



Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Illinois Virtual High School

(in 2000 words or less)

<http://www.ivhs.org>

1. What is the IVHS?

The Illinois Virtual High School or IVHS is an Internet educational service delivering a wide range of quality high school class content online to Illinois students, and is administered by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). For FY04 – FY06, ISBE has awarded a grant to The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA), a founding partner of the IVHS, for the complete funding of the administration, marketing, assessment, instructors, and evaluation efforts of the IVHS. Full time staff for IVHS includes employees of IMSA and University High School at Illinois State University. Visit us at <http://www.ivhs.org>!

2. What is the mission of the IVHS as it grows?

The mission of the Illinois Virtual High School is to use new and emerging technologies that expand the boundaries of space and time to provide Illinois students and their teachers with increased equity and access to the highest quality educational opportunities.

3. As a student, why would I want to enroll?

The IVHS could provide classes that may not be available at your school. Because our classes are available any time, you may be able to take a class that may not normally fit into your schedule. The IVHS offers the opportunity to take or retake classes required for graduation; as well as the opportunity for extremely rigorous advanced coursework that, in some cases, may result in college credit. IVHS offers the ability to work at a more flexible and individualized pace. If you are currently home-schooled, the IVHS can provide you with teacher-taught classes through the Internet connection at your home.

4. Who can enroll?

Any Illinois high school student in public, nonpublic or home school can participate with approval from a local participating school IVHS Building Administrator. Currently, the IVHS is not able to serve students outside of Illinois.

5. How do I enroll in a class?

Ideally, your local public school should be registered as an IVHS participating school. A list of participating schools may be found on our website under "Getting Started" for students. If your school is participating, you may submit a request to register by clicking the "Registration" link. Your school is notified of the pending registration and will either approve or deny the request, possibly after consultation with you. How many and which IVHS classes you may be approved to take is a local school decision.

6. What if my local school is not participating?

Contact your local public school's guidance office and encourage them to become a participating school and to visit the "Getting Started" link on our website for schools. If they have any questions, they may contact the IVHS staff listed on our website.

7. What is the local school's role?

The local school approves or denies student registrations. They will be the entity billed for IVHS classes, as well as the entity who will determine if and when credit is granted. If a student is completing an IVHS class at school, the local school may be asked to provide technical support. In addition, the local school will assure that a mentor is assigned to the student during the time of their enrollment in an IVHS class. For more information, visit the "Getting Started" link on our website for schools and review the IVHS Participating School Handbook.

8. Does IVHS grant high school diplomas or GEDs?

No, the IVHS does not grant high school diplomas or GEDs. Credit toward high school graduation is given by the high school student's regular local education entity. Arrangements should be made prior to enrollment to assure that credit will be granted upon successful completion, if that is desired. IVHS reports two percentages to the local school and an IVHS letter grade: a percentage of work in the class that has been completed and a quality percentage for the completed work. The local school may interpret this information to assign a letter grade based on their grading scale or weighting.

9. What classes are offered and how did IVHS find them?

Classes available for the 2005-2006 school year are listed on the reverse side of this page. IVHS classes come from a variety of reputable sources. Some classes are licensed from accredited private content providers. For example, many of our Advanced Placement classes are provided by Apex Learning, an online content provider who is in direct partnership with the College Board (the entity who administers the Advanced Placement tests). Some classes are obtained from other virtual high schools such as Florida or Kentucky. Others are developed by Illinois entities such as the University of Illinois, Central Illinois Distance Education Network, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, and our IVHS instructors. All IVHS classes are designed to meet the Illinois Learning Standards and have the same, or more, rigor than traditional face-to-face classes.

10. When can I take classes and is there a cost?

The current academic calendar is posted on the Welcome page of our web site. There is a cost per class per semester that is billed to the local school. The decision whether or not to pass the class cost on to the student is partially based on the Illinois School Code and partially a local decision made at the school. Suggested guidelines for local policies involving costs can be found on our website under "Getting Started" for schools by accessing the IVHS Information Packet. IVHS semester fee is \$195/class; summer fee: \$150. There are no additional costs beyond the enrollment fee. Any materials and textbooks are either provided or loaned to the student.

