

# THE UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON® AND CURRICULUM AND CONTENT STANDARDS

## OVERVIEW

The United States Academic Decathlon’s curriculum is an interdisciplinary curriculum in which a selected theme is integrated across six different subject areas: art, economics, literature, music, science, and social science. Students also study mathematics and participate in essay-writing, speech, and interview events. The theme for the 2020–2021 U.S. Academic Decathlon (USAD) curriculum is *The Cold War*. While in most subjects the majority of the topics relate to the overall curricular theme, some topics that cover fundamentals may also be included to encourage a thorough understanding of the subject area as a whole. The USAD mathematics curriculum is unrelated to the theme and focuses on standard high school mathematics topics.

This document provides a summary of the Common Core Standards for high school Mathematics and Reading that are addressed in USAD’s 2020–2021 curriculum as well as the national content standards met by USAD’s 2020–2021 curriculum.

## THE UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON’S CURRICULUM AND THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS

### Standards Background

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort to establish a common set of educational standards for English language arts and mathematics. The standards aim to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to attend college or enter the workforce. The Common Core Standards were developed by states and content experts under the guidance of governors and state education chiefs, and they have been adopted by forty-one states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).

### The United States Academic Decathlon and the Common Core Standards for High School Mathematics

The Common Core High School Mathematics Standards consist of six broad categories. The U.S. Academic Decathlon’s 2020–2021 mathematics curriculum addresses aspects of all six categories:

- *Number and Quantity*
- *Algebra*
- *Functions*
- *Modeling*
- *Geometry*
- *Statistics and Probability*

### Mathematical Practice Standards Addressed

In addition to the content standards, the Common Core High School Mathematics standards emphasize eight practice standards. These standards are meant to address the way students approach and reason during their learning of mathematics. The U.S. Academic Decathlon's 2020–2021 mathematics curriculum encourages students to apply seven of these eight practice standards:

- *CCSS.Math.Practice.MP1: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them*
- *CCSS.Math.Practice.MP2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively*
- *CCSS.Math.Practice.MP4: Model with mathematics*
- *CCSS.Math.Practice.MP5: Use appropriate tools strategically*
- *CCSS.Math.Practice.MP6: Attend to precision*
- *CCSS.Math.Practice.MP7: Look for and make use of structure*
- *CCSS.Math.Practice.MP8: Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning*

### The United States Academic Decathlon and the Common Core Reading Standards for Literature

USAD's 2020–21 literature curriculum in concert with other Academic Decathlon subject areas addresses aspects of all ten of the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading for students in grades K–12, aspects of all ten Common Core Reading Standards for Literature for students in grades 9–10, and aspects of seven Common Core Reading Standards for Literature for students in grades 11–12.

### **THE UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON CURRICULUM AND NATIONAL CONTENT STANDARDS**

USAD's 2020–2021 curriculum addresses aspects of the following:

- *All twenty of the Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics*
- *Eleven of the twelve Curriculum and Content Area Standards for English Language Arts*
- *All five content areas of the high school mathematics curriculum delineated by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and provides students with opportunities to utilize all four reasoning habits delineated by the NCTM*
- *Four National Core Arts Standards for Music*
- *Four National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts*
- *Eight Earth and Space Science Disciplinary Core Ideas for Grades 9–12, seven Physical Science Disciplinary Core Ideas for Grades 9–12, and six Crosscutting Concepts as outlined by the Next Generation Science Standards*
- *Nine of ten overarching curricular themes outlined by the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS), three historical eras of focus delineated by the National Content Standards for U.S. History, and two historical eras of focus delineated by the National Content Standards for World History*