

## School Profile 2015-2016

### Southwest Career and Technical Academy



7050 W. Shelbourne Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89113  
Telephone 702-799-5766  
Fax 702-799-5751  
CEEB Code:290213  
[www.swcta.net](http://www.swcta.net)

Donna Levy, Principal  
Trish Taylor, Asst. Principal  
Sherrae Nelson, Dean of Students  
James Campbell, Dean of Students

Southwest Career and Technical Academy is a comprehensive magnet high school that offers eleven distinct program areas of study. Students select their program of choice when applying for admission. Students follow a four-year sequence of courses as specified for their program area. Students choose coursework in one of two academies: the Professional Service Academy and the Design Academy. Within the Professional Service Academy, students choose to study in one of the six following programs: Culinary Arts, Hospitality, Certified Nursing Assistant, Respiratory Therapy, Dental Assistant, and Diesel Automotive Technology. Within the Design Academy, students choose to study in one of the five following programs: Fashion Design, Interior Design, Engineering, Digital Game Design and Development and Web Design and Development. Honors and/or Advanced Placement classes are offered at Southwest Career and Technical Academy to prepare students to transition to post-secondary institutions. Rigorous coursework, hands-on projects, job-shadowing, project-based learning and internships give students first-hand experience in their selected program areas. In addition, students have the opportunity to earn college credits through CTE college credit program and through Advanced Placement Courses.

There are 105 full time faculty, staff and administrators. The school offers a challenging, college preparatory curriculum along with strong co-curricular programs in 11 different areas of study.

**Accreditation:** Southwest Career and Technical Academy is accredited by the Northwest Accreditation Commission.

**Entrance:** Admission is selective and based on prior academic record, attendance and citizenship. 3127 students applied for 401 open seats for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Students:** Enrollment for grades 9-12 is 1465. The student body is comprised of students from several communities in the Las Vegas area. Students of Asian/Pacific Islander decent comprise 41.9% of the student population, with 24.1% being Caucasian, 20.6% Hispanic, and 6.5% African American. 38.1% of our students receive free and reduced lunch. The faculty-student ratio is 28:1. There are 330 members of the Class of 2015.

**Academic Program:** SWCTA is on a semester system, with cumulative examinations held at the end of each semester. SWCTA is on a block schedule. The academic program is organized on a rotating bell schedule. A maximum load is 8 credits per semester with students attending four 85-minute classes per day. All courses, including physical education, meet for 18 weeks each semester. One-half credit is awarded for a semester course. In order to earn a diploma, students must pass the Nevada Proficiency Exam in math, reading, science, and writing. On an official transcript Honors courses are identified as "H", Advanced Placement courses are identified as "AP".

#### **Graduation Requirements:**

##### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Course of Study Diploma:

22 ½ units of credits required for graduation:

4 units of English  
4 units of Math  
3 units of Science  
3 units of Social Studies  
2 units of Physical Education  
½ unit of Health  
½ unit of Computers  
5.5 units of Electives

##### Grading Policy:

GPA 4.0 grading scale is as follows:  
A=4.0 (90-100%)  
B=3.0 (80-89%)  
C=2.0 (70-79%)  
D=1.0 (60-69%)  
F=0 (59% and below)

Courses included in grade point average are on an A-F scale; students enrolled in H/AP courses will receive a weighted grade point factor of .050 for four semesters (2 classes) of AP and IB courses and will also receive a weighted grade point factor of .025 for twenty-four semesters (12 classes) of Honors courses. A maximum of 14 Honors or AP courses (28 semesters) per student may receive a weighted G.P.A. Transcript grades not included are those that carry P (pass), RP (repeat) and NM (no mark). A student's cumulative G.P.A. includes all courses and all semesters, grades 9-12.

**Class Rank:** Weighted GPA's are used to determine class rank. The top 10% of the Class of 2015 has a GPA range from 4.50-4.80. The top 30% of the Class of 2015 has a GPA of 4.1 and higher.

**Advanced Courses:** Eighteen Advanced Placement courses are offered in Art History, Biology, Calculus AB, Chemistry, Computer Science, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, Human Geography, Physics 1, Physics 2, Psychology, Spanish Language, Statistics, Studio Art, U.S. Government and Politics, U.S. History and World History.

**AP Scores:**

2015: 236 students sat for 316 AP exams. 55.2 % scored a 3 or higher.

2014: 192 students sat for 265 AP exams. 56.3 % scored a 3 or higher.

2013: 296 students sat for 428 AP exams. 30.4 % scored a 3 or higher.

2012: 177 students sat for 267 AP exams. 31.1 % scored a 3 or higher.

2011: 175 students sat for 223 AP exams. 26.9 % scored a 3 or higher.

**Mean SAT Scores:**

Class of 2015: CR 485 M 474 WR 466

Class of 2014: CR 475 M 469 WR 451

Class of 2013: CR 478 M 484 WR 458

Class of 2012: CR 463 M 477 WR 436

**Mean ACT Scores:**

Class of 2015: E 18.7 M 20.0 R 20.4 S 20.2 C 20.0

Class of 2014: E 19.8 M 20.6 R 20.9 S 20.4 C 20.6

Class of 2013: E 21.4 M 22.1 R 22.0 S 21.6 C 21.8

Class of 2012: E 20.0 M 20.9 R 21.1 S 20.3 C 20.7

**Technology:**

An iPad project allows our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to have 24-7 access to the school website; school email accounts; teacher websites and calendars; learning management systems; iBooks; Google Apps; and a variety of educational applications and resources. Students create digital portfolios by archiving their major assignments and projects over the course of their high school career.

**Project Based Learning:**

The Southwest Career and Technical Academy utilizes school-wide project-based learning (PBL). In Project Based Learning, students go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. While allowing for some degree of student "voice and choice," rigorous projects are carefully planned, managed, and assessed to help students learn key academic content, practice 21st Century Skills (such as collaboration, communication & critical thinking), and create high-quality, authentic products & presentations.

**Senior Capstone Project:**

The Senior Capstone Project is a requirement for all seniors enrolled at Southwest Career and Technical Academy. The purpose of the Capstone Project is to progress students away from subject-centric learning to real-world experience that the student believes may be relevant to their future goals. Each student will utilize the knowledge and skills they have acquired in the past to successfully complete their Capstone Project. In addition, the final result of the Capstone Project will serve to benefit the local community.

**Special Opportunities:**

Students are encouraged to participate in internships. These internships are considered an extension of the classroom; as such, students must possess the appropriate knowledge, skill level, maturity, and interpersonal ability to qualify for an internship. School-based learning activities should correlate with the internship site duties/responsibilities. The outcomes, level of intensity and program lengths vary, depending on the course of study and the business partner's requirements.

Elena Clavel, Counselor	<a href="mailto:eclavel@interact.ccsd.net">eclavel@interact.ccsd.net</a>	ext. 4302
Paige DeSantis, Counselor	<a href="mailto:prdesantis@interact.ccsd.net">prdesantis@interact.ccsd.net</a>	ext. 4301
Brian Lindemuth, Counselor	<a href="mailto:blindemuth@interact.ccsd.net">blindemuth@interact.ccsd.net</a>	ext. 4305
Lilly Sifuentes, Recruiting Counselor	<a href="mailto:ljsifuentes@interact.ccsd.net">ljsifuentes@interact.ccsd.net</a>	ext. 4303