



DAVIDSON ACADEMY ONLINE

SCHOOL PROFILE 2024 – 2025

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Accreditation

Fully Accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Between the 2017-2018 and 2021-2022 school years, Davidson Academy Online was accredited by Cognia as a campus of Davidson Academy, and all courses were approved for A-G credit from the UC High School Articulation System under The Davidson Academy of Nevada. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, all courses are approved for A-G credit from the UC High School Articulation System under Davidson Academy Online. All Davidson Academy Online core courses are NCAA approved.



THE SCHOOL AND MISSION

Davidson Academy Online is an academically rigorous, synchronous online school for profoundly gifted middle and high school students living in the United States and Canada, with options for full-time or single-course enrollment.

Profoundly gifted students are at least three standard deviations above the norm on the bell curve of the IQ continuum. The school opened in the 2017-2018 school year as an online campus of the Davidson Academy, a Nevada public school with CEEB code 290207. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, Davidson Academy Online is an independent (private) school separate from Davidson Academy.

To attend Davidson Academy Online, students must score in the 99.9th percentile on accepted intelligence and/or achievement tests; perform at a required academic level; exhibit intellectual and academic achievement; and demonstrate motivation, social and emotional maturity, and overall readiness for a fast-paced educational environment.

Unlike traditional school settings, Davidson Academy Online classes group students by ability rather than age. With an overall enrollment of 100 students and 28 faculty and staff members, class sizes are small, and students receive personalized attention. Students at Davidson Academy Online leverage the flexibility of online learning and communication platforms to engage in synchronous and asynchronous activities with their intellectual peers to create vibrant online communities.

CURRICULUM

High school students engage in a blend of advanced high school and undergraduate-level courses. These courses employ curricular and pedagogical techniques appropriate for gifted and highly able students, including acceleration, compacting, and differentiated instruction and assessment. We emphasize breadth and depth of instruction, and we avoid teaching to any particular standardized test or curriculum. Our coursework stresses higher-order thinking skills, critical and creative engagement, seminar-style classroom discussion, and experiential learning opportunities. Our synchronous live sessions are the hallmark of our courses, where students meet for three hours each week via video conferencing software to discuss concepts and collaborate on challenging activities. Many courses employ a flipped model, where students complete readings or watch videos ahead of the synchronous live sessions, thus preparing them for discussion and instruction. In addition to the synchronous live sessions, each core course requires approximately 5-7 hours of work per week utilizing materials that are housed in our Learning Management System.

Full-time students must take at least four graded courses each semester. Due to the time commitment of courses, students wishing to take more than seven courses must receive permission for an overload schedule from the Director. The Class of 2025 is enrolled in an average of seven classes, including but not limited to courses offered at University of Nevada, Reno.

RESPONSIBILITY • INTEGRITY • BALANCE
LEADERSHIP • PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE • RESPECT

BY THE NUMBERS

Total enrollment grades 5-12: **100**



Full-Time / Single-Course Enrollment	92 / 8
Different States / Countries	20 / 2
Students Receiving Financial Aid or NV Tuition Waiver	24%
2025 National Merit Semifinalists	6
Class of 2025 Average ACT Score	33
Class of 2025 Average SAT Score	1518

STUDENT LIFE

With the rigor and demands of our curriculum, we encourage our students to participate in a balanced and meaningful number of extracurricular activities inside and outside the school community. As a result, we have 20 student-run clubs that are both scholastic and interest-focused.

A sampling of extracurricular activities:

- Athletics (club and high school)
- Chess Club
- Competitive Business Club
- Computer Science Team
- Cooking Club
- Math competitions
- Music ensembles
- Neurodiversity Alliance
- Philosophy Club
- Poetry Club
- Robotics competitions
- Science Bowl
- Sexuality & Gender Alliance (SAGA)
- Speech and Debate
- Student Council
- Theater

Grading Scale

GPA's are calculated on an unweighted 4.0 scale for all courses. Davidson Academy Online does not rank students.

Grade	Percent	Weight
A	93 – 100	4.0
A-	90 – 92	3.67
B+	87 – 89	3.33
B	83 – 86	3.0
B-	80 – 82	2.67
C+	77 – 79	2.33
C	73 – 76	2.0
C-	70 – 72	1.67
D+	67 – 69	1.33
D	63 – 66	1.0
D-	60 – 62	0.67
F	00 – 59	0.0

Testing

Students are not required to take the SAT or ACT exams as a graduation requirement. As an online school, Davidson Academy Online cannot coordinate opportunities for students to test together in person, and local access to testing for students can vary.

