

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY



Grade Level
Curriculum Guide
8th Grade



Liberty University Online Academy
Distance Learning Administration
1971 University Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502

PROFILE SHEET

Description: Liberty University Online Academy is a grade 3-12 unit school dedicated to maintaining high academic standards within the framework of a technology-based educational program. The school is physically housed at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, with students attending from national and international sites. The school believes in and is dedicated to preparing young people to fulfill elementary and secondary academic objectives that will enable them to pursue post high school goals.

Accreditation: The Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). SACS CASI, an accreditation division of its parent organization AdvancEd, accredits nearly 13,000 public and non-public institutions in 11 southeast states, Mexico, Central and South America, and islands of the Caribbean.

Faculty: Academy teachers are degreed in their subject area and state licensed as prepared professionals. They provide support to parents and students through electronic correspondence. Assessment of student work is provided by the teacher, and grades are available to students and parents twenty-four hours daily through an online grade-book.

School Year: A school year is considered to be 180 days, or 90 days per semester.

Unit of Credit: While there is flexibility in doing schoolwork in a distance format, the Academy requires 180 days of instructional work for full academic credit to be granted.

Curriculum: Liberty University Online Academy offers courses for elementary and high school students (grades 3-12) with an emphasis on individualized learning. The Christ-centered curriculum is provided through an Internet-based format that utilizes the latest in online technology including a wide variety of interactive educational activities—movies, animations, instructional games, and audio clips—to engage students actively in the learning process. Dual enrollment credits are available to qualified high school students through a partnership with Liberty University's Distance Learning Program.

Achievement Tests: Students at Liberty University Online Academy are administered annual achievement testing, using the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition.

Diplomas: Two high school diploma options are available – standard and advanced diplomas.

GRADING SCALE

A	93 – 100
B	85 – 92
C	77 – 84
D	70 – 76
F	Below 70

8th Grade Scope and Sequence

Bible	Language Arts	Pre-Algebra	General Science II	Social Studies
Prayer	Communication	The Real Number System	Science and Society	European Backgrounds
Sin and Salvation	The English Language	Modeling Problems in Integers	Structure of Matter I	The Colonization of America
Attributes of God	Punctuation and Literature	Modeling Problems with Rational Numbers	Structure of Matter II	War for Independence
Early Church Leaders	Words and How to Use Them	Proportional Reasoning	Health and Nutrition	The Emergence of a Nation
Early Church History	Correct Language Use	More with Functions	Energy I	The Westward Movement
The Early Churches	Language and Literature	Measurement	Energy II	The Civil War
The Book of Proverbs	Critical Reading and Paragraph Skills	Plane Geometry	Machines I	The Industrial Nation
Life Choices	Writing, Listening, and Reading	Measures of Solid Figures	Machines II	Twentieth Century World Power
Understanding the Family	The English Language	Data Analysis	Balance in Nature	The United States in a Changing World
Review	Review	Probability	Science and Technology	Review

Bible: 8th Grade – Practical Christianity & Church History

Course Overview

Bible 8 focuses on prayer, salvation, the attributes of God, the book of Proverbs, and interpersonal relationships. Special emphasis is given to a survey of Church history from the early Church through the Reformation. These areas target five content strands: theology, the attributes of God, biblical literature, Christian growth, and Church history (a special topic).

Learner Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students:

- Understand the nature and use of prayer.
- Explain the relationship of sin and salvation in the Gospel message.
- Describe various attributes that belong to God.
- Identify key people, places, and events in Church history.
- Describe the deterioration of the Church in the Middle Ages.
- Explain the design and message of the book of Proverbs.
- Pursue biblical truths in the development of relationships.
- Explain the relationship between parents and children.

There are 91 lessons, 3 projects, 31 quizzes, and 10 tests divided among 10 total units of instruction.

