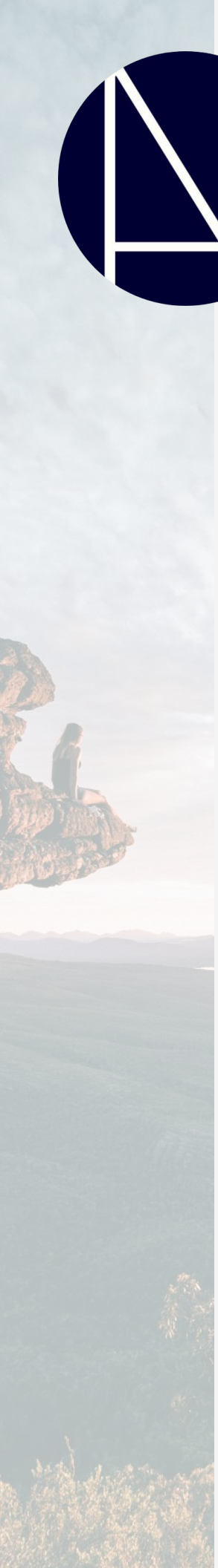

NOVA

Course Catalog

Mission Statement

NOVA is where Choice, Community, and Connectedness meet online learning. You belong here!

Vision Statement

NOVA leads the online teaching, learning and curriculum development industry by providing the highest quality online education to middle schoolers and creating a community of connectedness, support, and learning; where learners are seen, heard, valued, and known.

Overview

Welcome to the NOVA community! To help you see the course choices available to our students, we have assembled this course catalogue. All courses are authored by NOVA course developers, aligned to National Standards for Quality Online Courses, and have been put through a rigorous peer review process. In other words, this is a customized curriculum that is only found at NOVA. If you have further questions, feel free to email info@novalearn.net.

Learning Model

The NOVA learning model was developed by founder, Dr. Damian Jenkins, at the University of California Santa Barbara. The model provides students with an opportunity to develop a unique interest in their learning by providing opportunities for choosing what and how they learn. This is empirically shown to increase student engagement at the middle school level.

Trimesters

NOVA structures the academic school year with Spring, Summer, and Fall trimesters. An academic year is completed when a student completes 48 credits of coursework, and they choose to complete these credits across either two or three trimesters. Each trimester is 16 weeks (about 3 and a half months). Students who choose two trimesters complete their academic year in 32 weeks. Students who choose three trimesters complete their academic year in 48 weeks. There is a break between each trimester for students to prepare for the next set of courses.

Academic Trimesters- 16 Weeks

Student Course Schedule

Course content is presented in developmentally appropriate ways that are designed specifically for middle school students. In addition to the course content, we have also aligned the manner by which students are scheduled for courses. Courses are scheduled in ways that reduce stress, promote focused academic rigor, and support the specific developmental needs of middle school students. Here are the basic tenets of how courses are scheduled:

Course Length

Each course is designed to be completed in 16 weeks, which is also the length of one trimester. This means that one academic year of study might be completed in 32 weeks (two trimesters), as compared to the 37–40 weeks it takes a student who attends school on a traditional calendar. If a student needs more than 16 weeks to complete a course, the student and parent/guardian should work with the instructor of the course to establish a timeline for completion.

Three or Four Courses at a Time

Students are scheduled to take three or four courses at a time. This allows the students to complete each course in a focused manner and manage their learning in a balanced, thoughtful manner. In this way, they learn self-regulation, self-discipline and the rewards that come when learning is focused and not rushed. This is an example of the many ways NOVA prioritizes and integrates Social Emotional Learning (CASEL) strategies into the schooling experience.

Pathways

One hallmark of a NOVA education is that students are actively offered guided choices about their learning. The first level of decision-making is a choice of which "Pathway" of courses to take. Students select from the following Pathways: Exploratory Pathway, Music and Fine Arts Pathway, or World Languages Pathway.

This table shows the list of required courses and the list of Pathway choices. Students will choose a Pathway and select from the course offerings for their Pathway of choice.

Required Courses	Pathway Courses (student choice)
English Language Arts Math Science Social Studies Physical Education	**Music and Fine Arts Pathways** Art 1 Introduction to Fiction Film Appreciation Virtual Choir **Exploratory Pathway** Introduction to Public Speaking Digital Citizenship **World Languages Pathway** American Sign Language 1 French 1 Spanish 1

How do students move from one grade level to the next?

