



# **Program of Studies**

**2023-2024**

**Students and parents should also review the minimum requirements for admission to South Carolina public four-year colleges and universities as specified by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, as well as, the South Carolina requirements for a high school diploma.**

***Disclaimer:** GCA makes every effort to ensure that the information in this Program of Studies is informative and accurate; however, new statutes and regulations may impact, negate, or change the implementation of the programs and/or courses described. This Program of Studies should in no way be seen as a contract, but as a guideline for students as they move through their high school years.*

### **GRAY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY'S MISSION STATEMENT**

Gray Collegiate Academy will serve high school students in a safe, small, family-centered setting who seek the opportunity and challenge of a rigorous curriculum, high academic standards, outstanding athletics while earning up to two years of college credit while in high school.

### **GRAY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY'S VISION STATEMENT**

Students will: graduate as responsible and contributing citizens; graduate with a high school diploma and up to 56 dual enrollment credits; graduate having been immersed in a college culture and therefore ready to engage in coursework at higher levels; be provided the necessary coaching and skill development to be successful beyond high school; develop into leaders through athletic competition and community service; attain academic, educational, personal, and career-awareness skills in a smaller educational setting; benefit from a multi-ethnic community. At GCA, students, staff, parents and business partners work together to create a safe environment where all have opportunities to learn and respect one another through the use of innovative, collaborative and focused instructional and coaching strategies.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS**

Based on State Law, requirements to receive a South Carolina High School Diploma (graduation requirements) for students in grades 9 - 12 are prescribed as follows:

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR A SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

English/Language Arts 4.0
Mathematics 4.0
Biology 1.0
Science 2.0
U.S. History and the Constitution 1.0

Economics 0.5
Government 0.5
Social Studies Elective 1.0
PE or JROTC 1.0
Computer Science 1.0
World Language/CTE Course 1.0
Electives 7.0
<b>Total 24.0</b>

In order to receive a state high school diploma, the student must have attended the high school issuing the diploma for at least the semester immediately preceding graduation except in the case of a bona fide change of residence to a location where the sending school will not grant the diploma.

In November 2022, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved the requirement that, beginning with the entering freshman class of 2023–24, students will be required to complete a one-half credit in financial literacy to earn a South Carolina High School Diploma.

The graduation requirements beginning with the entering freshman class of 2023–24 will be as follows:

English/Language Arts 4.0
Mathematics 4.0
Biology 1.0
Science 2.0
U.S. History and the Constitution 1.0
Economics 0.5
Government 0.5
Social Studies Elective 1.0
PE or JROTC 1.0
Computer Science 1.0
World Language/CTE Course 1.0
Electives 6.5
Personal Finance 0.5
<b>Total 24.0</b>

### **SOUTH CAROLINA END OF COURSE EXAMINATION POLICY**

After completion of the following courses, the State of South Carolina mandates an end-of-course examination (EOCEP) which will count as 20% of student’s final grade:

1. Algebra 1
2. Biology 1
3. English 2
4. U.S. History and the Constitution

### **GRADING POLICY**

Grades will be interpreted for all purposes using the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale. Numerical grades will appear on the report card.

A high school student may withdraw from a course if circumstances warrant. If a student withdraws from a course after the 10th day of a 180-day course or the 5th day of a 90-day course, a grade of 50 will be posted and included in the student's grade point average (GPA). The grade penalty for late withdrawal does not apply in cases in which the school administration cancels a course or initiates other schedule changes. In any case, administrative approval is necessary prior to withdrawal from a course.

Students may retake a course in which a D or F has been earned within the same academic year or no later than the next academic year. Only one course attempt and the highest grade earned for the course will be calculated in the GPA. Students may retake a middle school Carnegie unit only in the 9th grade and, no matter what grade was earned in middle school, only the highest grade will be used in figuring the student's GPA.

Dual Enrollment (DE) courses are college courses taken through the University of South Carolina Union (USCU) which also satisfy the high school credit requirement. A 3-hour college course shall transfer as 1 Carnegie unit on the high school transcript. Students must meet admission requirements set by the university.

Drop/add dates for Dual Enrollment will follow the USCU schedule. Dates will be published each semester on the syllabus for each course.

Computing Grade Point Averages (GPA): The state-mandated uniform grading scale and system for calculating GPAs and determining class rank will apply to all courses taken by a student carrying Carnegie units, including units earned at the middle or junior high school level. GPAs will be computed using the following formula:

$$\text{Sum (quality points x units) / Sum of units attempted}$$

The formula will yield each student's GPA, and all grade point averages are then ranked from highest to lowest in the class.

**A 90-100**  
**B 80-89**  
**C 70-79**  
**D 60-69**  
**F Below 60**  
**USCU GRADING SCALE**

**A 90-100**  
**B 80-89**  
**C 70-79**  
**D 60-69**  
**F Below 60**  
**S.C. UNIFORM GRADING SCALE**

If a student is enrolled in a college course and a numerical grade isn't assigned the numerical grade will be assigned according to the chart below.

