



HTH Curriculum

As a grade 9-12 school, High Tech High comprises two divisions: Division I (grades 9-10), and Senior Institute (grades 11-12). Students in Division I study math, science, Spanish, and integrated humanities. Math instruction is customized- students work independently in groups of one to four, setting goals, self-scheduling their tests, and progressing through the curriculum at their own pace. Science is centered on individual and group projects, many of which are executed in the Great Room, a large open space equipped with state of the art computers and other technical facilities. As they engage in projects, which may range from community studies to robotics to building a submarine, students begin to learn and apply the different perspectives and methods of the sciences and other academic disciplines.

In the Senior Institute, students progress to more advanced project work and study. They fulfill final school and state requirements and prepare to demonstrate their achievements for college admissions officers and employers. Internships provide a context for independent projects, developed in consultation with the advisor and a worksite mentor. These projects incorporate the HTH habits of mind and culminate in a final exhibition and presentation before an audience of experts, teachers, peers, and family.



Curriculum Planning

As High Tech High teachers develop curriculum, they consider both the California academic content standards and the HTH learning goals, which call for students to achieve competency in collaboration, technology, communication, art and design, ethics and

responsibility, and habits of mind. Summer, end of trimester, and daily group planning time gives teachers formal opportunities to plan and review curriculum activities and, more generally, to develop the teamwork that is critical to the success of the learning program.

College Level Courses

HTH students may also choose from an array of college level courses offered on campus in conjunction with the San Diego Community College District. Students who successfully complete 60 units of college coursework may graduate from HTH in as few as five years with both a high school diploma and an associate's degree. If they maintain a 2.8 grade point average then they will be guaranteed admission to UCSD as a junior, through the Transfer Acceptance Guaranteed (TAG) program. This represents a very accelerated program, probably including college courses at night and over the summers.

Design Principles in the Curriculum

The HTH educational program incorporates the HTH Design Principles:

Personalization.

Each student has a customized learning plan and an advisor who remains constant throughout the four years at High Tech High. Students pursue their interests through projects and prepare personal digital portfolios to document their achievement.

Adult World Connection.

HTH students engage in real-world projects that enable them to learn while working on problems of interest and concern to adults in the community. All students complete academic internships in local work organizations during the junior and senior years.

Common

Intellectual Mission.

Centered on the HTH Habits of Mind, the curriculum is engaging and rigorous, providing the foundation for entry and success at the University of California, California State University, and other post-secondary institutions. Assessment is performance-based—students create products, solve problems, and present their work to community panels.

HTH and UC System Course Requirements

Course	UC Units Required	UC Recommended	HTH Required
A: History Social Science	6	6	9
B: English	12	12	12
C: Mathematics	9	12	12
D: Lab Sciences	6	9	9
E: Language other than English	6	9	9
F: College Prep Electives	3	3	3
G: Visual / Performing Arts	3	3	3
Totals:	48	54	57*

* To graduate, High Tech High students must also complete one workplace internship of at least one hundred hours and a significant senior project.

Honors at High Tech High

At High Tech High, we aim to personalize our offerings to individual students. For two students in the same physics class, one might be building a hovercraft while another is building a sailboat.



Our teachers work to challenge and support all students to aim for their personal best. We believe this is a better way to acknowledge differences between students than offering "honors" vs. "regular" courses. Nonetheless, we allow students to take courses for honors credit for which UC will grant weighted GPA's.

Students taking any Senior Institute course, Spanish 3, or any AP course may choose to sign up for honors credit. Teachers describe in writing via the syllabus what students must know and do to receive honors credit.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses at High Tech High

HTH objects in principle to Advanced Placement (AP) courses because in order to pass the corresponding AP tests, students must be rushed through a proscribed, exhaustive, fact-based curriculum that does not lead to insight or understanding of the ideas in the course. At HTH we choose to emphasize deep project-based work over superficial "content coverage."

However, because we know that some teachers and some students enjoy intensive academic courses like AP physics, we have made room for a limited number of these courses in our schedule. These courses are offered as electives and require a substantial amount of outside-of-class preparation.