

Catalog of High School Courses  
2005-2006



Dr. M. L. Garza-Gonzalez Public Charter School  
4129 Greenwood Drive  
Corpus Christi, TX 78416

Dr. M.L. Garza-Gonzalez Public Charter School  
Graduation Requirements

All Students must complete a minimum of 22 credits for graduation. Additional course requirements must be met for the Recommended Graduation Plan (24 credits). Students must also pass all four exit level TAKS tests: English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, Social Studies, and Science.

**The Grading System**

A minimum semester average of seventy percent (70%) and ninety percent attendance of a course offering are required in order to receive credit in a course; however, both passing and failing grades in all state-approved courses are used in computing grade point averages.

A student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) is figured by averaging each semester's grades. Grades earned outside the regular Dr. M.L. Garza-Gonzalez Public Charter School day such as night school or correspondence courses will not be calculated in the GPA.

**Grade Classification**

Earned credits determine a student's grade level as of the first day of school.

0-5	= 9 <sup>th</sup>	Grade
6-10	= 10 <sup>th</sup>	Grade
11-15	= 11 <sup>th</sup>	Grade
16-22+	= 12 <sup>th</sup>	Grade

Courses offered at Dr. M.L. Garza-Gonzalez Public Charter School. \*Denotes core courses required for graduation on the minimum graduation plan (22 credits).

<u>Career/Technology:</u> *	<u>Economics:</u>	Economics*
Business Computer Information Systems I	<u>Fine Arts:</u>	Art I
Career Studies	<u>Health:</u>	Health Ed*
Keyboarding	<u>Math:</u>	Algebra I*
Computer Applications		Algebra II
Parenting & Child Development		Geometry*
Individual and Family Living		Math Models with App.
Family & Career Mgt.	<u>Other Languages:</u>	Spanish I
Intro to Horticulture		Spanish II
Preparation for Parenting	<u>Physical Ed:</u>	PE IA*
Marketing Self		PE IS*
Diversified Career Preparation	<u>Speech:</u>	PE TS*
<u>English/Lang. Arts:</u>		Communication Apps *
English I*	<u>Social Studies:</u>	US History*
English II*		World Geography*
English III*		World History*
English IV		Government*
Journalism	<u>Electives:</u>	Psychology
Creative Writing		Sociology
Practical Writing		
Technical Writing		
<u>Science:</u>		
Integrated Physics & Chemistry*		
Biology*		
Chemistry I		
Physics I		

## Course Descriptions

### Career/Technology/Vocational

#### **Business Computer Information Systems I (10-12)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: Keyboarding

An occupationally specific course designed to provide advanced training in concepts and skill related to computer applications. Special emphasis is placed on computer operations, word processing, database management, spreadsheet manipulation, telecommunications, desktop publishing, and other high-level business application software. This course is designed to be used on a personal computer using tutorials.

#### **Career Studies (9-12)** **.5 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

This comprehensive course provides opportunities to explore factors influencing career choices and demonstrate employability skills that lead to career success.

#### **Computer Applications (9-12)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: Keyboarding, Approval by Instructor

An exploratory course to explore the use of computers in the communication, construction, energy, power, transportation, and manufacturing fields.

#### **Diversified Career Preparation (9-12 Grade)** **2-3 Credits**

Prerequisites: None

Diversified Career Preparation is a cooperative education class offering part-time training designed to provide classroom instruction and on-the-job supervised training and work experience. Students attend class and are released from school to work each day. Job specific training is provided through the use of training plans. Safety and career opportunities are included, in addition to work ethics and job related study in the classroom. DCP may be used to waive one-half to one credit of physical education (P.E).

#### **Internetworking Technologies I (Cisco) (11-12 Grade)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

A course that will prepare students to become computer-networking technicians. Students will learn networking components; the design and installation of networking cables as well as beginning router configurations and network management. Students completing the entire two-year program are eligible to take the CISCO Certified Networking Associate Exam. This course is an articulated course with Del Mar College.

