



**CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
Preparing Students for the Future  
[www.aplusaz.org](http://www.aplusaz.org)

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS AND CATALOG

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# Portrait of a Graduate

The Portrait of a Graduate is a framework designed by the school in collaboration with community partners and stakeholders, to outline not only academic skills necessary for graduates, but also 21st century skills necessary for post-secondary success. The mission of A+ Charter Schools is to see all graduates apply these skills to their pathway after high school, whether that is enrolling in post-secondary education (vocational programs, community college, or a university), enlisting in a branch of the military, or entering employment.



The infographic is titled "PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE" and "Schoolwide Learner Outcomes". It features a central white box with a blue border containing five categories of skills, each with an icon and a list of traits. The categories are: CITIZENSHIP (hands holding a globe), COLLABORATION (two people with a lightbulb), CRITICAL THINKING (a person with a lightbulb), COMMUNICATION (two people talking), and CREATIVITY (a lightbulb). The A+ Charter Schools logo is at the bottom, with the website URL "MORE AT APLUSAZ.ORG" below it.

**PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE**  
Schoolwide Learner Outcomes

**CITIZENSHIP**  
impact | philanthropy | pride | empathy  
digital citizenship | emotional intelligence  
resilient | self-awareness | self-confidence  
participation | genuine

**COLLABORATION**  
flexible | adaptable | team player  
active listening | positive body language

**CRITICAL THINKING**  
strategic | metacognition | problem-solving  
information literacy  
growth mindset | evidence

**COMMUNICATION**  
articulate | clarity | asks questions  
social skills | cross-cultural  
active listening | agency | organized

**CREATIVITY**  
original | authentic | entrepreneurial  
inquisitive | innovative | visionary  
solution seeker | resourceful | constructive

**CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
Pursuing the Possibilities of the Future

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# Career Exploration, Preparation, Resources and Pathways

## College and Career Advising Services

College and career advising services are provided to assist students in course selection, schedule adjustments, vocational and career planning, scholarship applications and financial planning, college admissions and concurrent and dual enrollment at a local community college. In order to meet with the Academic Advisor, please schedule an appointment in the office. Students may also stop by the office, but there are no guarantees of availability. Information for college and career planning is also available on the A+ Charter Schools website at [www.aplusaz.org](http://www.aplusaz.org).

## Personalized Learning Plans and Education Career Action Plans

Each student will develop a Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) with the help of a staff member to use to guide their course selections and activities throughout junior high and high school. This plan will monitor student growth and is based on the collection of data to accurately determine mastery levels and track academic progress. By using a PLP, students will be able to select courses that align with their post-secondary goals, whether those goals include higher education, vocational education, or workforce goals.

Additionally, students in grades 9–12 shall complete an Arizona Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP) prior to graduation in conjunction with their Personalized Learning Plan, which will be updated each year. Students shall develop an Education and Career Action Plan in consultation with their parent or guardian and their Advisor. A+ Charter Schools students develop ECAPs in accordance with State Board Rule #R7.2–302.5 – [www.azed.gov/ecap](http://www.azed.gov/ecap).

## Project-Based and Cooperative Learning

### Project-Based Learning

A+ Charter Schools uses a model supporting project-based learning and inquiry-based learning, with an emphasis on STEAM, across disciplines and standards for students to solve real world problems and see that all academic disciplines connect.

### Cooperative Learning

A+ Charter Schools uses cooperative learning strategies to foster academic learning and growth, but to also develop character and soft skills for lifelong success for students. Using cooperative learning strategies, students will develop critical thinking skills as well as soft skills to demonstrate marked academic achievement and mastery.

## Standardized Testing

All students are required to take assessments as required by the Arizona Department of Education, such as AzM2 and AIMS Science. State assessments for students with disabilities will be handled in accordance with their Individualized Education Plan or Section 504 plan.

### PSAT

The PSAT is highly recommended for college bound students; however, it is not required. Students typically take the PSAT during their sophomore and/or junior year during the fall. In addition, the PSAT 8/9 will be offered for 8th and 9th grade students.

### SAT and/or ACT

The SAT and/or ACT are highly recommended for college bound students as most

colleges/universities require an SAT or ACT score during the admissions process. Students typically take the SAT during the spring of their junior year or fall of their senior year.

### English Language Learners

Arizona state law requires that students with a home language other than English be assessed using the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA) for proficiency in oral language, reading comprehension, and written communication. Following parent or guardian notification, students who are identified as limited English proficient may receive various forms of instructional support focused on English acquisition. A+ Charter Schools offers an English Language Learning Program to serve students who need assistance in learning English. Full inclusion of English Language Learners is practiced.

## Advisory Program and Academic Success Groups

One of the values of A+ Charter Schools is to prepare students in the development of responsible attitudes and behaviors, as well as adult citizenship and ethical issues. This includes exploring career pathways and post-secondary education and training. To help students reach their highest potential and meet the 21st century employment demands, it is important for the school to teach 21st century skills, social emotional learning, character attributes, ethics, citizenship, and community service in conjunction with academics.

### Advisory Class and Academic Success Groups

#### Advisory Class

Each student is placed in an Advisory Class and they stay with the same advisory and a group of no more than 20 students for their entire tenure at A+ Charter Schools. Through an advisory class, each student will have an adult mentor to help provide them with strategies to tackle academic challenges.

#### Academic Success Groups

All students will receive leveled guided practice or enrichment through their Academic Success Group. Academic Success Groups meet the needs of students by using intervention and enrichment for students at or above grade-levels.

