

The Career Path Programs at St. Mary's Academy highlight a unique feature of its curriculum that not only enables students to be eligible for the University of California system and other competitive colleges and universities, but also engages them in specially designed courses and real-world applications of careers in Health Care, Engineering, and the Arts.

Students are introduced to these careers through courses that describe the fields and provide examples of problem solving from case studies taken from actual incidents. They learn about ethical issues and decision making, applying the principles learned in courses that are pertinent to the worlds of health care, engineering, and the arts. The students discuss issues and trends in these fields, becoming more familiar with the terminology and concepts that are the foundation of each area. This basis provides the framework for the students to communicate with the professional guests in these fields as the students are exposed to the realities, hopes, and challenges of particular careers.

Health Careers

The Health Careers Program (HCP) introduces students to the world of healthcare and medical occupations. The HCP places an emphasis on laboratory sciences, and includes a multi-layered curriculum incorporating elements of the history and practice of medicine, medical terminology and technology, medical ethical and legal responsibilities, and cultural diversity in health care.

Field experiences enhance classroom learning and consist of programs at health care facilities, interaction with health care professionals, and visits to centers of medical excellence in the Los Angeles area.

The HCP affords students the opportunity to assess and encounter a variety of health care careers as well as gain fundamental knowledge of the health care systems, and become well prepared and excited to start college studies in life sciences.

Program Requirements: Minimum 3.0 GPA, 500 word essay, and interview with program director.



Engineering

The SMA Engineering Program prepares young women for successful college careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). By engaging in a cross-disciplinary classroom experience as well as design projects and team competitions with other schools, girls graduate from the program fully qualified and motivated to meet the demands of STEM courses in college.

The program is certified by Project Lead the Way, a nationwide coordinated engineering education curriculum, and affiliated with USFIRST, the worldwide high school robotics competition. For these reasons, and because of the focus on mathematics and science, the SMA Engineering Program is unique among all-female high schools in the Los Angeles area.

Program Requirements: Minimum 3.0 GPA, 500 word essay, interview with program director, and previous success in Math and Science.



The Arts

The Arts Program contains three different tracks and offers students both theory and hand-on experience in filmmaking, choir, dance, acting, painting, ceramics, and other creative art topics. Students may choose to join the Media Arts, Visual Arts, or Performing Arts path.

Highlights include the school's weekly TV show *SMA Today*, AP Studio Art, publishing the school's yearbook *Illuminatio*, and attending workshops and field trips at LACMA, Sony Studios, and The Will Greer Theatricum Botanicum.

Students who complete the program will know how to effectively create messages and works of art, a valuable life skill which will prepare them for any college portfolio, major, or career.

Program Requirements: 500 word essay and interview with the program director.



Business

St. Mary's Academy offers an after-school business pathway open to students who are interested in the field of business and accounting. St. Mary's has partnered up with Loyola Marymount University (through sponsorship with Deloitte) and West Los Angeles College to provide students the opportunity to enroll in and experience one or more college courses taught by a college professor. Students who complete the Business 101 course in the Fall and/or Accounting 101 course in the Spring receive college credit that are transferable to UC/CSU transferable. Students also gain a deeper understanding of the language of business, accounting, and personal finance and have opportunities for field-based learning through internships, visits with business organizations, and universities.

