



CACTUS HIGH SCHOOL

2024-2025 School Profile

CEEB Code: 030257
Main Office Phone: 623-412-5000
Principal: Kristi Hammer

Address: 6330 W. Greenway Road, Glendale, AZ 85306
Counseling Office Phone: 623-412-5007
Website: www.peoriaunified.org/Cactus

Community and School Demographics

Cactus is in Peoria Unified District, one of the largest districts in Arizona. The district serves more than 36,000 students in 34 K-8 schools, seven comprehensive high schools, one non-traditional high school, and one virtual K-12 school. Peoria district is in the northwest greater Phoenix metropolitan area with schools in the cities of Glendale and Peoria. Cactus is a comprehensive four-year public high school, serving grades 9-12 in Glendale, AZ. Peoria Unified Schools are **accredited by Cognia**. Cactus High School has earned the top label of, letter grade, "A" in Arizona's A-F Accountability system.

- **Cactus Enrollment: Total – 1034, Class of 2025 – 236** (as of Aug. 2024)
- **54% students receiving free/reduced lunch**
- **Ethnicity Distribution** at Cactus is as follows:

| | | |
|--|----------------|-------------------------|
| .91% Am. Indian or AK Native | 1.4% Asian | 6% Black or African Am. |
| 40% Hispanic or Latino | 5% Two or More | 47% White |
| .36% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | | |

Curriculum Information

The school year consists of two semesters of block scheduling. Students attend four **90-minute block** classes daily per semester/term. Students typically complete a full course in one semester and can earn eight credits per year. A few courses are offered yearlong block (1 course earning 2 credits, .5 elective & .5 academic each semester) or yearlong A/B (2 courses, each earning .5 each semester). Term courses are also available, these courses earn .5 credit each term.

Graduation requirements are as follows:

| | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| English: 4 | Math: 4 | Lab Science: 3 | Social Studies: 3 | Personal Fitness: 1 |
| Fine Art or Career and Technical Ed.: 1 | | | Electives: 12 | Total: 28* |

*Students may graduate with less than 28 credits, if transferring from a traditional schedule. Electives are waived.

Advanced Placement Courses: AP courses are the most rigorous courses available at Cactus. AP is an open enrollment program, and the following AP courses are offered at Cactus in 2024-2025:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| English Language and Composition | English Literature and Composition |
| Calculus I (AB) | Calculus II (BC) |
| AZ/U.S. History | Macroeconomics |
| | US Govt. and Politics |

Currently AP World Languages are not offered, but students enrolled in Spanish IV may take the AP exam.

Honors Courses Offered at Cactus in 2024-2025:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| English I (9 th) | English II (10 th) | Geometry | Algebra II |
| College Algebra | Precalculus | Brief Calculus | Biology |
| Chemistry | Spanish III and IV | | |

Dual Enrollment: Students can dually enroll with Maricopa Community colleges if the course and instructor are approved through the college. In 2023-2024, Cactus had 253 college course enrollments. Credits are not indicated on the Cactus transcript. Students must request a transcript from the community college for proof of college credit.

Co-Enroll and MET Professional Academy: Peoria Unified has seven comprehensive high schools with varying programs. Students may co-enroll in any Peoria school. Peoria High School hosts the MET Professional Academy. This is a rigorous honors academy, that includes dual enrollment, and community-based internship experiences. The MET Academy is a member of the CAPS Network. MET Academy courses are identified on the transcript with MET in the title of the course.

Grading and Ranking

Grading Scale

| GPA Scale (Unweighted) | Highest GPA: 4.0 |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 100%-90% | A (4.0) |
| 89%-80% | B (3.0) |
| 79%-70% | C (2.0) |
| 69%-60% | D (1.0) |
| 59% & below | F (Fail) |

Class of 2024 GPA Distribution

| GPA | Number of Seniors: (232 Total) |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4.0 | 7 |
| 3.5-3.99 | 56 |
| 3.0-3.49 | 50 |
| 2.5-2.99 | 41 |
| 2.0-2.49 | 50 |
| Below 1.99 | 28 |

Class rank index is weighted and reported exact
AP and honors courses = 1.33, all other courses = 1.0

Outcomes and Test Scores

Matriculation (NSC provided)

| Cohort | 4-Year Colleges | 2-Year Colleges |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2023 | 22% | 18% |
| 2022 | 28% | 24% |
| 2021 | 31% | 21% |

Most Commonly Attended Colleges (in rank order)

Glendale Community College, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, Grand Canyon University, University of Arizona, Paradise Valley Community College, Arizona Christian University, Phoenix College, Eastern Arizona College, Brigham Young University, Mesa Comm. College, Estrella Mountain Comm. College, Ottawa University – AZ, Rio Salado College, Carrington College – Phoenix, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-AZ, Scottsdale Comm. College

ACT Test Results

| School Year | # of Cactus Students tested | Average English Score | Average Math Score | Average Reading Score | Average Science Score | Average Composite Score |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 23-24 | 227 | 15.8 | 18 | 17.8 | 17.6 | 17.5 |
| 22-23 | 268 | 17 | 18.2 | 18 | 18.1 | 18 |
| 21-22 | 271 | 14.8 | 17.7 | 16.9 | 17.7 | 16.8 |

All juniors are expected to take the ACT exam (English, Math, Reading, and Science) free of charge through the AZ Dept. of Education District Choice State Testing program.

SAT Exam Scores not reported, due to a very small number of students taking the exam in the past 3 years.

AP Exam Test Results

| School Year | # of Students | # of Exams | % Students Scoring 3+ |
|-------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 23-24 | 44 | 67 | 58% |
| 22-23 | 38 | 43 | 63% |
| 21-22 | 29 | 43 | 59% |

Honors & Recognition

2023-2024: 1 National Hispanic Scholar

School Counselor Contact Information

Counselors are randomly assigned to all student groups and grade levels. Counselor name can be found on the transcript.

- Elizabeth Vito, Lead Counselor, evito@pusd11.net, 623-412-5027
- Jennifer Negrete, jnegrete@pusd11.net, 623-412-5026
- Ebbe Lyss Weaver, eweaver@pusd22.net, 623-412-5029