Upper School Planning Path

This guide provides a snapshot into what a typical Upper school student might study throughout their time at AIM. Using the 4 Threads to the Future curricular framework, a student can choose to pursue their passion in a specific thread, or explore a range of options in multiple threads.

Building Blocks

All of the 4 Threads are built on a strong Liberal Arts curricular foundation. Students explore courses in all subjects, providing core competencies in each, while infusing 21st Century Skills into their courses along the way.

English
4 years of practice in reading and writing of all genres.

Math
3 or 4 years of Math through the Calculus level.

Science
3 or 4 years of laboratory Sciences.

Language
2 or 3 years of Latin or another Foreign Language.

History
3 or 4 years of expository thinking, reading, and writing.

Communication proficiency as an analytical and expository writer, and public speaker.

Creative approach to problems that emphasizes generative thinking.

Ability to work with others in a collaborative and constructive manner.

Proficiency as a flexible problem solver, and positive critical thinker.

An example scope of core courses taken throughout your Upper School experience:

Year 1
- English: Foundations of Literature
- Math: Algebra I
- Science: Biology
- Language: Linguistics
- History: Ancient Civilizations

Year 2
- English: Self-Realization in Literature
- Math: Geometry
- Science: Chemistry
- Language: Latin I
- History: Global Cultures

Year 3
- English: American Literature
- Math: Algebra II
- Science: Physics
- Language: Latin II
- History: Modern American History

Year 4
- English: Senior Seminar Literature
- Math: Precalculus or Statistics
- Science: Senior Seminar Global Science
- History: Senior Seminar History

Core courses also offered at the Honors level.

Sample Honors Courses

- History: Art History
- English: Shakespeare
- Entrepreneurship: Intro to Marketing
- Science: Physics
- English: 21st Century American Lit

Intro to Psychology
Intro to Philosophy
Intro to Sociology

Intro to Core Arts Skills

Intro to Entrepreneurship
Upper School Planning Path -
Arts + Design

Use this guide to ensure you have the strongest curriculum possible as you venture toward something in the A+D thread. If you are looking into the A+D field, you’ll notice a strong emphasis placed on Creativity and Expression, but also English, Writing, and core 21st Century Skills.

Using your Liberal Arts foundation, add some of these elective and blended courses to complete your curriculum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elective I</td>
<td>Arts + Design I</td>
<td>Elective II</td>
<td>Arts + Design II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blended I</td>
<td>Intro to the 4 Threads</td>
<td>Blended II</td>
<td>Intro to Art History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective III</td>
<td>Figure Drawing</td>
<td>Elective IV</td>
<td>3D Sculpture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective V</td>
<td>Independent Study: Charcoal &amp; Clay</td>
<td>Elective VI</td>
<td>Portfolio Building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pursue these extras to ensure you have the strongest possible college application and track toward success:

**Strengthening Your Time In The Upper School**

**Experiences**
Consistent experience in artistic environments outside of AIM at a range of places: Arts Schools, Community Art Centers, Maker Spaces, etc.

**Testing**
Many art schools are test-optional, but some of the most prestigious require strong test scores.

**Summer**
Participation summer programs, with the goal of building a volume of work and reading quality writings.

**Leadership**
Use your 100 required hours to explore places such as the Handworks studio, and NextFab Philly. Dedicate your time to working with others and being a leader in your activities.

**Capstone**
Using your Senior Seminar research to study an A+D area more closely. This may be something related to your desired future track, or something that provides you with a breath of background knowledge.

**Portfolio**
Begin this volume of work as early as possible, but schools really look at work from Junior year and after.

