

The School

Established in 2006, The Davidson Academy of Nevada is a secondary school serving profoundly gifted students who are prepared to progress through a middle and/or high school curriculum in a rigorous academic setting. Located on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno, the Academy is designated by Nevada legislation as a "university school for profoundly gifted pupils" (NRS Chapter 392A). Students are grouped by ability, not by age or grade; there are no grade levels at the Academy.

While the Academy is a public school, all students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Earn a score of 99.9% or above on nationally normed intelligence tests and/or nationally normed tests.
- Exhibit superior intellectual development and academic achievement.
- Demonstrate motivation, social and emotional maturity, and overall readiness for an accelerated educational environment.

Mission and Core Values

The Davidson Academy provides profoundly gifted young people an advanced educational opportunity matched to their abilities, strengths, and interests. The following core values are integral components of the Academy experience: **Respect, Responsibility, Leadership, Pursuit of Knowledge, Balance, and Integrity.**

Students and Graduates

For the 2014-15 school year, 137 students attend The Davidson Academy, many of whom moved from outside the state of Nevada in order to enroll. The school's first graduate was recognized in May of 2008. Since then, a total of 83 students have graduated from the Academy. The class of 2015 consists of 17 students.

Davidson Academy students have a strong desire to learn and to challenge themselves. Due to the rigor of the curriculum, we encourage our students to take part in a modest, but meaningful amount of extracurricular activities as a way to stay balanced. Please visit our list of [extracurriculars](#) for more information.

Faculty

The majority of the 23 full time faculty members at The Davidson Academy have attained a master's degree or higher in the appropriate field of instruction. Teaching experience ranges between five and 41 years, and all faculty members participate in curriculum development. The average class size at the Academy is 15 students.

Accreditation

The Academy is accredited as a Special Purpose School by the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), a division of AdvancED.

Curriculum

Academy students develop **Personalized Learning Plans** 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. Personalized Learning Plans 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 tests. Our coursework emphasizes high level thinking skills, critical and creative engagement, along with collaborative discussion with fellow classmates. Our classes are small and are designed so students must be active in the discussions. For more information, please visit our [curriculum guide](#).

The school day includes six periods of 60 minutes each. Academy students must take at least five graded courses each semester. Typically, core subjects are offered four days per week, and electives are offered in two-hour blocks on Fridays. Academy students may also enroll in courses at the University of Nevada, Reno, under a dual enrollment agreement. For more information, please see our full list of [course offerings](#).

Graduation Requirements

The Davidson Academy Diploma exceeds the standards of an Advanced High School Diploma in the state of Nevada. Diplomas are awarded based on the following requirements:

1. Cumulative weighted GPA of 3.0
2. Passing score on all sections of the Nevada Proficiency Exam and continuous progress in relation to assessment benchmarks
3. 28 total credits. Of the 28, five (5) credits are elective and twenty-three (23) are required, as follows:

English	4	Physical Education	2
Social Studies*	3	Art/Humanities	2
Science	4	Computer Literacy	1/2
Mathematics	4	Health	1/2
Foreign Language	3		

*Ancient/Modern World History, U.S. History, and American Government

Dual Enrollment Option

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.

One credit toward high school graduation is earned when a student successfully completes a full year course at the Academy or a pre-approved 200-400 level semester course at the University of Nevada, Reno, worth three or more university credits, with a grade of "C-" or better. One-half credit (0.5) toward high school graduation is earned when a student successfully completes a pre-approved 100 level semester course at the University that is worth three or more university credits, with a grade of "C-" or better. A pre-approved one-credit course successfully completed at the University equals 0.33 credit at The Davidson Academy.

