

Colorado Timberline Academy

THE GOAL SYSTEM

Revised Aug, 2019

At Colorado Timberline Academy, a student must complete seven academic goals in order to graduate. These goals try to incorporate the kinds of knowledge and courses a person should have to enter college, as well as to become a well-rounded adult in our society. In many cases this is the equivalent of two to three years of work in regular high school. The goals are as follows:

1. English
2. Science
3. Civilization
4. Language
5. Philosophy, Psychology and Religion
6. Aesthetics (Fine Arts, Drama, Photography and Music)
7. Mathematics

In addition to completing these seven basic goals each student must choose one to two areas in which to specialize. Most specializations require 2-3 additional courses; however, Aesthetics and PPR allow for more out-of-class work. Honors credit will be given for completion of a specialization with at least a grade of B.

Any questions regarding the transfer of a student's past work from another school into the CTA goal system will be answered by the Admissions Director and the Career & College Counselor in conjunction with the heads of the particular goal areas.

Along with the basic goals, all students must complete nine to twelve general electives of their choice.

ENGLISH GOAL

The purpose of all English and communication arts classes is to help students to use language effectively to create knowledge, meaning and community in their lives, to reflect upon and evaluate their own language, and to recognize and evaluate ways in which others use language to affect them. The English goal at CTA is designed to implement students' basic skills of reading, writing and critical thinking, into their understanding of the use and power of the English language. We hope that by laying a foundation of basic skills upon which they can build, students will deepen their abilities to express themselves confidently and effectively in both written and oral communication.

BASIC GOAL

To meet the English goal at CTA, each student is required to take and pass the following classes with a grade of 'D' or better. Each of the English classes (Levels 1-3, parts A and B) should require two blocs to pass.

Eng I - Introduction to Writing	<i>(0.50 credit)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part A: Parts of Speech and Syntax• Part B: Punctuation and Paragraphing
Eng II - Gaining Fluency & Voice	<i>(0.50 credit)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part A: Conveying Complex Topics in Expository Writing• Part B: Analysis and Synthesis of Sources
Eng III - Technical Writing	<i>(0.50 credit)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part A: Narrative/Personal Writing• Part B: Persuasive Writing and Speech
Eng IV - Research Writing	<i>(0.25 credit)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive Research Paper

Learning Power: (1 bloc, .25 credit)

All incoming freshman, transfer students with less than a 3.0 GPA, and select returning students are required to enroll in this course. Learning Power is designed to strengthen basic skills including organization, test taking, study habits, time management, note taking and research writing. Enrolled students will have one bloc credit upon completion of this course.

In addition, each student must take a minimum of 9 English electives. Each class earns .25 credit. These electives include but are not limited to writing, communication and literature classes. Here are possibilities of electives:

- poetry
- creative writing
- journal writing
- memoir writing
- speech and debate
- literary magazine/newsletter
- journalism
- various literature classes (4 required)

The literature classes will be divided into the following four levels - A, B, C and D. The content of each class may vary; however, the level of difficulty of reading, writing and critical thinking will rise with each level. To meet the English goal, each student must take and pass a minimum of 2 D level courses and 3 C level courses. The remaining 4 credits may come from any of the available electives. The following literature courses are merely suggested possibilities, with the option of many more authors and/or genres to be included at each level.

Finally, each *new* student will participate in a placement test during orientation to help determine placement. A writing portfolio will be kept for each student monitoring his or her progress and showcasing his or her best work.

TUTORIAL PROGRAM

CTA is committed to meeting students' individual language learning needs. To achieve this, the English Department provides a uniquely designed program, which identifies and targets students' specific language needs and learning differences. The Tutorial Program employs direct, systematic and cumulative instruction with a multi-sensory approach. Language needs such as reading fluency and comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, and written expression are addressed.

We recognize modifications and individualized education plans for students, but do not complete diagnostic testing at our institution. However, if parents have specific testing results or are concerned that their child has difficulties with facets of language learning, we encourage them to provide this information. This will greatly aid us in the placement of their student in the English program and will enable us to provide the most effective instruction based on the student's individual needs.

ENGLISH SPECIALIZATION:

The specialization will be a two bloc sequence and will allow students the freedom to creatively determine the focus of the specialization. The student will choose from the following two tracts: 1.) Literature Intensive. The student must complete one additional D-Level Literature Class and the English Specialization Class. OR 2.) Writing Intensive. The student will complete one additional writing class and the English Specialization Class. In the Specialization Class, The student will select a specialized theme/topic and share his/her knowledge with the class. Specific guidelines will be established by the student and the English Department.

