

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND THE DIPLOMA

Students are encouraged to challenge themselves throughout their years at GSA by taking an ambitious course of study. Faculty advisors and the Dean of Curriculum and Instruction are available to help students plan their schedules. GSA encourages every student to prepare for some education beyond high school.

The George Stevens Academy diploma is conferred upon students who have satisfactorily met the requirements described below. Participation in the graduation ceremony is reserved for students who have met all graduation requirements at the time of graduation.

Minimum Credit & Distribution Requirements

4 credits of English (must include Senior English or AP English Language and Composition)

3 credits of mathematics (must include two years of Algebra or higher level analytic math courses plus one year of geometry)

3 credits of science

3 credits of social science (must include U.S. History)

1 credit of physical education

1 credit of fine arts

½ credit of health

6½ credits of electives

Freshman Seminar*

Total: 22 credits

*Freshman Seminar provides a structured learning environment where students develop skills and habits they need to be academically successful and independent. Topics include: keeping track of assignments, organization, time management, study skills, test preparation, note-taking, and self-advocacy. Freshman Seminar is required of every 9th grade student enrolled in Study Hall. Students who complete Freshman Seminar earn .25 credit towards graduation.

Minimum Course Load

All students are required to carry a minimum of six (6) academic courses each semester.

Honors Course Policies

Honors courses challenge students to pursue a subject more deeply, more intensively, and more rigorously than is normally possible in the College Prep (CP) sequence. Honors course enrollment policies are as follows:

- New students should consult with Student Services and their advisor about the appropriateness of taking an Honors course.
- Students enrolled in an Honors course must achieve a final grade of 80 or better in order to enroll in the next level Honors course in that department. However, if the next level course is an Honors-level course but no alternative non-Honors course is available, a student may enroll in the Honors course without having achieved a grade of 80 or better.
- A student who either (1) earns a final grade of 90 or better in a CP course or (2) has an average of 87 for the year in a non-honors course AND a 90 for the second semester, may enroll in the honors level in the next appropriate course in the department.

Courses Requiring the Approval of the Dean of Curriculum and Instruction

The Dean of Curriculum and Instruction must approve in advance alternative course contracts, independent study courses, and courses taken for credit outside George Stevens Academy.

For more detail about academic policies, consult the Student-Parent Handbook.