A.3.2 Course Offerings and Graduation Requirements

Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation Academy ("Western Tech: CFA") aims to deliver a rigorous selection of courses that will prepare all students for the demands of college graduation leading to career success.

A. Course Offerings and Graduation Requirements

Description of Graduation Requirements

Western Tech: CFA's graduation requirements are aligned to, and surpass, Arizona minimum graduation and university admission requirements, aligned to the school's mission of preparing students for college graduation leading to career success:

DISCIPLINE	ARIZONA GRADUATION REQUIREMENT[1]	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY ADMISSION REQ.[2]	WESTERN TECH: CFA GRADUATION REQUIREMENT
English Language Arts	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Science	3 credits	3 credits	4 credits
Social Studies/History	2 credits	2 credits	4 credits
Foreign Language		2 credits	4 credits
Fine Arts	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
Physical Education			1 credit
College and Career Preparation			2.5 credits[3]
Other Elective (Includes STEAM and Enrichment)	7 credits (includes foreign language, physical education, etc.)		3.5 credits
Total	21 credits	16 credits	28 credits

Table A.3.2.1 Comparison of Graduation Requirements

Description of Courses Offered for Grades 9-12

	English Language Arts	Social Studies	Science	Math	Foreign Language	STEAM Elective	Enrichment; College & Career Prep.
9	Composition, Research, and Rhetoric	American Government & Civics	Biology	Algebra 2	Spanish 2 or Mandarin	Varies, including fine arts	Varies, including 9th Grade

[1] Arizona Department of Education. (2012). Class of 2013 graduation requirements. Retrieved from http://www.azed.gov/state-board-education/high-school-graduation-requirements/.

[2] Arizona State University. (2012). Freshman admission requirements and timelines. Retrieved from https://students.asu.edu/freshman/requirements.

[3] Includes .5 credit 9th Grade Seminar, .5 credit PSAT prep course in 10th grade, .5 credit SAT/ACT prep course in 11th grade, .5 credit required internship in 11th grade, and .5 credit Senior Advisory in 12th grade.

					Chinese 2	(options)	Seminar and/or Physical Education (options)
10	World Literature	World History	Chemistry or AP Chemistry	Geometry	Spanish 3 or Mandarin Chinese 3	Varies, including fine arts (options)	Varies, including PSAT Prep and/or Physical Education (options)
11	American Literature	American History	Physics or AP Physics	Precalculus	Spanish 4 or Mandarin Chinese 4	Varies, including fine arts (options)	Varies, including SAT/ACT Prep, Internship, and/or Physical Education (options)
12	AP Language & Composition (Required AP Course)	Economics and Current Issues	AP Environmental Science or AP Biology (1 Required AP Course)	AP Calculus AB or AP Statistics (1 Required AP Course)	AP Spanish or AP Chinese (1 Required AP Course)	Varies, including fine arts (options)	Varies, including Senior Advisory and/or Physical Education (options)

Table A.3.2.2 Menu of Course Offerings

English Language Arts Courses

All English Language Arts courses will be backwards-designed to prepare students for success on the requirements of the ACT and AP English Language and Composition assessments. Courses will align to the Common Core State Standards and, where applicable, the AP course requirements. The courses offered are:

Composition, Research, and Rhetoric*: Students will study the basics of effective written and spoken communication, master the research process, and study rigorous texts, both expository and fictional. Course will be taught in a combined double block with American Government and Civics.*
World Literature*: Students will study expository and fictional texts from around the globe and from a variety of time periods. Course will be taught in a combined double block with World History; texts will reflect the time periods and geographical areas being studied. Special emphasis will be placed on texts from the Latin American and Asian traditions to align with students' foreign language courses.*

American Literature*: Students will study expository and fictional texts from the United States from a variety of time periods and literary movements. Course will be taught in a combined double block with American History; texts will reflect the time periods being studied.*
AP Language and Composition*: Students will study texts recommended by the College Board and prepare to pass the AP test. Course will be taught in a combined double block with Economics and Current Issues.*

Social Studies Courses
All social studies courses will be rigorous and ensure students have a broad background of historical, civic, and economic events. Courses will align to the Arizona state standards. The courses offered are:

