

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

Whittier Christian High School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and by the Association of Christian Schools, International (ACSI) through June 2021.

Membership is held with the following organizations:

California Interscholastic Federation (CIF)

California Scholarship Federation (CSF)

National Honor Society (NHS)

National Institute of Learning Disabilities (NILD)

Academic Policies:

Whittier Christian High School is dedicated to a curriculum that “equips the mind and spirit” through Academics, Athletics, and the Arts – the 3A’s. Spiritual formation and development is woven intricately throughout each aspect of this curriculum. The 3A’s are accomplished through a curriculum and faculty focus on rigor, relevance, and relationship.

Rigor is achieved through an approach to learning and instruction that is designed to take and stretch each student’s limits and boundaries of growth as a learner. Rigor recognizes that students need to be provided opportunities to progress as learners through offering a wide variety of subject disciplines, a varied approach to instructional strategies, and a rich technological experience. Relevance addresses the importance of adapting teaching and instruction to the needs of the 21st century student.

WCHS recognizes the importance of preparing students to succeed in a rapidly-changing world. This is one of the reasons WCHS is a 1:1 iPad school, embracing technology as an educational tool. Critical thinking skills, creativity in problem solving, and in-depth analysis are paramount when preparing students to be active, productive citizens in the future.

Grade Standards:

A = 100%-90%

B = 89%-80%

C = 79%-70%

D = 69%-60%

F = below 60%

*Note: Plus marks (+) or minus marks (-) may be used, but they do not change the grade points earned for the letter grade. Honors classes will be awarded one additional grade point for each grade.

- **California Scholastic Federation (CSF):** Students qualify for membership in CSF through the number of A’s and B’s earned in core academic courses. Application and payment must be collected by the given deadline for membership to be official. Students who are CSF members for four out of their last six semesters, including one during their senior year, are graduated as CSF Gold Seal Lifetime members.

- ▶ **National Honors Society (NHS):** NHS is open to juniors and seniors with a 3.75 GPA and on the basis of honors track enrollment, character, leadership, and service. Members are selected by a faculty council designated by the Head of School.

Credit:

Credit is the term used to indicate units earned by passing a class. Most classes grant five credits per semester when the student earns a passing grade. Passing grades are A through D-. Consequently, when a student passes both semesters of a single class, the student will have earned ten credits. Graduation requires a minimum of 250 credits.

Add/Drop Procedure:

During scheduled change day in August and the first three days of the first semester, students may make changes to their schedules provided they have completed any prerequisite courses and class space is available. For second semester, Students may make minor changes like dropping a class or adding a semester of health, speech, and study hall. This minor change does not include switching teachers nor rearranging schedule.

During weeks three through 12 of each semester, students may drop a class, but may only add a study or TA class to replace it. In these instances, students will be allowed to withdraw from the class without any effect on the student's grade point average.

For weeks 13-18, any dropped course automatically results in a failing grade. This grade will affect the student's grade point average.

Academic Support Services

Affiliated with NILD, (National Institute for Learning Development - nild.org) and IDA (International Dyslexia Association), Directed Studies certified educational therapists are trained in over 20 techniques and offer interventions, which address students areas of weakness and develop efficient, accurate thinking. NILD is a unique intervention program for struggling learners. This intervention is a language-based educational therapy, targeting areas of weakness in processing, memory, attention, oral and written language, reading, spelling and math. It guides and provides tools for students to discover how to learn in a what-to-learn world.

General Information

- ▶ Whittier Christian High School is able to support students who need accommodations to be successful in a college preparatory high school
- ▶ Many students with diagnosed learning differences have been successful in all recommended courses offered at Whittier Christian High School

Accommodations that CAN be supported at Whittier Christian are:

- ▶ Extended test time
- ▶ Quiet test environment
- ▶ Use of computer for written assignments
- ▶ Assistance in note taking: getting notes from teachers or peers to complete notes

- Preferential seating
- Free tutoring in Math, English & Spanish
- Directed Studies - one-on-one sessions
- Study Hall 4.0

Accommodations that CANNOT be supported at Whittier Christian are:

- Curriculum modification
- One on one class instruction
- Modified assessments (shorter versions of the assessment)

Contact the Academic Support Director, Robin Longinow at rlonginow@wchs.com or call (562)694-3803 x361 with questions pertaining to testing, accommodations and placement in the Academic Support system.