These are the requirements for matriculating from one grade level to the next, and for 8th grade promotion into high school. These requirements are aligned to California school practices. Please note that students are required to complete 48 credits of coursework per academic year, and that each completed course (earning a D or higher) is assigned 8 credits.

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
English Language Arts (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	English Language Arts (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	English Language Arts (8 credits/ 16 weeks)
Math (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	Math (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	Math (8 credits/ 16 weeks)
Science (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	Science (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	Science (8 credits/ 16 weeks)
Social Studies/ History (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	Social Studies/ History (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	Social Studies/ History (8 credits/ 16 weeks)
Physical Education (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	Physical Education (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	Physical Education (8 credits/ 16 weeks)
Pathway Choice (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	Pathway Choice (8 credits/ 16 weeks)	Pathway Choice (8 credits/ 16 weeks)
48 credits	48 credits	48 credits

Course List and Descriptions

American Sign Language 1

Students are introduced to the language and culture of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Focus is placed on basic conversational expressive (speaking) and receptive (listening) skills through vocabulary, sentence structure, and scenarios designed to strengthen everyday conversation skills. Students learn about Deaf culture and how it differs from and compares to mainstream culture. This study brings American Sign Language to life as it highlights roles, rights, norms, and obligations through cultures.

Art 1

This course is the first year of visual arts for middle school students. No previous art experience is necessary; just bring a bit of creative flare! Through our virtual classroom, we explore how cultures communicate experiences and values through artistic expression. We "travel" the world virtually, visiting moments in history, museums, and sacred places. Skills and techniques used in the creation of art are introduced and practiced. Students use these new art skills to make original art. Every work of art is unique, just like you!

Digital Citizenship 6

Students learn what it means to be a digital citizen. Part of being a digital citizen is understanding the concept of a digital footprint. Each student learns how a digital footprint is formed and how it affects their family, their community, and their future. Students also learn about internet privacy, security and protecting identity online. We investigate how to handle cyberbullying and avoid unnecessary drama online. Finally, students learn about media balance and how to ensure a balance between the digital world and everyday life.

Course List and Descriptions (cont.)

English Language Arts 6

The purpose of this course is to provide instruction and practice in grammar, reading, and writing related to English Language Arts. Students develop an appreciation of spoken and written language, expand their use of descriptive words and complex sentences, and hone the ways by which they choose modes of writing. Students use oral language, written language, media, and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes. Students use the stages of the writing process to write clear, coherent pieces of work that further develop their knowledge of grammatical rules and standards of the English language.

English Language Arts 7

English Language Arts 7 students focus on demonstrating understanding of a topic through reading and providing written or verbal responses to assess their comprehension and understanding. Students show mastery of knowledge through creating presentations and writing short-answer responses. Students work on grammar and literary analysis, and they develop formal responses (written or verbal) to critical thinking and creative questions. Literature includes short stories, nonfiction, fiction, and poetry. The course prepares students for English Language Arts 8.

English Language Arts 8

English Language Arts 8 focuses on the theme of challenge. Students explore challenges from multiple perspectives—personally, locally, and globally. Students focus on analysis of heroic archetypes, characters, and character traits, while also reading and evaluating elements of both fiction and nonfiction texts. This course targets student growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, analysis, and reflection. Reading strategies and critical thinking skills comprise the main elements of reading instruction. The approach to the course is interactive and reflective and focuses on personal, social, and historical experiences. Students demonstrate understanding of a topic through reading a novel and sharing experiences. Students show their mastery of knowledge through creating presentations, essays, and short-answer responses. Students work on developing their writing style through a range of modalities. These lessons and the skills developed through learning and applying them help students advance their reading, writing, and analytical skills, which prepares them for English Language Arts 9.

Course List and Descriptions (cont.)

Film Appreciation

This course introduces important concepts in the art of filmmaking. This 16-week course is divided into five units: Film as Art, Visual Elements of Film, Sound Elements of Film, Film History, and Film Production. In each unit, students learn concepts by watching films, talking about films, and reviewing films. Throughout the course, students work step-by-step, week-by-week on their own short film project which students share at a film festival at the end of the term.

French 1

This course gives a basic understanding of spoken and written French. Students that complete this course are able to have conversations about family, personal information such as name and age, professions, preferences, where things are located, invitations, technology, food, travel, and clothing. Students must have consistent internet access, speakers or headphones, microphone (or one that is built into the headset or computer), a italki.com account.

