



SONORAN SCHOOLS STANDARDS

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA TRACK

Sonoran Schools offers a tiered diploma track. Students may choose to pursue the higher tracks; the regular track is the minimum requirement for graduation. There is no need to sign up for a specific track. Students simply need to ensure they are taking the appropriate classes for the diploma they wish to achieve and should, therefore, plan their courses accordingly. The purpose of the tiered diploma track is to encourage students to continually challenge themselves with rigorous courses so that they graduate well-prepared for success in college.

Courses taken at a university or community college will only count toward fulfillment of the AP/Dual Enrollment requirements if they are on the list of pre-approved Dual Enrollment classes. This is because some college courses are remedial high school courses, and not true college-level. Courses which are not on the list of pre-approved Dual Enrollment classes will not count unless students receive prior written approval from administration.

In accordance with the School's policy of graduating students who actively contribute to their community, graduating students must have a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service. Volunteer activities should be logged on forms that are available in the office. An adult signature will be required each time a volunteer activity is performed. Forms should be returned to the college counselor to be logged in the student's record.

STEM DISTINCTION

In addition to the tiered diploma tracks, there is an option for students to receive a STEM Distinction on their diploma. Students should meet all of the requirements for their diploma track they desire, in addition to the requirements of the STEM Distinction. For example, a student can be awarded an Honors Diploma with STEM Distinction if both requirements have been met. For the STEM Distinction, the following requirements must be met. The STEM Distinction Completion Form must be completed and given to your college counselor prior to graduation. It is recommended to be in communication with your college counselor annually to ensure you are meeting these requirements.

STEM Distinction Minimum Requirements

- Science courses (4 credits)
 - Choose 1 physics, 1 biology, and 1 chemistry
 - Choose one additional science course
- Math courses (5 credits)
 - Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, and Calculus or above.
- Engineering/Technology (3 credits)
 - At least one must be an engineering or coding course.
- Senior STEM Capstone (1 credit)
- STEM GPA of 3.0 or above (GPA of STEM courses on a 4.0 scale)
- Evidence of 3 equivalent years of STEM extra-curricular participation during HS
 - E.g. Robotics, Science Officer/CSO, Science Olympiad, etc.
 - Coaching younger students as a mentor of a STEM club also counts.
- Shadow a professional in a STEM career field for one day
 - Choice of career must be in alignment with one of the ISEF STEM categories. Please consult with your College Counselor in advance to ensure your shadowing will count toward this requirement.

Requirements	Regular Diploma	STEM Distinction	Honors Diploma	Golden Honors Diploma
Mathematics	4	5	4	4
English	4	4	4	4
Sciences	3	4	4	4
Social Studies	3	3	3	3
World Language (includes ASL)	2	2	3 (in same language)	3 (in same language)
Technology/Engineering	2	3	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1	1	1
PE	1	1	1	1
Senior STEM Capstone	0	1	0	0
Electives	2	0	2	2
Total Number of Credits	22	24	24	24
GPA Requirement	N/A	3.0 (STEM Courses)	3.50	4.00
Community Service Hours	20	20	40	60
Approved Dual-Enrollment/AP Classes Needed	None	None	3	5
AP Exams with score 3 or higher and/or Dual Enrollment Classes with a B or higher	None	None	1 (By the end of 11 th Grade)	3 (By the end of 11 th Grade)
STEM Club Participation	None	3 years	None	None
STEM Professional Career Shadowing	None	1 day	None	None

High School Non-Weighted Scale

Letter Grade	Percent	Grade Points
A+	98 – 100	4
A	90 - 97	4
B+	87 – 89	3.3
B	80 -86	3
C+	77-79	2.3
C	70-76	2
D	60-69	1
F	<60	0

High School Weighted Scale

Letter Grade	Percent	Grade Points
A+	98 – 100	5
A	90 - 97	5
B+	87 – 89	4
B	80 -86	4
C+	77-79	3
C	70-76	3
D	60-69	1
F	<60	0

GPA Policies/Course Classifications

All courses offered by the School are classified in two groups:

1. Dual Enrollment/Advanced Placement/Honors courses (weighted scale*)
2. Regular academic courses (non-weighted scale*)

3. ***Courses earned from community college or universities must be reviewed by the Chief Academic Officer before credit is granted toward graduation.

Weighted Scale Policy

College/Advanced Placement/Honors courses will be given weighted credits. Only college classes listed in the district's *approved list* will be given weighted credits, unless written approval is given prior to taking the course.