---

**Student Snapshot - Kendall ‘17**

**Kendall’s Thread Path**

**Featured Coursework**
American Literature
Science & History of Stained Glass
Honors English

**Experiences**
Philadelphia Symmetry Synchronized Ice Skating Team; Service through Jack & Jill; AIM Student Ambassador; Arts Designer Jack & Jill

**Leadership**
Ice Skating Gold Medalist, Varsity Sport Captain, Leadership Camp Neidig, Girls on The Run Junior Coach

**Core Summer Reading**
To Kill A Mockingbird (Lee), Between The World and Me (Coates), Enrique’s Journey (Nazario)

**Top 5 College Options**
Syracuse University
Drexel University
University of Pennsylvania
Howard University
Marist College

**Senior Capstone**
Eastern European Studies
Research: Repression & Freedom of Architecture in Eastern Europe

**Elective Courses**
Arts + Design Studio
Fashion Design
Portfolio
Figure Drawing
Upper School Planning Path - Global Competency + Social Sustainability

Use this guide to ensure you have the strongest curriculum possible as you venture toward something in the G+S thread. If you are looking into the G+S field, you’ll notice a strong emphasis placed on cultural awareness and empathy, as well as English, Writing, and core 21st Century Skills.

Using your Liberal Arts foundation, add some of these elective and blended courses to complete your curriculum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elective I</td>
<td>Privilege in American Thought</td>
<td>Elective II</td>
<td>History &amp; Science of Stained Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blended I</td>
<td>Intro to the 4 Threads</td>
<td>Blended II</td>
<td>Government &amp; Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective III</td>
<td>Global Youth United</td>
<td>Elective IV</td>
<td>Intro to Art History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective V</td>
<td>Dual Enrollment: Social Media Communication</td>
<td>Elective VI</td>
<td>Intro to Philosophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pursue these extras to ensure you have the strongest possible college application and track toward success:

**Strengthening Your Time In The Upper School**

**Experiences**
Involvement in Student Council, and additional clubs both in and outside of school. Involvement in Eye-to-Eye, as a student ambassador, or one’s faith community.

**Testing**
The Practice ACT, and official ACT tests with strong scores in English. Many G+S focused students should also look at SAT II subject tests depending on college requirements.

**Summer**
Participation in at least one summer program at a college that explores a related field of interest. Additional summer service and travel experiences are strongly encouraged, and readings are a must.

**Leadership**
Using your 100 required hours to explore options in the G+S fields. Participation as a founding member or leader of an in-school club, or sport.

**Capstone**
Using your Senior Seminar research to study an G+S area more closely. This may be something related to your desired future track, or something that provides you with a breadth of background knowledge.

---

**Student Snapshot - Sam ’17**

**Sam’s Thread Path**

**Featured Coursework**
- Honors British Literature
- Eastern European Studies
- Rhetoric & Oration

**Experiences**
- Global Finance Summit in Argentina and Mexico City
- Service in Belize, and Dominican Republic
- Cultural Immersion in Eastern Europe

**Leadership**
- Student Council President, Founder of Eye-to-Eye Chapter, Varsity Sport Captain

**Core Summer Reading**
- Enrique’s Journey (Nazario), I Am Malala (Yousafzai), Between The World and Me (Coates)

**Top 5 College Options**

**Senior Seminar**
- Eastern European Studies
- Capstone: German Culture As Seen From The Brauhaus

**Elective Courses**
- Submersible Robotics
- Intro to Philosophy
- Media Communication
Upper School Planning Path - Innovation + Entrepreneurship

Use this guide to ensure you have the strongest curriculum possible as you venture toward something in the I+E thread. If you are looking into the I+E field, you’ll notice emphasis placed on problem solving, strong Math and Writing skills, as well as the core 21st Century Skills.

Using your Liberal Arts foundation, add some of these elective and blended courses to complete your curriculum:

**Year 1**
- Elective I
- Start-Up Corps I
- Blended I
- Intro to the 4 Threads

**Year 2**
- Elective II
- Start-Up Corps II
- Blended II
- Intro to Statistics

**Year 3**
- Elective III
- Social Media Marketing
- Elective IV
- Business Ethics

**Year 4**
- Elective V
- Independent Study: Venture Funding
- Elective VI
- Dual Enrollment: intro to Sociology

Pursue these extras to ensure you have the strongest possible college application and track toward success:

**Experiences**
- Involvement in AIM’s Start-Up Corps program with pursuit of pitch competition opportunities and work with ventures at through Start-Up mentors or other partners.

