

INTRODUCTION

Established in 2006, the Davidson Academy offers profoundly gifted students, who are prepared to progress through a middle and/or high school curriculum in a rigorous academic setting these two educational options:

- ▶ **Online Campus**
an online school for students living anywhere in the US and Canada
- ▶ **Reno Campus**
a public day school on the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) campus for local residents

The Academy is designated by Nevada legislation as a “**university school for profoundly gifted pupils**” (NRS Chapter 392A). Driven by our *mission* to provide profoundly gifted young people an advanced educational opportunity matched to their abilities, strengths, and interests, students are grouped by ability, not by age or grade. All students, at both campuses, must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- ▶ A score of 99.9% or above on nationally normed intelligence tests and/or nationally normed tests.
- ▶ Demonstration of superior academic achievement and intellectual potential.
- ▶ Motivation, social and emotional maturity, and overall readiness for an accelerated educational environment.

BY THE NUMBERS

<i>Davidson Academy</i>	238 Students Enrolled	52% Students of Color	7:1 Student/Teacher Ratio	40 Seniors Class of 2021
<i>Online Campus</i>	79 Students Enrolled	10% Eligible for Financial Aid	27 Student Led Clubs	24 National Merit Semifinalists
<i>Reno Campus</i>	159 Students Enrolled	24 States	7 Dual Enrolled	
		20 Zip Codes	48 Dual Enrolled	

CURRICULUM

Each Academy student develops a **Personalized Learning Plan (PLP)** to serve as a roadmap for academic and personal goals. These plans guide students through a rigorous core curriculum and help them make elective decisions based on their interests and abilities. PLPs are consistent with the Academy’s philosophy to treat students as individuals invested in their own learning. High school students engage in a blend of advanced high school, undergraduate, and graduate level courses. We emphasize breadth and depth rather than teaching to any particular standardized test or curriculum. Our coursework stresses high-level thinking skills, critical and creative engagement, collaborative discussion with fellow classmates, as well as opportunities for experiential learning. Our classes are small and designed so students must be active in their learning.

Academy students must take at least five graded courses each semester. During senior year, students are required to take four graded courses each semester. Core subject classes take place Monday-Thursday, and most electives take place on Fridays.

EXTRACURRICULAR AND CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

Due to the rigor of the curriculum, we encourage our students to take part in a modest, but meaningful amount of extracurricular activities within and outside the school community. While some of these activities have been able to resume in person, others remain paused or virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

sampling of extra-curricular activities	DECA	Math Competitions	Music Ensembles
	Science Olympiad	MEDLIFE	Theater and Dance
	Club and high school athletics	Science Bowl	Speech and Debate
	Graduate level research	FIRST Robotics Competition	Martial Arts

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Accreditation

Special Purpose School by the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), a division of Cognia.

School Recognitions

- ▶ Named one of the "15 Best Online High Schools" in the nation by College Transitions
- ▶ Davidson Academy was named to the "Public Elites List" by the Washington Post's Jay Mathews
- ▶ Ranked as one of Newsweek's Top STEM High Schools for 2020
- ▶ Online Campus - 3x winner of the Blackboard Catalyst Award
- ▶ Reno Campus - ranked No.1 as the "Best Public High School" in Nevada by Niche.com's 2020 Best Schools in America Rankings and Grades

COVID-19 Response

Spring 2020

Starting March 23, 2020, following a one-week spring break, the Reno campus began delivering all courses remotely live via video conferencing, which continued for the rest of the school year. While student attendance, performance, and expectations remained the same through remote learning, both the Online and Reno Campus recognized individual students experienced various effects of the pandemic. As a result, students and their families were offered options to consider in the context of their unique situation. Students were given the choice to continue with regular letter grades, or utilize one of these options.

- ▶ Switch from letter to a pass/fail grades for all high school classes. A pass is 70% or higher.
- ▶ Switch from taking a course for credit to audit status with an "AU" recorded on their transcript.
- ▶ Withdraw from one or more courses without a "W" on their transcript.

Students were expected to remain in at least five graded courses, regardless of the option they chose.

Fall 2020

The Reno Campus classes are available via our remote learning model for the entire 2020-2021 school year. Students may choose to access this option for the full year, or sign-up to access in-person classes via our hybrid learning model, when attending in-person classes is an option. The earliest access to in-person classes is scheduled to begin 9/14/2020. This is subject to change, based on any revisions to state and local mandates.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE OFFERINGS

The Davidson Academy Diploma is considered an advanced high school diploma in the state of Nevada. Diplomas are awarded based on the following requirements:

- ▶ Cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0
- ▶ 28 total credits required – 23 required, 5 electives