Letter Grade	Numerical Grade
A	95
B	85
C	75
D	65
F	55

### **GCA CLASS SESSIONS**

GCA students playing on GCA teams will get top priority in scheduling. There is no guarantee that your student will get the schedule they prefer. Additionally, a student's schedule may change per semester based on what classes are available and what sports the student is playing. Students who are in the morning session should arrive 10 minutes prior to the start of the school day. Students are considered tardy if they are not in their seat in their classroom when the tardy bell rings. Student start times are staggered throughout the day. Students must be under the direct supervision of a teacher or a coach while on campus. Students who are not attending class, tutoring sessions, or practicing with their coach are not allowed on campus. Students will report to the cafe before their school session. Students will report to the cafe if they wish to purchase snacks or eat their lunch before practice or while waiting for their class session to begin.

### **DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES**

GCA will offer Dual Enrollment courses which allow students to earn both Carnegie units (high school) and college credit. Qualifying students will take these courses on the GCA campus.

We partner with the University of South Carolina Union for the delivery of our dual credit college courses. Students cannot take dual enrollment courses prior to 10th grade and are limited to two elective dual enrollment courses as 10th grade students. Students must qualify for dual

enrollment by obtaining a 3.0 GPA or higher at the end of each academic year. Students can earn up to 56 college credit hours at GCA. All dual enrollment courses taken at GCA are also included in the student's college GPA. All dual enrollment students will need to order a USC transcript after graduation to their intended college for the credits to be transferred. Dual enrollment courses offered at GCA are among a list of courses that transfer among and between in-state 4 year colleges. Private and out of state colleges can be subjective about what dual enrollment credits they accept.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The GCA educational program will offer students a service learning component that seeks to develop service to others. Each GCA student will be required to participate in 40 hours of community service as part of the educational program. Research shows that youth who participate in community-based service learning are likely to benefit in the following manner. (Tannanbaum, 2007)

- Young people in service learning gain a wide range of access to developmental assets that enable them to grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.
- Young people gain an increased sense of self-efficacy as they realize their impact on social challenges, problems, and needs.
- Higher academic achievement and furthering their education
- Enhanced problem-solving skills, ability to work in teams, and plan
- Enhanced civic engagement attitudes and behaviors

### **NCAA & NAIA ELIGIBILITY CENTER**

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) serves as the athletic governing body for more than 1,200 colleges, universities, conferences, and organizations.

The NCAA Eligibility Center certifies the academic and amateur credentials for all college bound student athletes who wish to compete in NCAA Division I or II athletics.

Questions regarding NCAA eligibility should be directed to the Athletic Director. Information pertaining to the NCAA can be found at <http://www.eligibilitycenter.org> . Students are responsible for ensuring NCAA eligibility and should go to the above website to obtain a copy of the NCAA Guide for the College Bound Athlete.

#### The NAIA and NAIA Eligibility Center

The NAIA is a community of nearly 300 member colleges and universities, 60,000 student athletes and an environment that focuses on athletic participation as one part of the total education process. The NAIA Eligibility Center is responsible for determining the NAIA eligibility of first-time student-athletes.

Questions regarding NAIA eligibility should be directed to the Athletic Director. Information pertaining to the NAIA can be found at [www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org) . Students are responsible for ensuring NAIA eligibility and should go to the above website to obtain a copy of the NAIA Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete.

## **COMMENCEMENT**

Only those students who meet all requirements for graduation may participate in the commencement exercises held at the end of the school year. Failure to complete graduation requirements will prohibit participation in commencement exercises. For any student at Gray Collegiate Academy, for all official school business, our school uses our students' legal names. If any student or family changes a student's legal name, we update that student's official record in our student information system (PowerSchool) which impacts, among other examples, their schedule, official transcript, and diploma. Likewise, we use the students' legal names in graduation programs and during the graduation ceremony.

## **HOMEWORK, MAKEUP WORK, AND GRADING POLICY**

### **HOMEWORK**

The immediate educational purpose for homework is:

- To reinforce skills and concepts learned in class;
- To develop study skills and habits;
- To practice skills and knowledge in ways not readily accomplished in the classroom; and
- To inform parents of what is being taught in the classroom.

Homework assignments should be expected Monday through Friday of each week and on some weekends. The amount of time required to complete homework assignments will be based on the student's ability and the instructor's curriculum timeline. As cited in *A Nation at Risk*, "the single most important factor for determining whether children will go to college is being properly prepared." College is the destination for GCA students; becoming a lifelong learner to ensure success throughout one's lifetime is the ultimate goal.

GCA is proud to have a challenging, rigorous curriculum. This is one of the many things that makes GCA a great school. With such a rich and rigorous curriculum, the students need time to work at home. We are aware that the student is involved with other interests and activities outside of school. The staff and administration will attempt to coordinate their schedules and calendars, so the students are not inundated with work on the same day. It is understood that homework will be given and will vary depending on the work assigned on a given day, the student's organizational skills and study habits, and the nature of the assignments. Students are expected to learn how to use their free time effectively to complete the required work at each grade level.

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

A student who misses class work, homework assignments, or other assignments with established due dates because of excused absences, will be allowed three (3) school days to complete work missed.