Diploma Programs

Whittier Christian High School offers three diploma programs designed to fit a student's academic needs and goals:

- High School Diploma
- College Preparatory Diploma
- Honors Diploma (Alpha Program)

Each diploma program has its own pattern of courses and academic demands. Consult the **WCHS Academic Catalog** for details regarding the specifics of each program. Upon completion of four years/ eight semesters of high school, students who completed the college preparatory or honors diploma will receive a seal on their diploma.

Along with each Diploma program Whittier Christian student's have the opportunity to apply and be accepted into Academies. These Academies consist of:

- STEM: BioMedical
- STEM: Engineering
- Business
- Fine Arts
- Leadership

Graduation Honors:

Graduation honors are given based on a student's academic achievement at the end of the seventh semester. These honors correlate to a student's cumulative grade point average. Graduation honors are offered at the following gpa levels:

- 3.0 - 3.49 - Graduation with Honors
- 3.5 - 3.79 - Graduation with High Honors
- 3.8 and above - Graduation with Highest Honors.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be determined each year by the following formula: The number of honor semester classes taken during grades 9-12 for 7 semesters (includes fall senior year) minus the number of B's in all academic and college level classes. Finally, in order to earn this honor, students must have no C's. NOTE: The highest GPA does not automatically determine Valedictorian - other factors such as a broader breadth of subjects will be considered. The valedictorian and salutatorian must have been at WCHS for at least three years prior to graduation, including their eleventh and twelfth grade year.

Other awards are given to graduates based on service to school and community as well as demonstrated spiritual commitment. These leadership and performance awards are determined by faculty and administration.

Achievement Tests and Academic Planning:

All 9th -11th grade students are required to take the PSAT. The PSAT is a preliminary test to give students an introduction to the SAT and is also used for National Merit Scholarship qualifying. In addition, students are strongly encouraged to take an optional full length ACT test offered periodically throughout the school year. Testing results are also used to determine academic achievement and for college preparation. Seniors do not take achievement tests. But are offered college preparation tools to help on college planning like essay workshops UC/Cal State and common application strategies. See College Advisement Guaranteed Services Information Packet.

Advanced Placement (AP):

Advanced Placement (AP) is an academic program designed by the College Board in which an advanced student may receive high school and college credit simultaneously. Within the AP curriculum, college level courses are taught by WCHS teachers, and at the conclusion of the course, students take a national standardized test. Students receiving a score of three or better on the exam may earn college-level credit depending on the requirements of their university of choice.

In order to qualify for AP courses, a student must meet minimum academic requirements and receive teacher approval. Specific requirements are contained within the **WCHS Academic Catalog**. Whittier Christian High School currently offers the following AP courses:

- Calculus
- U. S. Government and Politics
- English Literature
- Studio Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- English Language
- Environmental Science
- Physics
- Psychology
- Statistics
- Spanish

Academic Probation:

When a student's grade point average (GPA) at any semester reporting period falls below 1.5 (excluding physical education), the student **may be placed** on academic probation. The duration of academic probation is for a one-semester period of time. During the probationary period, students are expected to make sufficient academic progress and achieve a minimum 1.5 GPA. If sufficient academic progress is not made during the probationary period, additional steps may be necessary to ensure continued academic growth. A student may not remain on academic probation for two consecutive semesters without a conference with their Academic Advisor and/or a school administrator. Continued failure to reach this academic standard may result in the student being asked to withdraw from school. Parents may appeal this decision in writing to the Board of Directors if there are compelling circumstances that warrant additional time to demonstrate academic achievement.

CIF Academic Eligibility:

For the privilege of participating in athletics, cheer, and student government, students must be enrolled in minimum of four credit classes and maintain an eligibility standard based on course grades. This eligibility index is computed each quarter and semester when grades are issued.

The eligibility academic standard is a 2.0 G.P.A. based on all credit classes including a maximum of one P.E. class. Receiving more than one "F" would cause immediate ineligibility. Probation will not be allowed when more than one "F" has been received in the previous quarter.

When a student is declared "ineligible", the student is placed on a one quarter probationary status. During probation the student may still practice, play, or perform. This is a grace period during which the student must improve their grades to a 2.0 average or higher. Probation cannot be extended to a student who has not passed four classes in the previous grading period.

If the student has not been successful in achieving acceptable levels (2.0 gpa) at the end of this nine-week period (one quarter), the student cannot play or compete. Two probation time periods will be extended to a student during his or her high school career. There can only be one probation quarter employed within a given school year up to the maximum of two probation quarters over a student's high school career.