Grading Scale

GPA's are calculated on a traditional 4.0 scale for all courses. Those designated as college-prep are calculated on a weighted 4.5 scale. College-prep courses include all advanced sciences, Calculus I/II, and Chinese and Spanish levels III and above. University courses at the 200-400 level, as well as a select few at the 100 level, are also weighted on a 4.5 scale. Transcripts denote both non-weighted and weighted cumulative GPA calculations for all courses taken for high school credit. GPA's for the class of 2015 range from 2.82-4.00. **The Davidson Academy does not rank students.**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

Class of 2015 Test Scores as of July 2014

<u>Item</u>	<u>SAT Critical Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>ACT Composite</u>
Mean	706	722	683	31.3
Range	650-800	670-800	630-780	29-33

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Mean Score</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Mean Score</u>	<u># of Students</u>
Biology-M	675	3	English Lit	718	4
Chemistry	738	7	Math Level II	715	13
Chinese	700	1	Physics	736	7

Advanced Placement

The Davidson Academy does not offer designated Advanced Placement (AP) courses. However, qualified students may take AP exams. As of July 2014, 89% of Davidson Academy high school students scored a 4 or 5 and 100% scored a 3 and above. Eleven students were named AP Scholars.

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Davidson Academy Press Room: http://www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu/Articles.aspx?ArticleID=165&NavID=9_3

Davidson Academy Curriculum Guide: www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu/Articles.aspx?ArticleID=233&NavID=0_36

College Acceptances and Enrollments

Academy graduates from the classes of 2008 through 2014 have been accepted to the colleges listed below.

American University	Kent State	University of California, Davis
The American University of Paris	Lehigh University	University of California, Los Angeles*
Bard College	Lewis & Clark College*	University of California, San Diego
Barnard College	Loyola Marymount University*	University of California, Santa Barbara
Bay Path College	Macalester College	University of Chicago*
Baylor University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology*	University of Colorado Boulder
Bennington College*	Michigan State University	University of Idaho*
Bentley University	Montana State University	University of Kentucky
Boston College	Mount Holyoke College*	University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign*
Boston University*	New York University*	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Brandeis University	Northeastern University	University of Miami
Brown University	Northwestern University	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Butler University	Oberlin College*	University of Minnesota
California Institute of Technology*	Occidental College	University of Missouri, Kansas City
California Polytechnic State University*	Pomona College*	University of Notre Dame
Carleton College	Princeton University*	University of Oklahoma
Carnegie Mellon University*	Purdue University	University of Oregon
Case Western Reserve	Reed College*	University of Nevada, Reno* (& BS/MD)*
Central Michigan University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of New Mexico
Clemson University	Rice University*	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
College of the Atlantic*	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of the Pacific
College of William and Mary	Rutgers University*	University of Pittsburgh
Colorado College	Saint Mary's College of California	University of Puget Sound*
Colorado School of Mines	Santa Clara University	University of Rochester*
Columbia University*	Savannah College of Art and Design	University of San Francisco
Connecticut College*	Scripps College*	University of South Alabama
Cornell University *	Sierra Nevada College*	University of Southern California*
DePaul University	Simon's Rock	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Dominican University of California	Siena College	University of Virginia
Drexel University	Smith College	University of Washington*
Duke University	Soka University of America*	University of Wisconsin, Madison*
Florida Institute of Technology	St. Bonaventure University	Ursinus College
Fordham University	St. John's College	Valparaiso University
Emory University	St. Olaf College*	Vanderbilt University*
Georgetown University*	Stanford University*	Vassar College
George Washington University	Stony Brook University	Villanova University*
Georgia Institute of Technology	Swarthmore College*	Virginia Commonwealth University
Gonzaga University	Sweet Briar College	Washington and Jefferson College
Grinnell College	Syracuse University	Washington and Lee University*
Hampshire College*	Temple University Japan	Washington State University
Harvard University*	Texas Tech University (BS/MD)*	Washington University, St. Louis*
Harvey Mudd College	Tulane University	Wellesley College*
Haverford College*	University of Alabama	Western Washington University
Hofstra University	University of Alabama at Birmingham- (BS/MD)*	Whitman College
Indiana University at Bloomington	University of Arizona*	Whittier College
Indiana University-Purdue University	University of California, Berkeley*	Willamette University
Indianapolis		Williston Northampton
Johns Hopkins University*		

*Indicates schools where Davidson Academy students have chosen to enroll.