DAVIDSON ACADEMY ONLINE

SCHOOL PROFILE
2026 – 2027

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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.

Accredited by WASC ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS

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

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 normal distribution of IQ, or approximately the top 0.1%. 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 99 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.

BY THE NUMBERS

Total enrollment grades 5-12: **99**

8	14	16	22
Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029	Class of 2030

Full-Time / Single-Course Enrollment	85 / 14
Different States or Provinces / Countries	24 / 2
Students Receiving Financial Aid or NV Tuition Waiver	18.2%
2026 National Merit Semifinalists	3
Class of 2027 Average ACT Score	35
Class of 2027 Average SAT Score	1487

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
- National English Honors Society (Coterie)
- Math competitions
- Music ensembles
- Neurodiversity Alliance
- Philosophy Club
- Robotics competitions
- Science Bowl
- Sexuality & Gender Alliance (SAGA)
- Speech and Debate
- Student Council
- Theater

Grading Scale
GPAs 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 2026:

- 53 tests taken
- 81% of students received a score of a 5
- 19% of students received a score of a 4

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.

- 71% of full-time faculty and staff have a master's as their highest degree
- 18% of full-time faculty and staff have a doctorate as their highest degree

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 & Mathematical Reasoning 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 *Advanced science courses have a 0.5 credit co-requisite lab section.*	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 *2 credits in the same language.*	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 *Elective courses change yearly based on student interest and faculty expertise.*	1 credit	*Sampling of A & H Electives:* 3D Modeling Animal Ethics Intro to Film Studies	 Music Theory I/II Science Fiction Speech and Debate
General Electives *Beginning Fall 2022, all juniors are required to take College Seminar.*	3 credits	*Sampling of General Electives:* College Seminar Introduction to Aviation	 Introduction to Programming 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 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 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: 2023-2026

Beginning with the class of 2020, Davidson Academy Online has graduated 53 students, 10 under Davidson Academy and 43 under Davidson Academy Online. Students were accepted at the following institutions:

Amherst College*, Arizona State University (Tempe), Austin College, Bard College*, Baylor University, Bennington College, Berklee College of Music, Binghamton University, 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, 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 Jersey Institute of Technology, New York University, North Carolina State 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)*, Queen Mary University of London, 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, Stanford University*, Stevens Institute of Technology, Stony Brook University*, SUNY Buffalo, Swarthmore College, Syracuse University, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, The New England Conservatory of Music, The Ohio State 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 Alberta, University of Arizona, University of Arkansas, University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, 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 (Sta. Barbara), University of California (Sta. Cruz), University of Colorado Boulder, University of Connecticut, University of Georgia*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, University of Iowa, University of Kansas, University of Kentucky*, University of Maryland (College Park), 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 Nevada (Reno), 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 Toronto, University of Tulsa, University of Utah, University of Virginia*, University of Washington (Seattle), University of Waterloo, University of Wisconsin (Madison), Ursinus College, Vanderbilt University, Washington State University, Washington University in St. Louis*, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Western Carolina University, Western Washington University, Whitman College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Yale University

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 recipient
- Regeneron Science Talent Search top 40 finalist
- Davidson Fellows Scholarship winner
- Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation winner

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

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, 1st and 4th place in middle school Purple Comet! Math Meet, Aim High Flight Academy aviation scholarship winner, 1st place team and individual gold medal winner Romanian Master of Mathematics competition, 2nd place Nevada Regional Science Bowl competition, 2nd place 11th grade section US Chess Federation Championship, 4th place Princeton University Mathematics Competition, Congressional Gold Medal winner, semi-finalist Breakthrough Junior Challenge, Calvin Coolidge Scholarship Senator Distinction, Rise Global winner.

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

2025-2026: Inaugural cohort of National English Honor Society, USA Junior Math Olympiad qualifier, Math Prize for Girls Olympiad bronze medalist, Civil Air Patrol Wright Brothers Award winner, YoungArts Winner with Distinction in classical music/piano, first author on research paper in *The Journal of Double Star Observations*, Romanian Masters of athematics Team USA competitor, Royal Conservatory of Music in Canada gold medalist in piano, Maryam Mirzakhani AMC 8 Certificate of Excellence winner, Vietnam International Mathematics Competition gold medalist, student swam the English Channel.

School Recognitions

- Ranked #4 on Niche.com's 2027 list of best private online high schools in America
- 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)