



Educ8 SA

Improving lives through learning



AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

FULLY ACCREDITED, AFFORDABLE AND FLEXIBLE ONLINE LEARNING

**Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges
(WASC).**

INTRODUCTION

- **Choices, choices! Choosing a school-leaving diploma/certificate in South Africa can be a daunting task as there are plenty (great!) options available.**

It can be tempting to fall back into old comfort zones and not explore what is readily (and easily) available. Today we'll explore The American High School Diploma option and answers your frequently asked questions.

Bridging tomorrow's digital world, through online education, today.

The American High School Diploma

1. Is it an approved **school-leaving certificate** in South Africa by Universities South Africa?



Standardised tests for university admission: NBT or SAT

Why choose the American High School Diploma

- INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED
- ACCREDITED BY WASC
- ACCEPTED BY S.A. UNIVERSITIES
- ACCEPTED BY USAF

ROLE-PLAYERS IN THE RECOGNITION VALUE CHAIN

Noteworthy is the difference between the role-players in the south african recognition value chain:

- SAQA, which provides an equivalence evaluation in order to locate them within the South African NQF. They do not provide accreditation or exemption
- The Matriculation Board, which administers the national exemption regulations and resolutions
- Umalusi which accredits all education institutions that offer a SA curriculum.

On top of that, each university and its individual faculties have their own admission requirements which should be considered.

BACKGROUND OF THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

- The USA has one of the top educational systems in the world.
- Like the South African (CAPS/IEB) and British (Cambridge) matric routes, American high school diploma is regarded in South Africa as a NQF level 4 qualification which can grant you access to higher (tertiary) education / job opportunities.
- Furthermore, with a large and well-established home-schooling community in the USA, plenty of excellent resources have been developed over the years and are readily available to our local students. Numerous of these courses have been designed to fit the home-schoolers' needs and is/have been extensively applied by South African families/cottage schools.
- The rise of online resources in the face of the pandemic is even more prevalent.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA?

- North American academic school leaving qualification awarded upon high school graduation.
- Studied over 4 years, from grade 9 to grade 12.
- The diploma is required for college admission, and employment purposes.

ON COMPLETION OF THE AHSD...

On completion of the high school graduation requirements, the student is awarded a:

- ✓ Transcript (report) of all high school subjects completed and grades obtained through the high school years, and
- ✓ A high school diploma.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OVERVIEW

- Our High school program allows students to graduate with a diploma from an accredited online school. Each student has access to self-paced courses, engaging video lessons, and personalized instruction. Two different graduation pathways are offered: standard and honours.

GRADUATION PATHWAYS:

Standard Pathway

This pathway is recommended for students that plan to attend a community college, join the military, or enter the workforce after high school.

- English Language Arts (4.0 credits)
- History / Social Studies (4.0 credits)
- Mathematics (3.0 credits)
- Science (3.0 credits)
- Fine Arts (1.0 credit)
- Health and P.E. (1.0 credit)
- Practical Arts (1.0 credit)
- Electives (7.0 credits)

Total: 24 credits

Honors Pathway

This pathway provides a more rigorous program of study and is recommended for students who plan to apply to competitive four-year colleges.

- English Language Arts (4.0 credits)
- History / Social Studies (4.0 credits)
- Mathematics (4.0 credits)
- Science (3.0 credits)
- Fine Arts (1.0 credit)
- Language Other Than English (2.0 credits)
- Health and P.E. (1.0 credit)
- Practical Arts (1.0 credit)
- Electives (6.0 credits)

Total: 26 credits (Min. GPA: 3.0)

Our graduates are equipped to face the ever-changing future of life and work with confidence.

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION PLAN

- We offer year-round open enrolment, which means students can begin taking courses at any time. we recommend that each of our online high school students create an education plan.
- This ensures that every student is meeting requirements for graduation, while also learning about subjects and topics that spark their interests.
- The education plan is set up prior to a student's first year on the program, with the ability to make changes over time.
- Our high school curriculum covers the core subjects of **Mathematics, Science, Language arts and reading, and history and social studies**. In addition to these subjects, we offer courses in **foreign languages, music and fine arts, and health as well as career and technical fields** so that students can explore interests that may lead to potential careers.