Course Sequence

Unit 1: Prayer

9 Lessons, 2 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Organization of the Lord's Prayer
- Purpose of the Lord's Prayer
- History of Prayer
- Practical Use of Prayer

Unit 2: Sin and Salvation

7 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- The Nature of Sin
- The Need for Salvation
- How to Receive Salvation
- The Results of Salvation

Unit 3: Attributes of God

8 Lessons, 4 Quizzes, 1 Test

- God's Justice
- God's Immutability
- God's Eternal Nature
- God's Love

Unit 4: Early Church Leaders

8 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- The Early Church
- The Church of the Middle Ages
- The Renaissance
- The Reformation

Unit 5: Early Church History

12 Lessons, 1 Project, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- The Roman Empire
- The Background of the Jews
- The Ministry of Jesus
- The Jerusalem Church

Unit 6: The Early Churches

11 Lessons, 1 Project, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- The Church at Antioch
- The Missionary Journeys
- The Jerusalem Conference
- New Testament Churches

Unit 7: The Book of Proverbs

9 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Literary Forms and Outline
- Objectives and Purposes
- Influence on the New Testament
- Key Themes

Unit 8: Choices

8 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Guidance for Behavior
- Characteristics of Friendship
- Studying Effectively
- Finding God's Will

Unit 9: Understanding the Family

9 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Human Parents
- Biblical Parents
- Children's Responsibilities
- Parents and Children as a Team

Unit 10: Review

10 Lessons, 1 Project, 4 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Prayer and Salvation
- The Attributes of God
- The Early Church Leaders
- Christian Living

Language Arts: 8th Grade

Course Overview

Language Arts 8 continues to build on the sequential development and integration of communication skills in four major areas—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It most specifically focuses on deepening and furthering students' understanding in the following ways:

- **Reading-** reinforces reading comprehension skills by teaching students how to analyze propaganda and other forms of writing, including biographies, autobiographies, formal essays, and informal essays; shows students how to make denotative, symbolic, and connotative readings of a text; introduces both Old English and Middle English languages and literatures to develop students' understanding of English language formation and development; prepares students for the higher level literary comprehension skills required in the upper grades.
- **Writing-** develops students' understanding of sentence structure, providing hands-on experience with conjunctions, transitions, clauses, and common sentence errors; teaches language histories and etymologies to help students build on knowledge of word structures, including topics like prefixes, roots, and suffixes; expands on students' vocabulary and spelling skills; gives students the opportunity to develop their abilities in writing business letters, friendly letters, informal essays, and basic literature analyses.
- **Speaking-** offers students experience in delivering oral reports; teaches skills that enable students to become effective speakers and communicators, weaving these skills throughout the course.
- **Listening-** teaches effective listening comprehension skills, weaving these throughout the lessons; builds upon students' study skills as well as helps them to become reliable and efficient note takers.

Learner Objectives

By the end of the course, students:

- Demonstrate analytical skills finding propaganda and opinion in given forms of writings.
- Know how to make denotative, symbolic, and connotative readings in a given text.
- Understand the developmental formation of English language from Old English and Middle English.
- Understand how etymologies build word structures.
- Demonstrate skill in writing business letters, friendly letters, and informal essays.
- Demonstrate skill in identifying and correcting grammar and sentence structure errors.

There are 134 lessons, 28 projects, 60 quizzes, and 10 tests divided among 10 total units of instruction.

Course Sequence

Unit 1: Communication

11 Lessons, 1 Project, 6 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Documentation
- Improving Your Reading Using Word Parts
- Inflections and Grammatical Meaning
- Word Roots from Latin and Greek
- Following Directions
- Writing a Technical Document
- Suffixes
- Nonverbal Communication

Unit 2: The English Language

12 Lessons, 2 Projects, 6 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Development of Language: Origins and Dialects
- The Indo-European Family
- Classification of Words: Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives, Verbs, Adverbs, Phrases

Unit 3: Punctuation and Literature

11 Lessons, 2 Projects, 6 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Punctuation: Ending a thought
- Punctuation: Linking Clauses
- Punctuation: Interrupting a Thought
- Analyzing a Formal Essay
- The Informal Essay
- The Anecdote

Unit 4: Words and How to Use Them

8 Lessons, 6 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Using a Dictionary
- Diacritical Marks
- Using a Thesaurus
- Standard and Nonstandard Word Usage
- Confusing Words

Unit 5: Correct Language Use

14 Lessons, 3 Projects, 6 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Apostrophe
- Hyphen
- Quotation Marks
- Parenthesis and Italics
- Capitalization
- Abbreviations and Acronyms
- Numbers and Figures
- Speaking Qualities

Unit 6: Language and Literature

13 Lessons, 3 Projects, 6 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Old English Language and Literature
- Middle English
- Coordinate Conjunctions

- Correlative Conjunctions/Conjunctive Adverbs
- Subordinate Conjunctions/Adverb Clauses
- Relative Pronouns/Adjective Clauses: Phrases and Appositives
- Elements of an Autobiography

