

# Gray Collegiate Academy



Program of Studies  
2018-2019

**Gray Collegiate Academy**  
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2018-2019

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Gray Collegiate Academy prepared this Program of Studies for Students, Parents and Teachers.  
Please review this information carefully.

**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 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 VISION STATEMENT**

Students will: graduate as responsible and contributing citizens; graduate with a high school diploma and up to 55 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:

### REQUIREMENT FOR SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

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

### SOUTH CAROLINA END OF COURSE EXAMINATION POLICY

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

1. Algebra 1
2. Biology 1
3. English 1
4. U. S. History and 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 ratio (GPR). 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 courses are college courses taken through University of South Carolina Lancaster (USCL) and 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 TTC prior to enrolling in DE courses.

Drop/Add dates for Dual Enrollment will follow the USCL and 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. Computations of GPA will not be rounded to a higher number.

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

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

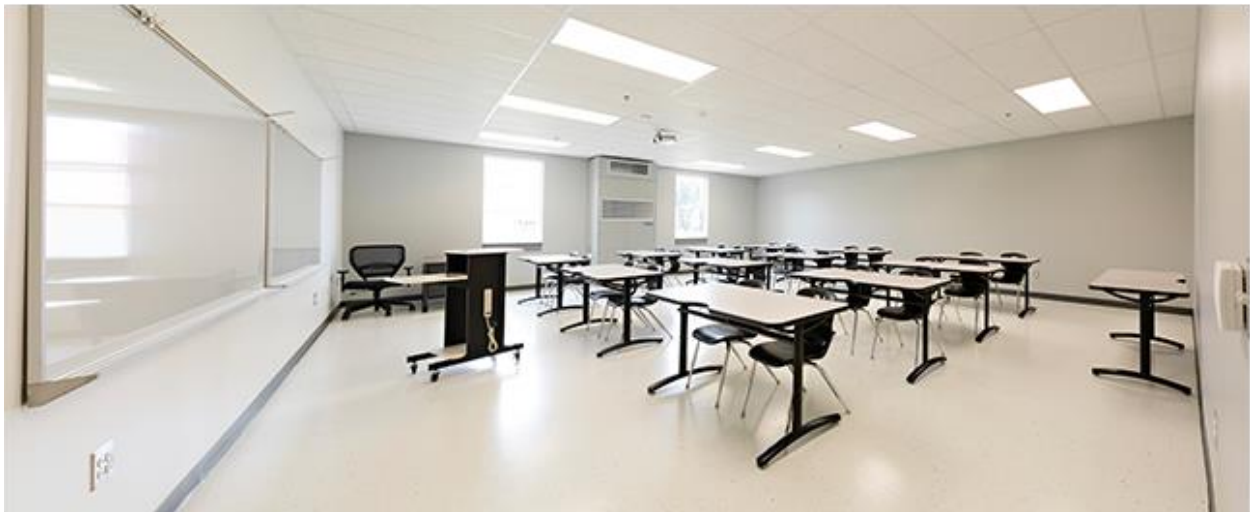
**GCA CLASS SESSIONS**

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 at 7:50. Student start times are staggered throughout the day with class schedules beginning at 8, 9, 10, and 11am. 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 partnered with the University of South Carolina Lancaster and the University of South Carolina Union for the delivery of our dual credit college courses. All 10th grade students with above a 3.0 GPA will qualify to take Dual Enrollment classes. Students who wish to earn all 55 college credit hours while at GCA must begin taking Dual Enrollment classes in the second semester of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year.



## DUAL ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT

(Please read and initial each parameter.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Gray Collegiate Academy college tuition and books are provided **at no charge, as long as all requirements are successfully completed. If you earn a final average of less than 60% in a dual credit course, you will be held accountable for repaying tuition cost and any online materials or code fees.** GCA will bill you directly for the tuition (\$425). You will not be allowed to take any more college courses until all accounts are settled.

\_\_\_\_\_ You have **five** days from the first day of the semester to determine whether to stay in a college course.

\_\_\_\_\_ We will not withdraw you from a college course after the fifth day.

\_\_\_\_\_ Information on your USCL and USCU dual credit courses is NOT updated on Parent Portal; however, you will have a username and password to blackboard. Blackboard is where all your assignments and grades will be accessed.

\_\_\_\_\_ College textbooks are provided free of charge; however, books must be returned to GCA at the end of a course. You will not be allowed to enroll in other college classes until books from previous classes are returned. Parents will receive a bill for damaged books or books not returned.

\_\_\_\_\_ You are expected to turn in all assignments on time. Your college instructors will give you a syllabus/pacing guide with assignment due dates. It is your responsibility to do quality work according to the required due dates. If you are ill or there is a family emergency, you will need to communicate with your teachers/instructors to let them know that you are legitimately absent.

\_\_\_\_\_ Residency Form responsibility - It is each family's responsibility to take care of residency requirements imposed by USCL and USCU. If said residency requirements are not cleared through USCL and USCU, GCA will pass on the cost of increased tuition to the student.

\_\_\_\_\_ Be advised that USCL and USCU requires a certain number of hours to award you the Dual Enrollment credit. If you miss more than 5 days in their class you will be given a WF (Withdraw Fail). A WF will appear on your high school and college transcript and affect your GPA.

\_\_\_\_\_ This form must be signed and returned to Ms. Guerry (USCL) or Ms. Lovelace (USCU) by the last day to add/drop or student will be dropped from all college enrollment.



## **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 athletics governing body for more than 1200 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 or a school counselor. 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.

### **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.

#### **INCOMPLETES**

A teacher may give a grade of "incomplete" during the course of the school year if, in the teacher's professional judgment, an extension of the time to complete course expectations is appropriate due to extenuating circumstances, such as a documented illness or a death in the immediate family.

The teacher, student, and parent will develop and sign a contract for completion of the course which will not extend beyond the end of the next semester or the conclusion of the school year. The principal must approve the contract, and it is at the principal's discretion to approve any extension of the contract. The student's incomplete grade will be reported as an "I". Upon completion of work, the teacher will authorize the appropriate change in grade. If the work is not completed within the agreed upon time, the incomplete grade will be changed to a zero and averaged accordingly.

#### **REPORT CARDS**

Current grades are available by accessing the student or parent portal PowerSchool account: <https://ps.erskinecharters.org/public>. 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:*

$$GPA = \frac{\text{Sum (quality points x units attempted)}}{\text{Sum of units attempted}}$$

### **LEVEL CHANGES**

Level change requests are considered with a written parent request and signature **if class space allows**. If a student transfers from one section to another of the same course where different weights are assigned (e.g., from Honors Algebra 2 to CP Algebra 2), the weight assigned to the grade shall be the weight for the course which is completed; partial weights cannot be assigned. Level changes upward must be completed by the end of the first grading period of a course.

## **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 freshman and sophomore year to support our mission*

*and prepare students for the dual enrollment curriculum 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 1 Honors 302400 HW Grade 9 1 unit**

*Prerequisite: Eighth Grade Language Arts or English 1 CP in Eighth Grade for high school credit*

This course is based on the South Carolina Curriculum Standards for English Language Arts, Grade 9. English 1 Honors is a fast-paced, rigorous, enriched course that requires independent learning from the students. Like English 1, 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. 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 2 Honors 302500HW Grade 10 1 unit**

*Prerequisite: English 1 Honors with a minimum of 85 average or administrative placement based on writing/analysis pre-test*

This course is based on the South Carolina Curriculum Standards for English Language Arts, Grade 10. English 2 Honors is a fast-paced, rigorous, enriched course that requires independent learning from the students. Like English 2, tenth grade 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.

#### **English 3 Honors 302600HW Grade 10, 11 1 unit**

*Prerequisite: English 2 or English 2 Honors Requirement: Summer reading, Socratic Seminars*

*Recommended: Grade of 85 or better in the previous English course* 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 4 302700CW Grade 12 1 unit**

Prerequisite: English 3 Requirement: Senior writing portfolio, Senior Experience 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 1 Honors** 411400HW Grades 9 1 unit

Algebra 1 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.

**Algebra 2** 411500CW Grades 11, 12, 1 unit

*Prerequisite: Algebra 1, 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. College prep Algebra 2 is designated only for students who need to catch up in Math for graduation or obtain a prerequisite for dual enrollment.

**Algebra 2 Honors** 411500HW Grades 9, 10, 11, 1 unit

*Prerequisite: Algebra 1, 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** 412200CW Grades 11, 12, 1 unit

*Prerequisite: Algebra 1*

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. College prep Geometry is designated only for students who need to catch up in Math for graduation or obtain a prerequisite for dual enrollment.

**Geometry Honors** 412200 HW Grades 9, 10, 1 unit

*Prerequisite: Algebra 1*

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 1 Recommended: Grade of 80 or higher in Algebra 2, 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 1 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 1 is designed to be both academically rigorous and realistic for students pursuing entry into a four-year college. Biology 1 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 1 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 1 Honors 323100HW Grade 10 1 unit**

*Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or teacher placement*

*Recommended: Biology 1*

Chemistry 1 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 1 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.

**Biology 2 322200CW** Grades 11, 12 1 unit CHE lab credit Prerequisite: Biology 1 This course is designed to prepare students for many college level Biology courses. It is taught in a hands-on, real-world manner. The concepts of this course include: the environment and current environmental issues, animal behavior, plants, evolution, and classification with a specific focus on each of the kingdoms. Biology 2 also includes animal anatomy and physiology through the use of dissections.