## REPORT CARDS

Current grades are available by accessing the student or parent portal PowerSchool account. Grades are considered final at the quarter, semester, and year end terms. GCA students will receive student report cards at the end of each quarter which will be sent home with students. Final report cards for all grades will be available approximately one week after conclusion of school.

## GRADING RATIO AND CLASS RANK

Honors credit may be earned only for courses that have published syllabi that establish higher standards. Honors credit may be awarded at all levels of English, science, mathematics, and social studies but only for the third and fourth levels in a course sequence in other content areas.

- Honors - add 0.5 quality points
- Dual Credit/Advanced Placement - add 1.0 quality points

The formula below will yield the student's GPA that can be ranked from highest to lowest rank in class. The GPA will be calculated to three decimal places. All diploma candidates will be included in the ranking. Students who tie for a rank will share the rank.

*Grade Point Average will be calculated using the following  
formula:  $GPA = \frac{\text{Sum (quality points } \times \text{ units attempted)}}{\text{Sum of units attempted}}$*

## SAT AND ACT

### SAT

**The SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)** is a three-and-a-half-hour test which includes two sections comprised of three tests: reading, math, writing & language, plus an optional essay. The mathematics portion tests the student's ability to solve problems involving arithmetic reasoning, algebra, and geometry. Each section is scored on a 200-800 point scale.

### ACT

**The ACT (American College Test)** is also a college entrance test. The test consists of four sections composed of English, mathematics, reading, and science. Rather than a total score, the ACT gives a composite or average score for the test.

Both the SAT and ACT scores are accepted by all South Carolina state-supported colleges and universities for admission, as well as for LIFE scholarship qualification.



**SOUTH CAROLINA UNIFORM GRADING SCALE CONVERSIONS**  
**10 Point Grading Scale**

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep Weighting	Honors Weighting	AP/IB/Dual Credit Weighting
100	A	5.000	5.500	6.000
99	A	4.900	5.400	5.900
98	A	4.800	5.300	5.800
97	A	4.700	5.200	5.700
96	A	4.600	5.100	5.600
95	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
94	A	4.400	4.900	5.400
93	A	4.300	4.800	5.300
92	A	4.200	4.700	5.200
91	A	4.100	4.600	5.100
90	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
89	B	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	B	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	B	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	B	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	B	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	B	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	B	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	B	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	C	2.900	3.400	3.900
78	C	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	C	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	C	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	C	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	C	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	C	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	C	2.100	2.600	3.100
70	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
69	D	1.900	2.400	2.900
68	D	1.800	2.300	2.800
67	D	1.700	2.200	2.700
66	D	1.600	2.100	2.600
65	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
64	D	1.400	1.900	2.400
63	D	1.300	1.800	2.300
62	D	1.200	1.700	2.200
61	D	1.100	1.600	2.100
60	D	1.000	1.500	2.000
59	F	0.900	1.400	1.900
58	F	0.800	1.300	1.800
57	F	0.700	1.200	1.700
56	F	0.600	1.100	1.600
55	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
54	F	0.400	0.900	1.400
53	F	0.300	0.800	1.300
52	F	0.200	0.700	1.200
51	F	0.100	0.600	1.100

## **HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

*All core classes will be taught at the honors level in middle school and during the freshman and sophomore year to support our mission and prepare students for the dual enrollment curriculum their junior and senior year.*

### **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS**

The South Carolina College- and Career-Ready (SCCCR) Standards have been adopted by South Carolina as the standards for English Language Arts. The standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they can do to help students succeed. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers.

#### **English I Honors**

302400 HW

Grades 8, 9

1 unit

Prerequisite: Eighth Grade Language Arts or English I CP/H in Eighth Grade for high school credit This course is based on the South Carolina Curriculum Standards for English Language Arts, Grade 9. English I Honors is a fast-paced, rigorous, enriched course that requires independent learning from the students. Students develop skills through a sustained and structured study of classic World Literature. The standards emphasize authentic, real-world and higher-level reading and writing skills. Students learn to identify the characteristics that distinguish literary forms and to explain the influence a historical period has on the form, style, and point of view of a written work. Students synthesize, analyze, and critique reading selections and build an extended and specialized vocabulary. Student writings include argumentative and literary expository essays. Students will select and utilize effective literary characteristics and techniques appropriate for the audience and purpose of the writing.

#### **English II Honors**

302500HW

Grades 9, 10

1 unit

This course is based on the South Carolina Curriculum Standards for English Language Arts, Grade 10. English II Honors is a fast-paced, rigorous, enriched course that requires independent learning from the students. Students develop skills through a sustained and structured study of classic and contemporary works from World Literature. The standards emphasize authentic, real-world and higher level reading and writing skills. Students will explain the similarities and differences in literary genres as well as analyze universal themes from literature of different cultures. Students critique reading selections and build an extended and specialized vocabulary.

Students also interpret, compare/contrast, synthesize, analyze, and apply information from reading selections. Student writings include argumentative and literary expository essays. Students will select and utilize effective literary techniques appropriate for the audience and purpose of the writing. A state-mandated end-of-course examination must be given to every student enrolled in this course. The score on this examination will count 20% of the final grade.