Unit 7: Critical Reading and Paragraph Skills

14 Lessons, 3 Projects, 6 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Symbolism/Connotation
- Context/Directive Language
- Analyzing an Author's Credentials/Argument
- Propaganda
- Paragraph Structure
- Organizing a Unified Paragraph
- Paragraph Coherence/Transition Methods
- Paragraph Development
- Writing a Composition: Thesis Statement, Body, Conclusion, Proofreading

Unit 8: Writing, Listening, and Reading

17 Lessons, 6 Projects, 6 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Three Types of Business Letters
- Structure and Form of Personal Letters
- Sound and Listening
- Listening for Literal Meaning
- Listening for Implied and Figurative Meaning
- Identifying Nonverbal Clues
- Being a Good Listener
- Distinguishing Between Fiction and Nonfiction
- Evaluating Reliability of Information
- Sources of Information
- Reading Media Sources

Unit 9: The English Language

14 Lessons, 2 Projects, 6 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Etymology of English Words
- English in the United States
- Slang
- Double Negatives and Dangling Modifiers
- Shift in Person and Number
- Shift in Mood and Tense: Subject/Verb Agreement
- Organizing an Oral Report
- Effective Speaking Techniques

Unit 10: Review

20 Lessons, 5 Projects, 6 Quizzes, 1 Test

- History of Language
- Grammar: Parts of Speech
- Punctuation and Capitalization
- Abbreviations, Apostrophes, and Hyphens
- Using the Dictionary and Thesaurus
- Standard English Usage
- Letters and Compositions
- Communication: Written, Verbal, and Nonverbal
- Determining Fact from Error
- Analyzing Formal Essays

Course Focal Components

Reading Comprehension Skills

- Analysis of Propaganda
- Denotation, Connotation, and Symbolism
- Elements of Narrative Prose
- Following Written Directions
- Reading Formal and Informal Essays
- Reading Skills—Fact versus Opinion, Validity, and Authority

Composition

- Essay/Report—Structure and Process
- Paragraph Elements and Structure
- Writing Informal Essays
- Writing Paragraphs
- Writing Business and Friendly Letters

Grammar and Usage

- Conjunctions—Subordinate, Correlative, and Coordinating
- Clauses—Adjective, Adverb, and Dependent/Independent
- Capitalization
- Grammar Errors—Sentence Construction Errors
- Introductory Expressions—Interjections, Participle Phrases, and Adverb Clauses
- Levels of Language Use—Standard/Nonstandard
- Parts of Speech—Nouns, Verbs, Pronouns, Adverbs, and Adjectives
- Punctuation—Apostrophes, Hyphens, Italics, Commas, and End Punctuation
- Sentence Structure—Tense, Number, Person, and Transitions

Literature Studies

- Nonfiction—Biography and Autobiography
- Byrd, Richard. *Flight to the South Pole* (excerpt).
- Stuart, Jesse. *The Thread That Runs So True* (excerpt).
- Poetry—Genre and Elements
- Survey of English Literature—Old and Middle English
 - *Beowulf*.
 - Chaucer, Geoffrey. *Canterbury Tales*.
 - “The Ruin.”
 - “The Seafarer.”
 - “Widsith.”
 - “The Wanderer.”

Speaking and Listening

- Direct/Indirect Communication
- Following Instructions
- Listening Skills—Strategies, Comprehension, and Note-Taking
- Nonverbal Communication
- Oral Report
- Speaking Skills—Purpose, Organization, and Delivery

Spelling

- Homonyms
- Borrowed Words
- Confusing Spellings
- Silent Letters
- Words with “ei” and “ie”
- Words with “-ize,” “-yze,” “-ise,” “-ent,” and “-ant” Endings

Vocabulary

- Confusing Words
- Correct Use of Numbers and Figures
- Connotation/Denotation
- Dictionary Skills
- Etymology
- Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes
- Word Categorization
- Word Relationships

Special Topics

- Diacritical Marks
- English Variations
- Etymology
- Media Comprehension
- Note-taking
- Origin/Development of Language—Indo-European, Old and Middle English, and American English
- Use of Reference Materials

Mathematics: Pre-Algebra

Course Overview

Pre-algebra is an introductory algebra course designed to prepare students for Algebra I. The course focuses on strengthening needed skills in problem solving, integers, equations, and graphing. Students taking pre-algebra will explore concepts taught in previous math courses at higher levels and in real world applications. Students will also practice algebraic thinking in order to model and solve real world problems. Additionally, the course exposes students to new skills and concepts that will help them in future math courses. Students will begin to see the “big picture” of mathematics and how numeric, algebraic, and geometric concepts are woven together to build a foundation for higher mathematical thinking.