To promote Advisory and Academic Success Groups, students will participate in seminars based on character and ethics and participate in required community service each semester, which will be guided and supported through groups.

### Business and Education Tours, Community Service Days and Projects

Each student in grades 7–12 will learn more about their community and the resources and organizations available through business and education tours and community service days and projects.

Beginning in junior high, students will have the opportunity to tour businesses and education institutions to develop career awareness and explore career pathways. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in school-wide service days to help them apply concepts learned in

school and develop community engagement by connecting with various organizations within the community. Other opportunities will be available outside of school to assist students in building community service hours.

Students are encouraged to track their community service hours completed as there are opportunities for scholarships for post-secondary education based on these hours and accomplishments.

## College and Vocational Programs

Opportunities are available for students who are academically prepared and demonstrate character qualities to experience higher education and/or vocational programs under the guidance of the Academic Advisor. This will allow for exploration of a wide range of career-specific elective offerings as well as greatly improve the probability of the student's continuation of post-secondary education or training upon graduation or entrance into the workforce.

A+ Charter Schools will work with the following schools and programs to promote college and career readiness for students.

### Central Arizona College - Maricopa Campus

Central Arizona College (CAC) offers many programs to support students in a successful transition from high school to college. Associate and certificate programs are available.

- Concurrent Enrollment: Students may concurrently enroll in a CAC course and attend in person.
- Early College Program: CAC also offers a specific Early College Program for eligible students in Pinal County to receive a tuition waiver for up to 5 college credit hours.
- Dual Enrollment: Depending on the eligibility of our staff to teach dual enrollment courses on our campus in partnership with CAC, we will offer courses on campus based on student interest.
- Vocational Programs: Students who are interested in vocational training or career and technical education, may enroll in a certificate program at CAC. A+ Charter will support these students through the Concurrent Enrollment and/or Early College Program paths.

### Grand Canyon University Dual Enrollment – Online

Eligible students may enroll in a GCU dual enrollment course, which is offered online. For students who plan to transfer to another institution upon high school graduation, students are encouraged to work with the Academic Advisor to review articulation of GCU courses with other institutions.

### Arizona State University Global Freshman Academy

Students may enroll in an ASU freshman college level course and attend online through edX. Once the student finishes the course, then the tuition is due. Because tuition is not due up front, these are great risk-free options for students to challenge themselves, have success, and then pay once the course is complete.

## College or Vocational Program Tuition

A+ Charter Schools will provide various levels of reimbursement for eligible students participating in college or vocational programs while enrolled in high school. A maximum of 2 courses or 10 credits per semester will be reimbursed per eligible student.

## Central Arizona College

For students who are Concurrently Enrolled or taking a class through the Early College Program but have exceeded the 5-credit tuition waiver, A+ Charter Schools will reimburse tuition for these courses. If a student is unable to pay for the course upfront but has demonstrated successful completion of a college course through one of our other partnerships or programs, A+ Charter will pay for the course upfront based on a contract between the student and family. If the student does not successfully complete the course, the tuition will need to be reimbursed to the school.

## Grand Canyon University Dual Enrollment – Online

For students who are Concurrently Enrolled, A+ Charter Schools will reimburse tuition for these courses not to exceed the current rate of Central Arizona College's tuition rate (ex. If the current GCU rate is \$100 per credit, but CAC is \$86 per credit, A+ Charter Schools will reimburse up to \$86 per credit. If the current GCU rate is less than CAC, A+ Charter Schools will reimburse the GCU tuition rate). If a student is unable to pay for the course upfront but has demonstrated successful completion of a college course through one of our other partnerships or programs, A+ Charter will pay for the course upfront based on a contract between the student and family. If the student does not successfully complete the course, the tuition will need to be reimbursed to the school.

## Arizona State University Global Freshman Academy

Upon successful completion of a course, students earn a Verified Completion Certificate from edX. However, to earn ASU college credit, the tuition must be paid. Upon successful completion, A+ Charter Schools will pay the current rate of tuition for a Central Arizona College credit for the equivalent of the course's credits (ex. If the current CAC tuition rate is \$86 per credit and the ASU course taken is a 3-credit course, A+ Charter Schools will pay a total of \$258).

## Eligibility and Application

Eligible students meet the following prerequisites:

- 11th and 12th grade students at grade level. \*
- Have successfully met core requirements.
- Are not on a behavioral discipline status or have no major discipline issues.
- Exhibit appropriate character qualities and the desire to experience higher education or a vocational program.
- Cumulative GPA of 2.7 or higher.

\*Exceptions may be granted for 10th grade students on a case-by-case basis.

## Application Process

1. Eligible students must submit an application to the Academic Advisor.
2. Administration will request recommendations from the Faculty, Principal, and Academic Advisor as part of the approval process.
3. Cumulative GPA and the student's current semester's grades will be reviewed.

## Approval

Applications, recommendations, GPAs, and the current semester's grades will be reviewed by the Early College Committee to determine final approval. The committee will be comprised of Faculty, Staff, the Academic Advisor, and the Principal.

Notification of the committee's decision will be given in writing to the student.

Approved students may register at Central Arizona College, Grand Canyon Dual Enrollment – Online, or Arizona State University – Global Freshman Academy with approval of the Early College Committee.

