United States Academic Pentathlon®
2021–2022 Competition Year

The curriculum theme for 2021–2022 is *"Water: A Most Essential Resource"* which runs parallel to the high school Academic Decathlon theme. Academic Pentathlon competition is comprised of five academic events: Fine Arts (Art and Music), Literature, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science. Part of the Literature score is a written essay.

Academic Pentathlon consists of a self-contained curriculum for the subjects listed above. The materials are available for downloading in PDF format August 1, 2021. USAP also offers a Practice Quiz Booklet each year. Written by the official USAP test writers in each subject area, the booklet contains five tests, sample essay prompts and rubric. The Practice Quiz Booklet will be available as a PDF October 15, 2021. ***The fee for registering your team and receiving your site license for downloading materials is $275.00. In addition, there will be a $10 charge per team member for the online testing during the year.*** **The featured novel this season is *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park ISBN 978-0-547-57731-9.**

All competitions for U.S. Academic Pentathlon will be held online and are strictly voluntary. Competitors are eligible to win team and individual medals for their efforts during the State and National competitions.

Important Dates

ALL Registration Document Due	December 10, 2021
National Competition Registration Deadline	April 11, 2022
Important Competition Dates	
Practice Competition – Subject Area Exams Only	January 13, 2022
Essay for Regional Competition	January 27, 2022
Regional Competition	February 17, 2022
Essay for State Competition	March 10, 2022
State Competition	March 31, 2022
Essay for National Competition	April 21, 2022
National Competition – Online	May 20, 2022

Academic Pentathlon teams should consist of a maximum of nine team members and a minimum of six team members. Each team must consist of at least two students in the following GPA groups: Honor (3.80 to 4.00), Scholastic (3.20 to 3.799), and Varsity (Under 3.199). The team score will be determined by the sum of the top two student scores in each GPA category. A perfect team score is 30,000 points (6 students x 5 events x 1000 points possible per event). The following testing events and times for the Practice Competition, Regional, State tests.

Literature: Students will not only write a short essay but will also participate in a multiple-choice test which includes 30 questions with a value of 20 points each. Students will be allowed 40 minutes to complete their essay and 20 minutes to complete their objective test. Highest combined possible score is 1000 points.
Mathematics: 35 problems with a value of 28.57 points each
Science: 50 questions with a value of 20 points each
Social Science: 50 questions with a value of 20 points each
Fine Arts: 50 questions with a value of 20 points each

A student's maximum possible score is 5000 points (5 events x 1000 points).

The "focus semesters" for GPA computation should include one academic year of calculable grades (letter and/or numerical grades and <u>not pass/fail</u>), prior to the present grade level of the student plus any summer school grades from the session preceding the current grade. The 12 months of calculable grades may be separated by non-calculable

terms (i.e. there may be a term or terms not used chronologically in the middle of the terms used).

Grades received for coursework undertaken during school closures during the 2019–2020 school year that were impacted by any sort of adaptation of or revision to the school's usual grading procedures must be omitted from a student's GPA calculation. While many schools continued to offer online or hybrid online/in-person instruction during the 2020–2021 school year, all calculable grades received during the 2020–2021 school year must be included for student GPA calculations, regardless of whether the student attended school in-person, participated remotely online, or participated in a hybrid program.

If the contestant is an eighth grader in September of the competition year, then the semesters that are used for GPA computation are all of the seventh grade semesters. Likewise, if the student is a seventh grader in the fall, the focus period for GPA computations includes all of the sixth grade semesters. This same "one year rule" applies to all students. When computing the GPA, there is no rounding up. Thus, a 2.9974 is a 2.99, or Varsity. A grade given in a summer school class taken as a repeat course is used in computing GPA. The makeup class grade is counted in whatever year the class was originally taken. If the summer class is not a repeat class, it is included in the GPA for the following year. If a student failed seventh grade, then repeated and passed, use the repeat grades.

The only courses to be used to determine GPA are: Language Arts (English and Reading), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Art History/Appreciation, and Music History/Appreciation. If Language Arts consists of just English, only this grade should be used. Regardless of the system used to determine a GPA locally, these criteria must be followed to ensure uniformity and equity among all participants in the U.S. Academic Pentathlon.