11. Are there scholarships?

Currently, scholarships are available to schools and/or students who meet certain lower-income criteria. See the "Scholarship Policy" link on our website Welcome page.

12. Are there teachers?

IVHS classes are teacher-taught using online tools. IVHS solicits award-winning teachers with an interest in online instruction to work with IVHS. IVHS teachers hold Illinois state teacher certification and most teach for face-to-face schools as well as IVHS. We have over 90 teachers participating in an exciting and ground-breaking project like the IVHS and waiting to meet you online!

13. What is being in an online class like?

Being in an online class is like being in a face-to-face class because you do assignments, quizzes, tests, projects and discussions. Communication occurs using online tools such as email, chats (within the class only) and discussion boards as well as the telephone. It is different than a face-to-face class in that you don't physically SEE your teacher or the other students, and you and your teacher may not always be online working at exactly the same time. To see a demonstration of the tools, visit the "Demo Course" link for students on our website at www.ivhs.org.

The following are the tentative offerings for the 2005-2006 Academic Year. If there is insufficient demand (less than 4 enrollments) for a specific course, the course may not be offered. A course listed as 1/2 Carnegie unit is intended as a 1-semester course and a course listed as 1 Carnegie unit is intended as a full year course.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

AP Macroeconomics, ½
AP Microeconomics, ½
Business Communication, ½
Business and Personal Protocol, ½
Consumer Education, ½
International Business, ½
Macroeconomics, ½
Personal Economics and Finance, ½

CAREER PLANNING

Career Planning: Exploration and Decision Making, ½

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Assembly Language Programming, ½
CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) Preparation, ½
Introduction to HTML (formally Web Page Design), ½
Introduction to Web Design, ½
Networking Basics, ½

FINE ARTS

Art History – Earliest Beginning to Classical Art, ½
Art History – From the Renaissance to Twentieth Century Art, ½
Introduction to Theatre, ½

HEALTH

Health Science 1A and 1B, ½ each
Personal and Interpersonal Development, ½

LANGUAGE ARTS

American Literature IA and IB, ½ each
AP English Language and Composition, 1
AP English Literature and Composition, 1
Beginning Composition, ½
Creative Writing, ½
English IA and IB, ½ each
English IIA and IIB, ½ each
World Literature 1A, ½

MATHEMATICS

Algebra IA and IB, ½ each
Algebra IIA and IIB, ½ each
AP Calculus AB, 1
AP Statistics, 1
Calculus and Analytical Geometry I, 1
Calculus and Analytical Geometry II, 1
Geometry A and B, ½ each
Precalculus 1A: Analytic Geometry and Algebra, ½
Precalculus 1B: Trigonometry, ½

SCIENCE

AP Biology, 1
AP Chemistry, 1
AP Environmental Science, ½
AP Physics B, 1
AP Physics C (Calculus Based Physics), 1
Astronomy, ½
Biology IA and IB, ½ each
Biotechnology, 1
Chemistry IA and IB, ½ each
Earth Science A (limited availability in Fall) and B (Spring only), ½ each
Geology, ½
Oceanography, ½
Physics IA and IB, ½ each

SOCIAL STUDIES

American Government: Inside Washington, ½ each
American History IA and IB, ½ each
Anthropology, ½
AP European History, 1
AP Human Geography, 1
AP Macroeconomics, ½
AP Microeconomics, ½
AP Psychology, ½
AP U.S. Government and Politics, ½
AP U.S. History, 1
Civics in Cyberspace, ½
Consumer Education, ½
Macroeconomics, ½
Psychology, ½
World History A, ½
World History B, ½

STUDY SKILLS AND REVIEWS

Study Skills: Learning Fundamentals, ½

WORLD LANGUAGES

AP French Language, 1
AP Spanish Language, 1
French IA and IB, ½ each
French IIA and IIB, ½ each
German IA and IB, ½ each
German IIA and IIB, ½ each
Latin IA and IB, ½ each
Latin IIA and IIB, ½ each
Spanish IA and IB, ½ each
Spanish IIA and IIB, ½ each
Spanish IIIA and IIIB, ½ each
Spanish IVA and IVB, ½ each