

WCASD Course Rigor Levels and Descriptions

<u>Current</u>	<u>Revised</u>
<p>Basic/Standards: This level is for students who read at or below grade level. The curriculum is similar to the academic level in Social Studies and Science. Improvement of basic skills in all areas is emphasized to ensure future school or work success.</p>	<p>Eliminate: This level will be phased out with the incoming 9th grade.</p>
<p>Academic: This level is for students who plan to attend a four-year college and will have mastered the basic academic skills. Students who are selecting an academic level class possess effective study skills and conscientiously complete assignments. Participation in this level will help the student identify and continue to improve these skills so that he/she will be able to succeed in a college level program. The course prerequisite is a teacher recommendation.</p>	<p>*Career & College Prep: Career and College Prep level courses develop students' essential skills and acquisition of content knowledge within the subject area. This level emphasizes the development of increased rigor through classroom interactions and progressing demands for independent work in preparation for college and career readiness.</p>
<p>Honors: This level is for high achieving students who are capable of higher levels of thinking and demonstrate the ability to write and speak in a highly competent manner. This level requires the student to be responsible, mature, and have well-developed study skills which enable the student to pursue independent learning. The course prerequisite is a teacher recommendation.</p>	<p>Honors: Honors courses follow a rigorous curriculum prescribed by each department and develop higher-order thinking skills using a challenging pace and enriched content. Both in-class instruction and outside assignments focus on self-directed learning through activities and assessments that emphasize written and oral communication.</p>
<p>Seminar: This level is for academically talented students whose abilities, interests and performance show that they can do very difficult above-grade level work, including long-term research and creative projects, analytical thinking, extensive outside reading and active class participation. Seminar students possess enthusiasm for learning and the responsibility to maintain their academic standing regardless of outside activities. The course prerequisite is a strong teacher recommendation.</p>	<p>*Accelerated Honors: Accelerated Honors courses prepare students for Advance Placement studies. Courses at this level are designed to provide students with access to the most rigorous curriculum that extends well beyond grade level standards. These courses promote both collaborative and self-directed learning through activities and assessments that emphasize written and oral communication.</p>
<p>Advanced Placement: This level is for academically talented college- preparatory students whose abilities, interests, and demonstrated levels of performance show they can and will do difficult college work in high school. Advanced Placement classes assume students already have strong foundations in the specific subject area of the course and are seriously interested in preparing to take the subject area AP test. The course prerequisite is a strong teacher recommendation.</p>	<p>Advanced Placement: Advanced Placement, or AP, refers to college-level courses taught according to the syllabi prescribed by The College Board Advanced Placement Program and/or to courses designed to prepare students for College Board AP tests. Successful performance on AP tests may lead to college credit and/or advanced placement in college courses. While course descriptions provide information about the course content on which the AP exam will be based, WCASD teachers have the flexibility to determine how the content is presented.</p>

**These changes will be retroactively implemented for current high school students beginning in the fall of 2017.*