A.3.2 Course Offerings and Graduation Requirements

A.3.2.a Graduation Requirements

Below in Table 1 are the course offerings in accordance with the Arizona State Graduation Requirements and reflect the statutorily mandated Arizona graduation requirements for 2015-16.

Table 1- Credits at PCA HS

Course Requirements	Arizona Credit Requirements	Phoenix Collegiate Academy Credit Requirements
English/ Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics	4	4
Science	3	4
Social Studies	3	4
CTE/Fine Arts	1	1
Electives	7	7
Total Credits	**22**	**24**

A.3.2.b Process and Criteria for Course Credit

Students must complete a semester or year-long course with a grade of 70% or higher to be considered passing *and* promoted to the next level in that content area sequence. A score of 60-69% is not considered passing/promoted, but it is considered one half (for a semester) or one credit (for a year-long course). Students can re-take a course in Summer Academy or Zero Hour and improve their grade, and move onto the next class in the sequence of that content. For students who earned a 59% or lower, they earn no credit and must take Summer Academy or Zero Hour courses in order to earn that credit (and possibly promotion) by scoring a 60% or higher. For example, a student who earns a 65% in US History will have one credit (a year-long course) but will not be promoted to the next history class unless they take Summer Academy or Zero Hour classes to show mastery of up to 70% or higher to be promoted.

All students have the opportunity to participate in Summer Academy and Zero Hour at no cost. We fundamentally believe that students need to master content in order to succeed at the next level, so we do not punish students for not being successful in a class the first time, and we work hard to ensure students have access to a class a second or even third time if they require it.

In order to earn credit from Summer Academy, they must be present for all 20 hours of instruction in that class. In order for a student to earn credit for Zero Hour, they must have over 95% attendance in that Zero Hour class for the semester or year (depending on length of the class).

A.3.2.d High School Course Offerings

Proposed Course Offerings and Descriptions

- **Mathematics**: All math courses will be aligned to Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards and AP standards. Upon graduation, students will be proficient in algebra, coordinate geometry, trigonometric functions, and calculus.
- **English Language Arts**: The ELA focus is on reading and writing aimed towards literature and composition. All courses are aligned to Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards and AP standards.
- **Science:** Biology, Chemistry, Biology II or AP Biology, Chemistry II or AP Chemistry, and Physics or AP Physics will prepare students for Advanced Placement tests. All courses will be aligned to Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards and AP standards.
- **Social Studies:** High school students will study American History, World History, United States Government, European History and Economics. All courses will be aligned to Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards and AP Standards.
- **Foreign Language:** Spanish will be offered to all students in two tracks: Spanish for Native Speakers and Non-Native Speakers. Students will have the opportunity to take AP Spanish exams in their Junior or Senior Years. Other languages will be offered as quality teaching candidates are found. All courses will be aligned to Arizona Foreign Language Standards and AP Spanish Standards.
- **Electives:** SAT/ACT prep will be offered Freshman and Sophomore year as these exams take place in Junior year (ACT and PSAT). Students will be offered Ethics in Junior and Senior year with a focus on the skill of Socratic seminar and debate style classes. Students will also have opportunities for fine arts as well.

High School Course Offerings

The high school course offerings are focused on the core subjects. Below, in Table 2, are the course offerings in accordance with the Arizona State Graduation Requirements. Students will be required to take a full complement of classes (six) each year, in order to prepare for college. Our intense focus on the Advanced Placement classes is key to ensuring we are holding ourselves and our students to the highest level. The following is a comparison of the course requirements of Phoenix Collegiate Academy students to the requirements for the state of Arizona. (We assume the majority of our students will be coming from PCA MS where students complete a year-long Algebra and Biology course. Thus, we begin our ninth graders in Geometry and Chemistry.)

Table 2- Course offerings at PCA HS

	Math	**English**	**Social Studies**	**Science**	**Foreign Language**	**Advisory**

Ninth	Geometry	World Literature	AP World History or Honors World History	Chemistry	Spanish I for Native OR Spanish I for Non-Native	SAT Prep (one semester) and Economics (one semester)
Tenth	Algebra II	US and British Literature	AP United States History or Honors United States History	Physics	Spanish II OR Spanish II for Non-Native	SAT Prep (one semester) and Fine Arts (one semester)
Eleventh	Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus	AP Literature and Language or Honors Modern Literature	AP European History or Honors European History	AP Biology or Biology II	Spanish III OR Spanish III for Non-Native	Ethics (one semester) and Fine Arts (one semester)
Twelfth	AP Calculus or Honors Calculus	AP Literature and Composition or Honors Literary Analysis	AP US Government or Honors US Government	AP Chemistry or AP Physics	AP Spanish Culture and Language (for native speakers) or Spanish IV for Non-Native	Advanced Ethics Senior Seminar

Mathematics Course Offerings

In high school, students will focus on a demanding college preparatory math curriculum that will prepare them to complete calculus or Advanced Placement calculus by the time they graduate from high school. All math courses will be aligned to the Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards. By the time students will graduate, they will be proficient in radical, polynomial and

rational expressions, quadratic and radical equations, fundamentals of proof, coordinate geometry, trigonometric functions, and calculus. The courses offered are:

- *Geometry:* Students will learn the fundamentals of Geometry.
- *Algebra II:* Students will learn more complex applications of algebraic reasoning.
- *Trigonometry:* Students will learn the fundamentals of Trigonometry.
- *Honors Calculus:* Students will be able to use and apply the theories and skills of Calculus.
- *AP Calculus:* Students will be able to use and apply the theories and skills of Calculus, and pass the rigorous AP exam at the close of the year.

