



PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2017-2018

Including online courses from **TEC Online Academy** and
our partners at **Connections Learning**



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About TEC Online Academy & TEC Connections Partnership

Why an Online Academy?

Today's students must be provided with opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills needed to utilize technology to learn, communicate, access information, collaborate and compete for advancement whether they pursue a career or attend college. The TEC Online Academy is an innovative online learning environment that was designed to address this common need.

History of the TEC Online Academy

The Education Cooperative's (TEC) regional virtual school was originally developed to expand access to online learning opportunities for students of the Massachusetts towns of Canton, Dedham, Dover, Dover-Sherborn, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Medfield, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norwood, Sherborn, Walpole, Wayland, and Westwood. In 2009 TEC's member Superintendents worked collaboratively to develop an innovative model for online learning that mirrored the rigorous high standards and expectations of in-district daily classroom instruction. Their shared vision resulted in the creation of the TEC Online Academy, a collection of unique and engaging college preparatory, honors and AP courses developed and taught by exemplary teachers from our TEC districts.

Students and teachers have embraced TEC Online Academy and to date over 40 highly qualified teachers have participated in rigorous professional development with our educational partner, EDC (www.edc.org) resulting in a collection of original online courses offered in this program of studies. To date, over 500 high school students have successfully participated in online courses offered by the TEC Online Academy. We continue to grow and this year TEC Online Academy was included in the 2012 Keeping Pace Report, a national survey of innovative K-12 online and blended learning programs (kpk.12.com).

About the TEC Connections Partnership



In the summer of 2013, TEC launched a pilot program to test out courses being offered by a Connections Learning, a Pearson company. This led to TEC being able to offer to its member districts, a full complement of virtual courses from kindergarten through to grade 12. These courses are available on the same basis as the TEC Online Academy courses and provide another option for those students who need courses, including those for credit recovery. The enrollment in supplemental courses has grown from about 100 in the first year to near 1,000 today.

Acknowledgements

I want to thank the educational leaders within our member districts that have guided and supported the development of the TEC Online Academy. Their vision for teaching and learning and innovative partnership is helping to prepare today's students for tomorrow's world. I want to thank the guidance staff and district coordinators from participating districts for their ongoing help and feedback that has helped to improve our program over the years.

Most of all, I want to acknowledge our outstanding teachers who have worked hard to develop unique and imaginative courses that have expanded the opportunities for students to participate in an engaging, authentic virtual learning experience that promotes the development of lifelong, self-directed learning skills required for success in college and career.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erik A. Erickson".

Erik Erickson,

Director of Innovative Learning Services

TEC actively develops and coordinates educational and organizational programs to meet the needs of member communities and their students.

How to Register for a TEC Online Academy Course



The TEC Online Learning Program of Studies is made up of a combination of courses from what was known as TEC Online Academy and those provided by our partners at Connections Learning (a Pearson company).

Students:

If you are a student attending school in a TEC community, your guidance counselor can register you for your class. TEC member districts include: Canton, Dedham, Dover, Dover-Sherborn, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Medfield, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norwood, Sherborn, Walpole, Wayland and Westwood, Massachusetts.

If you are a student in a TEC member town and have questions about the TEC Online Academy please contact guidance counselor for more information.

Districts:

If you are a TEC Member District trying to register your students, contact:

Erik Erickson, Director of Innovative Learning Services

Email: eerickson@tec-coop.org

Telephone: 781-352-5716 (direct line)

Website: www.tec-coop.org

Academic Calendar:

TEC Online Learning Academic Calendar 2017-2018

Semester 1: August 30, 2017 - January 23, 2018

August 30 - September 5 – Courses begin*

October 18: First Term Progress Report

November 3: End of First Term

December 13: Second Term Progress Report

January 17: Second Term Ends

January 23: Final Grades Submitted to District

Semester 2: January 24, 2017 - June 1, 2018

January 24 – January 29: Courses begin*

March 14: First Term Progress Report

April 3: End of First Term (3rd term for year-long courses)

May 2: Second Term Progress Report

May 25: Second Term Ends for SENIORS in HIGH SCHOOL (4th term for year-long courses)

June 1: Second Term Ends (4th term for year-long courses with others)

June 8: Final Grade Submitted to District for all other students

***Note:** *There is rolling enrollment for TEC CL courses beyond the first 10 days of the semester, drops must occur within 10 days of enrollment to avoid being charged.*