### **English III Honors**

302600HW

Grades 10, 11

1 unit

Prerequisite: English II CP or English II Honors

In this course, students gather relevant information from multiple print and multimedia sources. Students effectively assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience, integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and over-reliance on any one source and follow a standard format for citation. Students write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. Students must initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners about topics, texts and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. Students present information, findings, and supporting evidence to convey a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning. Students ensure the organization, development, substance, and style of their presentation (written or oral) are appropriate to purpose and audience in a range of formal and informal tasks. Students engage in Socratic Seminars where they seek deeper understanding of complex ideas in text through rigorously thoughtful dialogue. Students acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level. By the end of the course, students should be able to read and comprehend a variety of literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

### **English IV Honors**

302700HW

Grade 12

1 unit

Prerequisite: English III CP or English III Honors

In this course, students gather relevant information from multiple print and multimedia sources. Students effectively assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience, integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation. Students write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks,

purposes, and audiences. Students must initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners about topics, texts and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. Students present information, findings, and supporting evidence to convey a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning. Students ensure the organization, development, substance, and style of their presentation (written or oral) are appropriate to purpose and audience in a range of formal and informal tasks. Students acquire and use accurately general academic and domain specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level. By the end of the course, students should be able to read and comprehend a variety of literary and informational texts proficiently.

## **MATHEMATICS**

A quality mathematics program is essential to help students develop ways of thinking, solving problems, communicating mathematically, and making decisions that enable them to become informed citizens and consumers, competent employees and employers, and productive members of society.

### **Algebra I Honors**

411400HW

Grade 9

1 unit

Algebra I is the first level of college preparatory mathematics. Emphasis is placed on solving linear equations and inequalities, basic operations and factoring of polynomials, and applying these concepts to solve real world problems. A state-mandated End-of-Course Examination must be given to every student enrolled in this course. The score will count 20% of the final grade. This course provides a depth of rigor, complexity, challenges and creativity beyond the standard level course as outlined in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. This course is more challenging than standard level courses in order to foster growth for advanced learners. A state-mandated end-of-course examination must be given to every student enrolled in this course. The score on this examination will count 20% of the final grade.

### **Algebra II Honors**

411500HW

Grades 9, 10, 11

1 unit

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry

This course is designed to provide students with a strong background in algebraic concepts and processes. Topics include understanding algebraic and geometric representations of functions, quadratic, square root, and absolute value functions, rational and exponential function, geometric structure and patterns. This course provides a depth of rigor, complexity, challenges and

creativity beyond the standard level course as outlined in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. This course is more challenging than standard level courses in order to foster growth for advanced learners.

### **Geometry Honors**

412200 HW

Grades 9, 10

1 unit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course is designed to provide students with the study of visual patterns. Topics will include geometric structure, geometric patterns, geometry of location, geometry of size, and geometry of shape. This course provides a depth of rigor, complexity, challenges and creativity beyond the standard level course as outlined in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. This course is more challenging than standard level courses in order to foster growth for advanced learners.

### **Probability and Statistics**

414100CW

Grades 11, 12

1 unit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Recommended: Grade of 80 or higher in Algebra II, access to a graphing calculator outside the classroom This course includes the study of probability, statistics and discrete mathematics topics. Students collect, organize, display, analyze and interpret data to solve mathematical and contextual problems. They use probability to model and solve real-world problems. In addition to traditional computational methods, students use graphing calculators and/or computer software as tools for problem solving.

## **NATURAL SCIENCES**

High school science, through a number of separate courses, includes instruction in the content areas of the South Carolina Science Curriculum Standards: life science, earth science, and physical science. Since the major objective of science instruction is to promote scientific thinking, the inquiry strands are integrated into all the science content areas. All GCA Science based courses will have at least 40 percent of the instructional time devoted to student-centered laboratory experiences as per Strand I Inquiry in the South Carolina Science Standards, grades 9 - 12. A sound grounding in science strengthens many of the skills that people need to use every day, such as solving problems creatively, thinking critically, working cooperatively in teams, using technology effectively, and valuing lifelong learning. Although only three science courses are required for graduation with a South Carolina High School Diploma, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education recommends four science courses. College bound students are required to take three units of laboratory science.

### **Biology I Honors**

322100HW

Grade 9

1 unit

Prerequisite: Ninth Grade - Completion of an honors Eighth Grade Science course

This introductory laboratory-based course is designed to give students a sound background in the major biological concepts. Biology I is designed to be both academically rigorous and realistic for students pursuing entry into a four-year college. Biology I builds on the chemical principles learned in physical science. Topics include: the cell; molecular basis of heredity; biological evolution; interdependence of organisms; matter, energy, and organization in living systems; and taxonomy. Laboratory activities provide numerous opportunities for students to develop science process skills, critical thinking, and an appreciation for the nature of science through investigative, hands-on lab activities. Biology I Honors requires more effort and in- depth learning than College Prep Biology. A state mandated End-of-Course Examination must be given to every student enrolled in this course. The score will count 20% of the final grade.

