

# AN ADVANCED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR HIGHLY AMBITIOUS STUDENTS

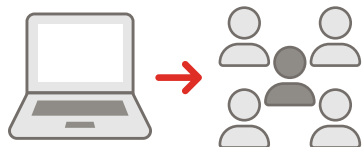
**MINERVA**<sup>®</sup>  
BACCALAUREATE

## Introduction

Building upon the best in contemporary high school curricula, the Minerva Baccalaureate (MBacc) is a transformative three- or four-year college preparatory program that teaches students essential skills, across disciplines.

The program blends structured, personalized learning and engaging instructor-led classes with cohorts of peers. The MBacc offers the advantages of both individualized and fully active learning methodologies.

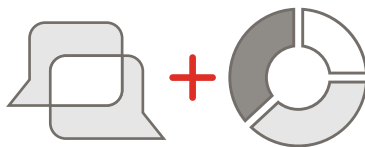
Students learn in an accelerated format—including an option for one full year of college-level courses—that interweaves core subjects for deeper understanding, capability, and growth. The program offers a number of benefits over the Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and A-Level models.



### Blended Learning

Students learn through a blend of guided self-study and virtual active learning class sessions with peers. Coursework is supported by a robust set of structured online resources like readings and video.

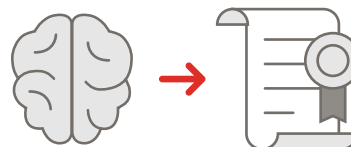
The flexible model is designed to enable program continuity no matter where students or teachers join class from.



### Engaging Classes

The curriculum utilizes personalized learning for information acquisition, while time in class is devoted to fully active learning in groups. Each week includes only two, fifty-minute class sessions per course.

This structure emphasizes dynamic discussion and explorations, among classmates and teachers, as well as individualized study of the course content.



### Improved Outcomes

The advanced learning environment and proven instructional practices integrate coursework with ongoing measurement across a specific set of learning outcomes.

By tracking student participation, performance, and progress on a detailed level, and over time, the MBacc offers greater insight into each student's intellectual development.



## A New Approach to High School

### Fully Active Learning

Decades of educational research prove that active learning is better than lectures. Minerva Baccalaureate classes never include lectures. Instead, they follow a small seminar format, with 20 students maximum, because small classes provide more opportunities for active learning than larger ones. The MBacc also incorporates peer instruction, which has been shown to be a highly effective way for students to gain deep understanding, beyond mere memorization. Because classes are guided—not controlled—by teachers, students are able to work with their peers in small groups.

All MBacc teachers are required to complete an intensive two-week training course to prepare them for this unique form of highly engaging instruction.

### Blended, Interdisciplinary Courses

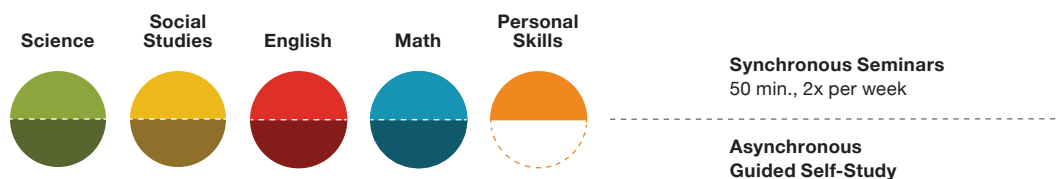
The Minerva Baccalaureate emphasizes interconnected ideas that span disciplines. By interweaving related concepts throughout the curriculum, MBacc courses foster a more coherent view of related fields—like the physical sciences—as well as an ability to apply these ideas to new contexts. These interconnections are a complement to students' focused learning within four core subject tracks: science, social studies, English, and math. Student progress is monitored closely and assessed regularly. Through this frequent feedback, students are better able to improve their grasp of key concepts and transfer that knowledge to new situations.

While the entire curriculum is aligned with applicable national U.S. standards, each subject builds upon these basic requirements. For example, the mathematics curriculum is appropriate for the vast majority of students and extends into modern areas such as algorithmic thinking, computer and data science. A unique fifth subject track, Personal Skills, addresses critical maturational abilities rarely addressed in high school. The optional fourth year Cornerstone courses offer extraordinary, university-level learning with transferable college credit.