Students can explore interests that may lead to potential careers.

ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS



In our high school math curriculum, students may choose from many different courses. Each math course focuses on a specific topic, such as Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, and Statistics. We also offers Advanced Placement math courses which have been reviewed and approved by the College Board. For students who may struggle with certain math concepts, we suggest starting with FUNDamental Math, which reviews the mathematical concepts that students learn in middle school.

Upon graduation from our online school, students will have strong skills in mathematical reasoning and problem-solving and will be able to work through equations, comprehend theorems and proofs, and much more!

Mathematics Courses:

[FUNDamental Math \(1.0\)](#)
[Algebra \(1.0\)](#)
[Geometry \(1.0\)](#)
[Algebra II \(1.0\) Trigonometry \(0.5\)](#)
[College Exam Math Prep \(0.5\)](#)
[Pre-Calculus \(1.0\)](#)
[AP Calculus AB \(1.0\)](#)
[AP Calculus BC \(1.0\)](#)
[AP Statistics \(1.0\)](#)
[Business Math \(1.0\)](#)

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ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

High school language arts courses build on the literary components that students learn in elementary and middle school courses and dives into more complex pieces of literature while furthering students' developing writing skills. Our students read, assess, and make conclusions for increasingly complex texts—both fiction and non-fiction—written by authors with diverse backgrounds. Comparing cultures through literary work expands the understanding of other subjects and the world as a whole.

Our high school language arts curriculum includes classes in English with emphasis in both American and British Literature. We also offer advanced placement courses in English Language and Composition and English Literature and Composition.



Language Arts Courses:

English I (1.0)

English II (1.0)

American Lit — English III (1.0)

British Lit — English IV (1.0)

College Prep — English IV (1.0)

AP Eng. Literature & Comp. (1.0)

AP Eng. Language & Comp. (1.0)

Comparing cultures through literary work expands the understanding of other subjects and the world as a whole.

ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE

Our high school science curriculum involves five subject areas: physical science, biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental science. We offer various scholastic levels for most of these subjects, such as general, honors, and Advanced Placement.

Our science courses instruct students to apply scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies as they relate to the physical world. We see the value in laboratory science, because it allows students to see the concepts that they are learning come to life. Each lesson will involve a video experiment in addition to the lectures and coursework.



Science Courses:

[Physical Science \(1.0\)](#)

[General Biology \(1.0\)](#)

[Honors Biology \(1.0\)](#)

[AP Biology \(1.0\)](#)

[General Chemistry \(1.0\)](#)

[Honors Chemistry \(1.0\)](#)

[AP Chemistry \(1.0\)](#)

[General Physics \(1.0\)](#)

[Honors Physics \(1.0\)](#)

[AP Physics \(1.0\)](#)

Science: developing a deep understanding of scientific methods and theories.

ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

History and Social Studies gives students the opportunity to learn from past events and apply these lessons to their present and future lives. Learning about world history is essential to understanding where we come from as a society. Our U.S. Government course will prepare students to be engaged citizens that perform their civic duties.

In addition to history and government, Economics, Geography, Personal Finance, and Psychology are all fascinating subjects that introduce various concepts that can be applied to everyday life to our students. These subjects are also a great way for students to explore interests and potential career opportunities.

Social Studies Courses:

US History A – (1877 – 1940) (0.5)

US History B – (1940 – 21st Century) (0.5)

AP US History (1.0)

World History I (1.0)

World History II (1.0)

World Geography (1.0)

AP World History (1.0)

US Government and Civics (0.5)

Economics (1.0)

AP European History (1.0)

Personal Finance (0.5)

Psychology (1.0)

AP Psychology (1.0)

Epic Moments in World Hist. (1.0)



Students will learn from past events and apply these lessons to their present and future lives.

ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS



Our students can explore their interest in the fine arts in any of our three courses: Music Appreciation, AP Music Theory, AP Studio Art – Drawing. Music Appreciation addresses the history of music and popular styles from eras dating back to the Renaissance. AP Music Theory provides students with a foundation of the elements of musical composition. Lastly, AP Studio Art teaches students the foundation of artistic drawing while giving them a creative outlet.

