



## 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 mean 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 103 students and 29 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. Most 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 2026 is enrolled in an average of 6 classes, including but not limited to courses offered at University of Nevada, Reno.

### 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	4.00
A–	90 – 92	3.67
B+	87 – 89	3.33
B	83 – 86	3.00
B–	80 – 82	2.67
C+	77 – 79	2.33
C	73 – 76	2.00
C–	70 – 72	1.67
D+	67 – 69	1.33
D	63 – 66	1.00
D–	60 – 62	0.67

### 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 2025:

- 58 tests taken
- 58% of students received a score of a 5
- 29% of students received a score of a 4
- 13% of students received a score of a 3

### Faculty and Staff

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

- 73% of full-time faculty and staff have a master's as their highest degree
- 19% of full-time faculty and staff have a doctorate as their highest degree

## SCHOOL PROFILE

2025 – 2026

### Director

Ashley Zahn

CEEB Code: 292246

[www.DavidsonOnline.org](http://www.DavidsonOnline.org)

### Counseling Team

Lauren Bowman, Erin McKenna, Raenell Rafferty  
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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.



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

## BY THE NUMBERS

Total enrollment grades 5-12: **103**



Full-Time / Single-Course Enrollment	<b>94 / 9</b>
Different States or Provinces / Countries	<b>24 / 2</b>
Students Receiving Financial Aid or NV Tuition Waiver	<b>18.4%</b>
2026 National Merit Semifinalists	<b>3</b>
Class of 2026 Average ACT Score	<b>33.5</b>
Class of 2026 Average SAT Score	<b>1486</b>

## 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)	Neurodiversity Alliance
Chess Club	Philosophy Club
Competitive Business Club	Robotics competitions
Computer Science Team	Science Bowl
Cooking Club	Sexuality & Gender Alliance (SAGA)
Coterie Club	Speech and Debate
Math competitions	Student Council
Music ensembles	Theater

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 &amp; 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 online UNR courses with undergraduate students.
- Mentoring Electives - English Student Aide Workshop\*, STEM Mentors, World Language Center:** These are student-facilitated workshoping 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 requires 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: 2023-2025

Beginning with the class of 2020, Davidson Academy Online has graduated 44 students, 10 under Davidson Academy and 34 under Davidson Academy Online. Students were accepted at the following institutions:

Arizona State University (Tempe), Austin College, Bard College\*, Baylor University, Bennington College, Berklee College of Music, Boston College, Brandeis University, Bryn Mawr College\*, Bucknell University, California Institute of Technology\*, California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo), California State Polytechnic University (Pomona), Carleton College\*, Carnegie Mellon University\*\*, Case Western Reserve University, Catholic University of America, Chapman University, Clark University, Colgate University\*, Colorado School of Mines\*, Columbia University, Cornell University\*, Dalhousie University, Drexel University, Duke University, Emory University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fordham University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Goucher College, Hamilton College, Hampshire College\*, Harvard University, Harvey Mudd College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Howard University, Imperial College London, Indiana University (Bloomington), Ithaca College, Kenyon College, King's College London, Lafayette College, Lawrence University, Macalester College\*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology\*\*, McGill University\*\*, McMaster University, Michigan State University, New York University, Northeastern University, Northern Arizona University, Oberlin College, Occidental College, Oklahoma State University (Main Campus), Olin College of Engineering\*, Oregon State University, Penn State University (University Park), Princeton University, Purdue University (Main Campus), Quinnipiac 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, Sarah Lawrence College, Scripps College, Seton Hall University\*, Sonoma State University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Swarthmore College, Syracuse University, Texas A&M University, The University of Alabama, The University of Manchester, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas at Dallas, Trinity University, University of Alabama in Huntsville, University of Arizona, University of Arkansas, University of California (Berkeley)\*, University of California (Davis)\*, University of California (Irvine), University of California (Los Angeles), University of California (Merced), University of California (Riverside), University of California (Santa Barbara), University of California (Santa Cruz), University of Colorado Boulder, University of Georgia\*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign\*, University of Iowa, University of Kentucky\*, University of Massachusetts (Amherst)\*, University of Miami, University of Michigan\*\*, University of Minnesota (Twin Cities), University of Mississippi, University of Nevada (Las Vegas), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Florida, University of Notre Dame, University of Oklahoma, University of Oregon, University of Oxford\*, University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh), University of Portland, University of Rochester, University of San Francisco, University of South Carolina, University of Southern California\*, University of St Andrews, University of Tulsa, University of Utah, University of Virginia (Main Campus)\*, University of Washington (Seattle Campus), University of Waterloo, University of Wisconsin (Madison), Ursinus College, Vanderbilt University, Washington University in St. Louis\*, Western Carolina University, Western Washington University, 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
- 2 Scholastic Art and Writing Silver National Medal recipients
- Regeneron Science Talent Search top 40 finalist
- Davidson Fellows Scholarship winner

Annually: numerous AIME/AMC participants with top honors, Scholastic Art and Writing Awards recipients, Speech & Debate Tournament of Champions qualifiers, NSDA Nationals qualifiers.

2022-2023: Gold summa cum laude National Latin exam winner, Youth Ambassadors Program Scholarship recipient, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Nevada/Central Coast Regional Science Bowl, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place Nevada MATHCOUNTS, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Texas MATHCOUNTS, 1<sup>st</sup> place Kentucky MATHCOUNTS, 1<sup>st</sup> place biomedical engineering category 64<sup>th</sup> Science and Engineering Fair of Houston, PRIMES-USA math research program participant, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Math Open at Andover, member of the US Youth Futsal National Championship team, Congressional Award Gold Medal winner.

2023-2024: First Class distinction recipient 2024 NCTE Promising Young Writers Contest, member of Team USA's International Mathematical Olympiad, 2 honorable mentions in high school Purple Comet! Math Meet, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place in middle school Purple Comet! Math Meet, Aim High Flight Academy aviation scholarship winner, 1<sup>st</sup> place team and individual gold medal winner Romanian Master of Mathematics competition, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Nevada Regional Science Bowl competition, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 11<sup>th</sup> grade section US Chess Federation Championship, 4<sup>th</sup> place Princeton University Mathematics Competition, Congressional Gold Medal winner, semi-finalist Breakthrough Junior Challenge, Calvin Coolidge Scholarship Senator Distinction, Rise Global winner.

2024-2025: 1<sup>st</sup> place US Chess K-12 National Championship, USAMO gold medal winner, 2<sup>nd</sup> place North Dakota MATHCOUNTS, 1<sup>st</sup> place Alabama MATHCOUNTS, 2 honorable mentions Middle Mathematical Contest in Modeling, 5<sup>th</sup> individual overall Harvard-MIT Math Tournament, Davidson Ambassador, 2<sup>nd</sup> place philosophy category John Locke Institute Global Essay Prize, 1<sup>st</sup> place Nevada American Computer Science League competition.

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)