

INTRODUCING SUA'S SCIENCE AND MATH FACULTY
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In keeping with Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo's emphasis on global and cross-cultural points of view, the science and math faculty members have developed an innovative program.

Through the math/science curriculum students will gain a greater understanding of the nature of science/math and how it will relate to their working daily lives. The other objectives are for students to attain hands-on experience in scientific method, deductive reasoning as well as communicating scientific ideas orally and in writing.

The math/science class offerings will be rigorous but an important requirement for all SUA students. There will be three courses offered: In The Mathematical World students will take one of four classes, Liberal Arts Mathematics, Discrete Mathematics, Calculus or Topics in Mathematics. The Physical World will help students understand the physics of motion on earth and in the heavens as traced from Ancient Greek times through the Dark and Middle ages, the Renaissance, Galileo, Newton and the Enlightenment. The Natural World will introduce students to the principles underlying the biological sciences: cells and the cell cycle, the genetic code, evolution and ecology.

"It's interesting today, but when you read the daily newspaper you'll find more and more articles written with some kind of scientific spin," mentions Anne Houtman, biology professor. "I think part of our job at SUA is to foster a community of learners.... We understand that many of the students who come into our program may not end up being scientists or mathematicians...but many at one point or another may be making policy or at least life decisions based on their understanding of science, math and technology."

The faculty members also want students to embrace the notion of science and math and not be intimidated by it. But to also appreciate the creative aspects and the interconnectedness.

"There is no doubt that science and math are important sectors in our society today," says Phat Vu, physics professor. "I think the three of us have a compelling story to tell our students and we want each of them to know that science can be just as beautiful to learn and to watch much like art, music or literature."