



Saugahatchee Christian Academy

Courses of Study and Diplomas

Updated April 2024

A Note from the Administrator

I have been involved in Christian education since the 1980's. There have been many changes in our society over the past four decades—drastic changes. As our nation has drifted farther and farther away from God, it has become increasingly important for us as Christian parents to “train up our children in the way they should go.”

My five children were homeschooled using mainly Accelerated Christian Education (ACE), and some Abeka. The Christian school that I was involved with in Mexico is an ACE school. My twin brother has had an ACE school as a ministry of his church in south Texas since 1987.

When God first put the vision for SCA in my heart, I thought we were supposed to start an ACE campus school. We quickly realized that instead of a campus, we were to establish a Christian Homeschool Cover Ministry.

I believe that it has never been the right or responsibility of the government to educate our children: God gave that right and responsibility to us as parents. Unfortunately, our government began to usurp that authority before any of us were born, and the interference in our “training up” of our children has gotten more and more intense over the years. Fortunately, in Alabama we still have the right to homeschool our children.

I personally believe that many young people do not need a college degree. Many of the best careers in the world require only vocational training or apprenticeship after high school. However, if God is leading a young person toward a career that requires a college degree, there are certain academic requirements that must be met.

In an effort to meet the needs of each individual student, SCA offers three graduation Diplomas: College Preparatory, Academic, and Vocational. When we started in 2015, we modeled our courses of study after the ones suggested by ACE, which had proven over decades to be very adequate. I believe they still are. And, as we say here in the Deep South, “If it ain't broke, don't fix it.”

Our updated courses of study described below are very similar to our original versions, with the exception of the College Preparatory Diploma. It parallels the Department of Education requirements (with the addition of a mandatory Bible credit and one semester of Health), in order to ensure that a young person who plans to attend university is adequately prepared.

May God bless you with the wisdom and discernment necessary to guide your children in the unique path that He has laid out for each of them.

Robert May

Before each school year begins, at least one parent should attend the annual Orientation/Re-Enrollment Meeting. A Student Course Plan must be submitted for each student, regardless of grade level. At the conclusion of each school year, an End-of-Year Academic Report must be submitted for each student.

1st through 6th Grades

There are literally dozens of outstanding Christian curricula available. If you are new to homeschooling or have any questions about the best option for your child, we encourage you to set up a meeting with an SCA Academic Advisor.

7th and 8th Grades

If the student is mature and motivated, some high school level subjects could be added here. There are several elective subjects that could easily be done by seventh and eighth graders, such as: keyboarding, computer science, geography, consumer math, and even a foreign language. This would allow more time for the more difficult core subjects in high school. Age is not a factor in determining when a student may attain high school credits.

9th through 12th Grades

Every summer, each family with a high school student, 9th grade and up, will meet with an SCA Academic Advisor to discuss the academic progress and projection for that student. The objective is to review current progress, and set realistic goals for the remaining high school years. It is also a time to verify the student's transcript and address any questions or concerns.

The following is a comparison of the three High School Diplomas offered by SCA:

Subject	College Prep	Academic	Vocational
English	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Math	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Science	4 credits	3 credits	3 credits
Social Studies	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Bible	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
Physical Education	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
Health Education	.5 credit	.5 credit	N/A
Career Preparedness	1 credit	N/A	N/A
CTE, Foreign Language, Arts	3 credits	N/A	N/A
Electives	1.5 credits	6.5 credits	5 credits
Total Required	24 credits	24 credits	22 credits

Before a student begins 9th grade, the parent/teacher will meet with an SCA Academic Advisor to discuss the student's projected course of study. Please note the following:

- We consider the Academic Diploma to be a standard high school diploma. It is very flexible, and the closest to a traditional diploma.
- The College Preparatory Diploma is equivalent to the Department of Education requirements for their High School Diploma, with a couple of additional requirements.

- The Vocational Diploma is available for those students who are unable to complete high school level courses. They can substitute lower-level or remedial courses for each required subject, as long as they meet the required minimum of 120 hours of classroom instruction per credit.

The following guidelines apply to all high school level course work:

- A Carnegie credit unit for graduation requirements is equal to 120-150 hours of classroom instruction or practice time. Therefore, you must attain at least this amount of course time to qualify for 1 credit.
- Develop a method of quantifying the results (letter grade) for the purpose of recording transcripts.

You Can Do This!

The Great Commandment, found in Deuteronomy 6:4-7, says:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

And, Proverbs 22:6:

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

That’s a promise that you can stand on. And here’s one more – Philippians 4:13:

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

With the Lord’s help, you can do it, and we are here to help in any way that we can. Please feel free to contact us any time with any questions or concerns.

God bless you!

The SCA Team



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