**Testing**
- The Practice ACT, and official ACT tests with strong scores in English, and Math.

**Summer**
- Participation in at least one summer program (preferably multiple) that provides opportunities to explore collaboration and innovation with others.

**Leadership**
- Using your 100 required hours to explore options in the I+E fields. Start a venture that pushes you to think critically about markets, production, finance, management, inventory, and collaboration.

**Capstone**
- Using your Senior Seminar research to study an G+S area more closely. This may be something related to your desired future track, or something that provides you with a breadth of background knowledge.

**Student Snapshot - Andrew ’17**

**Andrew's Thread Path**

**Featured Coursework**
- Dystopian Literature
- Calculus
- Eastern European History

**Experiences**
- Philadelphia Pitch Competition ; Solebury TEDx Talk Presenter ; IDA Conference Speaker ; UPenn Duckworth Lab Speaker Service in Belize

**Leadership**
- A Millennial World book author, President Israel Club, Varsity Sport Captain and Manager, Founder of Opportunity Rise

**Core Summer Reading**
- Jab, Jab, Jab, Right Hook (Vaynerchuk), Shoe Dog (Knight), Originals (Grant)

**Top 5 College Options**
- Temple University
- Babson College
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Southern California

**Senior Seminar**
- Eastern European Studies
- Capstone: Cold War Marketing of the Eastern and Western Bloc

**Elective Courses**
- Start-Up Corps
- Intro to Marketing
- Media
- Communication
Use this guide to ensure you have the strongest curriculum possible as you venture toward something in the S+E thread. If you are looking into the S+E field, you’ll notice emphasis placed on numeracy skills, critical problem solving, and core 21st century skills in communication, writing, and speaking.

Using your Liberal Arts foundation, add some of these elective and blended courses to complete your curriculum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elective I</td>
<td>Engineering &amp; Robotics I</td>
<td>Elective II</td>
<td>Engineering &amp; Robotics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blended I</td>
<td>Intro to the 4 Threads</td>
<td>Blended II</td>
<td>Government &amp; Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective III</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Elective IV</td>
<td>Intro to Arduino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective V</td>
<td>Independent Study: Human Centered Design</td>
<td>Elective VI</td>
<td>Intro to Circuits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pursue these extras to ensure you have the strongest possible college application and track toward success:

**Strengthening Your Experience**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experiences</th>
<th>Testing</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Leadership</th>
<th>Capstone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Involvement on AIM’s FIRST Robotics team, and engaging in our Robotics lab. Working in our outdoor classroom and involvement in any sort of extra science research available.</td>
<td>The Practice ACT, and official ACT tests with strong scores in English, and Math.</td>
<td>Participation in at least one summer program at a school with Science options. Can include: Penn, Stevens, TCNJ, Lehigh, McDaniel, or other local opportunities.</td>
<td>Using your 100 required hours to explore options in the I+E fields. Work with AIM’s FTC robotics team to mentor younger aspiring engineers to be engaged, critical problem solvers in the lab.</td>
<td>Using your Senior Seminar research to study an G+S area more closely. This may be something related to your desired future track, or something that provides you with a breath of background knowledge.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Snapshot - Tim ’17**

**Tim's Thread Path**

**Featured Coursework**
- Calculus
- Lab Sciences in Biology, Chemistry, & Physics
- Intro to Philosophy

**Experiences**
- FIRST Robotics Participant
- Vulcan Spring Internship
- Philly Boy Scout Encampment
- FTC Robotics Mentor
- AIM Varsity Soccer

**Leadership**
- Eagle Scout, FRC Team Captain
- Whitpain Rec Soccer Referee
- Lake Naomi Camp Counselor

**Core Summer Reading**
- Between The World and Me (Coates)
- Popular Science (Various)
- FTC Rules Handbook (FRC)

**Senior Seminar**
- Eastern European Studies Capstone: The Impact of Geography on Eastern European Cuisine

**Elective Courses**
- Robotics & Engineering
- Computer Graphics
- Submersible Robotics

**Top 5 College Options**
- Stevens
- Rensselaer
- WPI
- TCNJ