### Five Core Subjects Integrated with Standard High School Courses

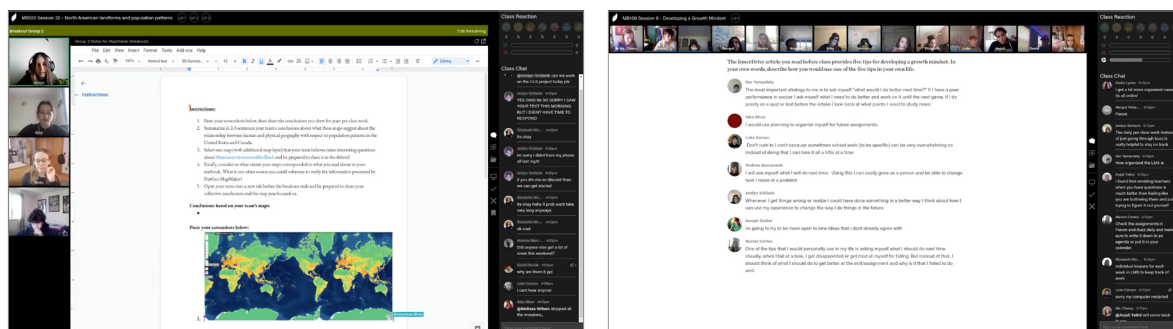
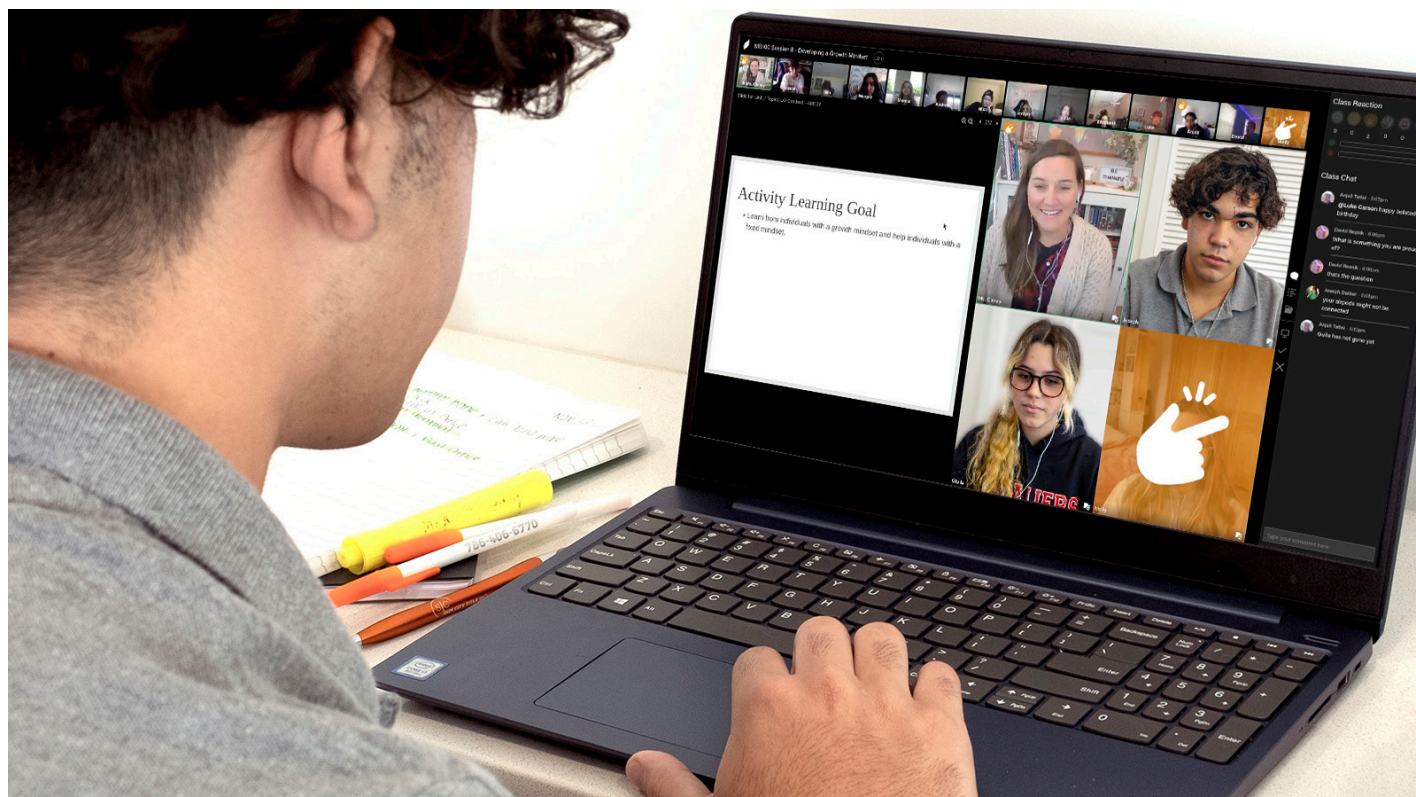
#### Minerva Baccalaureate Core Curriculum