Academic Pentathlon Nationals will be held virtually May 20, 2022. All test questions will be derived from the USAP curriculum. Please keep in mind that the highest grade level of a team member will determine the division of the team. For example, if you have a team consisting of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students the team will compete in the 8th grade division. The following adjustments have been made to the 2022 Nationals tests:

Fine Arts: 50 question multiple-choice test (25 minutes)
Literature: 30question multiple-choice test (20 minutes)
Mathematics: 35 question multiple-choice test (30 minutes)
Science: 50 question multiple-choice test (30 minutes)
Social Science: 50 question multiple-choice test (25 minutes)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at: pentathlon@usad.org or Amy Dosch at 651-249-5878.

United States Academic Pentathlon® 2021–2022 Student Registration and Parent Permission Form

I, _____
(Student's Name)

Now a student at _____ in _____
(School Name) (Grade)

Living at _____
Home Address City State Zip

_____
Parent Email Contact Home Phone Parent Cell #

Hereby request permission to participate in the U.S. Academic Pentathlon to be held online in 2021-22. My parent(s) or guardian, my coach and I, whose signatures appear below, hereby agree to follow the competition rules and to accept the interpretations and decisions made by the competition director. This permission form also covers the online competition release

I have read and agree to adhere to the USAP Code of Conduct _____(Student Initial here). I agree to adhere to the highest standards of honesty and integrity while participating in the U.S. Academic Pentathlon competitions. If for any reason, test results are deemed invalid, I further agree to participate in a retest, as deemed necessary or appropriate by the USAP, that will validate the test results.

My parent(s) or guardian and I hereby release from all liability and responsibility the USAP and their Board of Directors and hold each of them harmless from any damage or injury which may be incurred or caused by me before, during or following any such competition, including travel. We further consent to the release of information about or relative to my participation in competition activities, including scores, photographs, sound and video recordings, webcasting and other forms of sound and video transmission and any other data. The U.S. Academic Pentathlon shall have full rights to reproduction and use of all such materials. As a part of 2021-2022 Academic Pentathlon, USAP has permission to gather survey information from me regarding my participation in Academic Pentathlon.

We understand that the team coach is the official chaperone and that (s)he has full responsibility to make medical or other necessary decisions and that I and my parent(s) will be held responsible for any damages resulting from my behavior. I also authorize that my transcript and any other pertinent materials may be sent to the USAP for verification of my eligibility to participate in the U.S. Academic Pentathlon competition.

_____ _____
Student's Signature Date

_____ _____
Parent's/Guardian's Signature Date

_____ _____
Coach's Signature Date

_____ _____
School Administrator's Signature and Title Date

Please return by December 10, 2021

pentathlon@usad.org
USAP
P.O. Box 4351
Mankato, MN 56002

United States Academic Pentathlon®
2021–2022 Special Needs Form

STUDENT NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SCHOOL PHONE: _____

SCHOOL FAX: _____

COACH(ES): _____

NATURE OF STUDENT'S DISABILITY: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Students with allergies (e.g., food, skin, etc.) will give his/her normal care to these allergies.

Please attach a copy of IEP and history of how student has been accommodated at previous competitions.

_____ _____

Coach's Signature Date

Please return by December 10, 2021

pentathlon@usad.org
USAP
P.O. Box 4351
Mankato, MN 56002

United States Academic Pentathlon®
2021–2022 Basic Guidelines

REGISTRATION

Schools will need to return the following items to register their team.

- School/Team Registration Form
- Student Registration Form and Code of Student Conduct
- Computation of GPA Form
- Report cards or transcripts
- Special Request Form

TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

Do not fill in the student identification number; the competition officials will enter this number.

The GPA should be the one realized after following the rules of computing GPA.

YOUR TEAM REGISTRATION FORM and FEE MUST BE RECEIVED BY **DECEMBER 10, 2021.**

STUDENT REGISTRATION FORMS

These forms grant permission for the students to participate in the events and for rights of print, photography, and release of transcripts. The student, parent, coach, and an administrator must sign the permission slips.

ONE FORM FOR EACH STUDENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY **DECEMBER 10, 2021.**

GPA COMPUTATION FORM

1. An official student transcript or report card must be attached to the computation form along with the GPA Calculation form.

ONE GPA FORM AND TRANSCRIPT PER STUDENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY **DECEMBER 10, 2021**.

DIVISION PLACEMENT COMPUTATION

1. While coaches may make a rough evaluation of what category a student will compete in while they are recruiting students for the team, an official transcript should be available in the summer prior to the start of school and exact grade point averages should be computed so both coaches and students know the category of the students.