Student Code of Conduct/Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

For each course taken using the TEC Online Academy and Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) course management system, students and their parents must agree to behave responsibly, safely, ethically and within legal constraints at all times. All students enrolled in the TEC Online Academy are sponsored by their home school district and must adhere to his/her local school district’s policies and procedures including the district’s student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). Prior to TEC Online Academy course access all students and their parents must agree to the following guidelines in the educational online learning environment:

I agree to the following terms of use:

- I will exhibit respectful behavior in the course/course management system, just as I would in a classroom. I understand that no obscene, profane, dishonest, threatening, or bullying commentary/behavior is allowed.
- I will not copy the work of others, allow others to knowingly copy my work, or misuse work in any way that could result in removal from the course/course management system.
- I will protect the security of the course/course management system and notify my teacher or guidance counselor if I identify any security problem.
- I will keep my password secure and will not allow anyone else to use my password.
- I will not provide any personal information/photographs or arrange for personal meetings with anyone in the course or course management system outside the scope of the published course syllabus. I will immediately report any message I receive that is inappropriate or makes me uncomfortable in any way to my teacher and/or guidance counselor.
- I will use an email address to access the course/course management system that does not contain any inappropriate words, symbols or connotations. I will keep my teacher informed of any change in my email address during the course.

I understand that TEC and EDC assume no responsibility for any phone charges or usage fees for connectivity to the Internet, the course, and/or the course management system and assume no responsibility for access to Internet resources or entities not authorized by the teacher. TEC and EDC assumes no responsibility for claims and damages of any nature arising from my use or misuse of the course, course management system, and/or Internet and reserves the right to seek restitution for costs incurred, including legal fees, due to the my inappropriate use of electronic resources.

I agree to comply with all local, state, and federal laws and I understand that TEC and EDC will cooperate fully with my school district and local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through this course or course management system and that TEC and EDC reserves the right to deny me access to the course management system if I violate this Acceptable Use Policy.

Social networking tools (Flickr, VoiceThread, etc.) may be used for educational purposes and will be monitored by the course instructor.

Student Acknowledgement

I have read the TEC and EDC Acceptable Use Policy and agree to abide by all provisions. I understand that violation of these provisions may result in disciplinary action including but not limited to the revocation of privileges, suspension or expulsion from school, and criminal prosecution.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Sponsor

I have read the TEC/EDC Acceptable Use Policy. I hereby release TEC, EDC, the district, its operators, and institutions with which they are affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my child’s use of, or inability to use the TEC Online Academy.

I give permission for my student to participate in the TEC Online Academy.

I do not give permission for my student to participate in TEC Online Academy.

Signature _____ Date _____

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why take a TEC Online Academy course?

- Develop communication and collaboration skills you need to be successful in college and career
- Take innovative courses that may not be offered in your own school
- Flexibility and independence! Be in charge of your own learning schedule
- Collaborate with other students from outside of your school district
- Learn from talented teachers from the Greater Boston school districts.

2. Who is a good candidate for an online course?

Are you self-motivated, able to structure your time and meet deadlines? Developing these habits is essential to succeed with online courses. Since there is no face-to-face contact with your instructor or peers, you must take responsibility for your learning and create routines to ensure that you actively participate in your course.

Helpful hints for success:

- **COMMUNICATION IS ESSENTIAL** - Log in to your TEC Online Academy course frequently and check for messages from the instructor on a daily basis. If you need help don't wait---contact the instructor and ask for clarification.
- **DEVELOP A ROUTINE** - Plan to spend at least 5-6 hours per week on your course. Include your online course assignments, readings and discussion board responses in your daily planner. To succeed you must actively participate in your online course and complete assignments on time. Online learning makes more demands on your time management skills and requires self-discipline.
- **BE PROACTIVE** - If you have questions or are having any difficulty, contact your instructor and check in with your guidance counselor. If you send an email to your instructor about an assignment, do not stop your progress in the course; move on to the next assignment while waiting for a response.

Check out these resources to become more aware of strategies for success in an online learning environment:

- What Makes a Successful Online Student?
<http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/StudentProfile.asp>
- What Makes a Successful Online Learner?
<http://www.iseek.org/education/successonline.html>
- Characteristics of an Online Learner
http://www.fairmontstate.edu/academics/distancelearning/successful_student.asp

3. Will I receive credit towards graduation for this course?

Each school district sets the policy on how course credit is applied to your academic transcript. Please consult your guidance counselor for additional details.