*Early College Program students are considered concurrently enrolled while taking courses at A+ Charter Schools and Central Arizona College – Maricopa Campus, Grand Canyon University Dual Enrollment – Online, or Arizona State University Global Freshman Academy.*

Concurrently enrolled students must:

- Attend A+ Charter Schools for morning classes (may not be released before lunch).
- Have courses approved by the A+ Charter Academic Advisor.
- Register for courses that do not conflict with A+ Charter enrollment.
- Meet the CAC, GCU, or ASU registration and admissions requirements for their program/s.
- Maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA at A+ Charter while enrolled.
- Submit mid-semester and final grades of courses to the A+ Charter Academic Advisor.
- Maintain a minimum of a "C" in each college course.
- Failure to meet these requirements may affect reimbursement. Each student will work closely with the A+ Charter Academic Advisor, as well as a CAC, GCU, or ASU counselor, in planning their overall college goals and plans.

Reminder: CAC offers a specific Early College Program for eligible students in Pinal County to receive a tuition waiver for up to 5 college credit hours. For students who are concurrently or enrolled or taking a class through the early college program but have exceeded the 5-credit tuition waiver, A+ Charter Schools will reimburse tuition for these courses.

## Dual Enrollment

Depending on the eligibility of our staff to teach dual enrollment courses on the A+ Charter campus in partnership with Central Arizona College, A+ Charter Schools will offer courses on campus based on student interest. Dual enrollment classes may be offered on campus with A+ Charter Schools instructors for both high school and college credit. Dual enrollment classes are tuition-based and are the responsibility of the student/parents to cover up front, but may be eligible for reimbursement. Students earn credit through Central Arizona College – Maricopa campus and receive high school credit for the approved course. Students are required to pass a placement test to meet the requirements and/or prerequisites for the course. Textbooks are provided by A+ Charter Schools.

## College Pathway Plans

Students will typically choose one of three college pathway plans:

- General Studies: Classes that are transferable to a university, usually required core courses, or major appropriate electives. Generally, this plan is for students who have selected a college major and are interested in the fastest track in completing a four-year degree.
- Associates/Diploma Studies or Vocational Certificates: Classes that lead to a one-year diploma, two-year Associates Degree, or certificate. Generally, for students who are preparing to enter a career or vocation without going on to a four-year university.
- Exploratory Studies: A combination of classes that are required transferable classes or classes in areas that a student is interested in further exploring. For students who are not yet sure of specific career path choices.



## Registration Process for College and/or Vocational Programs

1. Meet with the A+ Charter Academic Advisor for pre-approval of eligibility and to discuss course selection. This is typically done in April for fall courses and October for spring courses. Final approval will be given at the conclusion of each semester, once final grades, discipline records, recommendations, and applications are reviewed by the Early College Committee.
  2. Set up your online student account for the institution of the program the student is approved to pursue. The CAC Online Student Center online at [www.my.centralaz.edu](http://www.my.centralaz.edu), and then apply for admissions through the Student Center in order to enroll.
  3. Schedule an appointment to take any required placement tests for English, Math, and Reading through the Testing Services website and take the placement test for the institution. Note: During the spring semester, placement tests may be offered on campus. See the A+ Charter Academic Advisor for details.
  4. Upon completion of the placement test, schedule a meeting with the A+ Charter Academic Advisor and bring your scores to determine which courses you will take based on your placement scores. The Academic Advisor is required to sign your "Request for Admission/Enrollment Form" as a concurrently enrolled student (enrolled in high school and college) for students under the age of 18.
  5. Schedule an appointment, meet with the CAC Academic Counselor or other institutions counselor, and take your "Special Admission Form" and/or required paperwork to register. At this time, you will be required to provide proof of residency and photo ID. NOTE: All students who are under the age of 16 years old at the start of the course must meet with the "Under Age Counselor."
  6. Register for the A+ Charter Schools pre-approved course(s) at CAC, GCU, or ASU. (Course(s) may not interfere with the students A+ Charter School schedule – students must attend A+ Charter for morning classes and may not be released before lunch). Students may be required to participate in an Orientation for CAC, GCU, or ASU.
  7. Pay the tuition and fees for the courses at CAC or GCU (ASU tuition is paid upon completion of the course) and bring a copy of your course schedule to the A+ Charter Academic Advisor to keep on file. \*Failure to submit a course schedule may affect reimbursement upon completion of the course. NOTE: ONLY tuition will be reimbursed.
  8. Attend or participate in the New Student Orientation at CAC, GCU, or ASU. This orientation is a great overview of the services available to students to aide in their success.
  9. Purchase any required textbooks for the course. Textbooks may vary per course section. Please be sure to purchase the correct textbooks. Textbooks may be able to be ordered online and through third-party vendors.
  10. Obtain Student Photo ID Card and Parking Decal (if you plan to drive), if needed. The Student Photo ID Card is necessary to use the on-campus computer labs and library.
- REMINDER: A progress report is due mid-semester. It is the student's responsibility to turn this into the A+ Charter Academic Advisor.

## Attendance

Attendance is essential for student success at the community college or university level. Absences from class may result in a serious disruption of the student's mastery of the instructional material or the student being dropped from the course; therefore, the student and parents should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. Please refer to each instructor's syllabus for the attendance policy for the course. The instructor's attendance policy often differs from the attendance policy set by A+ Charter Schools.

The A+ Charter Schools school calendar and the school calendar for the community college or university may differ. If the college is still in session and A+ Charter Schools is not in session, please make every effort to be in attendance for college courses to ensure success. If the college is not in session and A+ Charter Schools is in session, the student will not be required to stay on the school campus during hours that are typically spent at the college.