### **Chemistry I Honors**

323100HW

Grade 10

1 unit

Prerequisite: Algebra I or teacher placement Recommended: Biology I

Chemistry I provides an introduction to major chemistry principles and builds on concepts introduced in physical science and earth science. This is a mathematics-based course in which a working knowledge of algebra is critical for success. Through well-designed laboratory experiences students will master concepts, use problem solving skills, and apply them to real-world situations. Topics included in the course are: chemical safety, atomic theory, the periodic system, chemical reactions and stoichiometry, gas laws, solutions and solubility, and acid base chemistry. Investigative, hands-on lab activities that address the South Carolina Inquiry Standards are an integral part of this course. Honors Chemistry I prepares a student for College Chemistry through an in-depth study of the sequential development of major principles with emphasis on a quantitative approach to problem solving, research, and extensive laboratory experiences.

### **Environmental Science**

326100CW

Grades 11, 12

1 unit

Students will learn about the importance of environmental science as an interdisciplinary field. You will describe abiotic and biotic factors of an ecosystem. You will describe the importance of biodiversity for the survival of organisms and the importance of the food chain and the food web

in the ecosystem. You will learn about ecological interactions and succession. You will describe the effects of climate change and different types of adaptation. Further, you will describe the steps of the water cycle, and how carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, and phosphorous cycle in the global environment. This course also includes factors that affect populations. You will describe human population growth and its implications. You will describe the factors that lead to unequal distribution of natural resources on Earth. You will explain waste management. You will describe different forms of pollution, and ways to control pollution. You will describe various nonrenewable and renewable energy sources. Further, you will learn about benefits of environmental policies and identify factors that affect sustainable development.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

All social studies courses are aligned with the South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards. To receive a South Carolina High School Diploma students must earn three units in social studies. United States History (1 unit), United States Government (½ unit), and Economics (½ unit) are required courses. The third unit must be a course designated as a social studies elective. These courses are designed to provide students with an understanding of the culture and history of the United States and the world around them while developing as informed, responsible citizens in a democratic society.

### **World Geography Honors**

331004HW

Grade 9

1 Unit

Designed for the academically advanced student, the focus of World Geography is the physical and cultural characteristics of Earth as well as the topics of region, physical earth dynamics, population, culture, economic systems, urban systems, political systems, and the environment. Critical thinking skills and the development of special thinking skills will be related to the five themes of geography. Map reading skills and the use of geographic models and information systems will be part of the course.

### **American Studies**

339911CW

Grade 10

1 Unit

American Studies is a blended English and U.S. History course for 10th grade students that emphasizes the connections between literature, culture, and history. Students who take this course will have the opportunity to study early American history simultaneously with literature from the period. This course is designed as a pre-U.S. History course to prepare the 11th grade students for the U.S. History and the Constitution Honors course.

### **U.S. History and the Constitution Honors**

332000HW

Grade 10

1 unit

This course is designed to teach students the basic historical facts, concepts, and essential understandings needed to comprehend the history of our country. The course includes events and topics from colonization to the end of the nineteenth century and emphasizes the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Particular emphasis is given to the interrelationship of history, geography, government, and economics. Students will develop their analytical and writing skills through work with primary source documents. A state-mandated End-of-Course Examination must be given to every student enrolled in this course. The score will count 20% of the final grade.

### **U.S. Government Honors**

333004HH

Grade 12

½ unit

This course in American Government and politics is designed for the responsible, self-motivated student. Candidates considering this course should be prepared to complete extensive group and independent study projects as well as class presentations. While this course satisfies objectives common to all Government offerings, the pace will be accelerated, providing the opportunity for in depth examination of current issues, events, and trends in national, state and local politics.

### **Economics Honors**

335004HH

Grade 12

½ unit

This is a course in micro- and macro-economics designed for the advanced student. Candidates applying for this course must be self-motivated and capable of working independently, especially in research. The emphasis and pace of this course differs from that of the other economics courses. Students are responsible for developing an awareness of current national and international economic topics. Classroom participation is expected and is included in the student's final evaluation. Instruction in the area of personal finance is included.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

### **Spanish I**

365100CW

Grades 9–12

1 unit

This course introduces the structure and phonetic system of the Spanish language with emphasis on oral proficiency and writing skills. The cultures of Spain and Latin America are studied.



## **Spanish II**

365200CW

Grades 9–12

1 unit

Prerequisite: Spanish I

This course expands and continues the skills introduced in Spanish I with continued emphasis on oral and written proficiency.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH EDUCATION**

One unit of credit in physical education is required in order to receive a South Carolina High School Diploma. Physical Education 1, which includes a personal fitness and wellness component and a lifetime fitness component, meets this requirement.

### **Physical Education I - ONLINE**

344100CW

Grades 9-12

1 unit

This Physical Education course is a performance-based class that is mandatory for graduation in the State of South Carolina. This co-educational course is designed with a variety of activities to provide from which to choose along with the skills to live a healthy lifestyle. This course is designed to focus on and help the student achieve and maintain a health enhancing lifestyle. Students will participate in three basic fitness categories: cardiorespiratory fitness, muscular strength/endurance and flexibility. This class includes a wellness component. The curriculum used for this course is from the Edmentum courseware.