4. Will the course count towards my grade point average?

Each school district sets the policy on how course credit is applied to your academic transcript. Please consult your guidance counselor for additional details.

5. What will the experience be like?

You will participate in a challenging semester-long (18-week) online learning experience. You will need to work independently and include time in your daily schedule to log in to check for messages from your teacher. Some classes may offer an optional face-to-face meeting with instructor and classmates. You should expect to spend a minimum of 5 to 6 hours per week on your coursework that will include readings, posting to discussion boards, viewing videos and a range of interactive assignments. There will be a final exam or a culminating project.

6. Who can take courses?

Any high school student currently enrolled in a TEC member school district is eligible and has priority to take an online course. The TEC Online Academy will also welcome other high school students if space allows. This provides a perfect opportunity for home-schooled students to have a collaborative online learning experience. We are currently developing additional courses for middle school students.

7. What are the costs?

Fees for the 2017-2018 school year are typically \$300 per semester course for students in schools that are members of the TEC collaborative.

8. How will I be graded?

Similar to your own school's academic policies, progress reports will be issued midway through the semester and a final exam or a culminating project will be expected. Grades will be sent directly to you and your high school guidance contact. Each school district will determine how and if the grades and credits reflect on the student transcript.

9. Is TEC an approved AP provider?

Yes, TEC Online Academy is an approved AP Online provider.

10. Are the courses NCAA approved?

The NCAA eligible courses are offered by Connections Learning and are NCAA approved. The TEC Online Academy courses below are also NCAA approved.

TEC Online Academy	NCAA Approved
AP Environmental Science	✓
The Archaeology of Ancient Greece	✓
The Archaeology of Ancient Rome	✓
Latin (Honors)	✓

PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2017-2018

Fine Art:

TEC110 Smartphone Photography

For the first time in history, more than fifty percent people worldwide now use a phone as their primary camera. This introductory online course will explore the fundamentals of smartphone photography, including composition, editing, and sharing. We will cover the foundations of what it takes to make a high quality creative photographic image with a mobile device. The course also aims to teach the art of seeing, reading imagery for meaning, using social media to share photographs and collaborate. In addition to crafting high quality photographs with mobile devices, students will consider effective and responsible ways to reach appropriate audiences for their photography using a variety of media. Students will use their own mobile camera devices (Android or iOS) for the course, must have access to social media tools like Instagram and VSCO, and must be prepared to explore photography in depth.

Open to:	Level:	Course Duration:	Prerequisite:	Instructor:
Grades 11 & 12	College Prep	First Semester	None	Sterling Worrell -Hopkinton

Foreign Language:

TEC204 Latin I (Honors)

Latin I introduces students to the basics of Latin grammar and vocabulary as well as the culture of the Romans through primarily their language but also their literature, mythology, and archaeology. The objective of the course is a thorough understanding of the basic grammatical patterns of Latin literature, the development of a strong vocabulary base, and the ability to read short stories in Latin and Ancient Greek. Careful nightly preparation is expected. This course is particularly useful in building the English vocabulary skills needing for success on the SAT by focusing on the Latin etymologies of English words.

Open to:	Level:	Course Duration:	Prerequisite:	Instructor:
Open to All	Honors	Full Year (2 semesters)	None	Ed DeHoratius Wayland

Science:

TEC402 AP Environmental Science (AP)

This full-year *AP Environmental Science* class is equivalent to an introductory, one semester, college level Environmental Science class. If you have successfully completed both high school level biology and chemistry, if you are interested in the environment and, if you are looking for a challenge, this course might be for you! Because this is a college level course, be ready to commit time to your study. This course will cover concepts in ecology, geology, sociology, biology and chemistry that will further your understanding of Earth and the life on it. Students examine interrelationships with the natural world, identify and analyze environmental problems, both natural and human-made, evaluate risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving/or preventing them. Integrated in the course is a laboratory component which will improve the students' observational skills, allow them to develop and conduct well-designed experiments, and have them interpret and share their results and conclusions with classmates. Each student will also become involved in a Personal Research Project.