American Government and Civics*: Students will study the workings of American government at all levels. Course will be taught in a combined double block with American Government and Civics. Special emphasis will be places on the U.S. Constitution, Arizona Constitution, and Arizona state and local government.*
World History*: Students will study the history of the world. Course will be taught in a combined double block with World Literature.*
American History*: Students will study the history of the United States. Course will be taught in a combined double block with American Literature. Special emphasis will be placed on the history of Arizona.*
Economics and Current Issues*: Students will study micro and macroeconomics and current issues facing their communities, nation, and world. Course will be taught in a combined double block with AP Language and Composition.*

Science Courses
All science courses will be backwards-designed such as to prepare students for success on the requirements of the requisite AP science assessments. Science courses will ensure that students have a broad background of scientific knowledge in the fields of biology, chemistry, and physics. Courses will align to the Arizona state standards and, where applicable, the AP course requirements. The courses offered are:

Biology*: Students will study life science through hands-on experiments and master foundational research and laboratory skills. Students will be expected to communicate the results of experiments through written lab reports.*
Chemistry*: Students will study chemical science through hands-on experiments. Students will be expected to communicate the results of experiments through written lab reports.*
AP Chemistry*: Students will study chemical science through hands-on experiments and prepare to pass the AP test. Students will be expected to communicate the results of experiments through written lab reports.*
Physics*: Students will study physical science through hands-on experiments. Students will be expected to communicate the results of experiments through written lab reports.*
AP Physics*: Students will study physical science through hands-on experiments and prepare to pass the AP test. Students will be expected to communicate the results of experiments through written lab reports.*

AP Biology*: Students will study life science through hands-on experiments and prepare to pass the AP test. Students will be expected to communicate the results of experiments through written lab reports.*
AP Environmental Science*: Students will study environmental science and sustainability issues through hands-on experiments and prepare to pass the AP test. Students will be expected to communicate the results of experiments through written lab reports.*

Mathematics Courses

All mathematics courses will be backwards-designed such as to prepare students for success on the requirements of the ACT and AP Calculus AB assessments. Courses will align to the Common Core State Standards and, where applicable, the AP course requirements. The courses offered are:

Algebra 1: *This course will be taught in 8th grade for high school credit. Students will study foundational algebraic concepts and reasoning.*
Algebra 2*: Students will study algebraic concepts and reasoning.*
Geometry*: Students will study geometric concepts and reasoning, including logical proofs.*
Precalculus*: Students will study advanced algebraic concepts and reasoning and trigonometric concepts and reasoning in preparation for AP Calculus.*
AP Calculus AB*: Students will study calculus and its real-world applications and prepare to pass the AP test.*
AP Statistics*: Students will study statistics and its real-world applications and prepare to pass the AP test.*

Foreign Language Courses

In middle school, students will choose a foreign language to study at Western Tech: CFA: either Spanish of Mandarin Chinese. Courses will be backwards-designed to prepare students for success on the requirements of the AP Spanish Language or AP Chinese Language and Culture assessments, depending on students' language of study. The courses offered are:

Spanish or Mandarin Chinese 1*: This course will be taught in 8th grade for high school credit. Students will study the foundations of effective written and spoken communication in Spanish or Mandarin Chinese. Students will develop reading and listening comprehension skills.*
Spanish or Mandarin Chinese 2*: Students will study the basics of effective written and spoken communication in Spanish or Mandarin Chinese. Students will hone reading and listening comprehension skills.*
Spanish or Mandarin Chinese 3*: Students will build upon effective written and spoken communication in Spanish or Mandarin Chinese. Students will continue to hone reading and listening comprehension skills. Students will begin reading and writing longer pieces in Spanish or Mandarin Chinese.*
Spanish or Mandarin Chinese 4*: Students will attain proficiency in written and spoken communication in Spanish or Mandarin Chinese. Students will begin reading and writing longer pieces in Spanish or Mandarin Chinese, including a focus on literary response.*
AP Spanish*: Students will attain fluency in Spanish and prepare to pass the AP test.*
AP Chinese Language and Culture*: Students will attain fluency in Mandarin Chinese and prepare to pass the AP test.*

STEAM Elective, Enrichment, and College and Career Preparation Courses

Students will have the opportunity to enrich their learning through science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) electives, enrichment courses, and college and career preparation courses. These mission-aligned courses will allow students to explore their creativity or future careers and be exposed to a wide range of disciplines in the STEAM fields while still engaging in rigorous academics. Options for College and Career Preparation courses will include 9th Grade Seminar, PSAT Prep, SAT/ACT Prep, and Senior Advisory. Options for STEAM Electives and Enrichment courses may include Computer Science, Architecture and Drafting, Sound Mixing, and Digital Photography.