#### **Internetworking Technologies II (Cisco) (11-12 Grade)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

This a continuation course of Computer Networking I. Students will continue to learn router and switching configurations, network management, and advanced network designs. Students will participate in networking project-based activities by design and installing their own computer network. Students will also prepare for the Cisco Certified Networking Associate (CCNA) certification examination.

#### **Introduction to Horticulture (11-12)** **.5 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

An exploratory course designed to introduce students to horticultural sciences with emphasis on technical skills and occupational opportunities. This course is a classroom/lab course designed to give students practical experience in landscaping, environmental practices, recognizes plant diseases, and working in a green house or plant nursery.

#### **Keyboarding (9-12)** **.5 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

Available on PLATO

Keyboarding provides an introduction to basic typing skills, business and personal letters with various types of tables, manuscripts, and business forms. Both speed and accuracy are stressed.

#### **Marketing Self (11-12)** **.5 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

An introductory course designed as a portfolio-based personal development course for all students. Students will develop a systematic approach for evaluating and seeking career opportunities.

**Parenting and Child Development (9-12) 1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

This technical course provides the student with practical information about family relationships, teen pregnancy, and nutrition. Health, safety, and characteristics of children (newborn through toddler stages) are studied as well as exceptional children. Laboratory exercises are provided.

**Individual and Family Living (9-12) .5 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

This course provides the student an understanding of what a family is, describes the various types of family structures, and defines the stages of the family life cycle.

**Principles of Marketing (9-12) 1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

An introductory course designed as a portfolio-based personal development course for all students. Students will develop a systematic approach for evaluating and seeking career opportunities.

**English/Language Arts**

**English I (9) 1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

Available on PLATO

Emphasis is on basic grammar and mechanical skills as well as on vocabulary development. Various literature types, such as short stories, novels, nonfiction prose, drama, and poetry are studied.

**English II (10) 1 Credit**

Prerequisites: English I

Available on PLATO

This course covers reading in fiction, nonfiction, prose, short stories poetry and drama. Included is vocabulary development and essay composition. Fundamentals of basic grammatical structure and mechanical skills are emphasized throughout the course.

**English III (11) 1 Credit**

Prerequisites: English I & II

Available on PLATO

A survey of American Literature is included in this course. Short stories, poetry, essays, drama, and novels are evaluated and analyzed. Grammar and composition skills are practiced and redefined, and vocabulary is continued.

**English IV (12) 1 Credit**

Prerequisites: English I, II, & III

This course is designed to refine and reinforce previously acquired skills in English communication, speaking, listening, process writing, and reading a survey of British Literature. The history of the English language and vocabulary are also studied. Preparation for college entrance exams is stressed the first semester.

**English I for Speakers of Other Languages (Grade Levels: 9-12) 1 Credit**

Prerequisite: Assignment by LPAC

Specially designed for beginning, Category 1(monolingual), limited English-proficient (LEP) students who have been identified as having few or no English skills. Assists the LEP student in acquiring beginning vocabulary and comprehension in English. Includes extensive listening and oral practice, and instruction in reading and writing the English language.

**English II for Speakers of Other LANGUAGES Grade Levels: 10-12 1 Credit**

Prerequisite: Assignment by LPAC

Specially designed for the intermediate, Category 2 (near monolingual), limited English-proficient (LEP) students who have some English oral proficiency, but few or no English reading and writing skills. Assists the LEP student in

acquiring vocabulary and comprehension in English. Provides listening and oral practice with emphasis on reading and writing skills.

**English III for Speakers of Other Languages Grade Levels: 11-12 1 local Credit**

Prerequisite: Assignment by LPAC

Specially designed for the advanced (near proficient), limited English-proficient (LEP) students who have some English oral proficiency and reading, but lack comprehension and mechanics of composition in English. Assists the LEP student in acquiring vocabulary, writing, and comprehension of English skills. Provides work on oral listening skills. **Will not earn credit toward the designated graduation programs.**

**Journalism (11-12) 1 Credit**

Prerequisite: Teacher Permission

Introduces the principles and practices of journalism. Includes gathering information; developing interviewing skills; and writing news stories, features, and editorials. Involves studying newsworthiness, investigative and interpretive reporting, editing skills, journalistic style, techniques of writing headlines and captions, freedom and responsibility of the press, and principles and ethics of journalism. Introduces basic newspaper design and layout.