### **Physical Education II-IV**

Grades 9-12

½ unit or 1 unit

Prerequisite: Physical Education I

This course combines personal fitness and team and individual sports. It presents a wide array of topics related to health, physical fitness and the establishment of a high quality lifestyle. Students learn how to assess their own health and fitness levels, and based on that knowledge, to design their own personal fitness programs. Students are involved in a wide range of fitness activities and are expected to perform only at their own level. Every effort is made to help each student recognize significant gains in self-esteem. It includes an emphasis on lifetime sports, recreational activities, and team activities.

## **EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION**

GCA will provide a free and appropriate public education for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who attain the same competencies required of non-disabled students receive a South Carolina State High School Diploma. GCA understands and will comply with the

requirements of all State and federal statutes, laws, regulations and sponsor-specific policies/procedures when serving students with special needs. GCA will provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all students with disabilities, including all documentation, assessments, adaptations, modifications and accommodations. The purpose of the special education teacher will be to help identify students that may need special services and to provide support within the classroom for those students already identified.

**390R21CW Academic Support I**

**390R26CW Academic Support II**

**379950 MLP Prep English - English for Speakers of Other Languages I** - This elective course is designed to assist non-English speaking students in their transition to regular high school classes.

**CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL**

Career Technology Education includes courses and career majors which serve the total school population through relevant curricula oriented toward providing career direction, a sound foundation for advanced study in a variety of career paths, and the development of employability skills.

**GCA students are required to take an online CTE class every year. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Fundamentals of Computing**

502300CW

Grade 9

1 unit

Fundamentals of Computing is designed to introduce students to the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Through creativity and innovation, students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills to implement projects that are relevant to students' lives. They will create a variety of computing artifacts. Upon completion of the course, students will be familiar with the basic principles of a personal computer, including the internal hardware, the operating system, and software applications.

**Workplace Communications**

504100CW

Grade 10

1 unit

Upon completion of this course, students will learn to communicate in a clear, courteous, concise, complete, and correct manner on both personal and professional levels. Competency will be developed in oral, written, interpersonal, technological, and employment communication. Listening skills will be incorporated throughout the course.

## **Image Editing**

534001CW

Grade 11

1 unit

The course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to utilize digital imaging software in editing and designing images and graphics. Students also learn the use of technologies related to digital imaging such as basic computer operations, file sharing across networks, digital scanning, digital photography, and preparing documents for output to various types of media.

## **Desktop Publishing**

517602CW

Grade 12

1 unit

Welcome to the Adobe InDesign Mindtap Course! This text is organized into 11 chapters. These chapters cover basic to intermediate InDesign skills, and let you work with many of the newest features, including font searching features on the Character panel, working with Adobe Typekit, dragging and dropping table rows and columns, and saving favorite fonts. You will explore the many options InDesign provides for creating comprehensive layouts, including formatting text and body copy, designing display headlines, setting up a document, working with process and non-process colors, placing graphics from Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, working with tabs and tables, and preparing an InDesign layout for output. By the end, you'll be able to create professional-looking layouts that incorporate illustrations and bitmap graphics as well as sophisticated presentations of text and typography.

## **Sports Medicine I**

555500CW

Grades 9-12

1 unit

Prerequisite: Students are encouraged, but not required to have previous or concurrent course work in the biological sciences.

Sports Medicine I is designed for students who wish to pursue a career in the medical or paramedical fields. Students interested in healthcare careers in athletic training, physical therapy, medicine, exercise physiology, nursing, biomechanics, nutrition, psychology, and radiology will benefit from this course. Subject matter includes components of exercise science, kinesiology, anatomy/ musculoskeletal, injuries, nutrition, injuries, and rehabilitation. Other topics include first aid, safety, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), legal issues in the sports medicine field, and members of the sports medicine team. Students assist in after school activities and four athletic game experiences during the semester as part of a practiced experience.

## **Sports Medicine II**

555600CW

Grades 9-12

1 unit

Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Sports Medicine I with a 75 or higher.

Sports Medicine II is designed to build off of the knowledge from Sports Medicine I with emphasis on assessment and rehabilitation of injuries along with how the other body systems are affected when an injury occurs. Topics will include the diagnostic process of an injury evaluation, the use of appropriate therapeutic modalities and therapeutic exercise in the care of injuries. Focus will be on lower body. Advanced concepts related to the administrative aspects of the sports medicine program will also be covered in this course. Other career roles in Sports Medicine will be discussed as the athletic trainer takes the injured athlete through the pathway of recovery and which practitioners are involved. Students assist in 15 hours of after school activities and 4 athletic game experiences during the semester as part of a clinical experience.

## **Sports Medicine III**

555700CW

Grades 10-12

1 unit

Prerequisite: Sports Medicine I and II with a 75 or higher.

Students must have successfully completed Sports Medicine 2 with a 75 or higher.