SCIENCE GOAL

The purpose of the Science goal at CTA is to help broaden the student's perspective of how things work and why. Through exposure to a wide variety of science fields we strive to spark interest within the student to discover more about the world around them. When the student has completed the science goal they will be familiar with proper format, lab technique and methodology in the classroom, lab and in the field. Through elective courses, the student will also have an option to learn more about specific fields of interest. They will complete the Basic Goal with a foundation of knowledge in the basic fields of science in order to propel them in a direction of further study if that is their choice.

BASIC GOAL

- Biology (3 blocs) 1.00 *credit*
- Physical Science (4 blocs) 1.00 *credit*
- Earth Science- (2 blocs) .50 *credit*

SPECIALIZATION

Students may choose to specialize in Science by completing three additional electives in either the **Sustainability Track** or the **Technology Track** (see below). In a Science Specialization the student can expect to apply principles learned in the Science Core classes (Life, Physical, Earth) to more advanced concepts in the Track chosen.

In the Sustainability Track, the student will focus on ways in which society utilizes, conserves and otherwise manages natural resources. They will also study energy production and consumption from local to global levels with the goal of broadening their perspective of how we consume the scarce resources of the world. In this Track the student will complete the Resource Management sequence (2 blocs) and a third related elective.

In the Technology Track, the student will explore the history, production and function of tools used in a variety of contexts, from the everyday to the industrial scale. In this Track the student will take three electives in related fields, to be coordinated between interested students and the instructor.

ELECTIVES

Some of the electives offered include:

Environmental Science – Focuses on the environmental threats our planet faces today based upon scientific evidence.

Ecology – This course focuses on the holistic view of our biosphere and how different aspects of our natural world work in conjunction with each other to create our diverse planet. It focuses on the niche of different species and the philosophy and history of adaptation and evolution. The fieldwork will encompass the studies of local flora and fauna, different biomes and how elevation influences diversity.

Resource Management 1 & 2 – This is a two bloc sequence (if specializing in Sustainability) but the first bloc can be taken as a single general elective. This course will focus on three types of natural resources; water, timber and land use, and fisheries/wildlife. We will focus on local areas, such as water storage in the San Juans and the management of the 416 (Hermosa Creek) fire of 2018.

Food Systems - This class will focus on learning about how our local, national and global food production and distribution systems operate.

Botany – This class will focus on the plant world. We will look at pollination biology as well as useful characteristics of some of our native plant species. We will look at desert environments and the identification of some of our native species through their visual make-up.

Geology – This class will look into the morphology and origins of landforms. Our location in Southwestern Colorado allows us to make frequent field trips in an area famous for geologic study.

Anatomy and Physiology - This course will focus on the functions and internal relationships of the human body.

Horticulture (Blocs 6 or 7) – This class will focus on the cultivation of a garden.

Snow Science (Blocs 4 or 5) – As outdoor enthusiasts and citizens of the west, students will learn the importance of snow and snow safety.

CIVILIZATION GOAL

In the Civilization goal, students will explore the cultural, social, political, and economic ideas and accomplishments of the people of our past in the hope of better understanding our present day world and our place in it. We will also examine and evaluate other cultures and political systems in order to become aware of the diversity of societies and cultures which are also part of our heritage. Lastly, the student will learn to appraise these cultures and our social and political values in order to critically evaluate the enormous global issues that we face as citizens of the modern world in an effort to promote informed decision making and social responsibility.

BASIC GOAL

Students will complete the Basic Goal by completing courses in the following areas.

World History I: <i>.25 credit</i>	Ancient Civilizations
World History II: <i>.25 credit</i>	Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation & Enlightenment
World History III: <i>.25 credit</i>	Capitalism and Imperialism
World History IV: <i>.25 credit</i>	The Modern World
US History I: <i>.25 credit</i>	Early America
US History II: <i>.25 credit</i>	Federalism to Civil War
US History III: <i>.25 credit</i>	Becoming a World Power
US History IV: <i>.25 credit</i>	Great Depression to Present

American Government: 2 Blocs (*.50 credit*)

Global Issues OR American Social Issues (*.25 credit*) plus one elective (*.25 credit*)

Total requirements: 12 blocs to complete the basic goal

Students who have completed some high school social studies courses prior to entering CTA will be awarded appropriate credit after we have examined his or her transcript.

Students are required to complete in-depth research projects, oral reports, group projects, tests and rubrics depending upon the specific requirements for each course as determined by the teacher at that time. Students are also required to complete one elective, and may choose up to three additional Civilization courses as General Electives depending upon his/her goal program.

