

Understanding the differences between Standard, Honors, and Pre-AP Science Courses

All high school Science courses offer students the following learning opportunities:

- Follow a rigorous curriculum
- Work toward mastery of the North Carolina State Essential Science Standards
- Understand scientific concepts
- Develop critical thinking skills
- Improves scientific literacy
- Improves communication skills
- Craft scientific claims using evidence to write arguments
- Explores phenomena in the natural world
- Recognize patterns in data
- Understand the nature of scientific inquiry
- Engage in scientific investigation
- Experience science as a creative venture of solving problems individually and collaboratively

Below are some distinctions between the different levels of high school Science courses:

Standard Science Course	Honors Science Course	Pre-AP Science Course
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Course level expectations that meets the standard course of study ● May have more direct instruction ● Emphasis on improving conceptual phenomena based vocabulary ● Collaborative laboratory experiences ● More scaffolding provided to help students analyze and interpret content level vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advancement beyond the current level of standards ● Students are expected to work more independently than students in standard level courses. ● There will be time for more enrichment topics as specified in the course descriptions for specific honors courses ● Emphasis on concrete as well as abstract analysis of phenomena ● More independent in-depth scientific investigations and to report on them using a more formal scientific laboratory report format. ● Students will be expected to read and present orally and in writing recent scientific findings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● College Board aligned skills emphasized in addition to North Carolina Standards ● Consistently held to standards of achievement that go beyond the North Carolina Standard Course of Study ● Designed to build students' capacities to be successful in advance course work ● Develop critical thinking and problem solving skills as students connect core ideas across multiple units. ● Emphasis on analytical reading and writing, strategic use of mathematics, attention to modeling ● Engage with questions that are elevated beyond simple recall as they make predictions,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Assignments will involve research and problem solving● Will take the same EOC as standard level courses.● Provide multiple opportunities for students to take greater responsibility for their learning.	<p>synthesize, evaluate, and compare--learning that deep questions lead to deeper understanding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Students become active participants in their own learning through frequent opportunities to compare, critique, debate, and build upon others' ideas--recognizing that all voices, including their own, deserve to be heard.● Students carefully observe a data set, text, image, or problem--capturing relevant details before attempting to explain, analyze, or evaluate.
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