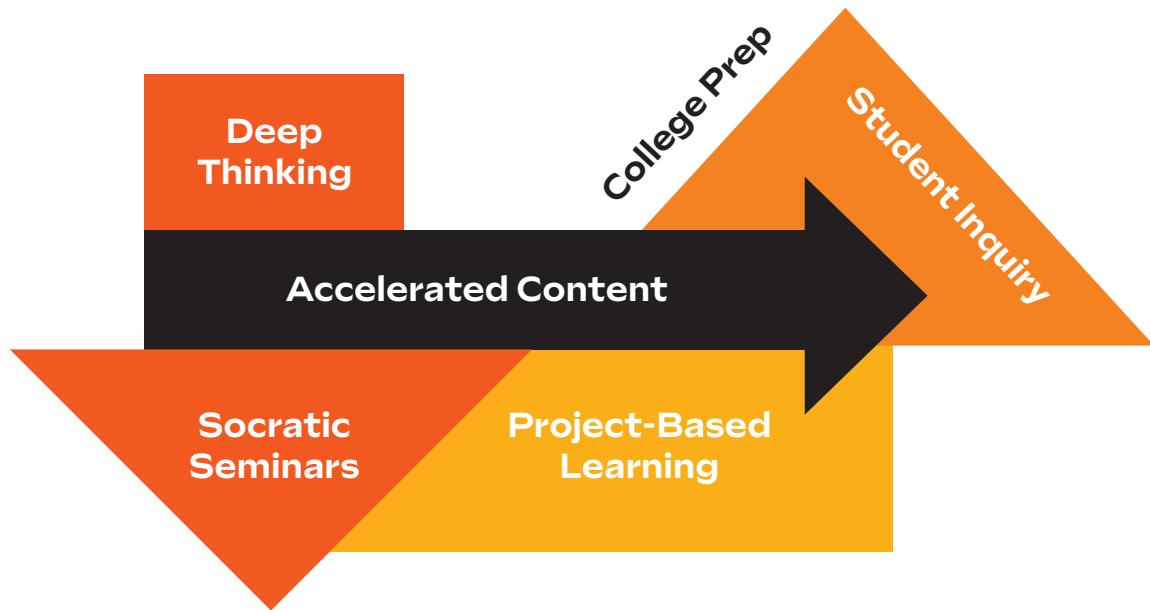




**DOMINION
PREP**

Accelerated Results.
Extraordinary Opportunities.

Dominion Prep Curriculum Model



Each Dominion Prep course is designed as an integration of core evidence-based learning components to form a cohesive curriculum specifically tailored for motivated, achieving students who want to be well prepared for competitive college entrance upon graduation.

Accelerated Content

Accelerated content is the core of the Dominion Prep curriculum. Students learn at a brisk pace through the core content of each course, completing semesters in 12 weeks compared to the standard 16-18 weeks in most school systems. This accelerated pace allows students to take more courses, learn more content, and explore curriculum topics that are significantly advanced compared to typical schools.

Deep Thinking and Socratic Seminars

The brisk pace of the accelerated content is complemented with seminar-based learning twice per week. Each live session is conducted using the classic Socratic seminar model where the teacher poses complex questions that require students to reflect on what they have learned and push the boundaries of their understanding. Socratic seminars not only deepen students' understandings, but they also challenge students to form coherent defenses of their ideas and their positions with a group of peers.

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Student Inquiry

The Dominion Prep curriculum is based on a learning model that makes students active participants in inquiry and exploration throughout the semester. Specifically, the curriculum is organized through the **Five-E Inquiry Model**. Students begin with the **engagement phase** and an activity to instantly challenge their thinking and nurture their curiosity toward the weekly content. Engagement is followed by the **exploration phase** of the model. Students explore content through reading and audio-visual materials. They also are asked to explore on their own so that they are taught how to find answers to good questions using trusted sources. After the explore phase of the learning cycle, students enter the **explain phase**. This challenging phase pushes them to defend and support their understanding. The explain phase is the individual preparation for the weekly Socratic seminar sessions. After the students complete the explain phase of learning, they move to the **elaboration phase**. While the explain phase of the learning cycle is focused on critical thinking and analysis, the elaborate stage changes students' thinking to focus more on creative thinking, innovation, and application. The final phase of the inquiry learning model is the **evaluation phase**. Students respond throughout the week to online tasks that require them to demonstrate their mastery of content. In the evaluation phase of the learning model, the teacher will monitor student success and potentially require additional work to expunge any misunderstandings.

Project-Based Learning

The fourth component of the Dominion Prep curriculum model is project-based learning. Each semester includes an individual project that allows the student to dig deeper into an area of interest within the scope of the curriculum. Students work on their project throughout the entire semester culminating in a product/performance that demonstrate deep learning and achievement. Projects require students to gather information, synthesize and analyze information, and then use that information to create something new that reflects thoughtful reflection and mastery of key concepts in the domain of study.

College Preparatory Foundation

The college-prep curriculum at Dominion Prep accomplishes three primary goals. First, the curriculum engages students in foundational content knowledge that is generally assumed as pre-requisite to a typical college core curriculum. Second, the curriculum engages students in complex thinking and intellectual habits. This includes, for instance, the ability to take a position and defend it with theory and/or evidence, formulating hypotheses and seeking data to test those hypotheses, reading texts of substance to build strong comprehension skills. Lastly, the curriculum builds learner independence so that they are prepared to take ownership of their learning process as they mature into post-secondary settings.

Curriculum Delivery Model

The Dominion Prep curriculum is delivered online in a flipped blended learning model. The bichronous model includes both asynchronous online learning and synchronous Face-to-Face online seminars twice per week. In the asynchronous learning phase each week, students are assigned learning tasks in the Five-E inquiry model. Students are expected to respond to learning tasks in the Dominion Prep Learning System (DPLS). Students will spend an estimated 3 hours working on the asynchronous tasks each week. The synchronous weekly learning includes two 1-hour live seminars online. The seminars are conducted with the Socratic method where students engage in discussions led by the teacher to think deeply about

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the content they study during the asynchronous work.

The project-based learning work occurs weekly in the Dominion Prep curriculum model. Students are responsible for intermediate deadlines throughout the semester related to their project.

The curriculum model and the flipped learning model create a rigorous learning environment where students engage the content of the curriculum through inquiry and application.

Development of the Dominion Prep Curriculum

The Dominion Prep Curriculum development began before 2008. Those early courses developed and improved over time based on teacher and student feedback. The development of the current Dominion Prep curriculum began with target outcomes of robust student achievement, personal flourishing, and learner independence.