

## 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.

Davidson Academy’s Online Campus will be transitioning to an independent school beginning with the 2022–23 academic year. The Reno Campus will continue to be a public school. Beginning with the 2022–23 academic year, Davidson Academy Online will have its own school profile

## BY THE NUMBERS

<i>Davidson Academy</i>	<b>242</b> Students Enrolled	<b>63%</b> Students of Color	<b>24</b> Seniors Class of 2022
	<b>7:1</b> Student/Teacher Ratio	<b>10%</b> Eligible for Financial Aid	<b>14</b> National Merit Semifinalists
<i>Online Campus</i>	<b>98</b> Students Enrolled	<b>28</b> States	<b>13</b> Student Led Clubs
<i>Reno Campus</i>	<b>144</b> Students Enrolled	<b>17</b> Zip Codes	<b>18</b> Student Led Clubs

## CURRICULUM

Each Academy student develops a **Prospective 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.

sampling of extra-curricular activities	DECA Science Olympiad Club and high school athletics Graduate level research	Math Competitions Science Bowl First Lego League Robotics Scholastic Arts & Writing	Music Ensembles Theater and Dance Speech and Debate Martial Arts
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**Director**  
Colleen Harsin

**Director of Online Learning**  
Stacy Hawthorne, Ed.D.

**Counseling Team**  
Alexandra Ellison, Jesse Kachurak, Erin McKenna, Laurie Parish, Erica Shumaker

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

**COVID-19 Response**  
2021–2022 School Year  
The Reno Campus resumed full in-person learning where state and local mandates, including masks and social distancing, are in place.

2020–2021 School Year  
The Reno Campus classes were available via our remote learning model for the entire 2020–2021 school year. Majority of the students choose to access this option for the duration of the year from home. However, students were welcomed to the school building by signing up to engage in remote learning from school when in-person classes were an option. Similar to the spring, 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 switch from letter to a pass/fail grade for select high school classes. A pass is 70% or higher.

Spring 2020  
At the onset of the pandemic Reno campus began delivering all courses remotely live via video conferencing. 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.

### 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

<b>English</b> 4 Credits	Composition & Analysis Rhetoric & Literary Analysis Intro to Research & Communication	Studies in American Literature British Literature Advanced Rhetoric	Science Writing & Communications Critical Theory
<b>Math</b> 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 Linear Algebra Intro to Proofs Special Topics
<b>Science</b> 4 Credits	Physical Science Biology Advanced Biology	Chemistry Advanced Chemistry	Physics Advanced Physics Advanced Geosystems
<b>History</b> 3 Credits: 1 World, 1 US, 1 Gov	Patterns in Modern History History of the United States Principles of American Government	Asian Studies Imperialism & Post-Colonialism Understanding the Post 9/11 World	
<b>World Language</b> 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 & 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.

<b>sampling of current school year elective offerings</b>	The Actor Factor Animation Art Creative Writing Culinary Studies (taught by students)	Financial Literacy Health Horror Fiction Kung Fu Media Content Creation	Music Theory Mythology Photography Programming with Java Yearbook
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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. Students dual enrolled at any point from Spring 2020–Spring 2021 at UNR had the option to change their final grade to S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory).

<b>sampling of current dual enrollment courses for academy students</b>	MATH486 Game Theory CS302 Data Structures PSY101 General Psychology BIOL314 Ecology and Population Biology PSY413 Measuring the Brain JPN305 Japanese Comp and Conversation I	ENG413A Sociolinguistics ECON359 Economic Development PSC304 The Legislative Process HIST211 History of East Asia I STAT352 Probability and Statistics ATMT121 Climate Change and Its Environmental Impacts
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### COLLEGE MATRICULATION: CLASSES 2016-2021

161 Graduates, 74 Institutions

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

Agnes Scott; ASU*; Babson; Boston U.*; BYU; Brown*; Caltech*; Carnegie Mellon**; Champlain; Colorado School of Mines; Columbia U.*; Cornell; Dartmouth; Duke Kunshan; Fordham; GW; Georgia Tech*; Grinnell; Harvard*; Harvey Mudd*; Lewis & Clark; Macalester; MIT**; Neumont College of Comp Sci; NAU; Northwestern; Oberlin; Olin College of Engineering*;	Oxford College at Emory*; Pepperdine; Pitt; Pitzer; Pomona; Princeton*; Purdue; Rice*; Ringling College of Art and Design; Rose-Hulman Institute of Tech; Santa Clara U.; Sarah Lawrence; Soka University of America; SMU; Stanford**; Swarthmore; Trinity College Dublin; College of Wooster; U. of Alabama; UBC*; UC Berkeley**; UC Davis; UCLA; UCSD; UCSB*;	University of Chicago**; U of Colorado, Boulder; U of Edinburgh*; U of Hawaii, Manoa; U of Idaho*; UIUC; U of Maryland, College Park, UNLV; U of Nevada, Reno** BSMD*; U of Oklahoma*; U of Rochester; USC; U of Tennessee, Knoxville; UT Dallas**; U of Washington*; Vanderbilt; Washington State; WashU*; Western Washington; Yale*
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**Grading Scale**  
GPAs are calculated on a traditional 4.0 scale for all courses.  
Davidson Academy does not rank students.

Grade	Percent
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

**Testing**  
The Nevada State Board of Education chose the ACT as Nevada's CCR assessment. Nevada juniors took the ACT +Writing in the spring of 2021. Since fall 2020, College Board and ACT testing centers in the Reno area have remained open with limited capacities and occasional last-minute cancellations. Online campus students residing outside of Nevada are not required to take the ACT exam as a graduation requirement.

**Advanced Placement**  
Davidson Academy does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses, but many students choose to take the tests. Below is a summary of testing in 2021:

- 76 students
- 140 exams
- 96% of tests were 3 or above

**Notable Achievements in 2021**  
Each year our students earn national and international distinction, including: 2 U.S. Presidential Scholars; 24 National Merit Finalist; 1 Coca Cola Scholar; 1 Carson Scholar; 1 MATHCOUNTS National Champion; 1 Regeneron Science Talent Search Top 300 Scholar; 1 Congressional App Challenge winner; 1 Prudential Spirit of Community Distinguished Finalist; 1st place National Radon Poster winner; numerous AIME/AMC participants with top honors; 1 Team of Nevada State Scholastic Chess Champions; 1 National Cyber Scholar; FTC Nevada State Champions; 1 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing winner; 9 students competed in DECA ICDC with numerous top 10 places; Middle School Nevada State Science Bowl Champions – Top 16 in the Nation; numerous Scholastic Arts Awards recipients; top places in the following national tests: USESO, USNCO, USABO, NACLO; National Biology Bowl Champions; ACSL International bronze medal recipient; 1 National History Day Outstanding Affiliate; Sweet 16 IPPF Team

**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 – 4x 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
- Ranked #3 in "2021 Best Public High Schools" listing by US News and World Report