

## School Profile 2016-2017

### Southwest Career and Technical Academy



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Southwest Career and Technical Academy (SWCTA) is a career and technical education high school that offers eleven distinct programs of study contained within two academies, in addition to its comprehensive core curricula. Students follow a four-year sequence of courses as specified for their individual program areas.

The Professional Services Academy at SWCTA offers students opportunities in the field of: Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts, Dental Assisting, Hospitality, Nursing, and Respiratory Therapy. The Design Academy at SWCTA is home to the Digital Game Technology program as well as programs of study in Engineering, Fashion Design, Interior Design, and Web Design and Development.

A full complement of honors and Advanced Placement courses offer students the rigor of a quality education. Project-based learning, job-shadowing, internships, and the oversight of industry-based partnerships ensure relevance to "real-world" employment opportunities. A robust set of class offerings articulated with the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), and a focus on career readiness give our student every advantage in life after graduation.

There are 101 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 Advanced Ed Commission.

**Entrance:** Admission is selective and based on prior academic record, attendance and citizenship. 2884 students applied for 372 open seats for the 2016-2017 school year.

**Students:** Enrollment for grades 9-12 is 1466. The student body is comprised of students from several communities in the Las Vegas area. Students of Asian/Pacific Islander descent comprise 37.6% of the student population, with 25.9% being Caucasian, 20.8% Hispanic, and 6.7% African American. 38.1% of our students receive free and reduced lunch. The faculty-student ratio is 28:1. There are 342 members of the Class of 2017.

**Academic Program:** SWCTA operates on a semester calendar, with cumulative examinations held at the end of each semester. The academic program at SWCTA is on a block schedule, organized on a rotating bell schedule. A maximum load is eight credits per semester with students attending four 85-minute classes per day. All courses 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 End of Course Exam in math, reading, science, and writing.

#### **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 Honors (H)/Advanced Placement (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.

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

**AP Scores:**

2016: 209 students sat for 302 AP exams. 68.4% scored a 3 or higher.  
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.

**Mean SAT Scores:**

Class of 2016: CR 499 M 488 WR 475  
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 2016: E 19.2 M 20.2 R 20.7 S 20.6 C 20.3  
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:**

SWCTA's iPad and BYOD project allows our 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). Project Based Learning, takes students 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 and 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 is relevant to their future goals. Each student utilizes the knowledge and skills they have acquired over the past three years to successfully complete his/her Capstone Project. The final result of the Capstone Project is presented in a community event designed to showcase student ingenuity.

**Special Opportunities:**

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. Students are encouraged to participate in internships. School-based learning activities 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.

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