2. Numeric values are assigned as follows:

A	=	4 points
B	=	3 points
C	=	2 points
D	=	1 point

3. For the conversion of numerical grades on the transcript, each school's local grading scale will be what is followed for Pentathlon competition. If the conversion scale is not on the

transcript, a copy should be sent with the transcript. Example: School A has the following conversion scale that results in the corresponding Pentathlon grade points:

90 - 100 =	A = 4 points
80 - 89 =	B = 3 points
75 - 79 =	C = 2 points
70 - 74 =	D = 1 point
69 & below =	F = 0 points

4. The categories are determined by the grade points indicated:

Honor:	3.80-4.00 *(may compete only at Honor level)*
Scholastic:	3.20-3.799 *(may compete at Scholastic or Honor levels)*
Varsity:	0.00-3.199 *(may compete at all levels)*

When computing the GPA, there is no rounding up; thus, 2.9974 is 2.99, or Varsity.

5. Even though a district may weight advanced classes, there is no weighting of grading for courses that count for the Pentathlon GPA. An "A" grade will count 4 points for Pentathlon competition even if it counts 5 points within the local system. Under no circumstances may an "A" grade count 3 points. The letter grade on the transcript will be used regardless of any plus or minus.

6. If a student receives a failing grade in any academic course, the F is counted in averaging the student's grades even though no credit is given. When a course has been failed prior to the focus period for which the GPA is being computed but repeated during the period, only the repeat grade is counted. When a course is failed and repeated during the focus semesters, both grades will be counted in the GPA.

7. Incomplete or pass/fail grades are not included in computing the GPA, unless the student received an F that appears on the transcript. Once a grade is given to remove a n incomplete, that grade must be used to determine the Pentathlon GPA. If only pass/fail grades are assigned, the competition official will determine the evaluation scale.

8. Participation in Academic Pentathlon is open to all students, regardless of race, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or national origin.

9. Correspondence courses, if listed on the transcript, count as any other course.

10. If a student's grades are not available, the student **must compete** in the Honor category.

11. The only courses to be used to determine GPA are: Language Arts (English and Reading), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Art History/Appreciation, and Music History/Appreciation. If Language Arts consists of just English, only this grade should be used. Regardless of the system used to determine a GPA locally, these criteria must be followed to ensure uniformity and equity among all participants in the U.S. Academic Pentathlon.

12. Grades received for coursework undertaken during school closures due to COVID-19 must be omitted from a student's GPA calculation.

VALIDATION OF MATERIALS

1. The deadline for all validation materials (team registration, student registration, transcripts, GPA forms, special request forms, etc.) is listed below in the "Summary" section of these guidelines.

2. The competition official will verify all contestants' GPA's from the transcripts and GPA forms. Coaches will be contacted immediately if there are any discrepancies, especially if it affects the category in which the student is to compete.

3. **If the required paperwork for any student is not received by the due date for verification of GPA's and permission to participate, that student will not be able to participate in the competition.**

SPECIAL NEEDS FORM

Please submit this form should any of your team members and/or coaches necessitate it.

TESTS

1. The Practice, Regional and State tests are 30 minutes long except for the Literature test which will be 20 minutes long and the Essay which will be 40 minutes long.

2. No study materials are allowed into the testing room.

3. Calculators are permitted for the **Math Test ONLY**.

4. Students caught cheating will be suspended from the program immediately and will not receive any medals they may have already won.

5. Students and proctors will receive official usernames and passwords prior to the practice competition. These usernames and passwords will be used for the entire competition year.

6. Students are not permitted to leave the testing room until there is an official break, unless there is an emergency.

7. Students must be in said seat for all events.

8. Coaches may serve as the proctor for the Practice Competition on January 14, 2021 and the Regional Essay and Competition in February 2021. A school administrator will need to serve as proctor for the State and National Competitions.

9. Testing will begin when the official proctor begins the first test. No student will be allowed into the testing room once the testing has begun.

ESSAY

The Essay component will be 40 minutes long.

SUMMARY

Please submit by **December 10, 2021**

1. **Team Registration Form**
2. **Student Registration and Parent Permission Forms**
3. **GPA Registration Forms with attached transcripts or report cards**
4. **Special Needs Form**

United States Academic Pentathlon®
2021–2022 Code of Student Conduct

The U.S. Academic Pentathlon expects all team members to conduct themselves in a proper manner while participating in any Academic Pentathlon event. Appropriate conduct of team members is the sole responsibility of the team coach who has legal responsibility as chaperone for his/her team members at all times. Students should be under the supervision of the coach during all activities.