English 4 Credits	Composition & Analysis Rhetoric & Literary Analysis Studies in American Literature	British Literature Advanced Rhetoric	Science Writing & Communications Critical Theory
Math 4 Credits	Geometry Algebra II Algebra II/Pre-Calculus Statistics	Pre-Calculus Calculus I Calculus I/II	Calculus II Calculus III Year Calculus III Semester
Science 4 Credits	Physical Science Biology Advanced Biology	Chemistry Advanced Chemistry	Physics Advanced Physics Advanced Geosystems
History 3 Credits: 1 World, 1 US, 1 Gov	Patterns in Modern History History of the United States Principles of American Government	Asian Studies Understanding the Post 9/11 World	
World Language 3 Credits	Chinese I Chinese II Chinese III/IV Chinese V/VI	Spanish Fundamentals I/II Intermediate Spanish I/II Advanced Spanish I/II	Hispanophone Literature and History Japanese 1A

Electives

The Davidson Academy offers over 40 different elective courses which change yearly based on student interest. Students may design and teach their own elective courses as approved by the administration.

sampling of current school year elective offerings	Financial Literacy Philosophy of Space and Time Photography Crime and Culture	Method Acting Music Theory Programming with Java Martial Arts	Mythology Creative Writing Intro to Graphic Art Reading the Media
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DUAL ENROLLMENT

Students at the Davidson Academy may earn credit toward high school graduation by successfully completing coursework at the University of Nevada, Reno, or another approved college or university.

sampling of current dual enrollment courses for academy students	MATH486 Game Theory ECON102 Principles of Microeconomics CS302 Data Structures HIST464 Europe: 1914 to Present PHIL245 Contemporary Moral Issues FREN211 Second Year French	EE220 Circuits I CPE201 Digital Design CHEM421 Physical Chemistry BIO351 Cell Biology PSY101 General Psychology MATH330 Linear Algebra
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COLLEGE MATRICULATION: CLASSES 2015-2020

138 Graduates, 64 Institutions

*more than 1 student | **more than 5 students

Agnes Scott; ASU*; Babson; Boston U.*; Brown; BYU; Caltech*; Carnegie Mellon*; Champlain; Chapman; College of Wooster; Colorado School of Mines; Columbia U.*; Cornell; Dartmouth; Emory; Oxford; Georgia Tech; Goucher; Grinnell; Harvard*; Harvey Mudd*; Lewis and Clark; Macalester; MIT**; Neumont College of Computer Science; Northern Arizona University; Northwestern; Oberlin; Olin College of Engineering*;

Pitzer*; Princeton*; Rice*; Ringling College of Art and Design; Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology; Santa Clara University; Soka University of America; SMU; Stanford**; Swarthmore; University of Arizona; University of British Columbia; UC Berkeley**; UC Davis; UC Santa Barbara*; UC Los Angeles; UChicago*; University of Colorado, Boulder; University of Edinburgh; University of Idaho*;

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada, Reno** BSMD*; University of Oklahoma, Norman*; University of Rochester; USC; University of Tennessee, Knoxville; UT Dallas*; University of Washington*; Vanderbilt; Washington and Lee University; Washington State University; WashU; Yale

Grading Scale

GPA's are calculated on a traditional 4.0 scale for all courses. As of August 2020, GPA's for the class of 2021 range from 2.7-4.0.

Davidson Academy does not rank students.

Grade	Precent
A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89
B	83 – 86
B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79
C	73 – 76
C-	70 – 72
D+	67 – 69
D	63 – 66
D-	60 – 62
F	00 – 59

Test Scores

ACT

As of August 2020, the Class of 2021 has taken 47 ACT Tests.

Section	Mid 50%
Composite	33-36
Math	34-36
Science	32-35
English	35-36
Reading	35-36

SAT

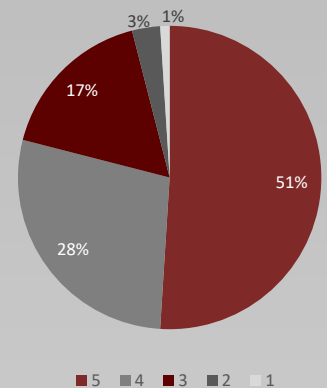
As August 2020, the Class of 2021 has taken 14 SAT Tests.

Section	Mid 50%
EBRW	740-780
Math	750-800

Advanced Placement

Davidson Academy does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses, but many students choose to take the tests. In 2020, 64 students took 152 tests.

Score Distribution



Notable Achievements in 2020

Each year our students earn national and international distinction, including: 1 Top 40 Regeneron Science Talent Search Finalist; 1 Research Science Institute (RSI) participant; 1 U.S. Presidential Scholar; 14 National Merit Finalist; 1 Coca Cola Scholar; 1 Davidson Fellow; 2 Telluride Scholarship recipients; 1 Carson Scholar; 1 USSYP Participant; 1 National Youth Science Camp Delegate; 1 MathCounts National Competition qualifier; Nevada State Science Bowl Champions – Top 16 in the Nation; GirlsGoCyberStart Nevada Champions – Top 15% of Teams Nationwide; 2 Caroline D. Bradley scholars; 1 MathPrize for Girls Participant; 17 AIME/AMC participants; 2 USJMO Participants