Learner Objectives

By the end of the course, students:

- Evaluate expressions with integers and exponents.
- Solve two-step equations, evaluate formulas, and identify FOIL terms.
- Calculate the perimeter, area, and volume of figures and solids.
- Solve problems related to measurement in metric and customary systems.
- Represent data on statistical charts, including picture, bar, line, and circle graphs.
- Calculate dependent and independent probabilities.
- Plot ordered pairs on a coordinate grid.
- Gain an increased awareness of how math is a life skill.
- Understand how math is like a language, with a set of conventions.

There are 131 lessons, 1 project, 28 quizzes, and 11 tests divided among 11 total units of instruction.

Course Sequence

Unit 1: The Real Number System

10 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Subsets of Real Numbers
- Using Variables
- Comparing Rational Numbers
- Properties of Real Numbers
- Exponents
- Scientific Notation
- Square Roots

Unit 2: Modeling Problems in Integers

15 Lessons, 4 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Translating Expressions and Equations
- Solving One-Step Equations
- Solving Two-Step Equations
- Relations and Functions
- Analyzing Graphs
- Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division of Integers
- Evaluating Expressions

Unit 3: Modeling Problems with Rational Numbers

14 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Prime Factorization and the GCF
- Lowest Common Multiple and Lowest Common Denominator
- Adding and Subtracting Like and Unlike Fractions
- Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying, and Dividing Decimal Numbers
- One-Step and Two-Step Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division Equations
- One and Two Step Inequalities

Unit 4: Proportional Reasoning

13 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Proportions
- Applications
- Direct Variation
- Fraction, Percent, and Decimal Equivalents
- Conversion Within Customary and Metric Units
- Corresponding Parts
- Indirect Measure

Unit 5: More With Functions

15 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Rewriting Equations
- Combining Like Terms
- Distributive Property
- Slope and Intercepts
- Non-Linear Functions

Unit 6: Measurement

11 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Classify and Measure Angles
- Perpendicular and Parallel Lines
- Circles
- Classifying Polygons
- Interior and Exterior Measures of Polygons
- Classifying Triangles and Triangle Inequality Theorem
- Quadrilaterals
- Pythagorean Theorem

Unit 7: Plane Geometry

14 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Perimeter and Circumference
- Area of Parallelograms
- Area of Triangles and Trapezoids
- Area of Circles
- Composite Figures
- Effects of Dimensional Change
- Symmetry
- Distance and Midpoint
- Reflections, Translations, Tessellations, and Rotations

Unit 8: Measures of Solid Figures

16 Lessons, 2 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Solid Figures
- Euler's Formula
- Surface Area of Prisms, Cylinders, Pyramids, Cones, and Spheres
- Surface Area of Composite Figures
- Volume of Prisms, Cylinders, Pyramids, Cones, and Spheres
- Changes to Volume
- Volume of Composite Figures

Unit 9: Data Analysis

12 Lessons, 2 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Collecting Data
- Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion
- Bar, Circle, and Line Graphs
- Frequency and Histograms
- Constructing and Interpreting Box-and-Whisker Plots
- Scatter Plots
- Misleading Graphs and Appropriate Displays

Unit 10: Probability

9 Lessons, 1 Project, 2 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Tree Diagrams and the Counting Principle
- Permutations
- Combinations
- Mixed Review of Outcomes
- Probability and Odds
- Experimental and Theoretical Probability
- Disjointed and Overlapping Events
- Independent and Dependent Events

Unit 11: Review and Final Exam

2 Lessons, 1 Test

Science: 8th Grade General Science II

Course Overview

General Science II is a basic intermediate course intended to expose students to the designs and patterns in God's physical universe. This course expands on the 6th grade course and 7th grade General Science I courses, providing a set of basic scientific skills and a broad survey of the major areas of science, including the health, life, and physical sciences. It also seeks to hone students' observational skills through experimentation and projects, preparing students for higher levels of science.

Learner Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students:

- Use their main senses for observation of the world around them.
- Define science and describe its history.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the different changes in matter.
- Describe elements and compounds in the terms of atoms and molecules.
- Know how to develop good health habits.
- Explain and give examples of the different types of energy.
- Describe different types of simple machines.
- Discuss the balance in nature regarding the different cycles.