## **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 331004 HW** 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 US History course for 10<sup>th</sup> 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 11 grades students for the U.S. History and Constitution Honors course.

**U. S. History and 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.

**US Government Honors 333004 HH** 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 335004 HH 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 1 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 2 365200CW Grades 9–12 1 unit**

This course expands and continues the skills introduced in Spanish 1 with continued emphasis on oral and written proficiency.

**Spanish 3 Honors 365300HW Grades 10–12 1 unit**

Prerequisite: Grade of 80 or better in Spanish 2 This course is a continued expansion of communication skills and cultural comparisons. Students are expected to use Spanish extensively in the classroom and engage in creative, meaningful projects and activities.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH EDUCATION – VIRTUAL**

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 1 344100CH Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 .5 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: cardio respiratory fitness, muscular strength/endurance and flexibility.

**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. OCA will provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all students with disabilities, including all documentation, assessments, adaptations, modifications and accommodations. GCA will have a special education teacher in place the first year of operation. The purpose of the special education teacher will be to help identify those children (child find) who might need special services and to provide support within the classroom for those students already identified.

**390R21CW Academic Support I**

**390R26CW Academic Support II**

**379950 ESL Prep English - English for Speakers of Other Languages 1** - This elective course is designed to assist non-English speaking students in their transition to regular high school classes.

**CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - 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 CATE class every year. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Integrated Business Applications** 502000CW Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 unit

This course is designed to teach students software applications that are necessary to live and work in a technological society. The types of applications covered include word processing, database, spreadsheet, and presentation. Other content areas may include computer hardware, terminology, and concepts.

**Accounting** 500101CW Grades 11,12 1 unit

This course covers the fundamentals of bookkeeping and financial statements, career opportunities and the key government regulations in the accounting field. It also covers, the accounting functions of different business types and the specialized accounting tasks related to them, and the essentials interpersonal and workplace skills required as a professional in this field.

**Essential Communications** 504100CW Grades 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.

**ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS:**

**Personal Finance** 513101CW Grades 10, 11, 12 1 unit

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of personal finance, which include budgeting, obtaining credit, maintaining deposit accounts, understanding investments, understanding risk management, computing taxes, and analyzing the basic elements of finance.

**Yearbook Production** 305401CW Grades 9–12 1 unit

Prerequisite: Interview and selection Recommended: Grade of 80 or better in English class This course is for students who have mastered the skills required for journalism. This course is designed to provide initial exposure to yearbook production skills. Students study journalistic writing style and page design. The course covers typography usage and photography skills.

Work sessions after school are required

**Art 1 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 offering of Art 1 will alternate each year with the offering of Music Composition.

**Music Composition 357000CW** Grades 10–12 1 unit This course introduces students to basic concepts and skill applications crucial to the understanding of how tonal music is organized. Topics include notation, scales, chords, intervals, rhythm and harmonization as well as ear-training and sight-singing skills. Basic piano techniques are taught as a means to a better understanding of music theory. This course greatly enhances any chorus, band or orchestra student's musicianship. The offering of Music Composition will alternate each year with the offering of Art 1.

#### **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. Please use SC TRAC (South Carolina Transfer and Articulation Center, <https://www.sctrac.org/>) to determine which courses will transfer. Students should verify the course they choose is a part of their college major or can be counted as an elective credit.

**BIO 101: Biological Science 1 (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  
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

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

**ENG 205: British Literature** 301900EW Grade 12 1 high school unit 3 college credits

An introduction to British literary history, emphasizing the analysis of literary texts, the development of literary traditions over time, the emergence of new genres and forms, and the writing of successful essays about literature.

**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 102: Western Civ post 1689** 3510000EW Grade 12 1 high school unit 3 college credits

European development and expansion from the mid-17th century to the present.

**HISTORY 111: American History to 1877** 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 1877 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 110: College Algebra** 413300EW Grades 11, 12 1 high school unit 3 college credits

This course includes the following topics: polynomial, rational, logarithmic and exponential functions; inequalities; systems of equations and inequalities; matrices; determinants; and solutions of higher degree polynomials

**MAT 111: College Trigonometry** 413400EW Grade 12 1 high school unit 3 college credits

Topics in trigonometry specifically needed for MATH 141, 142, 241. Circular functions, analytic trigonometry, applications of trigonometry.

**MAT 141: College Calculus I** 413900EW Grade 12, 1 high school unit 3 college credits

Functions, limits, derivatives, introduction to integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, applications of derivatives and integrals. Prerequisite MAT 111

**ARTS 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 11, 12 1 high school unit 3 college credits

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 included.

**PSY 201: 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.

### **HIGH SCHOOL ONLINE CURRICULUM GRADES 10-12**

**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** 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 Virtual SC courses, as long as they are pre-approved by GCA. Students may not take any courses through Virtual SC 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, so you can complete your VirtualSC coursework at times that fits your schedule. Virtual SC 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.