Sports Medicine III is designed to build off of the knowledge from Sports Medicine I and II with emphasis on assessment and rehabilitation of injuries along with how the other body systems are affected when an injury occurs. Topics will include the diagnostic process of an injury evaluation, the use of appropriate therapeutic modalities and therapeutic exercise in the care of injuries. Focus will be on the upper body, head neck spine and core. Other career roles in Sports Medicine will be discussed as the athletic trainer takes the injured athlete through the pathway of recovery and which practitioners are involved. Students will assist in after school activities/practice coverage and participate in a minimum of 6 athletic game experiences during the semester as part of a clinical experience.

## **Sports Medicine Internship 559100CW**

Grades 10-12

1 unit

Prerequisite: Sports Medicine I, II, and III with a 75 or higher.

The Sports Medicine Internship is designed to be the culmination of knowledge from Sports Medicine I, II, and III. Students will take this knowledge and complete work based learning through shadowing experiences and volunteer hours in local healthcare facilities such as physical therapy clinics, fitness gyms/weight rooms, hospitals, etc. The students will focus on hands-on learning in addition to classroom experiences.

## **ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS**

### **Yearbook Production**

305401CW

Grades 9–12

1 unit

Prerequisite: Interview and selection

Recommended: Grade of 80 or better in English class

In this course students will gain skills in page design, publishing techniques, copywriting, editing, and photography while producing a creative, innovative yearbook which records school memories and events.

### **Yearbook Production II**

379906CW

Required: Interview and portfolio.

Recommended: Grade of 85 or better in Introduction to Yearbook and English class, teacher recommendation.

Grades 10-12

1 unit

In this course students will gain skills in **advanced** publishing techniques, copywriting, editing, and photography while producing a creative, innovative yearbook which records school memories and events. There is an emphasis on journalism skills in this class. Participants gain useful, real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles.

### **Yearbook Production III**

3799Y3CW

Prerequisite: Interview and portfolio

Recommended: Grade of 85 or better in Yearbook Production and English class and teacher recommendation.

Grades 10-12

1 unit

In this course students will gain skills in page and spread design. They will conduct interviews and work on video production, which may be incorporated into the yearbook. Students will also conduct, analyze, and present the result of polls and surveys. Participants gain useful, real world skills developing and conducting interviews.

### **Yearbook Production IV**

3799Y4CW

Prerequisite: Interview and portfolio.

Recommended: Grade of 85 or better in Yearbook Production and English class and teacher recommendation.

Grades 10-12

1 unit

This course is designed for yearbook editors. Students will develop the yearbook theme. They will learn to incorporate typography and color in the yearbook design. These students will also oversee the work in the Yearbook Production 1-3 classes to ensure all work fits within the theme of the yearbook. Finally, students will learn about copyright and trademark laws and how they fit within journalism and fair use doctrine.

### **Art Appreciation**

350103CW

Grades 10–12

1 unit

This entry-level, survey-style course provides students with: foundational knowledge of various art forms; basic art concepts, terminology and techniques; tools and materials; cultural literacy; art history; and art career information. Hands-on learning activities are undertaken in drawing, printmaking, painting, ceramics and sculpture. Class critiques, written tests and written reports are required. The Art Appreciation offering will alternate each year with the offering of Music Appreciation.

### **Music Appreciation**

357000CW

Grades 10–12

1 unit

A chronological survey of music through the ages, with emphasis on the development of music in relation to the other arts and history from antiquity to the present. Aside from the lectures, musical and artistic examples are employed through recordings and audio visual devices. Students are required to listen to assigned musical works outside of class.

## **COLLEGE/DUAL CREDIT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

Dual Enrollment courses are college courses taken through USC Union and USC Lancaster or other accredited colleges that can also satisfy high school credit requirements. A 3-semester hour college course shall transfer as 1 Carnegie unit at the high school. Students must have a 3.0 GPA and turn in a completed dual enrollment application and financial aid forms along with a copy of valid driver's license or copy of birth certificate. South Carolina public two and four- year colleges and universities have a list of courses that are transferable within the state public college system.

**BIO 101: Biological Science I (Lab)**

322800EW

Grades 11, 12

1 high school unit 4 college credits

Introductory survey of macromolecules, cell structure and function, genetics, and molecular biology.

**BIO 102: Biological Science II (Lab)**

322900EW

Grade 12

1 high school unit 4 college credits

Prerequisite: C or better in BIO 101

Introductory survey of plant and animal development, physiology, ecology, and evolution.

**BIO 243: Anatomy and Physiology I (Lab)**

326600EW

Grade 12

1 high school unit 4 college credits

The first part of a two-semester sequence, this comprehensive transfer course is a lecture and laboratory study with model and specimen dissections of the integrated structure and function of the human body. Basic cellular chemistry and the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous and endocrine systems are presented. Cytology and histology are emphasized

**ENG 101: English Composition I**

301500EW

Grades 11, 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

This course is a study of composition in conjunction with appropriate literary selections, with frequent theme assignments to reinforce effective writing. It also reviews standard usage and presents basic research techniques. Successful completion of English 101 fulfills the English 4 requirement.

**ENG 102: English Composition II**

301600EW

Grades 11, 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

Prerequisite: C or better in ENG 101

This course includes the development of writing skills through logical organization, effective style, literary analysis, research and an introduction to literary genres.