Inappropriate conduct includes, but is NOT limited to:

1. cheating
2. being in possession of any cell phone, electronic devices, study materials, etc., in the testing areas of the competition, including Super Quiz™,
3. being in possession of any weapon,
4. damage to, or vandalism of, any property including hotel rooms and competition sites,
5. appropriation of memorabilia from the competition site premises,
6. stealing,
7. use of alcohol, tobacco (of any kind) or illegal drugs by students, regardless of age,
8. use of water pistols, water balloons or any other projectile at the hotel or competition site,
9. fighting, loud noise, or any other behavior which is disruptive to others at the hotel or competition site.
10. disrespect to the competition, competition officials, proctors, or coaches.

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Any act of cheating should promptly be brought to USAP officials for review, evaluation, and imposition of possible sanctions. If someone is proven to have cheated, it is within USAP's power to disqualify not only the person caught cheating, but also the entire team.

Students that violate the Student Code of Conduct shall have an immediate review by U.S. Academic Pentathlon officials and run the risk of being eliminated from all competitions.

Financial liability for all damage incurred by actions of a team member shall be the sole responsibility of that team member and his/her parents. Failure to comply with the Code of Student Conduct may result in disqualification from the event, the entire competition and the awards. The decision of the USAP Administration is final.

USAD® Pentathlon GPA Calculation Worksheet

School	Sample Middle School		Grade	8
Student's Name	Smith	Susan		TOTAL POINTS = Points x Credit Hours
	Last Name	First Name		

COURSES	GRADE	POINTS*	CREDIT HOURS	TOTAL POINTS
FALL Year: 2006				
English 7	A	4.00	0.5	2.00
Math 7	B	3.00	0.5	1.50
Social Studies 7	B+	3.00	0.5	1.50
Science 7	A-	4.00	0.5	2.00
				0.00
				0.00
				0.00
SPRING Year: 2007				
English 7	A	4.00	0.5	2.00
Math 7	A-	4.00	0.5	2.00
Social Studies 7	B+	3.00	0.5	1.50
Science 7	A	4.00	0.5	2.00
				0.00
				0.00
				0.00
SUMMER Year: 2007				
Summer English	A	4.00	0.5	2.00
Summer Science	A-	4.00	0.5	2.00
	TOTALS =	37.00	5.00	18.50
		Calculated GPA =		3.700

Academic Decathlon Level =		
	HONOR	NO
	SCHOLASTIC	YES
	VARSITY	NO

CALCULATED GPA = Total Points/Total Hours

*POINTS: A+, A, A- = 4.00 B+, B, B- = 3.00 C+, C, C- = 2.00 D+, D, D- = 1.00 F = 0.00

Courses graded numerically, should be converted to alpha grades based on the school's official conversion policy.

Instructions for U.S. Academic Pentathlon® GPA Calculation

YELLOW Type in name of school.
Type in grade in which the student is currently enrolled.
Type in student LAST NAME.
Type in student FIRST NAME.

At this point, do a "Save As" for your worksheet. Name the file so it clearly indicates your team name (ex: GPA CALCULATION - CityHS). Save your work regularly so you don't have to redo it if your file closes unexpectedly.

PURPLE Enter **semester year** information in the cell to the right of "Year." Enter all **acceptable courses** (for Academic Pentathlon GPA) in the appropriate semester.

GREEN Enter **letter grade** received for each course listed.

RED Enter **points** for each course per the key at the bottom of the GPA Calculation Worksheet.

BLUE Enter the **number of credit hours** received for each class listed. Use the following as a guide unless your school's curriculum defines the specific credit hours earned by a course:

1.00	*credit hours would be a full year grade.*
0.50	*credit hours would be a half year grade.*
1/3	*credit hours would be a trimester grade.* ***Be sure to type in trimester course credit as 1/3 and NOT as a decimal. The formula will convert it into the appropriate number for calculation.***
.25	*credit hours would be a quarter year grade.*

ORANGE ***This field calculates automatically. You DO NOT need t o type in any information. The calculation is POINTS x CREDIT HOURS.***

CALCULATED GPA REPRESENTS THE STUDENT'S GPA FOR PURPOSES OF USAP COMPETITION.

TAN/BROWN ***These fields are also automatically calculated.*** The formula uses the USAD accepted cut off GPA's to identify the lowest division in which the student may compete. Students can always compete in a higher division, but may NOT compete in a lower division. ***The division indicated by YES is the lowest division in which this student may compete in Academic Decathlon.***