

## **Courses of Study: A Comparison**

Students must complete a minimum of three (3) credits per semester or six (6) credits per year in order to remain on track for earning a **high school diploma** in **four-years**. Students are encouraged to earn more than the minimum six (6) credits per school year.

The course of study for **each student** will be the high school graduation requirements of the State Board of Education:

### **Arizona State Board of Education High School Graduation Requirements for Cohort 2011 and below (Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors).**

1. Four credits of English
2. One and one-half credits of U.S. History & Government and Arizona History & Government
3. One credit of World History/Geography
4. Two credits of Mathematics
5. Two credits of Science
6. One credit of Fine Arts or Vocational Education
7. Eight and one-half credits of approved additional courses (electives)
8. Meeting or Exceeding the Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is a high school graduation requirement.

### **Arizona State Board of Education High School Graduation Requirements for Cohort 2012 (2008-2009 Incoming Freshmen)**

1. Four credits of English
2. Three credits of Social Studies
  - a. One credit of American history, including Arizona history;
  - b. One credit of World History/Geography;
  - c. One-half credit of American government, including Arizona government; and
  - d. One-half credit of economics
3. Three credits of Mathematics
4. Two credits of Science
5. One credit of Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education and Vocational Education
6. Seven credits of approved additional courses (electives)
7. Meeting or Exceeding the Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is a high school graduation requirement.

The course of study for **university-bound students** is based on the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) entrance requirements of the college or university of the student's choice.

### **ABOR Tri-University Admission Standards**

1. Four credits of English (no change from above)
2. Two credits of Foreign Language (additional requirement from above)
3. Two & one-half credits of Social Sciences (no change)
4. Four credits of Mathematics (two additional credits)
5. Three credits of Science (one additional credit)
6. One credit of Fine Arts
7. Minimum three and one-half credits of approved electives
8. Meeting or Exceeding the Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is a high school graduation requirement.

## **ABOR Academic Competency Requirements**

Students must meet the following requirements for admission to Arizona's three state universities:

### **ENGLISH** (grammar, composition, literary analysis)

4 YEARS/UNITS

*Note:* English courses taken must include literature and substantial emphasis on grammar and composition. Courses such as journalism, business communications, speech and any others not devoted exclusively to the study of English may not be substituted for an English course.

### **MATHEMATICS**

4 YEARS/UNITS

Algebra I, II; geometry; and any advanced math course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite, e.g. pre-calculus, calculus, analytical geometry. (It is strongly recommended that students take mathematics during their senior year of high school.)

### **LABORATORY SCIENCE** (biology, chemistry, physics, earth science)

3 YEARS/UNITS

One unit in at least three of the four areas is recommended, although an advanced level (AP or honors) course in a subject area completed previously can be used for a third unit.

### **SOCIAL SCIENCES**

2 YEARS/UNITS

One year/unit of history (including at least one course in American history) and one year/unit of an additional social science such as geography, government, psychology, anthropology, European or world history, economics or sociology (Economics beginning with 2008-2009 freshmen)

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

2 YEARS/UNITS

Two units of the same foreign language; a third year is recommended. American Sign Language may be used to fulfill this requirement.

### **FINE ARTS**

1 YEAR/UNIT

One unit in fine arts or any combination of two semesters of fine art courses.

### **MEETING ACADEMIC COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Students must earn a cumulative 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in each subject area to meet the academic competency requirements. A lower grade-point average is equal to one deficiency. Deficiencies in both math and lab science will *not* be acceptable.

**IF STUDENTS NEED TO FULFILL** one unit in one or two different subject areas (except math and science), course work may be completed during the first year at the university or through summer school or a community college. Additional course work required by a college major is not considered part of the Board of Regents' requirements for admission and may either be completed before enrollment or during the student's first year.

*Remember: Students must complete all course work requirements within one calendar year of their first enrollment or they will not be permitted to register for subsequent terms. Admission is based on the grade-point average of the 16-unit Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) requirements, not the entire curriculum.*

## Dual-enrollment: Pima Community College

All **qualified students** may concurrently enroll in community college courses. Students wishing to qualify for enrollment in college classes must have

- satisfactory attendance,
- complete all Academy coursework in a timely manner,
- and obtain two teacher recommendations from instructors in the Academy and Principal approval.

Tuition and books for classes are paid for by the Academy.

## Occupational Programs

The following are representative of, but not limited to, the opportunities for occupational preparation available through Pima Community College, with students' tuition paid by SACA. A dual credit agreement between SACA and Pima Community College allows SACA students to earn community college credit as well as high school credit.

### Business

- ◆ Accounting Administration ◆ Computer Science ◆ Finance ◆ Management ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Media Technology ◆ Office Occupations

### Health Occupations

- ◆ Dental Assistant ◆ Radiology Technology ◆ Emergency Medical Technology ◆ Nursing ◆ Lab Technology

### Service Occupations

- ◆ Law Enforcement ◆ Fire Science ◆ Hospitality ◆ Library Media Specialist ◆ Social Services

### Technology and Trade Industrial

- ◆ Air Conditioning & Refrigeration ◆ Aviation & Aeronautics ◆ Automotive Technology
- ◆ Building & Construction ◆ Commercial Art/Advertising Art ◆ Drafting Technology
- ◆ Environmental Technology ◆ Engineering ◆ Manufacturing ◆ Machinist ◆ Welding
- ◆ Electronics ◆ Computer Technology

## Field Experiences

The Academy actively participates in state, national and international field experiences. Scheduled field experiences may include: Biosphere 2, Arizona Historical Society, Fort Lowell Historic Museum, Fort Huachuca, Kartchner Caverns, Bisbee Historical District, Pima Air and Space Museum, Challenger Space Center, Titan Missile Museum, Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, art & cultural performances.

## ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

Students may also earn elective credits by participating in team activities, such as Odyssey of the Mind, Community Problem Solving, Future Problem Solving, and Chess Team.

## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELECTIVE CREDIT

Students may earn elective credit through **approved** activities (taken through Pima Community College or other local organizations). These opportunities may include

- **Physical Education** activities such as
  - Equestrian training, golf, martial arts, orienteering, swimming, tennis, volleyball and weight training.
- **Fine Arts & Academic Competition** activities such as
  - Dance, debate, drama, and music
- **Vocational Education/Work Study** opportunities:
  - Students may earn credit with documentation of continuing employment.

Students may also participate in interscholastic competition through the Southern Arizona Athletic Association (SAAA). SACA has Flag Football, Men's and Women's Basketball, and Co-ed Soccer teams already established. The SAAA also offers Volleyball.