Course Sequence

Unit 1: Science and Society

5 Lessons, 3 Experiments/Projects, 4 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Definition of Science
- History of Science
- Science Today
- Science Tomorrow

Unit 2: Structure of Matter I

7 Lessons, 2 Experiments/Projects, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Properties of Matter
- Chemical Properties of Matter
- Atoms and Molecules
- Elements, Compounds, and Mixtures

Unit 3: Structure of Matter II

7 Lessons, 3 Experiments/Projects, 4 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Changes in Matter
- Acids
- Bases
- Salts

Unit 4: Health and Nutrition

4 Lessons, 2 Experiments/Projects, 4 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Foods and Digestion
- Diet
- Nutritional Diseases
- Hygiene

Unit 5: Energy I

6 Lessons, 1 Experiment/Project, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Kinetic and Potential Energy
- Other Forms of Energy
- Energy Conversions
- Entropy

Unit 6: Energy II

5 Lessons, 2 Experiments/Projects, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Magnetism
- Current and Static Electricity
- Using Electricity
- Energy Sources

Unit 7: Machines I

6 Lessons, 1 Experiment/Project, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Measuring Distance
- Force
- Laws of Newton
- Work

Unit 8: Machines II

5 Lessons, 2 Experiments/Projects, 4 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Friction
- Levers
- Wheels and Axles
- Inclined Planes

Unit 9: Balance in Nature

6 Lessons, 1 Experiment/Project, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Photosynthesis
- Food
- Natural Cycles
- Balance in Nature

Unit 10: Science and Technology

9 Lessons, 1 Experiment/Project, 4 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Basic Science
- Physical Science
- Life Science
- Vocations in Science

History and Geography: 8th Grade

Course Overview

History and Geography 8th grade continues the process of developing in students an understanding of and appreciation for God's activity as seen in the record of man and his relationships. The course focuses on American History, covering American History from early exploration through the present day, with special emphasis given to the Civil War and inventions and technology of the 19th and early 20th centuries. These areas of focus target three major content strands: History, Geography, and Government and Citizenship.

Learner Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students:

- Identify significant explorers, such as Christopher Columbus, Francisco Coronado, Sir Francis Drake, Ferdinand Magellan, Henry Hudson, Jacques Cartier, and Samuel de Champlain, noting their accomplishments.
- Understand how conflict between the American colonies and Great Britain led to American independence.
- Understand political, economic, and social changes that occurred in the United States during the 19th century, including changes resulting from the Industrial Revolution, and explain how these changes led to:
 - movement into the western frontier
 - conflict among sections of the United States.
- Describe the causes and effects of the Civil War and its aftermath.
- Describe the causes and effects of both World Wars.
- Understand some of the key challenges facing American society in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

There are 123 lessons, 14 projects, 30 quizzes, and 10 tests divided among 10 total units of instruction.

Course Sequence

Unit 1: European Backgrounds

8 Lessons, 1 Project, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- European Backgrounds
- Spanish, English, and Dutch Explorers
- French Trading Interests

Unit 2: The Colonization of America

14 Lessons, 1 Project, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- The First Colonies
- Life in the Colonies

Unit 3: War for Independence

12 Lessons, 1 Project, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- England's Colonial Politics
- The Conflict with Britain

- The War for Independence

Unit 4: The Emergence of a Nation

9 Lessons, 3 Projects, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- The Birth of the United States
- The U.S. Constitution

Unit 5: The Westward Movement

14 Lessons, 1 Project, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- The Industrial Revolution and Inventions
- Improvements in Communication and Transportation
- Jacksonian Policies
- Challenges in the West

Unit 6: The Civil War

13 Lessons, 3 Projects, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Events Leading to the Civil War
- Focus on Specific Battles
- Reconstruction

Unit 7: The Industrial Nation

11 Lessons, 3 Projects, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- The European Background of Industry
- Early Industry in the United States
- Growth of Corporations and Labor Unions

Unit 8: Twentieth Century World Power

12 Lessons, 1 Project, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- The Spanish-American War
- Causes and Effects of World War I
- The Great Depression

Unit 9: The United States in a Changing World

18 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- Causes and Effects of World War II
- The Korean War
- The Vietnam War
- Challenges of the Late 20th and Early 21st Centuries

Unit 10: American History Review

14 Lessons, 3 Quizzes, 1 Test

- The New World—Exploration and Growth
- Freedom for a New Nation
- The Civil War
- Growth as a World Power