

**Tempe Union High School District
Course Type and Program Information
Presented by The Parent Network ***

Honors Courses

Honors courses offer academic challenges above and beyond standard courses and are developed locally by high school teachers to help meet the needs of accelerated students. Specifically, Honors courses are faster paced and cover topics more in-depth than standard classes.

Honors courses are ideal for college bound students who want a competitive edge when applying to their schools of choice, or for any ambitious student who desires to demonstrate that he or she has mastered a subject more deeply. They are **not** seen as equivalent to college-level work, thus will **not** earn college credit.

Honors courses can strengthen chances for admission to college is by boosting GPA since they are weighted. Because honors classes are more difficult than non-honors classes, the grades earned in honors courses at TUHSD are given an extra grade point. With the standard four-point grading scale, A = 4 grade points, B = 3, C=2, etc. With the honors scale, A = 5 points, B = 4 points, and C = 3 points; therefore, when these grade points are averaged with your regular grades, your *weighted GPA* could be higher than 4.0. Class rank within a school is based on weighted GPA.

Honors courses area available to all grades, but initially, must score an 85% or better in subject area to be placed in Honors. Future placement is based on grades earned and teacher recommendation. Class selection varies by schools, so check with school course catalog or speak with counselor.

Advance Placement (AP) Courses

AP courses offer academic challenges above and beyond standard courses based on instruction and material that is college level. They provide an opportunity to earn college credits early, and demonstrate a willingness of the student to take on a challenge.

As with Honors courses, AP courses are ideal for college bound students who want a competitive edge when applying to their schools of choice, or for any ambitious student who desires to demonstrate that he or she has mastered a subject more deeply. They are equivalent to college-level work, and thus will earn college credit.

AP courses boost GPA based on the weight points of grades BUT also give college credit based on exam results at the end of the course. (please see discussion under Honors regarding GPA's) Regarding the final AP exam, a 3 or above is seen as competent; however universities vary on requirement to receive credit.

Usually taken as juniors or seniors and though there is no pre-test to take these, consideration is given to past performance in classes. Class selection varies by schools, so check with school course catalog or speak with counselor.

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International Baccalaureate (IB) Program

The IB curriculum is a college-prep program that focuses on international perspectives of learning and teaching. It's designed for highly motivated students, but not necessarily gifted. Though the official Diploma Program doesn't begin until junior year, it's seen as a 4-year program with 9th and 10 graders taking a full-load of pre-IB classes to prepare them for the rigor ahead.

Entrance to the 4-year program is based on > 75% on most recent standardized exam, A's & some B's for 7th grade/1st semester 8th, an 8th grade Discipline Report, an Admission essay and two teacher recommendations. Junior and senior years are based on a demanding course of studies that leads to examinations in six subject areas.

Tempe Union's IB program's home is at Tempe High School. For details please see: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/th/academics/programs/ib/ib.html> or contact Mr. Scott Greenhalgh, sgreenhalgh@tuhsd.k12.az.us or phone 480-967-1661.

Gifted Program

The TUHSD gifted program is offered to students in two ways: at school sites and at The Peggy Payne Academy. Students who have been identified as gifted (97th percentile and above on subject exam) will be provided with specialized instruction, curriculum and services. Honors and AP classes are a large part of the program and thus provide valuable experiences for those college-bound.

At school sites, students will be provided with a gifted counselor who provides help with scheduling, college applications, and recommendations, scholarships, and other opportunities. For specifics, please see school websites under gifted.

The Payne Academy is able to offer its students a comprehensive high school experience. Those who attend enjoy learning in a collegiate atmosphere among students who love a challenge and small class size. contact Ms. Laura Zinke, coordinator for Peggy Payne at (480) 752-8696 or lzinke.ppa@tuhsd.k12.az.us

Compadre High School

Compadre High School is called a school of choices and designed to meet needs of every student that attends the school. It offers a smaller learning environment and offers alternative. Students choose Compadre for a variety of reasons: some want to graduate early, others need to make up credits and still others just want a smaller learning environment.

Compadre is the home for evening courses and also has a strong partnership with the East Valley School of Technology. For more information, contact Mr. McDonald, Principal at <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/chs/smcdonald@tuhsd.k12.az.us> or 480-752-3560.

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2009 Summer School

Summer school for 2009 will be held at Desert Vista and Marcos, and classes are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 12:15 pm. Students may take one course during each of the two sessions and earn ½ credit for each class. Beginning February 27, summer school brochures will be available at schools' guidance offices. Registration begins March 2. Please note that some classes such as PE fill up within the first several days, so don't wait.

Tuition is \$135 per session. Bus passes may be purchased at the time of registration for \$25.00 per session. Bus service is available TO and FROM the student's home school to their selected summer school campus. Incoming freshman may choose from the following classes: Computer Applications I & II, Algebra I & II, Physical Education I & II, and Spanish I & II

For more details: <https://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=80>

On-Line Courses (TUOL)

On-line courses may be taken by any student, anywhere or at anytime. A computer with a high-speed Internet connection is needed. Online study and discussion groups are part of the program. Students are able to contact instructors via e-mail.

Begin the registration process by contacting a high school counselor. If the class is in addition to the student's normal 6 classes, a fee of \$135 is charged. Please see TUHSD website <https://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=20,112> or contact a counselor for classes offered.

Zero Hour Courses

A zero hour class meets daily from 6:50-7:40 am, Monday through Friday, and it's a full year commitment. No transportation is provided. If this is a student's 7th class taken, the cost is \$135 per semester. Classes are available at all grades, but depend on specific class requirements.

Taking zero hour, summer school, evening courses provides students with an opportunity to take more courses than the minimal requirements, thus may provide more enrichment. These classes also assist students that may need to make up a course or would like to graduate early.

Please see school site catalogs for specific classes offered during this time.

Evening Classes

Evening classes are offered at Compadre High School, one night a week from 4:45 to 8:30. Sophomores and above may enroll in the Monday through Thursday classes, for each class taken, a student earns a ½ credit. No transportation is provided. If this is a student's 7th class taken, the cost is \$135 per semester.

Brochures are available in guidance offices, and begin one week after the start of each semester. Registration taking place about a month before classes begin. On-line learning

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makes up much of the class requirements however a teacher is in the classroom at all times for guidance and assistance.

Students work at their own pace and have the ability to finish the class early. Evening classes allow students to take more classes than required, make up classes or graduate early. For details: <http://www.tuhsd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=26,67,123>

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