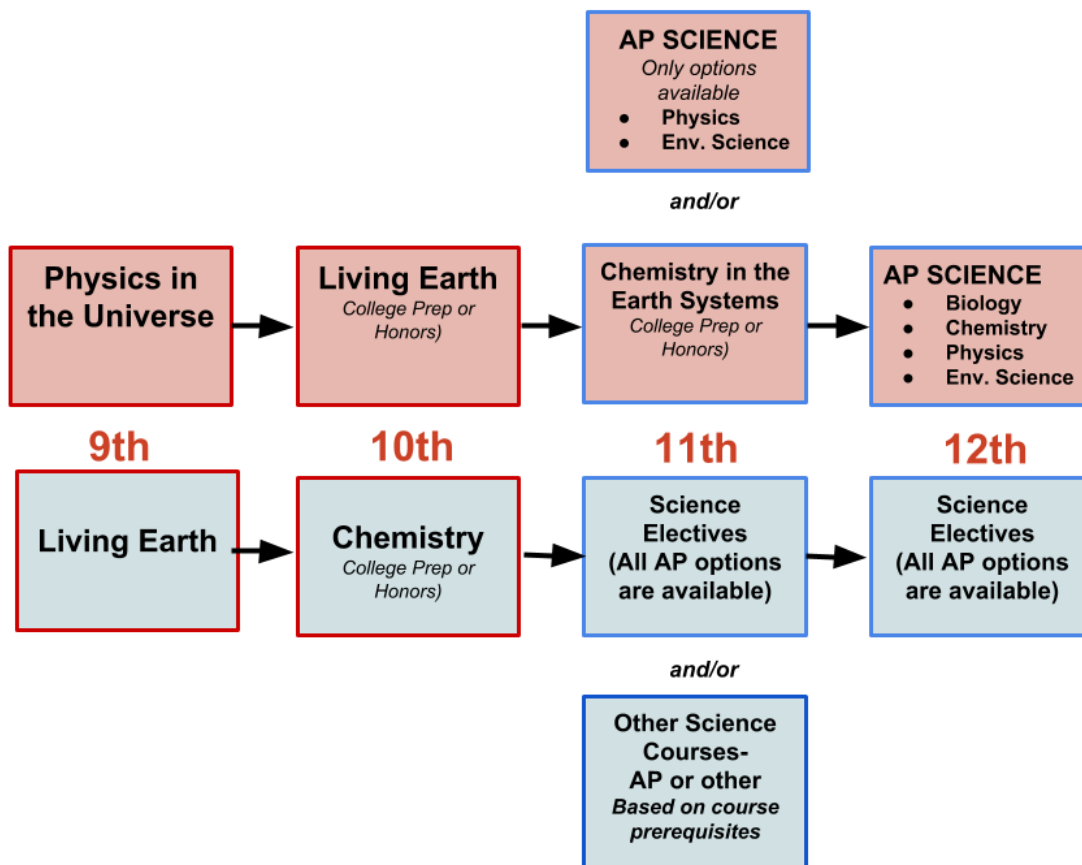


# High School Science Freshman Course Decision Information

(Updated March 2019)



Students may choose to take either Physics in the Universe or Living Earth for their freshman science course. There are benefits and limitations for either sequence.

## ***Which course should a student take in 9<sup>th</sup> grade?***

The answer depends on a number of factors including student interest in physical science vs. life science, their math course level, and their ability to think abstractly. Some factors to consider:

- Physics is a natural progression of the concepts studied in 8th grade science. Many of the physical science concepts from 8th grade science are further developed in 9th grade Physics in the Universe.
- Physics is developmentally appropriate, accessible, and engaging for freshmen
- Conceptual physics classes offered in 9th grade provide foundational understanding for concepts taught in chemistry and biology.
- Conceptual Physics courses can provide relevant context to students' study of algebra. Consequently, early physics helps develop and reinforce mathematical proficiency.

With a “Physics First” sequence, math is aligned for greater student success and less student stress. The prerequisite for chemistry strongly recommends concurrent enrollment in algebra 2-trig.

*Physics in 9<sup>th</sup> grade: Math and science are optimally aligned*

	9th	10 <sup>th</sup>	11th
Science:	Physics	Living Earth (Bio)	Chemistry
Math:	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2-Trig

*Living Earth in 9<sup>th</sup> grade: Math and science are not optimally aligned*

	9th	10 <sup>th</sup>	11th
Science:	Living Earth (Bio)	Chemistry	Physics
Math:	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2-Trig

Your 9th grade science course choice will impact your future (10th -11th grade) plans. It is highly recommended that students who take Honors Chemistry of Earth Systems be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 2; students who are not at or above this math level are more likely to be recommended into CP Chemistry of Earth Systems.

**AP Options:**

<b>Sequence</b>	<b>AP Courses available in grade 11</b>	<b>AP Courses available in grade 12</b>
Physics → Living Earth → Chem	AP Environmental Science AP Physics 1	AP Bio AP Chem AP Environmental Science AP Physics 1 AP Physics C* depending on calculus enrollment
Living Earth → Chem → Physics	AP Bio AP Chem AP Environmental Science AP Physics 1	AP Bio AP Chem AP Environmental Science AP Physics 1 AP Physics C* depending on calculus enrollment