## Progress Reports and Transcripts

Each student is responsible for requesting mid-semester grades from their instructor and providing these grades to the A+ Charter Academic Advisor. If grades are not available on Canvas or an online platform, a progress report form is available in the school office for the CAC instructor to fill out. Final grades for the semester must be submitted to the A+ Charter Academic Advisor. Should the student and/or parent fail to provide mid-semester and official final grades to the school, reimbursement for college tuition may be impacted. (Please refer to the Payment and Fees section for additional information.) In addition, high school credit will not be given for the college course until official final grades/transcripts are turned into the A+ Charter Academic Advisor.

## Grades and Credit Equivalents

A+ Charter Schools requires that each student earn a minimum grade of “C” in each course taken at CAC in order to receive reimbursement, as well as a 2.75 GPA at school. (Please see the Payment and Fees section for additional information.) Refer to the CAC catalog and handbook for standards set by the college and/or program in which the student is enrolled regarding grades.

Per the Arizona Department of Education, high school credit will be awarded as follows for college course credits:

<u>Number of College Course Credits</u>	<u>High School Credits Awarded</u>
3 units or credits	$\frac{1}{2}$ unit or credit

## Student Records

For concurrently enrolled courses, A+ Charter Schools will not have access to student records at Central Arizona College, Grand Canyon University, or Arizona State University. Parents and students will need to provide A+ Charter Schools with the required documentation. For dual enrollment courses, A+ Charter Schools will complete a Memorandum of Understanding with the institution regarding dual enrollment and allows for exchange of student information for the dual enrolled students, with parent consent, which is typically obtained as part of the student’s dual enrollment.

## Transportation and School Hours

If necessary, transportation will be provided from school to Central Arizona College, Maricopa Campus. It is the responsibility of the student and parents to make arrangements for pick up from CAC. Please refer to the “School Transportation Policies and Procedures” portion of the Student Handbook for expectations of students.

## School Hours

Please refer to the class schedule attained from CAC, GCU, or ASU at registration for course start and end times. Do NOT register for classes that conflict with the student's A+ Charter Schools schedule (no classes before lunch).

## Student Code of Conduct

Each student is expected to follow the policies and procedures set by CAC, ASU, and GCU. Non-compliance of these expectations may result in disciplinary action by the community college or university and/or A+ Charter Schools. Please refer to the institutions handbooks and course syllabus for policies and procedures.

## Payment and Fees

Parents and/or students must pay tuition and fees set by CAC or GCU deadlines. The school will reimburse tuition only upon completion of the course based on the criteria outlined in the “Eligibility” section. The school will only reimburse up to two (2) courses per semester that have been pre-approved by the A+ Charter Academic Advisor.

## Tuition Reimbursement

Only courses approved by the A+ Charter Academic Advisor will be reimbursed. Classes will not be reimbursed until grades are reviewed and it is determined that the student met the requirements for the Early College Program. Students must fill out the Early College Reimbursement Form and attach the appropriate paperwork and submit it to the Academic Advisor for approval and the final submission for reimbursement. The deadlines for reimbursement are as follows:

Fall Semester – The third Friday in January by 3:00PM

Spring Semester – The third Friday in May by 3:00PM

## Books and Materials

Once the student registers for the course, it is the responsibility of the student and/or parent to purchase textbooks for the course. A bookstore is available at the CAC, GCU, ASU campus or online. Check with the A+ Charter School Academic Advisor for alternative options.

## Schedule Change Process

### Schedule Change Procedures

Once the school year begins, only the following schedule changes will be made:

- Missing a period in schedule, incorrect placement, lacking prerequisite, courses needed for graduation or completed summer school work or another approved course alternative.
- A Parent, Teacher, Advisor, and/or Administrator may initiate a level change within the first five (5) weeks of each semester (i.e., honors class to regular class). Lower level requests may be granted only if students experience academic difficulty.
- A student choosing to withdraw from a class and enter another class, including elective courses, within the first five (5) weeks of each semester will not receive a W/F (Withdrawal/Failing) grade. A student choosing to withdraw from a class and enter another class after the first five (5) weeks of the semester will receive a W/F grade.
- A request for a Teacher change may be considered if the following conditions are met: Parent and Teacher communication has occurred, and an Administrator and Advisor’s approval has been obtained. Please note that some courses may only have one teacher who is qualified to teach that course.

- Notwithstanding the above, the school's Administration may have to change a student's schedule due to extenuating circumstances (i.e., addition of teaching staff, etc.).
- No schedule changes will be allowed after the first five (5) weeks of each semester. In the rare circumstance that a class is dropped after the first five (5) weeks of each semester, the student will receive a grade of W/F. Schedule change requests should be submitted to the Academic Advisor.

## Course Fees

Materials that are part of the educational program are provided with state and local funds and are at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide his or her own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- Costs for elective course materials, lab materials, reference materials, novels, or other consumable workbooks recommended by either the high school or college that becomes property of the student.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs, extracurricular activities, athletics and/or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, yearbooks, etc.

## Transfer Students

Transfer students who plan to graduate from A+ Charter Schools will be held responsible for the school's graduation requirements. Coursework completed outside A+ Charter Schools will be evaluated to determine whether or not credit will be awarded. To receive A+ Charter School's diploma, a transfer student must meet graduation requirements and have earned four credits in A+ Charter Schools. Students who transfer in the final semester of their senior year must earn a minimum of two credits. The transfer student must also be enrolled in the school granting the diploma in the semester of graduation.