**Creative Writing (12) .5 Credit**

Prerequisite: English III

This course focuses on the use of literary conventions in poetry and prose. The student will practice observation, analysis, structure, journal writing, and other aspects of producing original works in one or more genre.

**Practical Writing (10-12) .5 Credit**

Prerequisite: English I

This course is a practical writing course designed to enable the student to refine and reinforce writing skills in sentence structure, paragraph formation, and short essay development, especially the persuasive essay. Emphasis is placed on business and day-to-day applications. The course gives the student an excellent review for the TAKS writing test.

**Technical Writing (11-12) .5 Credit**

Prerequisite: English II

This technical writing course is designed to give the student the necessary skills to perform research activities (using primary and secondary sources), to interpret data, and to organize material. The course focuses on producing an acceptable research paper. In addition to learning proper forms for business correspondence, the student will learn to complete application forms and to use and apply appropriate punctuation and vocabulary.

**Fine Arts**

**Art I (11-12) 1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

Offers the opportunity to develop a greater sensitivity to the visual world, its formal order, and its overall unity. The students develop the skill to graphically express their own ideas.

**Health**

**Health Ed (9-12) .5 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

Available on PLATO

This course provides students with an understanding of personal health and safety as well as health-related issues for the prevention of communicable, non-communicable, and sexually transmitted diseases. This course also includes information about drug education.

**Other Languages**

**Spanish I (9-12) 1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

This entry-level course is designed for the development of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing with emphasis on oral proficiency and an understanding of Hispanic culture.

**Spanish II (10-12)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: Spanish I

More complex structures of basic Spanish are presented and cultural themes are expanded. Reading and writing skills are treated in greater depth.

**Mathematics**

**Algebra I (9)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

Available on PLATO

This course studies the development of the real number system and its applications. Included in this course are symbols and sets, variables and open sentences, axioms, number properties, negative numbers, equations and inequalities, problem solving, polynomials and special products and factoring.

**Algebra II (9-12)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: Algebra I & Geometry

Available on PLATO

Basic content of the course includes structure of number system, linear equations, inequalities, special products and factoring powers, roots, irrational and complex numbers, logarithms, numerical trigonometry, structure of algebra, linear and quadratic functions, and properties, variations, graphs, fractions, and fractional equations.

**Geometry (10-12)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Available on PLATO

The course includes a development of the nature of geometry, fundamental concepts and terminology of plane geometry, basic construction, reasoning, and limited proof.

**Math Modules with Applications** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Available only on PLATO

A practical applied mathematics course providing Algebraic and consumer applications of fundamental skills.

**Calculus (12)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: Precalculus (not currently offered)

Available only on PLATO

This advanced math course studies the concepts and skills associated with the following: Functions and graphs, limits and continuity, differential calculus, integral calculus and the infinite series. Applications of calculus to special functions are also addressed.

**Physical Education**

**PE 1A (9)** **.5 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

This course motivates the student to pursue a healthy lifestyle. To this end, the student is taught how fitness affects social behaviors in education, within the family, with peers, and in individual development. Practical skills and concepts are taught through various activities such as creating a personal fitness program, analysis of the FIT principle, and the study of major body functions.

**PE IS (9-12)** **.5 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

This course consists of individual sports. It will include note taking, rules interpretations, skills tests, and knowledge tests. Individual sports such as tennis, badminton, racquetball.

**PE TS (9-12)** **.5 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

This course consists of team sports. It will include note taking, rules interpretations, skills tests, rules, and knowledge tests. Sports such as volleyball will be covered.