Open to:	Level:	Course Duration:	Prerequisite:	Instructor:
Open to All (see prerequisite)	AP	Full Year (2 semesters)	Successful completion of Biology & a lab course in the physical science(s)	Charlotte Shire - Hopkinton

Social Studies:

TEC500 The Archaeology of Ancient Greece

How does the culture of ancient Greece reveal itself to us? How do we know so much about a culture that existed almost 2,000 years ago? The Archaeology of Ancient Greece will explore the material remains of ancient Greece, focusing on the primary sources, both literary and physical, that allow us to formulate some understanding of these distant cultures. This course will include historical, literary, and art historical readings and units. The Greece course will begin with the mythology of early Greece, including the Trojan War and its heroes, progress through classical Athens and its development of democracy, and end with the empire of Alexander the Great. Assessments will include, but will not be limited to short quizzes, response journals and creative projects.

Open to:	Level:	Course Duration:	Prerequisite:	Instructor:
Grades 9-12	Honors and College Prep	Fall Semester	None	Ed DeHoratius – Wayland

TEC501 The Archaeology of Ancient Rome

How does the culture of ancient Rome reveal itself to us? How do we know so much about a culture that existed almost 2000 years ago? The Archaeology of Ancient Rome will focus on primary sources, both literary and physical, that allow us to formulate some understanding of this distant culture. We will begin with Rome's legendary beginnings in Troy and the legend of Romulus and Remus, continue through the Roman Republic and the Roman Civil Wars, focusing on the role of Caesar and the rise of Augustus, and end with the Roman Empire and its legacy. Assessments will include, but will not be limited to short quizzes, response journals and creative projects with the materials.

Open to:	Level:	Course Duration:	Prerequisite:	Instructor:
Grades 9-12	Honors and College Prep	Second Semester	None	Ed DeHoratius – Wayland

Computers and Technology:

TEC601 Cybercrime and Security:

Cybercrime and Security is an exploration into the motives of cyber criminals, the means with which they cause harm, and how each user can help prevent himself or herself from becoming the next victim of various forms of cybercrime. Students will explore case studies, learn about preventative techniques and implement safety measures to protect themselves and their families. Topics will include these topics and more: system and data, commercial and home networks, Malware, identity theft, browsing and email, social networking and cyberbullying, E-commerce and banking, peer to peer networks and piracy, mobile devices, and ethics and legal issues.

Open to:	Level:	Course Duration:	Prerequisite:	Instructor:
Grades 11 & 12	College Prep	First Semester, Second Semester, Summer	None	Doug Scott – Hopkinton

Electives:

TEC301 Introduction to Business/Personal Finance

This course is an introduction to essential business skills such as management, understanding consumer needs, and ethical/responsible behavior. Business is also used as a way of illustrating important real world skills such as making decisions, managing processes, critical thinking, and acting as a responsible citizen. The course is hands-on, project based, and utilizes a variety of engaging computer-based simulations that allow students to operate convenience stores, distribution centers, and experience other realistic situations. A significant “life skills” unit teaches financial literacy, setting financial goals, managing your career, understanding credit and debt, and achieving balance between personal and work life.

Open to:	Level:	Course Duration:	Prerequisite:	Instructor:
Open to All	College Prep	Fall, Spring, Summer	None	Joe Williams – Hopkinton

TEC603 Emotional Intelligence

In this course students will gain an understanding of how to define, recognize, examine, refine, and finally to develop Emotional Intelligence. Emotional intelligence is the intelligence of the future. Many people believe that emotional intelligence is as important as regular intelligence, and many companies now use EI testing to hire new staff. Emotional intelligence is an awareness of your actions and feelings, and how they affect those around you. It also means that you value others, listen to their wants and needs, and are able to empathize or identify with them on many different levels, while still holding on to your own values, wants and needs. Students will examine the six core strengths of emotional intelligence and learn how manage themselves and their relationships at school, in the community, and at home. Throughout the course, students will become more aware of their own feelings and moods and learn important skills for keeping themselves motivated to “push through” difficult emotions. They will then move on to recognizing these emotions in others and learning to manage their own emotions based on the “emotional situation” that surrounds them. In each session, they will devise an implementation plan for themselves. The final project will use these implementation plans to create a PowerPoint slideshow or video entitled “Know Thyself”.

Open to:	Level:	Course Duration:	Prerequisite:	Instructor:
Grade 9-12	College Prep	First Semester, Second Semester, Summer	None	Marylou Gair –Walpole

For additional information or if you have questions, please contact:
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