Fine Arts Courses:

[Music Appreciation \(1.0\)](#)

[AP Music Theory \(1.0\)](#)

[AP Studio Art - Drawing \(1.0\)](#)

[Collaborative Theatre \(1.0\)](#)

If you're looking for something to be brave about – consider fine art!

ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH

Social and Emotional **Course:**

High School Health (1.0)

Social Emotional Learning (1.0)

Medical Terminology (1.0)

Health and wellness are important for all children, but it becomes increasingly important as children begin to think for themselves more and more. Our high school health curriculum teaches students about physical fitness, the human body, diseases, drugs and medicines, adolescence, first aid, hygiene, health care, and more!



A healthy outside starts from the inside

ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGES



We offer French, German, and Spanish at the high school level to allow students to learn a second language. Our high school foreign language curriculum focuses on vocabulary, numbers, greetings, sentence structure, and basic grammar. We hope that our foreign language courses get each of our students excited about further pursuing, and eventually mastering, the language of their choosing.

Foreign Languages Courses:

[Discover Spanish \(1.0\)](#)

[French I \(1.0\)](#)

[French II \(1.0\)](#)

[German I \(1.0\)](#)

[German II \(1.0\)](#)

[Spanish I \(1.0\)](#)

[Spanish II \(1.0\)](#)

[Spanish III \(1.0\)](#)

Do you know what a foreign accent is? It's a sign of bravery.

ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER & TECHNICAL COURSES

High school is a wonderful time to pursue subject areas that could lead to career opportunities. We provide a long list of courses that will introduce a variety of industries. These include, but are not limited to, computer science, business, HVAC, and medicine.

Since technical and business fields are expanding, it is important that young students have the opportunity to learn about these subjects before they enter college or the workforce. When given this opportunity, students are better able to determine if they have any interest in exploring one of these industries as their future career.

All of these courses are designed to give students a clear picture of what will be expected from professionals who choose these career paths. To build these classes, we have worked with industry professionals to determine proper coursework.

With these classes, we hope that students are inspired to continue studying their selected field.

Career & Technical Courses:

AP Computer Science A (1.0)
AP Computer Science Prin. (1.0)
Business Management (1.0)
Electrical Technology I (1.0)
Electrical Technology II (1.0)
HVAC-R I (1.0)
HVAC-R II (1.0)
Info Management I (1.0)
Info Management II (1.0)
Medical Terminology (1.0)
Plumbing Technology I (1.0)
Plumbing Technology II (1.0)
Intro to Accounting (1.0)
Business, Marketing, & Fin. (1.0)
Investigating Careers (1.0)
College & Career Readiness (1.0)
Instructional Standards in Edu.(1.0)
Mastering Microsoft Excel (1.0)

Our graduates are equipped to face the ever-changing future of life and work with confidence.

GRADUATION AND TYPES OF DIPLOMAS

Graduation requirements vary by:

- US jurisdiction (region/state/district), and
- There typically are also different requirements for the different pathways/level of high school graduation

The latter is similar to what we have with the South African and Cambridge systems, where not all matric qualifications are even, and not all matric qualifications will grant you access to universities for further studies.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- To meet the graduation requirements, students can select from an expansive list of courses. In addition to core subjects, like math, language arts, and science, students can select electives that they find interesting, which allows them to experiment with subjects tailored to specific career fields.
- Our online high school prepares students for success after graduation. Whether they choose to attend college or pursue a career, our graduates will be competitive with their peers.
- In order to earn a high school diploma and graduate, a student must meet the following criteria:
- Earn a total of 26 high school credits, including the minimum requirements in each subject area. At least 2 credits must be from AP subjects.

