A.3.2 Course Offerings and Graduation Requirements

Create Academy offers a rigorous and unique educational model in which all core academic subjects are integrated with at least one arts subject in grades K-12. This model is designed to build critical thinking and creative problem solving skills so that students successfully graduate college, prepared to navigate diverse career options, and impact the society around them.

A. Course Offerings and Graduation Requirements

Create Academy requires all high school students to pass at least 25 credits in order to graduate high school. This expectation surpasses Arizona State Graduation requirements. The rationale for expecting more of our students is rooted in our promise to prepare every student for success in college, career, and beyond. We know that in order for students to graduate college, they need rigorous and extensive academic preparation in multiple disciplines.

Description of Graduation Requirements

The following chart maps out the differences between Arizona high school graduation requirements, Arizona State University acceptance requirements, Princeton University acceptance requirements, and Create Academy graduation requirements. In 2013, Princeton University was named the number one university in the United States by US News & World Report.[1] While Princeton does not have a specific set of requirements they expect all admitted students to have completed upon enrolling, they do suggest students enroll in "the most rigorous course of study offered" by each student's school. Additionally, they specifically lay out the suggested course of study below.[2]

Figure A.3.2.1 High School Graduation and Incoming Freshman Requirements

Discipline	Arizona Graduation Requirements	Arizona State University Admission Req.[3]	Princeton University's suggested course of study in high school	Create Academy
English	4 credits	4 years	4 years	4 years
Social Studies	3 credits	2 years	2 years of history	3 years
Mathematics	4 credits	4 years	4 years	4 years
Science	3 credits	3 years	2 years of lab science	3 years

[1] "Best Colleges 2012," *U.S. News & World Report*. Retrieved in Jan. 25 2014. Retrieved from: <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities>
[2] Princeton University's website. "Academic Preparation," Retrieved on Jan 25. 2014. Retrieved from: <http://www.princeton.edu/admission/applyingforadmission/preparation/>
[3] Arizona State University's website. "Requirements + Applying: Incoming Freshmen," Jan 25. 2014. Retrieved from: https://students.asu.edu/freshman/requirements

Foreign Language	0 years	2 years of one foreign language	4 years of one foreign language	4 years
Fine Arts	1 credit	1 year	Study in the visual or performing arts	4 years
Elective / Other	7 credits	n/a	n/a	1 year*
Acceleration / College Prep	n/a	n/a	n/a	4 years

* Arizona state law requires all high school students to earn at least one fine arts credit and seven elective credits in order to graduate. Create Academy students will fulfill the Fine Arts credit, as required by state law, and the three other Fine Arts credits required by Create will count toward Arizona's "electives" requirement. Additionally, all foreign language requirements will count toward the state electives requirement.

Description of Courses Offered

All courses at Create Academy will be driven by Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards, will prepare students for the rigors of college and career, and will be aligned with common summative state assessments. All core academic subjects--Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Foreign Language--will be integrated with one arts discipline and will rotate around 4-6 week project-based units.

Figure A.3.2.2 Course of Study for High School Students at Create Academy

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English	English 1-2: Introduction to Rhetoric, Composition, and Research & Introduction to Literary Genres	English 3-4: World Literature	English 5-6: American Literature	English 7-8: Anglo-Saxon to Contemporary British Literature
Social Studies	American Government (one semester) Economics (one semester)	World History/ Geography (two semesters)	American History	--
Math	Geometry	Algebra 2	Precalculus	Calculus
Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	--

Foreign Language	Spanish I / French I	Spanish II / French II	Spanish III / French III	Spanish IV / French IV
Fine Arts	Studio Arts	Studio Arts	Studio Arts	Studio Arts
Other Electives	Elective	--	--	--
Acceleration / College Prep	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily
Choices of Other Electives:	Graphic Design, Engineering, Astronomy, Musical Ensemble, Arts and Social Justice			

*All courses listed below will be integrated with at least one art form, as determined by the curriculum committee

***English Courses**:*

English 1-2:
Students will study the basics of rhetoric, composition, and research. Students will be exposed to literature in all genres: poetry, fiction, non-fiction, as well as contemporary American novels.

English 3-4:
Students will develop their skills in rhetoric, composition, and research. Students will read a wide variety of world literature.

English 5-6:
Students will continue to hone and perfect their skills in rhetoric, composition, and research. Students will read a wide variety of American literature.

English 7-8:
Students will incorporate their skills in rhetoric, composition, and research into all areas of their studies. Students will read foundational texts, including Anglo-Saxon literature up to 21st century British and American literature.

***Social Studies Courses**:*

American Government:
Students will study the different types and levels of American government.

World History:
Students will study the histories of many countries around the world.

American History:
Students will study the history of America from its "discovery" and founding to the present day.

Economics:
In this course, students will utilize historical and mathematical skills to understand the history of economics as well as key economic principles.

***Mathematics Courses**:*

Geometry:
Students will study geometric properties of shapes and angles, including measurement, equations, and logical proofs and apply these concepts to relevant life experiences.