Advanced Placement

Davidson Academy Online neither offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses nor encourages students to take exams, but many students choose to take AP exams after self-study if local testing is available. Below is a summary of AP testing in 2024:

- 25 tests taken
- 72% students received a score of a 5
- 24% students received a score of a 4

Faculty and Staff

Davidson Academy Online instructors and staff have years of experience working with profoundly gifted students and are experts in their content areas.

- Master's Degrees – 71%
- Doctoral Degrees – 21%

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE OFFERINGS

The Davidson Academy Online diploma is awarded based on the following requirements:

- ▶ Cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher
- ▶ 24 total credits

Department	Diploma Req.	Courses Offered	
English	4 credits	Composition & Analysis Intro to Research & Communication Rhetoric & Literary Analysis American Literature	British Literature Advanced Rhetoric Value Theory
Mathematics	4 credits	Geometry Algebra II Algebra II/ Pre-Calculus+ Pre-Calculus Statistics Calculus I	Calculus I/II+ Calculus II Calculus III Linear Algebra* Intro to Proofs* Intro to Real Analysis+
Science <i>Advanced science courses have a 0.5 credit co-requisite lab section.</i>	3 credits: 1 Biology 1 Chemistry 1 Physics	Biology Chemistry Physics	Advanced Biology Advanced Chemistry Advanced Physics
History	3 credits: 1 World History 1 US History 1 US Government	Patterns in Modern History Conflict & Resolution in the 20th and 21st Centuries History of the United States	Principles of American Government Asian Studies Imperialism & Post-Colonialism
World Language <i>2 credits in the same language.</i>	3 credits	Chinese I Chinese II Chinese III* Chinese IV* Chinese V* Chinese VI* Classical Chinese	Spanish Fundamentals I/II Intermediate Spanish I/II Advanced Spanish I* Advanced Spanish II* Hispanophone Lit & History* Spanish Practicum*
Physical Education	2 credits	Fitness	Independent Study PE
Health	0.5 credit	Health	
Financial Literacy	0.5 credit	Financial Literacy	
Arts & Humanities Electives <i>Elective courses change yearly based on student interest and faculty expertise.</i>	1 credit	<i>Sampling of A & H Electives:</i> 3D Modeling Animal Ethics Intro to Film Studies	Music Theory I/II Science Fiction Speech and Debate
General Electives <i>Beginning Fall 2022, all juniors are required to take College Seminar.</i>	3 credits	<i>Sampling of General Electives:</i> College Seminar Introduction to Aviation	Technology I/II Yearbook

*semester-long 1 credit courses, +year-long 2 credit courses

SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

These are credit-bearing academic programs beyond our traditional core and elective offerings.

- ▶ **Academic Independent Studies:** These are designed to mirror a college-level independent study course. Students select a project mentor and develop a course curriculum of their own design before submitting it for approval. Past approved courses include Amharic Language and Ethiopian Culture, Bulgarian Solitaire and Open Problems, and Feminist Theory.
- ▶ **Dual Enrollment:** While students may earn credit toward high school graduation by completing coursework at any approved post-secondary academic institution, Davidson Academy Online maintains an enrollment and articulation agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Students who receive approval (based on academic and personal/social readiness) are embedded into traditional UNR courses with undergraduate students.
- ▶ **Mentoring Electives - English Student Aide Workshop*, STEM Mentors, World Language Center:** These are student-facilitated workshopping and mentoring programs. Students from advanced classes offer peer feedback on written work, bolster concept mastery, and offer opportunities to practice skills in real time with peers.

Continued participation in all special academic programs require that students remain in good academic standing.

*Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, credit awarded was standardized to 0.25 credit per semester for all mentoring electives.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION:

Beginning with the class of 2020, Davidson Academy Online has graduated 33 students; 11 under Davidson Academy and 22 under Davidson Academy Online. Students were accepted at the following institutions:

Arizona State University, Austin College, Baylor University, Beloit College, Bennington College, Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Bryn Mawr College*, Bucknell University, California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo), California State Polytechnic University (Pomona), Caltech**, Carleton College*, Carnegie Mellon**, Case Western Reserve University, Catholic University of America, Columbia University, Cornell University*, Dalhousie University, Drexel University, Duke University, Florida State University, Fordham University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Hamilton College, Hampshire College*, Harvard University, Harvey Mudd College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Howard University, Imperial College London, King's College London, Lewis & Clark College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, McGill University**, McMaster University, Miami University (OH), Michigan State University, Northeastern University, Northwestern University, Oberlin College, Occidental College, Oklahoma State University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Princeton University, Purdue University, Reed College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rhodes College, Rice University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Rutgers University (New Brunswick), San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, Scripps College, Seaton Hall University*, Sonoma State University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Swarthmore College, Syracuse, Temple University, Texas A&M (Commerce), Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, The College of Wooster*, The University of Alabama, The University of Manchester, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas at Dallas, Trinity University, UC Berkeley*, UC Davis*, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, University of Alabama in Huntsville, University of Arizona, University of Arkansas, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Georgia's Morehead Honors College*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*, University of Iowa, University of Kentucky's Lewis Honors College*, University of Massachusetts (Amherst), University of Michigan*, University of Minnesota (Twin Cities), University of Mississippi, University of Nevada (Reno)*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of Notre Dame, University of Oklahoma*, University of Oregon, University of Oxford*, University of Pittsburgh*, University of Portland, University of Rochester, University of South Carolina, University of St. Andrews, University of Tulsa, University of Virginia, University of Washington (Seattle Campus), University of Waterloo, University of Wisconsin, Vanderbilt University, Washington University in St. Louis*, Whitman College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

*Indicates student enrolled. **Indicates multiple students enrolled.

Notable Achievements

- ▶ 6 Caroline D. Bradley Scholarship recipients
- ▶ 2 MATHCOUNTS National Champions
- ▶ 2 National Merit Scholarship Winners
- ▶ Scholastic Art and Writing Silver National Medal recipient
- ▶ Calvin Coolidge Scholarship for America Foundation winner, Coolidge Senator Distinction
- ▶ Rise Global winner
- ▶ Regeneration Science Talent Search top 40 finalist
- ▶ Davidson Fellows Scholarship winner

John Weinzwieg Centenary Scholarship Senior Award; SET Scholar; numerous AIME/AMC participants with top honors; Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge bronze; USAMO bronze; USAJMO winner; BAMO 12 winner; 2 Kentucky MATHCOUNTS winners; 2nd place Texas MATHCOUNTS; 2nd and 4th place Nevada MATHCOUNTS; multiple Scholastic Art and Writing Awards recipients; Naval Horizons STEM Essay Contest winner with highest honors; XIII Chopin International Piano Competition 1st place; Eastern Division MTNA Junior Composition Competition 1st place; member of US Youth Futsal National Championship team; North Texas Junior Competitive Climbing Association Championship 1st place multiple disciplines; CruzHacks 2022 1st place multiple categories; Reserve Section National ChessKid Championship 1st place; 2nd place in the Nevada/Central Coast Regional Science Bowl; Youth Ambassadors Program Scholarship recipient; 1st place 64th Science and Engineering Fair of Houston Biomedical Engineering Junior Division; gold and silver medal recipient in the Seattle International Bach Piano Festival; First Place Intermediate 3 ACSL Nevada; Bronze Award Intermediate ACSL; semi-finalist in the 2023 Breakthrough Junior Challenge; Congressional Award Gold Medal winner; 2nd place US Chess Federation Annual K-12 National Chess Championship, 11th grade section; 1st, 4th, and honorable mentions in the Purple Comet! Math Meet; Congressional Award Gold Medal winner; Laura Allard Future Vision Scholarship recipient; member of 1st place team in the 2024 International Mathematical Olympiad; multiple Speech & Debate Tournament of Champions qualifiers; multiple NSDA Nationals qualifiers

School Recognitions

- ▶ Named one of the "10 Best Online High Schools" in the nation by College Transitions (2024)
- ▶ School Global Award Initiative of Talented Education, World Giftedness Center (2024)
- ▶ Innovator in Instruction Award, Learn21 (2024)
- ▶ Vox Innovators Award, MIT Abdul Latif Jameel World Education Lab (2022)
- ▶ Resilient Districts Prize recipient, Future of School (2021)
- ▶ 4x winner of the Blackboard Catalyst Award and 2x winner of the Blackboard Exemplary Course