Graduation Requirements:

Sierra Preparatory Academy's liberal arts educational model supports a rigorous college prep course of study, which prepares students for entry to the most selective post-secondary college opportunities. For that reason, students at Sierra Preparatory Academy are required to successfully complete 28 credits of course work. The table below compares Sierra Prep Academy's graduation requirements with the Arizona high school graduation requirements:

	State Requirements/Class of 2013 and After Credits	Sierra Prep Graduation Requirements Credits
English	4	8
Mathematics	4	4
Science	3	4
Social Studies	3	5
CTE/Fine Arts	1	3
Foreign Language	0	4
Electives	7	0
Total:	**22**	**28**

General Provision: Students must pass all of their classes in order to graduate from Sierra Preparatory Academy.

Credits: Sierra Preparatory Academy requires 28 credits of high school study for graduation from the high school. This exceeds the minimum state requirement of 22 credits.[1]

Senior Thesis: The school's high school seniors are required to complete a "Senior Thesis", an original research that requires each student to choose an area of investigation and explore it thoroughly. The thesis includes researching, publication, and an oral defense. Successful oral defense is required for graduation.

High School Graduation Requirement[2]:

- **AIMS:** Sierra Preparatory Academy will follow the HS graduation requirements as established by State statute (ARS §15-701.01) and State Board of Education Rules (R7-2-302, R7-2-302.01, and R7-2-302.02) for AIMS HS Writing, Reading, and Mathematics. Students must pass the AIMS HS Writing, Reading, and Mathematics by achieving a score in the "meets" range for graduation from an Arizona public high school. For those students who do not earn passing scores on all three content areas of AIMS HS there are alternative methods for meeting the AIMS high school graduation requirement[3].
- **PARCC:** In December 2012, the State Board of Education adopted a plan to transition from AIMS to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Beginning in Spring 2015, students will take the PARCC English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics exams. Beginning in 2016, if available, PARCC exams scores will be incorporated as a percentage of course grades for courses with standards being assessed. The specific courses and percentages have yet to be determined by the State Board of Education. Beginning in 2017, the graduation requirements will be based entirely on completion of the minimum course of study and competency requirements, which will incorporate the PARCC exam results.

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[1] School districts and charter schools may, at their discretion, establish additional graduation credit requirements for their students. http://www.azed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/state-board-graduation-requirements.pdf

[2] AIMS High School Graduation Requirement Overview, Revised April 10, 2013, http://www.azed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/aims-hs-graduation-overview.pdf. Pending statutory changes currently under consideration, the AIMS HS Graduation Requirement and the alternative methods for meeting that requirement will remain in place through December 31, 2016. Spring 2014 will be the last time AIMS is administered to sophomores. AIMS retesting opportunities will be available for juniors and seniors through Fall 2016.

[3] Ibid.

The table below presents the graduation requirements by course, credits and state/local requirement. All courses represent core subjects and are required for all students. There are no electives included in the course of study, for which Sierra Preparatory Academy will award credit. All courses are year-long classes except the government/civics and economics courses which will be organized according to the chart below:

Trimester 1 (long trimester)	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
Government/Civics	Economics	Economics
(total of .5 credits)	(total of .5 credits for both trimesters)	

Grade	Corse	Sierra Prep Academy Credits Earned	Notes	
9th	Humane Letters	2.0	English = 1.0 Social Studies = 1.0	State
9th	Writing I	1.0	English = 1.0	Local
9th	Geometry	1.0	Mathematics = 1.0	State
9th	Physics I	1.0	Science = 1.0	State
9th	Latin IV/Greek	1.0	Foreign Language = 1.0	Local
9th	Music theory, history, and appreciation	1.0	Fine Arts = 1.0	Local
	9th Grade Credits	**7.0**		
10th	Humane Letters	2.0	English = 1.0 Social Studies = 1.0	State
10th	Writing II	1.0	English = 1.0	Local
10th	Algebra II	1.0	Mathematics = 1.0	State
10th	Physics II	1.0	Science = 1.0	State
10th	Modern Language I (French or Spanish)	1.0	Foreign Language = 1.0	Local
10th	Art theory, history, and appreciation	1.0	Fine Arts = 1.0	Local
	10th Grade Credits	**7.0**		
11th	Humane Letters	2.0	English = 1.0 Social Studies = 1.0	State
11th	Writing III	1.0	English = 1.0	Local
11th	Trigonometry/Calculus I	1.0	Mathematics = 1.0	State
11th	General Chemistry	1.0	Science = 1.0	State
11th	Modern Language II (French or Spanish)	1.0	Foreign Language = 1.0	Local
11th	Economics/Civics	1.0	Social Studies = 1.0	Local
	11th Grade Credits	**7.0**		
12th	Humane Letters	2.0	English = 1.0 Social Studies = 1.0	State
12th	Senior Colloquium	1.0	English = 1.0	Local
12th	Calculus II	1.0	Mathematics = 1.0	State
12th	Biology	1.0	Science = 1.0	State
12th	Modern Language II (French or Spanish)	1.0	Foreign Language = 1.0	Local
12th	Rhetoric and Drama	1.0	Fine Arts = 1.0	Local
	12th Grade Credits	**7.0**		

Consistent with Strategy III of the Performance Management Plan, Sierra Preparatory Academy will implement a plan for monitoring and documenting student learning.

Awarding of Credit:
The criteria and process for awarding course credit shall be based on mastery of the Arizona Common Core Standards for Language/Arts and Mathematics and the Arizona Academic Standards in Science, Social Studies, Arts and Physical Education. All courses taught for credit will receive a letter or a pass/fail grade. Sierra Preparatory Academy will use the student information system to maintain grades and generate transcripts.

The table below lists the grade point values and the percentages used to determine each grade at Sierra Preparatory Academy. The grade assigned takes into account both the averages for various categories of quantitative (formative and summative) assessments relevant to the individual course (e.g. tests, quizzes, homework, essays, etc.) and the qualitative (narrative) evaluation by the teacher.

Sierra Preparatory Academy		
Percentage	**Letter Grade**	**Grade Point Value**
A	**90 – 100%**	**4.0**
B	**80 – 89%**	**3.0**
C	**70 – 79%**	**2.0**
D	**60 – 69%**	**1.0**
F	**below 60%**	**0.0**
	P = Pass (reserved for designated pass/fail courses) **I =** Incomplete (maximum length of time to make up a course is two trimesters). If not completed the incomplete "I" turns to "F" **W =** Withdraw	

Students will be minimally required to pass two of three trimesters with a C- or better grade in order to automatically earn credit for any course. Given that many schools only require passage of one semester to earn credit, this is one way in which Sierra Prep seeks to raise academic standards. Students who do not meet this standard will be required to undergo some form of remediation depending on the severity of their deficiency. Student progress will be monitored constantly and officially evaluated at the mid-point of each trimester to determine if remediation is likely or necessary. Remediation may include but is not limited to mandatory tutoring, additional instruction during trimester breaks, summer school, or repeating the class entirely.

If a student fails two or more classes at the end of the fall trimester (Humane Letters at the high school level counts as two classes) then he or she is not eligible for summer study/school and must repeat the entire year. Students are allowed to make-up one failing trimester grade per year through an appropriate offsite course approved by the Headmaster.

Withdrawals: Students enrolled at Sierra Prep Academy may withdraw from the Academy or from a course they are enrolled in:

- ✓ From the Academy: If a student withdraws from Sierra Prep Academy to enter another school, the transcript will reflect the grades earned at the date of withdrawal.
- ✓ From a Course: All students must complete the entire core curriculum to receive a Sierra Prep Academy diploma. Students are encouraged and supported to complete the courses they are enrolled in. Students requesting to withdraw from a course while remaining enrolled at Sierra Prep Academy must receive Administrative approval. Administrative approvals will be granted in connection with a specific 504 or IEP plan.

Attendance: Because participation in seminar is crucial for all classes, attendance will naturally be an important element in determining letter grades. In accordance with state regulations students may not miss more than 10 days of school during the year or else they must repeat.

Transfer of High School Credits: Official transfer credit acceptance plan for Sierra Prep Academy aligned to state regulations, will be established and approved by the Sierra Prep Academy governing board. Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-189.03, the policy will have the following guidelines:[4]

- From a School District or Charter School to Sierra Prep Academy:
  - ✓ If a student who was previously enrolled in a charter school or school district enrolls in Sierra Prep Academy, the charter school shall accept credits earned by the student in courses or instructional programs at the transferring charter school or school district. Sierra Prep Academy governing board shall adopt a policy concerning the application of transfer credits for the purpose of determining whether a credit earned by a student who was previously enrolled in a school district or charter school will be assigned as an elective or core credit. A student who transfers from a charter school or school district to Sierra Prep Academy shall be provided with a list that indicates which credits have been accepted as an elective credit and which credits have been accepted as a core credit by Sierra Prep Academy. Within ten school days after receiving the list, a student may request to take an examination in each particular course in which core credit has been denied. Sierra Prep Academy shall accept the credit as a core credit for each particular course in which the student takes an examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by a teacher in Sierra Prep Academy who teaches the subject matter on which the examination is based.
- From a Private School to a Sierra Prep Academy:
  - ✓ Credit transfer guidelines for students transferring from a private school to Sierra Prep Academy, will be created and determined at the discretion of Sierra Prep Academy's governing board.

Required Exhibit:

- Menu of course offerings

[4] High School Graduation Requirements, http://www.azed.gov/hsgraduation/