Introduction to Public Speaking

Students learn to effectively research, outline, write, revise, rehearse, and then present four distinct types of speeches. Students will be asked to deliver an Ice Breaker, Informative, Persuasive, and Argumentative speech. The knowledge gained, regarding the various principles involved in these distinct types of speech, helps each student gain a deeper understanding of how to successfully deliver a speech for many occasions. While working through this process, students will also work toward becoming effective listeners, helping evaluate the speeches of classmates in a kind, professional and helpful manner. In addition, we will discuss multiple techniques to help students become more adept at everything from how to engage your audience, to speaking with poise and confidence. During the final quarter of the course students are introduced to the topic of speech and debate, which creates a bridge for those students that would like to continue developing their skill set.

Course List and Descriptions (cont.)

Math 6

This course is for students who have passed Math 5 (elementary level math) and are ready for Math 6. After completing this course, students will be ready to progress to Math 7. Major topics of this course include:

- Ratios and Proportional Relationships
- The Number System
- Visualizing Numbers
- Expressions and Equations
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Math 7

This course is for students who have passed Math 6 and are ready for Math 7. After completing this course, students will be ready to progress to Math 8. Major topics include:

- Ratios and proportional relationships
- The number system and using rational numbers
- Expressions and Equations
- Probability and Statistics
- Geometry

Science 6

The purpose of this course is to promote scientific, creative, and critical thinking. The general topics are Earth, life, and physical science. Using the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), we utilize science disciplinary core ideas (the content), best practices (how scientists implement their work), and crosscutting concepts (how the different natural systems interact with each other, cause, and effect). This class is for students that can write, read, and create graphs and tables at their appropriate levels to display their understanding and gain deeper meaning. You will encounter reading, writing, critical thinking, and modeling through mathematics to explore science in this course. This is a traditional 6th grade science course designed for middle schoolers. Students wishing to prepare for chemistry, physics, and biology will benefit from this class as we explore and cultivate these core science subjects along the way.

Course List and Descriptions (cont.)

Science 7

The 8th grade science course encompasses the following areas 1) Cultivating what matter is and how matter is classified, atoms and chemical reactions as they pertain to matter, and the different forms of matter (solid, liquid, gas). 2) Examining differences between physical and chemical properties of matter allows the students to make predictions about the behavior of different substances. 3) Learning geological processes and forces of earth and space; students will aim high at the end of their middle school career by studying the motion of the Moon! 4) Evaluating the Laws of motion and applying them hones the skills and knowledge base students need to study physics in their future. 5) Life science examines vestigial structures and stages of development that lead to genes and proteins. 6) We study waves by looking at how they form and function.

Science 8

This is a traditional 7th grade science course designed for middle schoolers. The purpose of this course is to promote scientific, creative, and critical thinking. The general topics are Earth, life, and physical science. Using the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), we will be using science disciplinary core ideas (the content), best practices (how scientists implement their work), and crosscutting concepts (how the different natural systems interact with each other, cause, and effect). This class is for students who can write, read, and create graphs and tables at their appropriate levels to display their understanding and gain deeper meaning. Students learn reading, writing, critical thinking, and modeling through mathematics to explore science in this course. Students wishing to prepare for chemistry, physics, and biology will benefit from this class since we explore and cultivate these core science subjects along the way.

Social Studies 6

This course helps students learn about and explore ancient history. The first unit delves into skills used by historians to study the past. It also traces the development of early humans and will help you understand the Neolithic Revolution's importance. In the second unit, you'll study the effect of early civilizations of the Middle East and North Africa. The third unit explains the origin of different religions and the cultures associated with them. We will then dive into ancient and classical societies. Unit four explores the major civilizations in India and China. Unit five, we dive into early civilizations in the Mediterranean and the Aegean. The rise of the Persian Empire and the city-states of Ancient Greece. You study the spread of Greek civilization during and after the life of Alexander the Great. In the final unit six, you will learn about the legacy of ancient Greece and ancient Rome. We study Rome's transition from a republic to an empire.

Social Studies 7

This is a medieval European history course that spans from the fall of Rome to the Enlightenment. This course is project based and highly individualized to the interests of the student. For each topic of study, the student is presented with a series of essential questions. The task is to find the answers to the essential questions and to seek information about any additional questions that arise. The student is provided with several ways in which to find the answers to the essential questions. Students are provided with a range of resources for research and may use as many of them as they choose. Students may also seek out new sources of information to answer the questions. At the end of each topic, the student assembles a project to share what was learned.