In addition, it will be required for all students to complete an Internship in 11th grade. The 11th grade internship course will be coordinated with Western Tech: CFA's community and/or higher education partners and may take the form of a direct work experience with a STEAM firm or a research project with a university or community college partner. To complete the Internship credit, students will have to complete 100 hours of work for their work or research experience, as well as submit a pre-Internship Project and Goal Description, mid-Internship Progress Report, and post-Internship Project and Goal Reflection.

B. Process and Criteria For Awarding Course Credit

Students demonstrate mastery of standards for a given course based upon the following factors: (1) grades on homework (not to be more than 10% of the grade for a given class); (2) grades on tests, quizzes, and Quarterly Formative Assessments that measure student performance on Common Core State Standards or Arizona State Standards; (3) grades on classwork and projects; and (4) performance on online learning assessments for the hybrid portion of courses.

Western Tech: CFA will ensure grades are consistent and valid between instructors in a course by holding at least one professional development session at the beginning of each academic year regarding how to norm grading policies among collaborative teams.

The following details the grading policy for Western Tech: CFA to be used by teachers in determining final grades for courses based upon a combination of scores from the factors above. Please note that according to the below scale, a score of 80% or better denotes mastery of course content, while a score of 70% of better denotes proficiency of course content. "Proficiency" means students have enough working knowledge of course content to move on to the next units or next course; "mastery" means students have demonstrated sufficient knowledge of course content as to be on track to eventually pass the Advanced Placement exam in that content area.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Definition
A+	97%-100%	Students have demonstrated advanced mastery of course content.
A	93%-96%	
A-	90%-92%	
B+	87%-89%	Students have demonstrated mastery of course content.
B	83%-86%	
B-	80%-82%	
C+	77%-79%	Students have demonstrated

C	73%-76%	proficiency of course content.
C-	70%-72%	
Incomplete	Below 70%	Students have not demonstrated proficiency of course content.

Table A.3.2.3 Grading Policy for Western Tech: CFA

Final grades will be calculated by averaging the student's grade percentages for all four quarters. Depending on when state assessment (PARCC) results are received, state assessment results may also be included in the student's final grade, per applicable state statute and Department of Education requirements.

In grades 9 through 12, credit decisions will be based upon the following factors: (1) a student earning a final grade of at least 70% in the course; (2) and attendance, for which a student must be present for 95% or more of the meetings of the course.[4]

At the midpoint of each course, teachers will review student performance to determine which, if any, students are not meeting the above listed criteria. Parents (in this document referring to the student's legal guardian(s) will then be initially notified of the risk for not achieving credit. Parents, teachers, and the student will meet in a Credit Conference the next week to determine a Credit Action Plan for the student. The plan will include a variety of interventions on the part of the student, the family, and the teachers to encourage improvement in the student's grades, achievement, or attendance. The Credit Action Plan will be documented, signed, and submitted to the School Director. Teachers will then document progress and keep parents informed regarding the interventions throughout the second half of the course. At the end of the course, teachers will review the final progress of all students who were placed on Credit Action Plan. If the above listed criteria are not met for any students, teachers will submit those students' names and relevant documentation of Credit Action Plans to the School Director.

The School Director and Director of Special Education (for students receiving special education services) will then determine if any of the following factors are true that may serve as exceptions to the promotion criteria: (1) the student's lack of progress is due to the student's qualification for special education services; (2) the student's lack of progress is due to the student's level of English proficiency as measured by the AZELLA test.

If a student does not meet the stated criteria for credit determination nor any of the above exception criteria, the student will not receive credit.

[4] In exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to extraordinary family or personal needs or prolonged illness, this requirement may be waived.