

**Graduating 2012 or Before:
Arizona Academic Scholars Course of Study**

English: 4 credits (English I through IV)

Math: 3 credits including Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II (4 credits of math is encouraged)

Science: 3 credits including Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Physics preferred, Physical Lab Science or Earth Science accepted*)

Social Studies: 3 credits including Geography, World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government/ Civics and Economics

Language: 2 credits of the same language other than English

Fine Arts/Career and Technical Education (CTE): N/A

A grade of C or better in every Scholars class and meeting all other graduation requirements of the school district

**Graduating 2013 or After:
Arizona Academic Scholars Course of Study**

English: 4 credits (English I through IV)

Math: 4 credits including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and a higher level math with Algebra II or equivalent as prerequisite**

Science: 3 credits including Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Physics preferred, AZ University system-approved Lab Science or Earth Science accepted*)

Social Studies: 3 credits including Geography, World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government/ Civics and Economics

Language: 2 credits of the same language other than English

Fine Arts/Career and Technical Education (CTE):
2 credits from either fine arts and/or CTE

A grade of C or better in every Scholars class and meeting all other graduation requirements of the school district



Arizona Academic Scholars Initiative

Arizona Academic Scholars is an initiative of the Arizona Business & Education Coalition (ABEC) in partnership with the Arizona State Board of Education (SBE). Arizona Academic Scholars is a community-wide incentive program to motivate more students to complete an academically enriched high school course of study. It's an interim step toward the higher graduation requirements which will be taking effect throughout Arizona. The result is students who meet or exceed state graduation requirements, develop important workplace skills, and graduate prepared to enter the 21st century workforce and excel in post-secondary education.



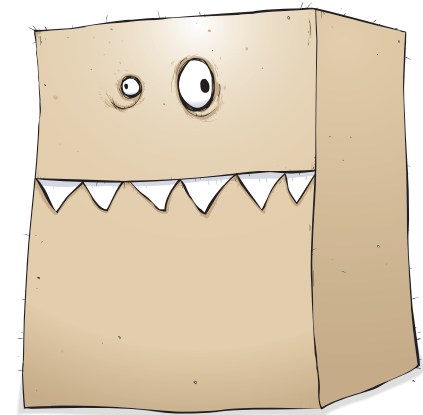
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Arizona Academic Scholars

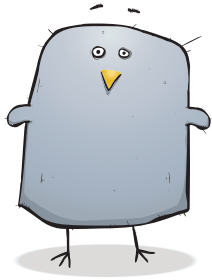
*Lab Science or Earth Science may not qualify for the Academic Competitiveness Grant for Pell qualified recipients

**Equivalent as approved by ADE

The world is changing.

And so are the standards.

Life is getting more competitive every day. In fact, an education that was satisfactory even ten years ago isn't satisfactory today. So to respond to these new challenges, high school graduation requirements are becoming more rigorous. How do we help our students achieve these higher levels? That's where Arizona Academic Scholars comes in.



So what is Arizona Academic Scholars?

Excellent question.

Arizona Academic Scholars is an important step toward preparing for more rigorous graduation requirements. It's a community-wide incentive strategy whose goal is to encourage students to take challenging courses throughout high school, better preparing them for post-secondary education and the increasingly changing and competitive job market.

Students aren't the only ones who benefit.

Sure, when we prepare our youth for the future, they're going to be more successful. Better salaries and more rewarding careers are just the beginning. But when students begin taking this step, our businesses no longer have to look outside Arizona – or outside of the country – to find qualified employees. They'll already be here and ready to contribute. We all win.

A true community project.

Arizona Academic Scholars is not just another school program. It is supported and recognized by the Arizona Business and Education Coalition, the State Board of Education, the Board of Regents, the Governor's Office, business partners and school districts throughout the state. Why? Because they realize the value and need for rigorous high school education for our 21st century students.

Anyone can be an Arizona Academic Scholar.

Well, anyone as long as they're a high school student. Academic Scholars need a "C" or better in the required Scholars' courses and must meet all other graduation requirements of their school district. At graduation, Arizona Academic Scholars also receive special recognition for their achievements – a proud moment for students, their families and the teachers and counselors who have helped them along the way.

➤ **98% of new jobs in Arizona that pay above the median wage will require some post-secondary education. Most will also require work experience.**

➤ **The strongest predictor of college completion is a rigorous and challenging high school course of study.**

Supporting Arizona Academic Scholars supports the whole community!



Qualify for the real world.