GIVE YOUR CHILD THEIR BEST FUTURE POSSIBLE

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Complete a minimum of six credits, including one credit in each of the four core subject areas (math, science, language arts, and social studies) and two elective credits.
- Be enrolled and active in our program for a minimum of twelve months.
- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Meet all outstanding financial obligations.
- Graduation from high school is achieved through the earning of credits as specified in this policy. Credits for all high school courses and for graduation requirements will be awarded on a “unit of credit” basis. One “1.0 unit of credit” is equal to a year of instruction within a course. Some courses are offered to students with half credit, “0.5 unit of credit”, is equal to a semester or half a year of instruction within a course.

WHEREVER YOU GO, GO WITH ALL YOUR HEART.

SOME OF OUR DIGITAL CURRICULUM FEATURES

PRISM DIAGNOSTICS: A BREAKTHROUGH IN ONLINE LEARNING

- Our courses integrate prism diagnostics®, an innovative technology that identifies holes in each student's background knowledge. When the system identifies one of these deficiencies, custom personal instruction is provided to fill the gap in the student's understanding. As a result, students receive their own custom version of each course, which is tuned to their specific needs and level.

ENGAGING VIDEO LESSONS THAT BRING EACH SUBJECT TO LIFE

- Our program integrates professionally filmed videos into online coursework to spark the interest of each student for any given subject. We works with some of the highest qualified teachers in the US to create engaging footage to make our online curriculum relevant for students. These captivating videos, combined with talented teachers and interactive course materials, provide an online school experience that inspires a love for learning.

Cutting Edge Digital Curriculum for Schools and Home Education

IS THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ACCEPTED IN SOUTH AFRICA AS A MATRIC CERTIFICATE?

- **Yes, definitely!**
- The advanced American High School Diploma (also called college prep or honours diploma) is equivalent to the Cambridge A levels matric or SA gr. 13.
- It is also recognized by the South African matriculation board and USAF for university bound students. To study at a South African university, you will need matric exemption. If you did not follow the traditional South African formal secondary school route (CAPS & IEB), you will have to apply for matric exemption from USAf (same as Cambridge).
- To get approval from USAf, you will need to provide a diploma as well as SAT scores.

IS THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ACCEPTED IN SOUTH AFRICA AS A MATRIC CERTIFICATE?

- **To study at a South African university, you will need matric exemption. If you did not follow the traditional South African formal secondary school route (CAPS & IEB), you will have to apply for matric exemption from USAF (same as Cambridge).**

WHAT IS A MATRICULATION EXEMPTION?

- A matriculation exemption is a legal requirement for first-degree study at a South African university.
- Foreign students wishing to register for first-degree studies in South Africa must have their school qualifications evaluated by the matriculation board that will then issue a certificate of exemption to those who qualify.
- South African students who did not pass senior certificate with endorsement are required by law to apply for a matriculation exemption through the matriculation board.
- Candidates who did not follow the formal secondary school route in the South African schooling system need to qualify for a certificate of complete or conditional exemption.

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

IN SUMMARY, THIS REGULATION STIPULATES 2 OPTIONS FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS:

- **A. AN ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ACCOMPANIED BY A CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO ANY US UNIVERSITY; OR**
- **B. AN ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ACCOMPANIED BY AT LEAST TWO AP SUBJECTS WITH A GRADE 3-5 PASS AND A SAT SCORE (CURRENTLY ISSUE) OF 1130 (ERW: 610 AND MATHS: 530).**

EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS

- And lastly, an American High School Diploma service provider does not need SAQA approval for its Diploma for access to the SA universities.
- Exemption through the matriculation board is however a requirement prior to application at a South African university.

- **An American High School Diploma holder will – under current regulations – not be able to obtain complete exemption (that is reserved for the NSC as well as the Namibian and SA Cambridge certificates).**
- **A diploma holder will however be able to obtain a conditional foreign exemption, Which should not be seen as a substandard exemption (to the complete Exemption).**
- **With this exemption, A student may apply at any local (South African) university.**
- **Exemption will only be seen as complete after the student has obtained a university degree.**

QUALITY IS DETERMINED BY IT'S AFFILIATION WITH AN ACCREDITED BODY.

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CONTACT US:

Educ8 SA

www.educ8sa.com

084 685 2138

info@educ8sa.net

Registration Fee: R1000, Monthly Fee: R1800