Algebra 1:
Students will learn the fundamental concepts of algebraic reasoning necessary for the study of more advanced math subjects, including Algebra 2 and Precalculus. While this course will most frequently be taught at the middle-school level at Create Academy, it will also be offered at the high school level in order to support incoming transfer students.

Algebra 2:
Students will develop and expand their study of algebraic reasoning, including expressions and equations and apply these concepts to relevant life experiences.

Precalculus:
Students will study advanced algebraic reasoning and trigonometric concepts and reasoning in preparation for Calculus.

Calculus:
Students will study calculus principles and concepts and their application to students' lives.

***Science Courses**:*

Biology:
Students will study biology concepts and relationships, including the life processes of plants and animals.

Chemistry:
Students will study the structure and properties of matter, including the periodic table of elements and chemical reactions and equations.

Physics:
Students will study the physics principles and concepts as they apply to relevant life experiences.

***Foreign Language Courses**:*

Spanish or French I:
Students will learn to read, write, and converse at basic levels and in simple tenses.

Spanish or French II:

Students will develop and hone their reading, writing, and conversing skills in all tenses.

Spanish or French III:
Students will use their knowledge of multiple tenses and complex grammatical structures to read and write at higher levels and to converse in longer and more complex conversations.

Spanish or French IV:
Students will perfect their foreign language abilities and use this course to focus on learning about cultures, histories, and literature related to each country.

Electives:
Electives will be offered every semester and will evolve as teachers propose new course suggestions and submit curriculum maps alongside. The following are examples of possible elective offerings:

Graphic Design:
This course will focus on communication through visual design. Students will learn how to use Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator.

Engineering:
This course will combine students' mathematical, scientific, and artistic skills. They will learn about structural analysis, mechanism design, fluid flows, and thermal systems and then apply that knowledge to solving and creating viable solutions to community problems.

Astronomy:
This class will focus on understanding nature, the sun, stars, galaxies and cosmology in a mathematical and physical way.

Musical Ensemble:
This course will allow students with musical interests and abilities to focus their energies on creating music in a small group of musical teams.

Art for Social Justice:
In this course, students will learn about the historical role of art in issues of social justice around the world, as well as the power of arts to communicate complex social realities. Students will learn about the ways in which art itself has been endangered in contentious historical situations, and they will learn how to use art themselves to call attention to social issues.

Acceleration/College Preparation
This block will be used primarily for teachers to focus on reteaching and differentiating instruction for students based on their individualized needs. Teachers will support students in mastering the standards they are struggling with, and will enrich instruction for those students who are already at mastery.

The "College Preparation" section of this block will happen once every month, and will be structured around supporting students to prepare financially, academically, and logistically for

their college careers. As students approach key junctures in their education, the College Preparation component will occur twice every month in order to support students' specific and imminent college needs.

Studio Arts / Fine Arts
Studio arts courses will focus on one of the arts disciplines offered at Create Academy (visual art, design, music, dance, theatre, film and creative writing) and will explore that art form in depth, at varying proficiency levels. The goal in these courses is for students to learn technical and stylistic skills related to their art form, at the student's individual ability level.

B. Process and Criteria for Awarding Course Credit

Students will earn credit for their courses by demonstrating mastery of standards based on multiple forms of assessment in each course or academic "session." Their final grades will be determined after their performance in all key assessment categories have been averaged.

Level of Proficiency Required to Demonstrate Mastery of Academic Core Content

Create Academy will establish a grading criteria where an average score of 70% in each unit or course indicates the student has a basic proficiency of the content and may move on to the next unit or course. When a student scores an 80%, it will indicate the student has mastered the course content, while a 90% average indicates the student has advanced mastery of the course content. Because the arts integration will serve as an instructional strategy used to facilitate the learning of core academic subjects, a student's mastery of the arts within the academic subjects will be evaluated in terms of their support for the academic standards. Within the studio arts courses and elective courses, students will be expected to demonstrate proficiency in the specific standards that relate to each of those arts and elective courses.

If a student receives a below proficient grade on more than one progress report, sent to families every 4 weeks, the student, student's parents, and teachers will meet in a conference to discuss the student's challenges and determine a plan of action that incorporates and develops the student's original learning plan. Create Academy will incorporate the Response to Intervention model and provide students with multiple opportunities to relearn through reteaching methods.

If a student is not meeting the required minimum grade of "70%," a parent-teacher-student meeting will be called. At this meeting, all parties will assess the student's needs and create an "Action Plan" documenting the students' needs and required interventions.

Finally, the school directors will evaluate whether or not the students' needs are related to a learning disability or his/her status as an English Language Learner. If she/he is entitled to special education services or ELL services, then he/she will be allotted the appropriate support.

If, after having many opportunities to relearn, the student does not exhibit proficiency in their core academic courses, and is neither a Special Education Student nor an English Language Learner, then he/she will not receive credit for the courses for which she/he is not proficient.