Focus on Interdisciplinary Concepts & Skills  
(analyzing, creating, collaborating, communicating)



#### Standard High School Curriculum

Focus on Disciplinary Knowledge  
(reading, writing, studying)



Forum offers numerous capabilities in a highly engaging virtual setting. From in-class discussion (above), breakouts (far left), collaborative documents (left), and polls to teacher feedback and assessments, Forum is purpose-built for online and hybrid learning.

## Immersive Learning Environment

Every course incorporates synchronous, virtual class sessions held on Forum™, Minerva's advanced learning platform. Designed specifically to support fully active learning, interdisciplinary curricula, and outcomes-based assessments, Forum is an improvement on general-purpose video conferencing platforms.

With a range of dashboards and engagement tools, Forum empowers instructors with capabilities that improve their efficiency and effectiveness in class and beyond. Features like TalkTime™ provide immediate visibility into in-class activity, while tagged video and assessment tools give teachers and students unprecedented access to monitor performance on specific learning outcomes.

## Curriculum Summary










### Fully Integrated with Existing Curricula

The first three years of the Minerva Baccalaureate are designed to fully integrate with existing high school subjects, complementing and enhancing standards-based U.S. curricula. The optional fourth year is devoted to college-level coursework, which focuses on four key competency clusters, and includes a final Cornerstone Project.



















Class sessions in each course are 50-minutes long and meet twice per week, with the remainder of time available for guided self-study, electives, and other required high school courses. This blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning makes more efficient use of class time and provides ample opportunity for other educational and personal pursuits.

Graduates of the program will receive a fully accredited high school diploma, as well as the Minerva Baccalaureate diploma. Those participating in the fourth year will also receive 32 units of college credit.

### Three Years with an Optional Fourth

SUBJECTS	YEAR 1 COURSES	YEAR 2 COURSES	YEAR 3 COURSES
 Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
 Social Studies	World Cultures	World History	Government
 English	Literature & Composition I	Literature & Composition II	Literature & Composition III
 Math	Quantitative Thinking I	Quantitative Thinking II	Applied Math & Algorithms
 Personal Skills	Cognition, Learning, and Social Development	Autonomy & Teamwork	Social Impact
OPTIONAL YEAR 4	COMPETENCY FOCUS	FINAL CAPSTONE PROJECT	
 Empirical Analyses	Scientific methods, research, problem definition, hypothesis development and testing, and informed conjecture	Students unify their learning across courses to envision, plan, and produce an integrated solution to a challenge of their choosing.	
 Complex Systems	Systems thinking and dynamics, causal relationships, interpersonal interactions, negotiation, leadership, and formal debate		
 Multimodal Communications	Communication theory and practice, conveying information, eliciting emotion, visual and nonverbal communication, persuasion, and public speaking		
 Formal Analyses	Advanced logic, rational thought, statistical analysis, computational and algorithmic thinking, and formal systems		

### Sample Daily Schedule

PERIOD	MONDAY & WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY & THURSDAY	FRIDAY
01	 Science (self-study)	 English (self-study)	 Science (self-study)
02	 Science (seminar)	 English (seminar)	 Social Studies (self-study)
03	 Social Studies (self-study)	 Math (self-study)	 English (self-study)
04	 Social Studies (seminar)	 Math (seminar)	 Math (self-study)
05	 Personal Skills (seminar)	 [Unscheduled]	 [Unscheduled]
06	 Other Standard Course (e.g., Spanish/Mandarin)	 Other Standard Course (e.g., Fine Art)	 Other Standard Course (e.g., Performing Arts)



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