

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:

- 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 Alumni

For the 2015-16 school year, 160 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 98 students have graduated from the Academy. The class of 2016 consists of 26 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. Please visit our list of [extracurriculars](#) for more information.

At the Davidson Academy we strive to foster not only exceptional scholars, but exceptional individuals who are aware of how their behavior impacts those around them. We strive to prepare our students for meaningful, productive futures by providing students opportunities to become the best version of themselves by understanding their potential (the ability to adapt and grow in any given situation) through our courses, our monthly community meetings, and direct, personalized feedback.

Faculty

The majority of the 24 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 six and 41 years, and all faculty members participate in curriculum and professional 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 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 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, although they are only required to take at least four graded courses each semester of senior year. 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 required 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 advanced are calculated on a weighted 4.5 scale. These 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 2016 range from 3.09-4.00.

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 2016 Test Scores as of July 2015

<u>Item</u>	<u>SAT Critical Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>ACT Composite</u>
Mean	749	727	712	33.2
Range	580-800	670-800	610-740	29-35

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Mean Score</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Mean Score</u>	<u># of Students</u>
Biology-M	760	2	English Lit	723	7
Chemistry	716	7	Math Level II	753	18
Spanish	655	2	Physics	769	6

Advanced Placement

The Davidson Academy does not offer designated Advanced Placement (AP) courses. However, many students choose to take AP exams.

Davidson Academy Contacts:

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Davidson Academy Pressroom: 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 2015 have been accepted to the colleges listed below.

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

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