**HISTORY 101: Western Civ to 1689**

336600EW

Grade 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

The rise and development of European civilization from its Mediterranean origins through the Renaissance and Reformation.

**HISTORY 111: American History to 1865**

332100EW

Grades 11, 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

A general survey of the United States from the era of discovery to 1877, emphasizing major political, economic, social, and intellectual developments.

**HISTORY 112: American History 1865 to Present**

332200EW

Grades 11, 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

A general survey of the United States from 1877 to the present, emphasizing major political, economic, social, and intellectual developments.

**MAT 111: College Algebra**

413300EW

Grades 11, 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

This course includes, but not limited to, the following concepts: linear, quadratic, and rational equations; equations with radicals; inequalities; equations and inequalities involving absolute values; equations of lines; properties of, transformations of, combining, composite of, inverse, quadratic, and polynomial functions; synthetic division; real and complex zeros; and rational functions.

**MAT 112: College Trigonometry**

413400EW

Grade 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

Prerequisite: C or better in MAT 111

Topics in trigonometry specifically needed for MATH 141, 142, 241.

This course includes, but not limited to, the following concepts: angles; triangles; trigonometric functions; reference angles; trigonometric identities; right triangle trigonometry; radian measure; arc length; area of a sector; unit circle; amplitude and period; translations of circular functions;



inverse trigonometric functions; trigonometric equations; law of sines and cosines; area of a triangles.

**MAT 141: College Calculus I**

413900EW

Grade 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

Prerequisite: C or better in MAT 112

Functions, limits, derivatives, introduction to integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, applications of derivatives and integrals.

**ARTE 111: Basic Drawing I**

352111EW

Grades 11, 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

Introduction to the materials and basic techniques of drawing.

**ARTE 101: Introduction to Art**

352000EW

Grades 10,12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

Introduction to art appreciation. Elements and principles of the visual arts, with examples from the history of art.

**MUS 105: Music Appreciation**

356500EW

Grades 10, 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

Music Appreciation with a focus on Western art music. A chronological survey of music through the ages, with emphasis on the development of music in relation to the other arts and history from antiquity to the present. Aside from the lectures, musical and artistic examples are employed through recordings and audio visual devices. Students are required to listen to assigned musical works outside of class. Perceptive listening and appreciation of musical elements, forms and style periods, including composers' lives, individual styles and representative works. Emphasis on classical music; jazz and American popular music are covered in this course.

**PSY 101: Introduction to Psychology**

337100EW

Grades 10, 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

An introduction to and survey of the basic concepts and findings within the field of psychology.

**PSY 103: Psychology of Adjustment**

334235EW

Grades 11, 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

Introduction to theories and processes underlying and facilitating human adjustment in the community, family, and workplace.

**SPAN 109: Beginning Spanish I**

365700EW

Grades 10, 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

Beginning Spanish I - Introduction to grammar and vocabulary necessary for fundamental communication skills.

**SPAN 110: Beginning Spanish II**

365800EW

Grade 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

Beginning Spanish II - A continuation to the introduction to grammar and vocabulary necessary for fundamental communication skills.

**PCAM 205: Foundations of Leadership**

875100EW

Grade 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

This course combines leadership theory with practical application, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to work more effectively with people, become better leaders, and reach their professional goals.

**SPTE 240 - Business Law**

504500EW

Grade 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

Formation of contracts and their operation as they apply to business; promissory notes and checks; agency and employment.

## **Dual Enrollment Teacher Cadet Program**

373500EW

Grades 11, 12

1 high school unit 3 college credits

Teacher Cadet is an innovative, curriculum-based college level course designed to attract talented young people to the education profession through a challenging introduction to teaching. The Teacher Cadet Program seeks to provide high school students insight into the nature of teaching, the problems of schooling, and the critical issues affecting the quality of education in America's schools.

## **ONLINE COURSE CURRICULUM**

### **Edmentum**

Courseware used by GCA for supplemental courses students may be interested in taking. Any courses offered in the classroom at GCA may not be taken through Edmentum unless the student is behind and attempting to catch up in a subject area for graduation purposes. Alternative elective courses may be taken through Edmentum when approved by the school counselors. Any course taken through Edmentum will be recorded on your official GCA transcript.

### **VirtualSC**

This is a supplementary online learning program, sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Education. They offer free online courses to students in grades 7-12 who are already enrolled in and sponsored by a South Carolina School. You can take an unlimited number of VirtualSC courses, as long as they are pre-approved by GCA. Students may not take any courses through VirtualSC that are offered in the classroom at GCA unless the student is behind in a subject area and attempting to catch up for graduation purposes. The courses are available 24/7 during each semester and during the summer, so you can complete your VirtualSC coursework at times that fits your schedule. VirtualSC has over eighty (80) options for high school credit that are offered in either a fall, spring, summer or year-long session. Credits earned through VirtualSC courses will be recorded on your official GCA transcript. The VirtualSC Course Catalog is a list of all potential courses offered by VirtualSC located on their website. <https://virtualsc.org/>