

## **NOCCA Academic Studio**

The Academic Studio is NOCCA's full-day, diploma-granting, college-prep high school program. Students are only admitted at the 9th grade level and after a successful arts audition. The Academic Studio's curriculum takes a comprehensive approach to learning, working across the full spectrum of the Humanities and Sciences, seeking to develop young artists "with something to say." We believe that a firm academic grounding prepares students for college and post-secondary success, while also furthering their development as artists and intellectuals through a detailed understanding of their historical and scientific contexts.

The instructional model is inspired by the best of arts instruction and emphasizes collaboration, project-based learning, interdisciplinary inquiry, creativity and mentorship by intellectuals who are experts in their fields. In our state-approved curriculum, students take one Integrated Sciences and one Integrated Humanities course each year, in addition to classes in languages, Health and PE, allowing them to graduate with a TOPS University Diploma. Academic Studio students are required to take and pass all of the same End-of-Course exams required of all public high school students in Louisiana, and they do so at the highest levels, with the Academic Studio regularly ranked among the top open-enrollment academic programs in Louisiana.

### **Humanities**

Through the study of the Integrated Humanities at NOCCA's Academic Studio, students explore what it means to be human through critical, collaborative, and interdisciplinary inquiry. Within this supportive environment, students develop independent voices to grow as artist-intellectuals who creatively engage the complexity and interconnectedness of human existence.

NOCCA's Integrated Humanities curriculum consists of four interdisciplinary year-long courses that are chronologically-framed: 9th Grade Integrated Humanities 1 (from the Big Bang to 1300 CE); 10th Grade Integrated Humanities 2 (1300-1700 CE); 11th Grade Integrated Humanities 3 (1700-1900 CE); and 12th Grade Integrated Humanities 4 (1900-Present). Across this chronology, students explore case studies that incorporate literature, arts, primary and secondary historical documents, and socio-political theory, allowing students to critically and comparatively engage what it has meant to be human across time and space.

## Sciences

Integrated Sciences provides a comprehensive education in sciences and mathematics through interdisciplinary, project-based learning that emphasizes creativity, observation, and critical thinking. Courses integrate topics including algebra, geometry, calculus, trigonometry, statistics, physics, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, computer programming, and engineering. Instruction focuses on the observation-based reasoning provided by math and science, emphasizing the importance of creativity in logical thinking. Students precisely collect, analyze, and communicate real-world data using technology as professional tools. NOCCA faculty are specialists in their field and bring real life experiences to everyday learning. Integrated Sciences' goal is to foster scientific literacy and mathematical competence among creative artistic-intellectuals, preparing them for success in any field.

NOCCA's Integrated Sciences curriculum consists of four interdisciplinary year-long courses: 9th grade Integrated Sciences I (Physics & Algebra I Focus), 10th Integrated Sciences II (Biology & Geometry Focus), 11th Integrated Sciences III (Environmental Science & Algebra II Focus), and 12th Integrated Sciences IV (Bioengineering and Calculus Focus). While each course has a main focus, topics are not compartmentalized but instead spiraled throughout all four years. Furthermore, topics emphasize historical context and connection to humanities and arts, preparing students for college and post-secondary success.

## Faculty

[Link to Current Academic Studio Faculty](#)