SPECIALIZATION

Students may specialize in Civilization by completing two additional electives of in-depth study of social issues that are critical in the world today, both on a global and regional level. This requirement is divided into two general areas of emphasis:

1) **Global Issues/ International Affairs.** The student will focus on social issues of global significance such as population growth, human rights, women in developing nations, resource distribution, economic development etc. They will choose one particular issue to research thoroughly and produce a research paper and presentation on the issue.

2) **Social Issues in America.** The emphasis of this bloc is for the student to gain an in-depth understanding of a particular social issue in the United States through first-hand field experience and background research. To complete this objective, students are encouraged to

participate in a service project within the area of their focus. For example, if a student chooses to study homelessness in America we may arrange for them to volunteer at a soup kitchen or shelter in the local area. In order to complete credit for this requirement the student will be expected to present a well-organized and thoroughly researched presentation on their topic and the experience they had in the field.

OR

Students with specific interests in Social Studies may choose to complete only one of the above mentioned specialization requirements and propose a bloc of related independent study. The student may choose an area, particular topic, culture, time period, or historical figure in which to conduct in-depth research and compile a research paper or formal presentation of their work.

In order to achieve credit for independent studies under the Civilization Goals, students must work under the supervision of an advising Civilization teacher who will meet on a biweekly basis with the student to assess progress and create deadlines for completion of work. Students will be evaluated on the depth of their research and the effort they put into the study as well as the final product. Topic proposals for their independent studies within the Civilization Goal must be presented and approved the bloc prior to the initiation of the independent study.

SAMPLE ELECTIVE COURSES

The elective offerings in the Civilization department may vary from year to year depending upon the individual instructor and the interests of the students. The following is a sampling of electives that may be offered:

- Boomtowns- local history of Colorado
- Anthropology of the Southwest
- American West
- Geography
- Current Events
- Women's History
- Ancient Cultures of Meso-America
- Political Theory
- Global Issues
- Irish History
- Economics
- Human Evolution

LANGUAGE GOAL

The Language goal at CTA is devoted to the appreciation and feeling for the spoken and written language, either French or Spanish. It is important to be aware of the Spanish and French influences in our own culture and to be able to handle oneself with facility when traveling in non-English speaking countries.

Beginning Spanish and French will not be offered simultaneously, but rather on an alternating basis. Since CTA is such a small school, the primary purpose of alternating the languages is to increase attendance and enthusiasm for the language. Larger language classes are more stimulative for the purpose of conversation and oral grammatical exercises. The language of a student's choice should be decided upon early in his/her CTA career in order to be able to fulfill the academic requirements - especially if one intends to attend college. It is our recommendation that a student should begin his/her language sequence no later than their junior year.

Students who attend CTA for their senior year only and who have not previously studied a language may need to, by necessity, have a modified set of requirements which is by no means a fault of the goal system but rather a reality due to the limited time in which the student is in attendance at CTA.

It has been our experience at Colorado Timberline Academy that having two full credits of the same language is incredibly beneficial to our graduates. This is especially true in light of college/university admissions standards. Therefore, we encourage our students to complete two full credits in either Spanish or French.

THE BASIC GOAL

Students will complete one full credit of Spanish or French I and one full credit of Spanish or French II (*2.00 credits total*)

1. Spanish or French I - 4 blocs of grammatical and conversational study (*1.00 credit*)
2. Spanish or French II - Two paths to reach a full credit (*1.00 credit*)
 - **Path 1** - Intensive Trip Bloc (*0.50 credit*) plus two additional blocs of Spanish or French II.
 - A. Three classes will be offered during the Intensive Trip: (*0.75 credit*)
 - B. Conversation and continuation of grammar (*0.50 credit* of Spanish or French II)
 - C. Cultural Experience - (*0.25 credit* applied to the General Elective Goal area).
 - D. It is important to note that this is the *preferred* path to completing Spanish or French II.
 - **Path 2** - 4 blocs of grammatical and conversational study (*1.00 credit*)

SPECIALIZATION

The requirement for the foreign language specialization will be to complete an additional **full credit** of foreign language at Colorado Timberline Academy. After a student has completed the basic goal listed above, this can be accomplished by taking 4 additional blocs of a foreign language **OR** completing the Intensive Trip Bloc and an additional two blocs of foreign language.

MATHEMATICS GOAL

The focus of the Mathematics goal is to provide students with experiences that encourage and enable them to view mathematics as useful, while gaining confidence in their own mathematical ability. Students who complete the Mathematics goal will be able to communicate and reason mathematically, solve problems effectively, and use mathematics in their daily lives. Students at CTA will complete coursework in Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2. Students who so desire may continue their mathematical education by obtaining a specialization in Mathematics.