## Science

### **Biology (9-12)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

Available on PLATO

This course emphasizes practical day-to-day application of biological concepts as well as the importance of individual responsibility for lifestyle choices. It requires student participation on three different levels. Students are first encouraged to study the information presented in each learning resource. This material is then reinforced with worksheet assignments followed by hands on learning through laboratory assignments.

### **Chemistry I (10-12)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: Biology & IPC

Available on PLATO

This course teaches basic concepts relating to the measurement and manipulation of chemical substances. Content examines chemical reactions, cases of equilibrium, thermodynamics and electrochemistry. This course also examines the behavior of the chemical elements, focusing on each individual element group. Strong reasoning abilities are developed by stressing the application of information and principles to the solutions of problems involving numerical calculations.

### **Integrated Physics & Chemistry (9-10)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

Available on PLATO

Integrated Physics and Chemistry includes the following topics: motion, waves, energy transformations, properties of matter, changes in matter, and solution chemistry. The student uses scientific methods and makes informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving.

### **Physics I (11-12)** **1 Credit**

Prerequisites: Algebra II, Chemistry I, Biology, and IPC

This course provides students with a basic understanding of the fundamental physical laws. Students learn to state and explain the fundamental concepts, definitions, and relations of mechanics in order to solve problems in Newtonian mechanics. Elementary classical electricity and magnetism are also explored.

## Social Studies

### **Economics (12)** **.5 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

Available on PLATO

This emphasizes the free enterprise system: its characteristics, benefits, and goals, Emphasis is placed on supply and demand, the circular flow of economic activity, and the business cycle. The role of government in the economic system is examined, as well as international economic relations. The course also includes some aspects of consumer economics.

### **U.S. Government (12)** **.5 Credit**

Prerequisites: U.S. History

Available on PLATO

This is designed to provide the student with information about the rights and responsibilities of a United States citizen or resident. It includes studies of the functions and limitations of federal, state, and local governments.

### **Psychology (11-12)** **.5 Credit**

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior ranking (Elective)

This course provides students with an understanding of the major theories, principles, and figures in the field of psychology. Behavioral, developmental, and biological aspects of mental health are explored, as well as causes and treatments of mental disorders.

### **Sociology (12)** **.5 Credit**

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior ranking (Elective)

Available only on PLATO

This elective course recommended for juniors and senior's studies dynamics and models of individual and group relationships. Students study topics such as the history and systems of sociology, cultural and social norms, social institutions, and mass communication.

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**U.S. History**

**1 Credit**

**Prerequisites: None**

Available on PLATO

The purpose of this course is to provide the students an understanding of the problems that have grown out of events in the nation's history, of the forces that have helped to shape our political, social, and economic institutions and of the ways each generation approached solutions to problems.

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**World Geography (9-11)**

**1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

Available on PLATO

This course is designed to provide students with an awareness of the world around them. Major emphasis is placed on North America, Europe, and Asia. This course emphasizes religion, political systems, cultures, and surveys physical geography.

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**World History (10-12)**

**1 Credit**

Available on PLATO

This course presents a study of early civilizations and their contributions to the world. Relationships between geography and history are demonstrated through the study of the effects of the physical environment on numerous cultures. Political, economic, and social changes are traced through the Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation eras. Europe's emergence as a power and the development of the contemporary world bring the study into the twentieth century.

**Speech**

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**Communication Applications (9-12)**

**1 Credit**

Prerequisites: None

Available on PLATO

The course teaches the basic principles of public speaking. The student is taught to understand the physical, mental, and social processes of speech as well as coping techniques for eventual speech delivery. Emphasis is placed on effective listening skills, and the student provides critiques of both his/her and peer presentations.

NOTE: If you were a freshman prior to 1998-99, see the Curriculum Director.

NOTE: Dr. M.L. Garza-Gonzalez Public Charter School also provides Middle School classes for students in grades 6-8 and preparation classes for students planning to take the GED tests when they reach the age of 17. For more information regarding special programs, IDEA and or 504 see the Special Education Director and for all other questions, see the Registrar.