## Course Credit and Grading Policies

### Course Credit

A+ Charter Schools will award course credit based on the following:

- The process for awarding course credit each semester is based upon successful completion of the course with a final grade of 60% or higher and at least 90% attendance.
- Teachers will use formative assessments on a daily basis – classroom participation, quizzes, board work, observations, discussions, exit tickets, homework, independent practice – to determine the needs of the students and if students are ready for summative assessments.
- Unit tests, projects, or papers will be used as summative assessments.
- Each course will include an end of course assessment, such as a cumulative exam or significant project worked on throughout the semester or school year.

Overall/final course grades will be determined based on the following:

- 80% – Summative Assessments
- 10% – Formative Assessments
- 10% – End of Course Assessment

At the conclusion of each semester one half (.5) credit will be awarded per course.

## Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used to calculate course grades:

Percentage	Letter Grade & Proficiency Level	Regular Weighted Grade Points	Honors Weighted Grade Points
100-90%	A - Highly Proficient - The student has displayed mastery that exceeds the objective(s).	4	5
89-80%	B - Proficient - The student has displayed mastery of the objective(s).	3	4
79-70%	C - Partially Proficient - The student is approaching mastery of the objective(s).	2	3
69-60%	D - Minimally Proficient - The student has not mastered most of the objective(s).	1	2
59-0%	F - Not Proficient - The student has not mastered the objective(s).	0	0

- Students who failed to meet the minimum requirement to pass the course and who score below 60% must re-take the course before moving to the next level for courses that require learning in a sequence (ex. earning a 60% or higher in Spanish I prior to enrollment in Spanish II).
- Credits applied toward high school graduation include high school level courses, except Algebra I earned at middle school and credit earned based on Dual Enrollment or concurrent enrollment classes at the community college. If a student earned Algebra I credit at the middle school level, this credit will be counted towards a student's graduation if the previous school awarded high school credit and the course was taught by a high school highly qualified teacher and/or if the student demonstrates proficiency of the content based on the benchmark. Students will receive one half (.5) credit for 3 college credits completed based on Dual Enrollment or concurrent enrollment courses completed at a community college.
- Students will receive a Pass/Fail in any support courses that are classified as non-academic, such as Math Lab and Advisory. Successful completion of support courses will result in a "P" grade, which is valid for credit, but does not apply toward the cumulative grade point average.

## Grading System

A+ Charter Schools maintains a continuous system for informing parents of the status of their student's progress in a class through the Parent and Student Portal. The semester grade is the only grade posted on the cumulative record (high school transcript).

*\*An Incomplete grade must be made up within four (4) weeks or it becomes an "F." A "W/F" is the equivalent of an "F."*

## Grade Clarification

A passing grade shall be determined on a cumulative basis, from the beginning of instruction to the recording of a transcript grade.

Withdraw/Fail (W/F) grades and grades received in all other courses for which the student is responsible will be used in determining a student's GPA.

## Progress Reports and Report Cards

Progress reports are issued at the end of each quarter and are available to be viewed on the Parent and Student Portal throughout the semester. Report Cards are mailed home at the end of each semester and available on the Parent and Student Portal as well. Parents are encouraged to contact Teachers for any clarification. Report cards contain a grade to date plus comments to give parents feedback on how they can help their student(s). If you are unable to access the Parent and Student Portal, please contact the School Office for your login information.

## Weighted Courses

Honors Courses or courses with weighted grades are available through and/or in certain core classes. Weighted grades are assigned to classes that are accelerated and academically more challenging. If you are interested in Honors courses, please see the Academic Advisor. Parents and students will be required to sign-off on an Honors Contract for each honors course. Please be aware that Arizona universities and many others may unweight these grades.

## Course Progression

Students are only allowed to progress to the next core course with a minimum grade of "D" in both semesters. Should a student earn any grade below a "D," (for the year long course or one semester of the course) they will be required to repeat the course or the portion of the course prior to moving on to the next core course.

## Repeating Courses

Students may repeat a core course to improve their grade but may not earn additional credit toward graduation by repeating the course. Students who repeat the course and earn a passing grade forfeit the credit previously earned. Students who repeat the course and then earn an F or do retain credit earned from the previous attempt. In both cases, the original grade remains on the student records; however, the highest grade in the course is acceptable toward graduation and factors into the overall grade point average.

Students may also repeat a course in which they have earned an F. The F is not removed from the record and both grades are used in computing the GPA. Students may retake elective courses for credit. (For example, a student may take Art multiple times throughout high school.) All courses will factor toward a student's overall grade point average, appear on the student's record, and count towards graduation.

# Graduation Requirements

## Graduation Requirements

Students in grades nine through twelve (9–12) in A+ Charter Schools must accumulate 22 credits of acceptable course work for graduation. Two (2) diplomas are offered:

Course Requirements	State of Arizona Minimum Graduation Requirements <sup>1</sup>	Admissions Requirements for Arizona Universities <sup>2</sup>	A+ Charter Schools College Prep Diploma Requirements	A+ Charter Schools General Diploma Requirements
English	4 credits	4 credits [1]	4 credits [1]	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits [2,3]	4 credits [4]	4 credits [4]	4 credits [2,3]
Science	3 credits [5]	3 credits [6]	3 credits [6]	3 credits [5]
Social Studies	3 credits [7]	2 credits [8]	3 credits [7]	3 credits [7]
Fine Arts or CTE/Vocational Education	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
Foreign Language	N/A	2 credits [9]	2 credits [9]	N/A – credits taken will apply towards elective credits
Electives	7 credits	N/A	5 credits	7 credits
Total	22 credits	16 credits	22 credits	22 credits
Civics Exam	60% or higher	N/A	60% or higher	60% or higher
CPR Requirement	Complete CPR Training	N/A	Complete CPR Training	Complete CPR Training

1. English courses/credits must be literature and composition based.
2. Math courses/credits shall consist of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (or its equivalent) and an additional course with significant math content as determined by district governing boards or charter school. Students who have not earned formal credit in Algebra I and Geometry but who have covered the course content described in State Board of Education administrative rule are deemed to have met the requirement for graduation.
3. The Algebra II requirement may be modified using a Personal Curriculum as outlined in R7–2–302.03.
4. Math courses/credits shall consist of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and one (1) course/credit requiring Algebra II as a prerequisite.
5. Three (3) courses/credits of science in preparation for proficiency at the high school level on the state testing assessments.
6. Science credits shall consist of a total of three (3) courses/credits – one (1) credit/course each from any of the following areas are accepted: biology, chemistry, earth science, integrated sciences and physics.
7. Social studies shall consist of a total of three (3) courses/credits – one (1) course/credit of American history, including: Arizona history; one (1) credit of world history/geography; one half (.5) credit of American government, including Arizona government; and one half (.5) credit of economics.
8. Social studies courses/credits should include one (1) course/credit of American history.
9. Foreign or second language requirement shall consist of two (2) courses/credits of the same language

## Graduation Deficiencies (Grades 9-12)

Any seniors with deficiencies at the end of their eighth semester must complete all course work prior to September 1st in order to receive a diploma from the previous scheduled cohort. Students who fail to meet graduation requirements at the end of eight semesters of attendance will be permitted to continue in school and carry a course load sufficient to permit them to meet graduation requirements the following year. Students who fail to meet graduation requirements will be subject to new requirements that may have been adopted. Students with deficiencies will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. Students will be given an opportunity up to the age of 22 to fulfill the graduation requirements and receive a A+ Charter Schools diploma.

## Physical Education Credit Waiver

To waive the required Physical Education requirement, a student must fill out a Physical Education Waiver Request. The activity must meet the following criteria to waive the on-campus course:

- Minimum of 90 hours of documented participation required per semester
- Taught by an accredited or highly qualified instructor through a recognized organization
- Summer Activities cannot be included in the PE Waiver
- Examples of activities: dance, gymnastics, club sports, swimming, martial arts, etc.

Waivers must be signed by the activity's sponsor/instructor, as well as the school's Principal, and turned into the school office. This is only a waiver of the Physical Education class requirement. This waiver does not grant the .5 PE credit. The .5 credit required for graduation must be attained through another elective class. Waiver Forms are in the Appendices.

## Graduating with Honors

Seniors who have met the graduation requirements and maintained an overall unweighted GPA of 3.75 or higher shall be eligible to graduate with Honors.

## National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Requirements

Please check with the NCAA campus advisor for information regarding NCAA academic requirements or visit [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org).

## Valedictorian/Salutatorian Eligibility

To give all students an equal opportunity to become their school's valedictorian or salutatorian, A+ Charter Schools will use the following guidelines:

- Only students in the top 5% of the graduating class will compete for the position of valedictorian and salutatorian.
- These students, at the end of the first nine weeks of second semester, will select the 44 subjects they want to use for their valedictorian/salutatorian GPA. The 44 classes must fulfill the student's graduation requirements. Students may not select S/U classes.
- No valedictorian or salutatorian candidate will have a grade lower than a "C" in any subject.
- Foreign exchange students will not be eligible for the valedictorian or salutatorian position.
- Mid-year graduates will not be eligible for the valedictorian or salutatorian position.
- The valedictorian or salutatorian must have taken a minimum of twelve and one-half (12.5) credits (25 semester courses) at the high school they are graduating from and must be enrolled in a minimum of five (5) classes (full time status) per semester.
- Students who have been suspended during their senior year will not be allowed to speak at graduation.



Students who are interested in competing for the valedictorian or salutatorian position are encouraged to discuss this process with their academic advisor. Please keep in mind that the GPA school ranking is not necessarily the same as the rankings under this system.

## Early Graduation

Students who meet graduation requirements at the end of the sixth or seventh semester are eligible to graduate and will receive their diploma at the end of the school year. These students may participate in graduation exercises at that time.

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

Specific information regarding college scholarships and financial aid should be obtained through the school's Counseling Office.

## Course Descriptions for Grades 9–12

### English

**English I (1 Credit)                      Grade: 9                      Pre-requisites: none**

This course satisfies the first-year English requirement. This course will integrate reading, writing, speaking, listening and language skills using a thematic and character-based approach. All students are taught strategies to effectively read both fiction and nonfiction and respond through varied writing activities, as well as real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**English II (1 Credit)                      Grade: 10                      Pre-requisites: English I**

This course satisfies the second-year English requirement. This course will emphasize the universal themes in world and multicultural literature with an emphasis on critical reading skills. The writing skills of drafting, revising, and proofreading will be emphasized, as well as real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**English III (1 Credit)                      Grade: 11                      Pre-requisites: English I & English II**

This course satisfies the third-year English requirement. This course will cover American themes, authors, and literary movements with an emphasis on combining analytical thinking skills with essay writing, as well as real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**English IV (1 Credit)                      Grade: 12                      Pre-requisites: English I, II & III**

This course satisfies the fourth-year English requirement. This course will develop students' writing and critical reading skills for both work force and college-level application. Students will write arguments, expository/informative texts and narratives on various, real-world topics. Students will develop their critical reading skills as they apply to both literary and informational texts. Readings selected by the teacher will be relevant to the students' current and future lives, both at the

collegial/work–force level and as active citizens, as well as real–world projects integrating skills from the course.

## **Math**

### **Algebra I (1 Credit)                      Grade: 9                      Pre–requisites: None**

This course satisfies a student’s first–year mathematics requirement. This course will focus on linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, including sequences, and also explore absolute value, and piecewise–defined functions. Students will develop fluency writing, interpreting and comparing functions given graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally and use them to solve problems. Students will also explore a formal means of assessing how a model fits data, as well as real–world projects integrating skills from the course.

### **Geometry (1 Credit)                      Grade: 10                      Pre–requisites: Algebra I**

This course will focus on the study of congruence, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, expressing geometric properties with equations, coordinate geometry, geometric measurement and dimension, and conditional probability with an emphasis on real–world modeling contexts. Concepts will be developed through investigation of rigid and non–rigid transformation, constructions, and proof, as well as real–world projects integrating skills from the course.

### **Algebra II (1 Credit)                      Grade: 11                      Pre–requisites: Algebra I & Geometry**

This course will extend algebraic and geometric concepts and apply these to polynomial, radical, rational, exponential with real exponents, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions, as well as piecewise defined functions. Students will continue to develop fluency in writing, comparing, solving (including complex solutions), and interpreting problems represented by the above function families as well as explore the effects of transformations on their graphs. Students will examine data on two quantitative variables to choose functions and make conclusions in context of the data, as well as real–world projects integrating skills from the class.

### **Pre–Calculus (1 Credit)                      Grade: 12                      Pre–requisites: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II**

This course satisfies a student’s fourth–year mathematics requirement. This course will cover analysis and interpretation of the behavior and nature of functions including polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, power, and piecewise defined functions, as well as solving systems of equations, with an emphasis on modeling and solving real world problems. In addition, it will include a study of measures of angles, properties of graphs of trigonometric functions, fundamental identities, addition and double–angle formulas, inverse trigonometric functions, solutions of trigonometric equations, complex numbers, properties of triangle solutions, and conics, as well as real–world projects integrating skills from the course.

### **Statistics ( 1Credit)                      Grade: 12                      Pre–requisites: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II**

This course will introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: (1) Exploring Data: describing patterns and departures from patterns; (2) Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study; (3) Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation; (4) Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses. This course will also develop real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**Calculus (1 Credit)                      Grade: 12                      Pre-requisites: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus**

This course will center on the foundational concepts of calculus: limits, derivatives, and integrals and Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. These concepts will be developed through mathematical practices for Calculus: (1) Reasoning with definitions and theorems; (2) Connecting concepts; (3) Implementing algebraic/computational processes; (4) Connecting multiple representations; (5) Building notational fluency; and (6) Communicating. This course will also develop real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**Financial Math (1 Credit)      Grade 12                      Pre-requisites: None**

This course connects practical mathematical concepts to personal and business settings and offers informative and highly useful lessons that challenge students to gain a deeper understanding of financial math. Relevant, project-based learning activities cover stimulating topics such as personal financial planning, budgeting and wise spending, banking, paying taxes, the importance of insurance, long-term investing, buying a house, consumer loans, economic principles, traveling abroad, starting a business, and analyzing business data. This course encourages mastery of math skill sets, including percentages, proportions, data analysis, linear systems, and exponential functions as well as real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**Science**

**Biology (1 Credit)                      Grade: 9                      Pre-requisites: None**

This course will be an inquiry and laboratory-based study of living organisms and their interactions with their environment. Topics will include cells, molecular basis of heredity, interdependence of organisms, biological evolution, matter, energy and organization of living systems and comparative anatomy/biodiversity, as well as real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**Chemistry (1 Credit)                      Grade: 10                      Pre-requisites: Algebra I**

This lab-based course will examine ecology and the scientific process and analysis, matter and bonding, reactions, phases, and solutions, thermodynamics, kinetics, and equilibrium, acid-base and oxidation-reduction chemistry, and nuclear and environmental chemistry as well as real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**Environmental Science (1 Credit)                      Grade: 11                      Pre-requisites: None**

This lab-based course will examine ecology and the environment. Topics will include scientific knowledge and inquiry, introduction to ecology, biomes, understanding matter and energy, energy on Earth, Earth's atmosphere, Earth's geosphere, Earth's hydrosphere, humans and the environment, environmental policy, and new technology as well as real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**Physics (1 Credit)                      Grade: 12                      Pre-requisites: Two Lab Science's and Algebra II or higher**

This lab-based course will explore physics, problem solving, experimentation, and design. Topics will include kinematics, forces, energy, momentum, electricity and waves as well as real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

## **Social Studies**

**World History (1 Credit)    Grade: 9                      Pre-requisites: None**

This course will emphasize the development of the civilized world. This course will examine the major historical events that shaped world cultures including various government and economic systems, ethical and religious beliefs, and major geographical features as well as real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**US/AZ History (1 Credit)    Grade: 11                      Pre-requisites: None**

This course will examine United States History in a series of nine periods, beginning in 1491 and ending in the present. Course themes include: American and national identity; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; culture and society; migration and settlement; geography and the environment; America in the world. Students develop and utilize skills in the same context as historians, such as analyzing primary and secondary sources, reasoning and contextualization, causation, continuity and change over time, and argumentation as well as real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**Government (.5 Credits)    Grade: 12                      Pre-requisites: US/AZ History**

This course will introduce the basic institutions and practices of the American and Arizona systems of government. This course will focus on the rights and responsibilities of an active and informed citizen the course will also incorporate real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

**Economics (.5 Credits)    Grade: 12                      Pre-requisites: US/AZ History**

This course will explore microeconomics and macroeconomics, which prepare the student for decision-making within the American Marketing System. Students will study supply and demand, competition, monetary and fiscal policies, economic growth and incorporate real-world projects integrating skills from the course.

## **Electives**



**Spanish I****Grady: Any****Pre-requisites: None**

This course will introduce the basic skills necessary to gain a solid foundation in the Spanish language. Major emphasis will be placed on speaking, oral comprehension, reading, writing, grammar and spelling. Students will study social customs, history, culture and music to the Spanish-speaking countries and their people.

**Spanish II****Grade: Any****Pre-requisites: Spanish I**

This course will be an in-depth study of Spanish, requiring the student to think in the language. The course will help students become more fluent in the language while continuing to learn about the culture. Grammar and conversation will be emphasized.

**Online Option****Grade: Any****Pre-requisites: None**

To provide students with a more robust menu of electives, students may take additional courses upon approval through Edgenuity. Edgenuity includes more options for Career and Technical Education courses. Visit: [Http://www.edgenuity.com/products](http://www.edgenuity.com/products) for more information.

## Concurrent Enrollment Credit Policy

Students at A+ Charter Schools may earn the right to be concurrently enrolled at a local community college. Students enrolled in this program will receive .5 credit hours for each 3-credit community college course that they successfully complete. For example, a senior may complete English 101 and 102 in lieu of English IV.

## Course Descriptions for Grades 7–8

### English

#### English 7 (1 Year)

This course builds off of prior English skills learned in elementary school and meets the students grade seven English requirements. Students will learn to analyze and compare different written texts as found in stories, dramas, poetry and non-fictional works. Students will be able to proficiently read, comprehend, and analyze literature and informational texts measured by appropriate grade level benchmarks and other qualitative and quantitative measures. Students will be able to accurately combine words, phrases and clauses to create a multitude of written material both fictional and non-fictional using accurate punctuation, syntax and citations. Students will also complete real-world project integrating learning from the course.

#### English 8 (1 Year)

This course meets the students grade eight English requirements. Students will continue to evaluate and analyze different types of written material and show comprehension through written and verbal

projects. Students will show further mastery of punctuation, syntax and citation in writing a variety of essays, stories and poetry. Students will develop the ability to conduct research and identify how to properly determine the authenticity of sources. Students will also complete real-world projects integrating learning from the course.

## **Math**

### **Math 7 (1 Year)**

This course satisfies the Math requirement for 7th grade students. Students will learn ratios to develop understanding of proportionality to solve single and multi-step problems. Ratios and proportionality will also allow students to solve problems including discounts, interest, taxes, tips and percent increases and decreases. Students will graph proportional relationships and understand the rate of change. Students will also complete real-world projects integrating learning from the course.

### **Math 8 (1 Year)**

This course satisfies the Math requirement for 8th grade students. Students will learn irrational numbers, linear equations, linear inequalities, and systems of linear equations. Students will also develop an understanding of the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships, including modeling an association in bivariate data. Students will also complete real-world projects integrating learning from the course.

## **Science**

### **Science 7 (1 Year)**

This course satisfies the Science requirement for 7th grade students. Students will learn how forces cause changes in motion and how energy is transferred in geologic, atmospheric, and environmental processes. Students will study the use of force and motion in a variety of systems, model how heat energy drives weather and climate cycles, and explain the structure and function of cells. Studies will incorporate the scientific method in their studies and will complete real world projects integrating learning from the course.

### **Science 8 (1 Year)**

This course satisfies the Science requirement for 8th grade students. Students will learn to describe how stability and change and the process of cause and effect influence changes in the natural world by applying energy principles to chemical reactions, exploring changes within Earth and understanding how genetic information is passed through generations. Students will use the scientific method to observe and analyze collected data. Real world projects will integrate learning from the course.

## **Social Studies**

### **Social Studies 7 (1 Year)**

This course satisfies the Social Studies requirement for 7th grade students. Students will understand the relationships and interactions between societies and cultures in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, U.S. history will be taught as it intersects global issues. Students will study revolutions, imperialism, migrations, industrialization, depressions, WWI and WWII, the Cold War era and other important conflicts. Students will be able use primary and secondary sources to prepare real-world projects integrating learning from the course.

### **Social studies 8 (1 Year)**

This course satisfies the Social Studies requirement for 8th grade students. Students will learn citizenship as it connects to historical and current events. Students will learn their rights and responsibilities as United States and global citizens concerning the study of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments. Further students will learn about key legislation, Supreme Court decisions, the Civil Rights Movement and other social movements in United States History and how these can be connected to the modern day. Students will use primary and secondary sources to prepare real-world projects that integrate learning from the course.

### **Electives**

Please see High School electives for related courses.