

## **INCOMING FRESHMEN: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS -- ACADEMICS**

### **What courses do freshmen at Molloy take?**

All freshmen take Religion; English 9 or English 9 Honors; a Social Studies course (Global History, Global History Honors or Pre-AP World History); a Math course (Algebra, Algebra Honors or Geometry Honors); a Science course (Biology, Biology Honors or Advanced Life Sciences Honors); a World Language (Spanish, French or Italian, with the possibility of Mandarin or Latin in 2019-20 depending on student interest); Physical Education; a half-year of Computer Applications, and a half-year Music course (Music Appreciation, Chorus, or Music Theory).

### **How are students chosen for honors courses?**

Qualified incoming freshmen are offered a place in the honors program (advanced English, Social Studies and Science courses) on the basis of their TACHS or CHSEE scores. The invitation to honors courses appears in the letter of acceptance.

### **My child was accepted but was not placed in any honors courses. Can he/she be placed in honors for September?**

Not at this time, but places in honors classes often become available if accepted students decline to attend Molloy. In that case, seats in honors classes are filled by the next most highly qualified applicants (on the basis of TACHS or CHSEE scores). So it is possible that applicants not initially invited into honors can find themselves in honors classes come September. If your child has an interest in a particular honors course or if you would like to find out the likelihood of your child being placed in honors, please contact the Assistant Principal for Academics, Mr. Dennis Vellucci, at [dvellucci@molloyhs.org](mailto:dvellucci@molloyhs.org) after Registration.

### **If my child is not in honors as a freshman, can he/she get into honors as a sophomore?**

Yes. Any student may apply for any honors course in the spring of each academic year for the following September. Admission is competitive and is based on the grade the student has earned in that subject during the first three quarters. Students initially accepted into honors sometimes switch to standard courses later; students not initially admitted to honors often are admitted as sophomores and juniors.

### **What about Math Honors?**

Most freshmen take Algebra 1. Students who want Algebra 1 Honors must take the Math Placement Test at Molloy on Saturday, May 11, 2019. This is the only way students can qualify for Algebra Honors, whether or not they take the Algebra Regents in middle school.

### **My child is taking the Algebra 1 Regents this June at the end of eighth grade. Will he/she be placed in Geometry?**

Not necessarily. In order to be placed in Geometry (which, for freshmen, is an honors class), incoming freshman must take the Math Placement Test at Molloy on May 11. Very few students are placed in Geometry because it is so important for all students to have a solid foundation in Algebra before advancing to upper level Math courses.

**Will my child be at a disadvantage by not taking an advanced Math class in freshman year?**

Absolutely not. All students, no matter which Math course they begin with, can move on to the highest level of Math we offer, AP Calculus, as seniors.

**Why would my child have to retake the Algebra Regents if he/she has already passed it?**

Passing indicates a basic level of competence, but at Molloy, we expect our students to demonstrate mastery. We have found that students are often trained to pass the Regents but do not grasp the principles behind what they are doing. This becomes a problem for them when they move on to further Math study in sophomore and junior year. A solid foundation in Math is of utmost importance.

**When does my child choose a Foreign Language?**

Language selection is made at the time of registration. Students are asked to indicate a first and second choice, though their first choice is almost always accommodated.

**My child is already studying a Foreign Language. Can he/she be placed in an advanced level?**

Students who seek placement in the second year of a language must take the Language Placement test given at Molloy, tentatively scheduled after school on May 16. This is the only way a student can “place out” of the introductory level of a language; we do not consider grades on any other assessment.

**My child speaks Spanish. Can he/she continue to study Spanish at Molloy?**

We strongly recommend that native speakers begin a new language. Our language courses are intended for students who are unfamiliar with the language.

**My child is taking the Earth Science Regents in June. How does this affect his/her Science placement?**

The Earth Science Regents has no bearing on an incoming freshman’s Science placement, since most freshmen take Biology or Biology Honors. It does, however, fulfill the Physical Science requirement needed for an Advanced Regents Diploma.

**My child is taking the Living Environment Regents in June. How does this affect his/her Science placement?**

Students who score in the 90’s or high 80’s on the Living Environment Regents in middle school are placed in our new Advanced Life Sciences Honors class intended to expand on the Biology they have already learned and to prepare them, eventually, for AP Biology and for the SAT II in Biology. Those who score in the low-to-mid 80’s may be placed in Biology Honors, depending on space available. Those who score under 80% will be placed in standard Biology. Parents must report Regents grades to Molloy by June 28, 2019 for proper placement.

**Will my child have to retake the Living Environment Regents?**

Students in the Advanced Life Sciences Honors course need not retake the Regents, but all students in Biology or Biology Honors must take the Living Environment Regents at the end of the course whether they have taken it before or not.

**How does my child select a Music course?**

Students indicate their preference for a Music course at Registration. Most students take Music Appreciation. Students with some experience or interest in singing or performance should request Chorus. Students who play an instrument, can read music, have studied music or plan to be in band should select Music Theory.

**My child is taking the U.S. History Regents in middle school. How does this affect his/her freshman Social Studies placement?**

Because freshman Social Studies is Global History, U.S. History Regents results have no bearing on freshmen's Social Studies placement. However, results must be reported to Molloy because they may affect a student's Social Studies placement in junior year when the U.S. History Regents is typically given.

**What is the difference between Global 1 Honors and Pre-AP World History?**

Both are advanced freshman Social Studies courses, but the pre-AP course is more writing intensive, its intention being to prepare students for the AP World History course in sophomore year. Incoming freshmen are selected for either Global 1 Honors or Pre-AP World history on the basis of their TACHS scores.

**Do students have to be in Pre-AP World History as freshmen in order to take AP World History as sophomores?**

No, anyone can apply to AP World History at the end of freshman year. Acceptance is based on freshman Social Studies grades.

**What are AP classes?**

"AP" stands for "Advanced Placement." It's a national program administered by the College Board that gives students the opportunity to earn college credits while they're in high school.

**Can freshmen take AP classes?**

No. These are college level classes. Students may begin to request AP classes as sophomores with AP World History. Juniors may request AP classes in Literature, U.S. History, and Computer Science Principles. A broad range of AP classes is open to seniors, including Composition, Calculus AB and BC, Physics, Biology, Psychology, European History and U.S. Government and Politics.

**Is there any other way a Molloy student can earn college credits in high school?**

Yes. Students can earn credits from St. John's University, Seton Hall University, LIU/Post, or SUNY Albany while taking select courses at Molloy in junior and senior year.

**When is the first day of school for freshmen?**

Freshmen are scheduled to report to school on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 though this date is subject to change and will be confirmed in a mailing you will receive in June. Freshmen will be scheduled for appointments to pick up their iPads before this, during the last two weeks of August. A June mailing will contain further information on this as well.

**When will my child receive his/her schedule?**

Students receive a list of all the classes they are scheduled for when they come in to pick up their iPad at the end of August, and receive fully detailed schedules, with times, teachers' names and room numbers, on the first day of school. Because last-minute adjustments are frequently necessary, it is impossible to publish schedules any earlier.

**Can I request certain teachers for my child?**

No. All Molloy teachers are highly qualified, and the complexity of scheduling nearly 1,600 students makes it impossible to honor requests for particular teachers.

**How long is the freshman school day?**

Students should be in the building by 7:50. Classes begin at 8:00 and end at 2:10.

**Whom can I contact for information about my child's schedule?**

Contact Mr. Dennis Vellucci, Assistant Principal for Academics, at [dvellucci@molloyhs.org](mailto:dvellucci@molloyhs.org) prior to June 28 or after August 15.