English Language Arts Course Offerings

The Phoenix Collegiate Academy English Language Arts curriculum will ensure the development of student proficiency in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. There will also be a clear focus on the development of research skills for all students at the high school level. The Phoenix Collegiate Academy ELA focus is on reading and writing at all grade levels, and the course strands will be aimed towards literature and composition writing from ninth grade through senior year. The development of literacy and language skills is the foundation for communication and the basis for acquiring further knowledge through inquiry, research and comprehension. The courses offered are:

- *World Literature:* Students will study literature from all major regions of the world- Africa, South America, Asia, Central America, and a variety of texts from America and Europe. Students will practice writing literary analyses based on their interpretations of these books.
- *U.S. and British Literature:* Students will study the writings of many U.S. and British novelists, speech writers, orators, and political commentators. Students will write their own critical analyses of these writings.
- *AP Literature and Language:* Students will study texts recommended by the College Board and prepare written persuasive essays throughout the year. Students will prepare to pass the rigorous AP test.
- *Honors Modern Literature:* Students will read a variety of texts from post-1950 authors. They will use these readings as a way to practice their own creative writing style.
- *AP Literature and Composition:* Students will study the nuances of figurative types of literature (poetry, short stories, etc.) and practice writing literary analyses. Students will prepare to pass the rigorous AP test.
- *Honors Literary Analysis:* Students will read a variety of figurative texts and study the nuances. Students will write literary analyses throughout the year.

Social Studies Course Offerings

The Phoenix Collegiate Academy Social Studies curriculum will help to develop our students into informed citizens with an in-depth understanding of the history of the United States and the world. At the high school level, students will study World, United States, and European History as well as economics and government. The courses offered are:

- *AP World History:* Students will study the history of the world and prepare to pass the rigorous AP test.
- *Honors World History:* Students will study the history of the world.
- *AP United States History:* Students will study the history of the United States and prepare to pass the rigorous AP test.
- *Honors United States History:* Students will study the history of the United States.
- *AP European History:* Students will study European History from the Dark Ages to the modern era and prepare to pass the rigorous AP test.
- *Honors European History:* Students will study European History from the Dark Ages to the modern era.
- *Economics:* Students will learn the fundamentals of Micro and Macro Economics and how to apply those concepts.
- *AP U.S. Government:* Students will study the governmental system in the United States at the local, state, and federal level. Students will prepare to pass the rigorous AP test.
- *Honors U.S. Government:* Students will study the governmental system in the United States at the local, state, and federal level.

Science Course Offerings

In high school, Chemistry, Biology II or AP Biology, Chemistry II or AP Chemistry, and Physics or AP Physics will prepare students thoroughly for End-of-Course Tests and Advanced Placement tests. Science will be required at the every level as we prepare students for college entrance, and will provide a full complement of a four-year sequence of study at the high school level. The courses offered are:

- *Chemistry:* Students will study the fundamentals of Chemistry.
- *AP Biology:* Students will study the applications and use the skills of Biology to prepare to pass the rigorous AP exam.
- *Biology II:* Students will apply the skills they learned in Biology and extend their research and laboratory skills.
- *AP Chemistry:* Students will study the applications and use the skills of Chemistry to prepare to pass the rigorous AP exam.
- *Chemistry II:* Students will apply the skills they learned in Chemistry and extend their research and laboratory skills.
- *AP Physics:* Students will use calculus based analysis to study physics and to prepare to pass the rigorous AP exam.
- *Physics:* Students will learn the fundamentals of Physics and the applications for it.

Foreign Language Course Offerings

Beginning in ninth grade, all students will elect a foreign language such as Spanish or another language as part of their course of study. The rationale behind choosing Spanish as one of the language choices is due in large part to the fact that many of the students in the school will be Latino

(based on enrollment at PCA MS, about 85%). Many students in South Phoenix speak some Spanish, but many cannot read or write fluently. Offering Spanish will allow these students to become fluent in two languages very quickly. Another language will be offered as the staff grows and a teacher of the highest quality is found, but finalization of the selection of the second foreign language will be based upon further research into best practice, hiring, and program sustainability. The courses offered initially are:

- *Spanish I for Non-Native Speakers:* Students will learn the fundamental sentence structures and vocabulary for everyday use. Students will write basic directives and papers in Spanish
- *Spanish I for Native Speakers:* Students will focus on grammar and reading skills.
- *Spanish II for Non-Native Speakers:* Students will learn to conjugate verbs more accurately and write longer pieces in Spanish.
- *Spanish II for Native Speakers:* Students will begin reading Spanish novels and writing literary responses in Spanish.
- *Spanish III for Non-Native Speakers:* Students will begin reading Spanish novels and writing literary responses in Spanish.
- *Spanish III for Native Speakers:* Students will begin practicing translation techniques for reading and writing from Spanish to English.
- *AP Spanish Culture and Language:* Students will prepare to pass the rigorous AP exam.
- *Spanish IV:* Students will write short stories in Spanish and read complex novels and poetry in Spanish.

Ethics Course Offerings

At the ninth and tenth grade levels students will engage in an ethics course that is closely aligned with the English language arts standards in Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards. This class will focus on developing students' character for the competitive world of college and beyond. This class will also expose students to various ways of thinking which will help them have a wider range of thoughts and experience upon entry to college. Students will do a significant amount of reading, writing, debating, and presenting.

Fine Arts

Phoenix Collegiate Academy will offer elective fine arts and vocational education classes aligned to the state standards for High School students.

- *Art History*: Students will study art and the role it has played throughout History.
- *Introduction to Art*: Students will complete a survey of art that includes drawing, painting and sculpture.