Social Studies 8

This is a United States history course that spans from the colonization of the Americas in the 15th and 16th centuries to The Industrial Revolution at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. We will also dive deep into the development of the United States Constitution and relate how this living document has shaped the United States. This course is project-based and highly individualized. For each topic of study, you will be presented with a series of essential questions. Your task is to find the answers to those questions and any others that you may have. You will have several options available to find the answers to those questions. You are free to use as many of the resources that I provide as you would like. You are welcomed and encouraged to find your own sources of information as well. At the end of each topic, you will put together a project to share what you have learned.

Physical Education 6

Physical Education 6 is all about learning how to live a fun and healthy life. Students focus on health-related fitness and learn how to become more fit and healthy. Topics of study include exercise safety, making healthy choices, nutrition, the benefits, components, and principles of fitness, basic anatomy, physiology, and value of cooperation and teamwork. PE fits in with a lifestyle of healthy activity, eating and understanding how the human body works. This class is for every 6th grade student.

Virtual Choir

The NOVA Virtual Choir is a safe space for creativity, community and learning about vocal music. You will learn and refine healthy singing technique, sight reading skills, and music literacy. You will also practice values such as hard work, self-discipline, compassion, kindness, and a joy for lifelong learning using music as our vehicle. All students are welcome here! Since singing is a performance-based skill, it is important to practice a little bit every day. Just like an athlete stretches and works out every day to strengthen their muscles, we sing every day to practice and build up our technique! This course is designed to take you through daily singing activities. You may choose which days to complete assignments; but please remember the importance of singing daily to the development of our Vocal Development Video!

Pricing

NOVA has several tuition options for students. They include a single course, part-time, or full-time tuition. The following table is a breakdown of each pricing option and an example of what a schedule could look like for each enrollment type.

NOVA Enrollment Options	
Single Course Enrollment	$425
1 x 16-week Course Enrollment	
Taken over 1 term (16 weeks)	
Possible Schedule: 1 course in either the Spring, Summer or Fall term	
Possible Credits Earned: 8	

Part-time Tuition	$1250
3 x 16-week Course Enrollments	
Taken over 1 or 2 terms (16 or 32 weeks)	
Possible Schedule: 3 courses taken in either the Spring, Summer or Fall term	
Possible Schedule: 2 courses taken in a single term and 1 course taken in an adjacent term or vice versa	
Possible Credits Earned: 24	

Full-time Tuition	$2500
6 x 16-week Course Enrollments	
Taken over 2 or 3 terms (32 weeks or 48 weeks)	
Possible Schedule: 3 courses in either the Spring, Summer or Fall term and 3 in an adjacent term	
Possible Schedule: 2 courses in each the Spring, Summer and Fall term	
Possible Credits Earned: 48	

Technology

NOVA offers every student access to Microsoft Office creation tools.

Minimum Technology Requirements

NOVA requires a minimum requirement to set up students for success while completing course work and using creation tools.

Component Requirements

- Computer and processor
  - Windows OS: 1.6 GHz or faster, 2-core
  - macOS: Intel processor
- Memory
  - Windows OS: 4 GB RAM; 2 GB RAM (32-bit)
  - macOS: 4 GB RAM
- Hard disk
  - Windows OS: 4 GB of available disk space
  - macOS: 10 GB of available disk space; HFS+ hard disk format (also known as Mac OS Extended) or APFS Updates may require additional storage over time.
- Display
  - Windows OS: 1280 x 768 screen resolution (32-bit requires hardware acceleration for 4K and higher)
  - macOS: 1280 x 800 screen resolution.
  - Web apps require the same minimum resolution as the OS they are running on.
  - Apps running inside of Microsoft Teams adhere to the Teams minimum resolution.
  - Minimum resolution assumes zoom, DPI settings, and text scaling are set at 100%. If not set to 100%, minimum resolution should be scaled accordingly. For example, if you set the Windows display 'Scale and layout' setting on your Surface Book, which has a 3000x2000 physical display, to 200%, then Office would see a logical screen resolution of 1500x1000, meeting the minimum 1280x768 requirement.
- Graphics
  - Windows OS: Graphics hardware acceleration requires DirectX 9 or later, with WDDM 2.0 or higher for Windows 10 (or WDDM 1.3 or higher for Windows 10 Fall Creators Update).
  - macOS: No graphics requirements.

- Operating system
  - Windows OS: Windows 10, Windows 8.1, Windows Server 2019, Windows Server 2016
  - macOS: One of the three most recent versions of macOS. When a new major version of macOS is released, the macOS and the previous two versions.
- Browser
  - Chrome 93 and 94
  - Firefox 91 and 92 (Extended Releases are not supported*)
  - Edge 92 and 93
  - Safari 14 and 15 (Macintosh only)

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