

# Applied vs Academic Expectations

An **Applied Course** covers the essential concepts of a subject. Knowledge and skills will be developed through both theory and practical applications, but the focus will be on practical applications. In applied courses, familiar, real-life situations will be used to illustrate ideas and students will be given more opportunities to experience hands-on applications of the concepts being studied.

In an **Academic Course**, students will learn the essential concepts of a subject and explore related material. Although knowledge and skills in the subject will be developed through both theory and practical applications, the emphasis will be on theory and abstract thinking as a basis for future learning and problem solving.

## General Comparison

### Applied

- hands-on, concrete (practical)
- personal & community examples
- shorter, more familiar examples
- step-by-step teacher directed
- using prepared models in learning
- conducting and reporting on research
- recognizing and describing what is heard/read
- developing essential skills

### Academic

- abstract (theoretical)
- complex & global examples
- longer, more unfamiliar examples
- independent, student directed
- creating models in learning
- drawing conclusions and making predictions from research
- explaining and analyzing what is heard/read
- building on essential skills