

# Move On When Ready

## Grand Canyon Diploma Requirements

August 2018

### What is the Grand Canyon High School Diploma?

The Grand Canyon High School Diploma is available to Arizona students who demonstrate college and career readiness in all core subject areas before they leave high school. Earning the Grand Canyon High School Diploma means that a student is academically prepared to take college level courses without remediation.

Advancement is based on **mastery**, not “seat time.” Students advance when they demonstrate they have learned the material. They must prove in-depth learning, demonstrating skills with writing, analysis, and problem-solving on curriculum-based exams. When students show they are college-ready on exams in English, mathematics, science, history and the arts, they earn the Grand Canyon High School Diploma.

### What are the specific requirements to earn a Grand Canyon High School Diploma?

Cambridge Exams and Course Areas	College-Ready Qualification Score	<b>Grand Canyon Diploma Requirements:</b> Students must earn the college-ready qualification score on five (5) exams, successfully complete seven (7) exams, and successfully complete Fine Art/CTE and economics courses.
IGCSE English First Language (Extended)	B	Meet the college-ready qualification score.
IGCSE English Literature	C	Reach a passing score of G or above.
IGCSE Mathematics (Extended)	C	Meet the college-ready qualification score.
IGCSE Biology IGCSE Chemistry IGCSE Physics	C	Meet the college-ready qualification score on 1 science exam. Reach a passing score of G or above on 1 additional science exam.
IGCSE World History IGCSE American History	C	Meet the college-ready qualification score on 1 history exam. Reach a passing score of G or above on 1 additional history exam.
Meet the college-ready qualification score of “C” on 1 additional Cambridge IGCSE exam, choosing from English Literature, the sciences, or history exam areas.		
Fine Art or Career and Technical Education (CTE)	G	Meet the college-ready qualification score on IGCSE Art & Design, IGCSE Drama, or IGCSE Music or successful completion of a local course.
Economics	Local course	Successfully complete a local course (½ credit).

## How do Cambridge exam grades work?

It is important to note the Cambridge International Examinations IGCSE A\*-G grading system is different than the letter grading system used in the United States. In the Cambridge system, the IGCSE Grade G represents the first passing grade in Cambridge's grade scale, the Grade C represents readiness to progress to the next stage of learning, and the Grades A or A\* represent excellent performance beyond expectations.

To earn a Grade G, a student typically must produce a portfolio of work—written responses in the case of IGCSE Literature or a series of lab reports in the IGCSE science courses—sit for the end-of-course examination, and earn enough marks to get onto the scoring scale. In short, students must really apply themselves in each course to earn a Grade G, and demonstrate they are fully ready to move on without support to earn a Grade C.

## Why is the Grand Canyon High School Diploma important?

“Readiness” means that a student has the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in college level courses that count towards a degree or certificate **without taking remedial or developmental coursework.**

- Too many Arizona high school graduates arrive to college only to find out that they need to take remedial courses in math or English that cost money but do not offer them credit towards their degree.
- Remedial/developmental courses in college cover the content that students should master in high school. Students shouldn't have to waste time or money on these courses when these skills can be mastered in high school.
- We need to know that graduates are **READY** for college and career—earning college-ready qualification scores gives us confidence that students really are prepared.

Students who earn a Grand Canyon High School Diploma are entitled to all the rights and privileges of a person who graduates with a high school diploma including access to postsecondary scholarships and other forms of student financial aid and access to postsecondary education.

In fact, when students demonstrate their readiness, colleges, universities, technical schools, and scholarship committees also have that reassurance that Grand Canyon Diploma students are prepared to use their skills to fulfill the mission of that school or scholarship organization.

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