BASIC GOAL

Standard Goal:

- Four blocs of Algebra I (1.00 credit)
- Four blocs of Geometry (1.00 credit)
- Four blocs of Algebra II (1.00 credit)

Note:

- All students are expected to complete the Standard Goal unless advised otherwise. Parents, Academic Advisors, and the Mathematics Department may create a specialized program based on Alternative Goal options on a case-by-case basis.
- Students who complete the Standard Goal will be prepared for college.

TUTORIAL

Some students benefit from being able to control the pace of their own learning. In order to address all students' needs, some students may be asked to participate in a Math Tutorial. Students who are enrolled in a Math Tutorial progress through the curriculum at their own pace. In addition, if students arrive at CTA with partial credits in Algebra 1, Geometry, or Algebra 2, they may elect to complete their class in a Math Tutorial with math department approval.

SPECIALIZATION

Interested students who complete the Standard Goal may elect to specialize in Mathematics. For those students, they may choose from the following:

- Three blocs of Trig/Pre Calculus (1.00 credit)
- Three blocs of Calculus (1.00 credit) (*must have completed Trig/Pre Calculus*)

PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY & RELIGION GOAL

The focus of the Philosophy, Psychology and Religion goal is to help students gain a better understanding of themselves, their relationships to others, and an awareness of the many different interpretations of the human condition in other cultures. By exploring various philosophies, psychologies and religions, students will begin to formulate their own beliefs and gain an awareness of ideas and belief systems of others that will help them understand the similarities and differences in how human beings view their world. Psychology offerings will be both theoretical and practical, with an emphasis on how we, as individuals, must become more responsible for our actions, and / or our choice of non-actions.

BASIC GOAL

To complete the basic PPR goal the student must complete the following:

- **Introduction to Philosophy OR Introduction to Psychology (.25 credit)** – students may choose from an introduction to philosophy (the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence) OR psychology (the study of the human mind and behavior). (May be taken as a sophomore.)
- **Religions of the World (.25 credit)** – An overview of the various belief systems of the major world religions. CTA offers a focus on **Western Religions or Eastern Religions** (May be taken as a junior.)
- **Philosophy of Life (.25 credit)** – (Seniors only) The traditional culmination of the CTA experience – all seniors are required to write a 15 page guided paper that reflects the student's thoughts on the following questions:
 - What is the meaning and purpose of my life?
 - What are my values and principles?
 - What are the areas of my life that are consistent and inconsistent?
 - What are my responsibilities (if any)
 - to a supreme being?
 - to humankind?
 - to other individuals?
 - to myself?

SPECIALIZATION

In order to specialize the student must complete two additional electives in the PPR goal, or write a research paper with approval of the PPR head. The paper will consist of 10 or more typewritten pages. Projects will be developed with the assistance and approval of the PPR head. Papers or projects will represent the equivalent of one bloc's work.

AESTHETICS GOAL

At CTA we foster the enrichment of each individual through different types of art. Aesthetics is the term we use at CTA to describe fine arts, crafts, drama and music. Such activities are essential to the development of one's multiple intelligences and creativity. A variety of electives are offered throughout the year and students may choose courses according to their interests.

BASIC GOAL

Each 1-2 year student is required to take four aesthetic electives of his/her choice. *(1.00 credits)*
Each 3-4 year student is required to take six aesthetic electives of his/her choice. *(1.50 credits)*

SPECIALIZATION

The specialization in the aesthetics goal is designed to encourage the students with strong interests in the arts to further pursue their learning. The majority of the learning will be self-directed at this level.

Specialization A: Fine Arts and Ceramics

To complete a specialization in Fine Arts, a student must complete two additional Fine Arts classes. One class will be a Senior Independent Project.

Specialization B: Yearbook Photography

To complete a yearbook photography specialization a student must (a) actively involve oneself in the photographic process of the yearbook for one full year or until it satisfies the specialization and (b) prepare a photographic portfolio.

Specialization C: Yearbook

A specialization in yearbook will be awarded for extensive involvement in the yearbook preparation as per Marianna.

POSSIBLE CLASSES OFFERED

Ceramics
Photography
Stone/Clay Sculpture
Drawing
Block Printing
Design/Collage
Mono Prints
Drama
Improvisation
Guitar
Graphic Design
Earth Art
Sculpture
Woodworking
Digital Photography
Murals
Multi Media
Painting (Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor)