

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS COVENANT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

(Revised April 2008)

Students who are candidates to graduate from Covenant Christian Academy must successfully complete an approved course of study that includes course work in the areas listed below, as well as successful completion of one Demonstrated Skill. Parents and students are expected to work with the school Superintendent/Guidance Counselor in the selection of each year's courses and curriculum, as well as to provide a complete definition of each intended course of study (see Course Descriptions section). A conference must be scheduled with the Superintendent/Guidance Counselor before a student begins the 9th grade to plan high school course work. A Four-year Plan, outlining projected courses for the high school years, must be submitted to the school, and parents of all students in grades 9-12 will be expected to turn in at the first of each school year a course description for each course to be taught during that particular year. No credit will be given for any course for which an adequate course description has not been received. When special needs exist, parents are encouraged to work with the Superintendent/Guidance Counselor in the design of creative alternatives which will best meet the needs of the student. A \$25 per semester fee is assessed for all students in grades 9-12 to be paid at the beginning of the semester.

Parents of **transfer** students must also complete the Four-Year Plan for their high school students. Only those credits listed on transcripts from other schools will be transferred to CCA. Parent transcripts and course descriptions will be accepted from homeschooling families transferring from areas that do not require enrollment in a school, but they must be approved by the Superintendent or Guidance Counselor. Parents must be able to produce acceptable evidence of previous courses taken for high school credit to be transferred.

Students desiring to complete high school course work in three years must be working **at or above grade level** on achievement tests and must get approval from the Superintendent upon entering Grade 9. Students transferring to CCA during the high school years may not graduate early.

Most of our graduates have no trouble entering college and the workforce. However, CCA is not an accredited school, and because of that, we cannot guarantee that all colleges and employers will recognize a diploma from our school as valid. Some colleges/employers may require that a student take the GED before being accepted. Parents and students should check with the colleges that they are interested in to determine what their admission requirements are.

DEMONSTRATED SKILL:

Candidates for graduation must present an acceptable research paper, due on Dec. 1 during the student's junior year. The research paper must be completed before senior status will be granted.

TESTING:

All students in grades 9-12 must take some type of achievement test each year. All 9th grade students will take the Stanford Achievement Test. Both 10th and 11th grade students who take the PSAT or PLAN Test may be exempted from taking the Stanford. Any high school student who has taken a college entrance exam during his high school years may be exempt from the spring testing. We recommend that students take the ACT or SAT during their junior year so they can re-take it if necessary during their senior year. All seniors should have taken the ACT or SAT by April of their senior year.

REQUIRED SUBJECT AREAS:

Course work falls into the main subject areas listed below. The minimum number of credit units for graduation is set at 24. Students with special circumstances and needs may have that number adjusted with the consent of the school Superintendent. Students who cannot fulfill the course work for a diploma may receive a Certificate of Completion.

Generally, determination of a credit is as follows:

1 unit credit: 2 1/2 to 3 hours of course work per week for two semesters (90-100 hrs.)

1/2 unit credit: 2 1/2 to 3 hours of course work per week for one semester (45-50 hrs.)

Or, work can be spread out over a one-year period, doing 1 to 1 1/2 hours per week for the two semesters for **1/2 credit**. The Superintendent/Guidance Counselor will assist parents in determining the value of specially designed courses.

Core Curriculum consists of those courses in the four major subject areas: mathematics, science, social studies, and English. Colleges like to see a strong core curriculum, and the public schools in Alabama require that students take four classes in each area of the core. We do not have the same requirements, but we highly recommend that a student who is planning to attend college earn four credits in each core subject. ****Note**** Community colleges in Alabama expect students to have a diploma that is equivalent to the Alabama public school diploma which requires four courses in core subjects.

| Subject | Number of Units |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| English | 4.0 |
| Mathematics | 3.0 |
| Science | 3.0 |
| Social Studies | 3.0 |
| Physical Education | 2.0 |
| Bible | 1.0 |
| Computer | 1.0 |
| Electives | 7.0 |
| | ----- |
| | 24.0 |

Grade Level Classification: A student will normally be classified on the following grade levels according to the number of credits already completed. These classifications will not normally be changed during a school year.

| | |
|------------|--|
| 6 credits | Completion of 9th grade/ classified as Sophomore |
| 12 credits | Completion of 10th grade/classified as a Junior |
| 18 credits | Completion of 11th grade and successful completion of Research paper/classified as a Senior |

Dual Enrollment Courses: Some students take courses at local colleges and earn high school and college credit (3 hr. College course=.5 high school credit). We recommend that students wait till their junior or senior year to begin. They should have a 3.5 GPA, have taken an ACT or SAT test, and have demonstrated ability, motivation, and maturity in high school courses (as determined by the Superintendent based on grades, teacher evaluations, test scores, and behavior in classes and activities). Dual enrollment courses should be limited to no more than 2 per semester. The college application for dual enrollment requires the signature of the high school Superintendent, so plan ahead to get paperwork done early.

SUBJECT AREA COURSE LIST:

Physical Education and elective courses will be planned by the parents and the Superintendent/Guidance Counselor. Standards and credits may vary according to student needs and abilities. Other courses not listed below may be added with approval. Courses can be classified as formal or informal, according to the following definitions: **Formal** courses are those which contain a pre-planned unit of study provided by a recognized publisher or school. **Informal** courses are those which are specially designed by the student and parent rather than a publisher or school. A list of suggested courses for each of the main subject areas follows. An asterisk (*) indicates a **required** course.

English: 4 credits required

In general, the combination of grammar and composition instruction with a literature course earns one full credit. It is highly recommended that all students receive instruction in grammar and writing skills during each year of high school.

| | Credit | Recommended Grade |
|--|--------|-------------------|
| Introduction to Literature/Grammar | 1.0 | 9-10 |
| World Literature/Grammar | 1.0 | 10-12 |
| American Literature/Grammar | 1.0 | 10-12 |
| British Literature/Grammar | 1.0 | 11-12 |
| Creative Writing/Grammar/Composition | .5-1.0 | 9-10 |
| Writing for College | 1.0 | 11-12 |
| Mathematics: 3 credits required | | |
| *Algebra I | 1.0 | 9 |
| Plane Geometry | 1.0 | 10 |
| Algebra II | 1.0 | 11 |
| Advanced Math (Trig./Geometry/Alg.III) | 1.0 | 12 |
| General Math | 1.0 | 9-10 |
| Consumer Math/Business Math | 1.0 | 9-10 |
| Unified Geometry | 1.0 | |
| Pre-Calculus or Calculus | 1.0 | 11-12 |
| Alg. I, Alg. II, and Adv. Math in Saxon =4.0 credits (includes 1.0 credit in Geometry). | | |
| Science: 3 credits required | | |
| Physical Science | 1.0 | 9 |
| Biology | 1.0 | 10 |
| Chemistry (Prerequisite-Alg. I) | 1.0 | 11 |
| Physics (Prerequisite- Alg. II) | 1.0 | 12 |
| Anatomy & Physiology(Prerequisite-biology/chem.) | 1.0 | 11-12 |
| A.P. Biology (Prerequisite-biology/chemistry) | 1.0 | 11-12 |
| A.P. Chemistry (Prerequisite-chemistry) | 1.0 | 11-12 |
| Geology, Meteorology, Astronomy, Environmental Science, or Marine Biology | | |
| -can be .5-1.0 credits but must use high school level or higher text. | | |
| Social Studies: 3 credits required | | |
| Civics | .5 | |
| Geography | .5-1.0 | 9 |
| State History | .5 | 9 |
| World History | 1.0 | 10 |
| *American History or A.P. American History | 1.0 | 11 |
| *Government (.5 credit required) | .5-1.0 | 12 |
| Economics | .5-1.0 | 12 |
| Political Science | 1.0 | 11-12 |

Physical Education: 2 credits required

Since a text is not normally used, parents should document time spent in physical activities in order to earn credits.

| | | |
|------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Aerobics | Horseback Riding | Soccer |
| Archery | Ice Skating | Softball |
| Baseball | Jogging | Scuba Diving |
| Basketball | Judo | Square Dancing |
| Biking | Karate | Swimming/Diving |
| Dance | Marching Band | Tennis |
| Football | Roller Skating | Volleyball |
| Gymnastics | ROTC | Walking |
| Golf | Hiking | Hockey/In-line Skating |

Bible: 1 credit required

Bible credit should be earned through a serious study of the Bible, using specific guides. Credits will vary from .5 to 1.0 credit, according to the amount of time spent in the study. Some suggested areas of study are:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Building Character | Life of Christ |
| Biblical Prophecy | Missionary Journeys of Paul |
| Epistles of Paul | New Testament Survey |
| Biographies of People of Faith | Old Testament Survey |

Computer: 1.0 credit required

All students should gain some proficiency in using the computer. At least 1.0 credit should be earned in computer literacy.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| Intro. To Computer | .5-1.0 | Computer Applications | .5-1.0 |
| Computer Programming (language) | .5-1.0 | | |

Electives:

Elective credits will be determined by the amount of time spent in the activity and by the course Description.

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Accounting | 1.0 | Foreign Language | .5-1.0 |
| Art | .5-1.0 | Health | .5 |
| Band/Symphony | .5-1.0 | Home Economics/Life Skills | .5-1.0 |
| Business | .5-1.0 | Independent Research | .5 |
| Choral | .5-1.0 | Music(Individual/Theory/Appr.) | .5 |
| Drama | .5-1.0 | Speed Reading | .5 |
| Driver's Ed. | .5 | Typing | .5-1.0 |
| | | Vocational Ed. | .5-1.0 |

WORK DESCRIPTION FORM

To the Supervisor: Please fill out and return this form to Covenant Christian Academy, 926 Weatherly Rd., S.E. ,Huntsville, AL 35803. If you have questions call 882-3668.

The following student has been an (employee/volunteer) (circle one) This form covers the period beginning_____ (Mo./Yr.) and ending _____ (Mo./Yr).

Name:_____ **Hours worked per week:**_____

Immediate Supervisor:_____

Name of firm or organization:_____

Address:_____

Phone: _____

Brief description of the type of work done by this student:_____

What specific skills are used or learned in carrying out this job?_____

Would you please grade the student in the following areas? Please circle one The grades from these three areas will be averaged to obtain the semester grade for vocational education.

Attitude: excellent (A) good (B) satisfactory (C) needs improvement (D)

Job completion: excellent (A) good (B) satisfactory (C) needs improvement (D)

Punctuality: excellent (A) good (B) satisfactory (C) needs improvement (D)

Comments:_____

Evaluators Name & Position:_____

Signature:_____ Date_____

WRITING COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

In order for a student to receive credits for high school courses to be included on a transcript, the parent/teacher needs to describe the course of study before it begins.

You may choose to teach your student on a **formal** basis, in which you choose a pre-planned course by a recognized publisher or school; these "formal courses" require very little in the way of description. On the other hand, your student may require a more creative approach in order for his needs or goals to be met. "**Informal courses**" are those designed by a student and/or parent instead of by a publisher or school. The description for this type of course would need to be more detailed. Curriculum can include many different kinds of materials besides textbooks, such as library books, field trips, encyclopedias, jobs, magazines, videos, and interaction with specialists in the field of study. Informal courses might be more skill-oriented than the formal courses.

A Course Description form is attached to this sheet, as well as some sample course descriptions, both formal and informal. The following are the items that should be included in a course description:

1. Name and grade of student
2. Length of course (semester or full year)
3. Number of credits to be assigned (*see note below)
4. Semester (s) in which instruction will take place (Fall, Winter, Summer, etc.)
5. Date of the beginning and completion of course
6. Course Title
7. Curriculum (Textbooks or materials to be used)
8. Course Description

*Note: Generally, determination of a credit unit is as follows:

- 1 Unit=2.5 - 3.0 hours of instruction weekly for two semesters
- .5 Unit=2.5 - 3.0 hours of instruction weekly for one semester
- .5 Unit=1-1.5 hours of instruction weekly for two semesters

SAMPLE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Formal Courses:

1. Algebra I Length of course: 1 year Credits: 1.0 Semesters: fall/spring
The student will use the Saxon Algebra I textbook and test packet.
2. Biology Length of course :1 year Credit: 1.0 Semesters: fall/spring
The student will attend the CCA lab classes and complete the necessary requirements.
The Bob Jones Biology text and lab manual will be read to prepare for class.
3. Alabama History Length of course: 1 semester Credit: .5 Semesters: fall
The student will use *The Story of Alabama* textbook and workbook, as well as several maps of the state. We will supplement with field trips to various points of interest.
4. Driver's Education Length of course: 1 semester Credit: .5 Semester: summer
The student will take the Driver's Education course offered by the Huntsville City School System in June of 1999.

Informal Courses:

1. Bible I Length of course: 1 year Credit: 1.0 Semesters: fall/spring
The student will study the important events of the Old Testament with an emphasis on Jewish beliefs and customs and how they influenced these events. Activities will include field trips to a Jewish temple in Nashville and a Bar-Mitzvah celebration in Birmingham, as well as a Passover celebration with a local Jewish family.
Textbooks: New International Version of *The Holy Bible*
Victor Handbook of Bible Knowledge, Gilbert Beers
Works of Josephus
2. American History Length of course: 1 year Credit: 1.0 Semesters: summer/fall
The student will study United States history with an emphasis on the hand of God in forming our nation. Biographies of five Christian patriots will be read, and a research paper will trace how these men influenced the course of our national history. These activities will be in addition to study of the books listed below:
The Light and the Glory, Marshall and Manuel
From Sea to Shining Sea, Marshall and Manuel
Christianity and the Constitution, John Eidsmoe
3. Judicial Law I Length of Course: 1 year Credit: 1.0 Semesters: fall/spring
This course is an overview of the Judicial law as established by God through Moses, how it was applied in the sermon on the mount, and how governments have implemented it since then. Government, legal vocabulary, legal systems and forms of government, as well as influential men in the judiciary will be studied. Our system of government will be examined as it relates to law including the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION

Year:_____

Student's Name:_____ **Grade:**_____

Course Length(1 or 2 semesters):_____ **Semesters:**_____ **Credits:**_____

Planned Starting Date:_____ **Planned Completion Date:**_____

COURSE TITLE:_____

CURRICULUM:_____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