Eligibility for fall activities is determined by the grades earned from the second semester of the previous year. Summer school grades may be averaged along with the second semester grades in order to re-compute the grade point average. A student who is on probation during the fourth quarter must raise his or her grades to a 2.0 gpa in order to play in the first quarter of the next school year. There can be no consecutive fourth and first quarters of probation.

Students must be in attendance a minimum of two full class periods on the day they are participating in any performance, practice, competition, or activity. Students may not participate while under school suspension.

Taking Classes Outside WCHS:

All credit advancement courses (elective courses or courses WCHS does not offer) and credit recovery courses must be approved by the college advising staff. The sole academic content providers that WCHS allows are APEX Online Learning or UC Scout. No other transfer credit will be matriculated into the WCHS graduation transcripts. In select circumstances, other accommodations can be made by a

college advisor that are unique per students' learning abilities. Junior/Community College courses can be also approved for elective purposes only. Both online and community college courses will not be approved for original graduation credit if the original course credit can be earned at WCHS. For example, a student cannot obtain original English credit online or at community college due to the four-year requirement at WCHS. He/she may obtain online approval if the students needs to retake the course to meet graduation requirements.

Physical Education (PE) Waiver:

Whittier Christian allows students to participate in C.I.F. sanctioned sports off campus to meet the Physical Education requirement. The following sports are not offered here at WCHS and therefore are allowed for the Physical Education requirement: Field Hockey, Boys/Girls Tennis, Boys/Girls Water Polo, Badminton, Gymnastics, and Lacrosse. The only non-CIF sanctioned sports allowed are Ice Skating and Equestrian.

No other sports or activities will be allowed to meet these requirements. The off-campus sport must be taken with a certified club team and must be taken within the school year. Seventy-two hours are needed for one semester of credit (5 credits), and a total of 20 credits are needed for graduation and completion of the Physical Education Requirements. NOTE: Workouts at a GYM cannot be used to fulfill PE requirements.

Report Cards:

Report cards are mailed each quarter (nine-week intervals). In addition to the student's current academic grade, report cards include citizenship and work habit grades. Additional items may include teacher comments and student absences for each class. All tuition, fees, and fines must be paid before report cards and transcripts are released.

Transcripts:

Transcripts comprise an academic record of all work attempted and/or completed during the high school years. Transcripts are used when a student transfers to a different high school, applies to college, or applies for certain scholarships. Whittier Christian High School sends transcripts to the college of the student's choice at no charge. Alumni who request transcripts will be charged a fee of \$10.00

Schoology:

Schoology (Schoology.com) is the web portal to all things related to Whittier Christian High School. On Schoology you will find critical school information, class assignment details and due dates, class web pages, athletic news, and important club and activities information. Once a Schoology account has been created, parents and students must change their password keep for the duration of their time at WCHS. Schoology accounts are mandatory for every student and family.

Progress Reports:

Progress Reports are issued once each quarter of the school year. They are mailed to the student's residence at mid-quarter (4 1/2 weeks). Typically, progress reports are sent only when the student has a grade of C- or below in the class. In those instances, specific attention should be given to comments noted by the teacher.

Quarter Grades:

Quarter Grades represent an evaluation of a student's progress in all classes for an entire nine-week period. Although these grades are not part of the student's permanent academic record, they do reflect progress for a significant portion of the semester.

Semester Grades:

Semester grades are an evaluation of a student's achievement in each class for an entire 18-week period. This grade will typically include two quarter grades and a final exam where given. Not all classes require final exams. Semester grades are recorded on the student's transcript and become part of the student's permanent academic record. Students earn credit and grade points on the basis of these semester grades.

If a student lacks sufficient progress or is in jeopardy of failing a course at the semester, parents are notified prior to the permanent grade being issued.

Final Exams:

Final exams are an important part of academic measurement. Final exams are administered over a three-day period at the conclusion of the semester. Time is given exclusively to this process in all academic classes. In the event a student must be absent from a Final Exam, arrangements for make-up exams must be made with the Principal, Robin Longinow (rlonginow@wchs.com). Make-up exams will only be allowed for excused absences.

Summer School:

Summer school may be used to repeat a course or attempt a new class. In both cases a student's grade point average may be favorably affected.

Concussion Policy:

If a student sustains a concussion during the academic school year please consult the **WCHS Academic Catalog** for details regarding the specifics of the Concussion policy.