

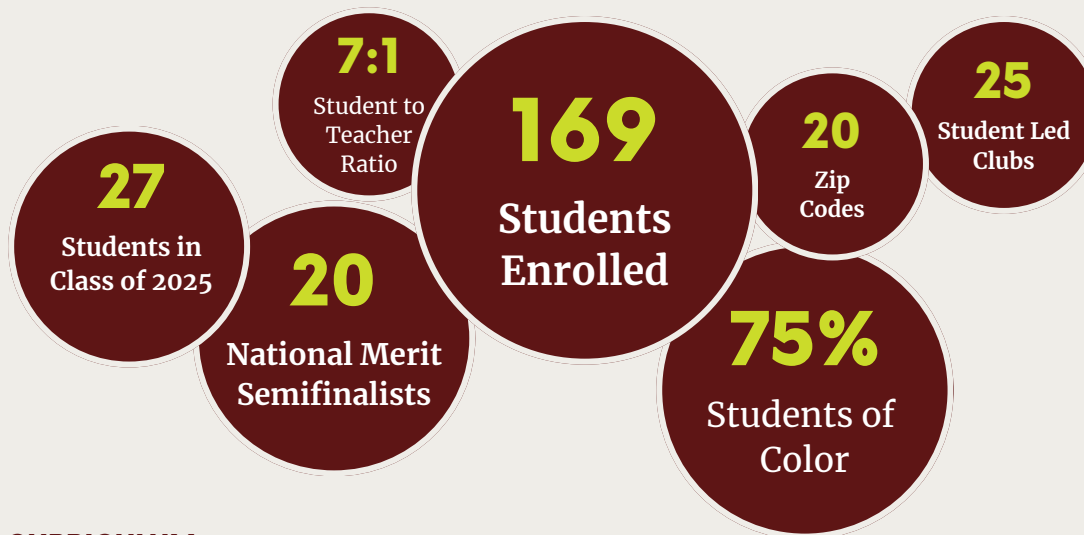
INTRODUCTION

Established in 2006, Davidson Academy is a public middle and high school located on the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) campus, designated by Nevada legislation as a “university school for profoundly gifted pupils” (NRS Chapter 388C). Driven by the mission to provide profoundly gifted young people an advanced educational opportunity matched to their abilities, strengths, and interests, students are grouped by ability, not by age or grade. All students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A score of 99.9% or above on nationally normed intelligence tests and/or nationally normed achievement tests.
- Demonstrate social and emotional maturity, an overall readiness for a rigorous school, and individual student commitment to participate in an accelerated education.

In the 2017–2018 school year, Davidson Academy launched its online campus available to students anywhere in the U.S. and Canada. As of the 2022–2023 school year, Davidson Academy Online is an independent school with CEEB code 292246.

BY THE NUMBERS



CURRICULUM

Each student develops a Prospective Learning Plan (PLP) 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. PLPs 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. Breadth and depth are emphasized rather than teaching to any particular standardized test or curriculum. Coursework stresses higher-level thinking skills, critical and creative engagement, collaborative discussion with fellow classmates, as well as opportunities for experiential learning. Classes are designed so students must be active in their learning. Core subject classes are Monday–Thursday, and most electives take place on Fridays. Students take an average of five core classes and three elective classes. Students must be enrolled in at least five credit-bearing courses. During senior year, students are required to be enrolled in at least four.

EXTRACURRICULAR AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Due to the rigor of the curriculum, students are encouraged to take part in a modest, but meaningful amount of extracurricular activities within and outside the school community. Students are not required to complete volunteer hours.

sampling of extra-curricular activities	Club/Zoned School Athletics	Martial Arts	Science Olympiad
	Dance	Math Competitions	Speech and Debate
	DECA	Music Ensembles	Theater
	First Lego League Robotics	Scholastic Arts & Writing	Volunteer Opportunities
	Graduate Level Research	Science Bowl	Youth Philharmonic

Director: Colleen Harsin
Director of Curriculum: Erin Vienneau
Counseling Team: Alexandra Ellison, Jesse Kachurak, Laurie Parish

collegeadvising@davidsonacademy.unr.edu
 www.DavidsonAcademy.unr.edu

Davidson Academy
 P.O. Box 9119
 Reno, NV 89507
 775-446-7778

CEEB Code: 290207

Accreditation

The Davidson Academy is accredited by Cognia. Schools in good standing can maintain their accreditation for a six-year term.

Governing Board

The Davidson Academy Governing Board is a public body and is hereby given such reasonable and necessary powers, not conflicting with the Constitution and the laws of the state of Nevada, as may be required to attain the ends for which the school was established and to promote the welfare of pupils who are enrolled in the school (according to Nevada Revised Statute 388C).

The governing body is comprised of three individuals selected by senior elected officials of the state of Nevada; four individuals selected by the founding entity (The Davidson Institute for Talent Development); the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (ex officio); and the President of the University of Nevada, Reno (ex officio). Public meetings are held four times a year, once every quarter.

School Recognitions

- Ranked #1 Best Public High School in Nevada by [PublicSchoolReview.com](#)
- Ranked #2 Best Public High School in America and #1 Best Public Middle School in America by [Niche.com's "2025 Best Schools in America Rankings and Grades"](#)
- Ranked #4 Best Public School in America by [The Education Magazine](#)

Personal Development

A set of core values encourages and prepares students to become leaders and contribute their talents and intellect to society. An environment is cultivated where students can experience a sense of independence and ownership over their actions and influences. This applies to their classroom responsibilities, school and community involvement, and their relationships with educators, friends and family.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE OFFERINGS

An Academy diploma is considered an advanced high school diploma in the state of Nevada. Diplomas are awarded based on the following requirements:

- Cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher
- 28 total credits required – 21 core, 2 arts and humanities electives, 5 general electives

English 4 Credits	Composition & Analysis Rhetoric & Literary Analysis American Literature	Studies in American Literature British Literature Advanced Rhetoric	Science Writing & Communications Critical Theory
Math 4 Credits	Geometry Algebra II Pre-Calculus Statistics	Calculus I Calculus I/II Calculus II	Calculus III Year Calculus III Semester Differential Equations
Science 4 Credits	Physical Science Biology Advanced Biology	Physics Advanced Physics Advanced Geosystems	Chemistry Advanced Chemistry
History 3 Credits: 1 World, 1 US, 0.5 Gov, 0.5 Economics	Patterns in Modern History History of the United States		Principles of American Government & Economics Understanding the Post 9/11 World
World Language 3 Credits	Chinese 1-2 Chinese 3-4 Chinese 5/6 - 7/8 Chinese 9/10 -11/12	Spanish 1-2 Spanish 3-4 Spanish 5/6 - 7/8 Spanish 9/10 - 11/12	

Not every class is offered every year.

Electives

Davidson Academy offers elective courses which change yearly based on student interest. Students may design and lead their own seminar as approved by the administration.

sampling of current school year elective offerings	The Actor Factor Animation Art Epic Fantasy: Film Fly Tying (Student Led) History of American Pop Music	Improv Journalism Kung Fu Leadership Linguistics (Student Led) Music Theory	Philosophy and Pop Culture Practical Geology Programming with Python Quantum Mechanics Yearbook Yoga
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DUAL ENROLLMENT

If a student exhausts Academy classes offered in one or more subjects, they may have the option to enroll in courses at UNR in accordance with their PLP. Coursework completed at UNR, or another approved dual enrollment provider, is added to a student's high school transcript.

sampling of current UNR courses for academy students	FREN211 Second Year French I CS302 Data Structures PSY101 General Psychology BCH400 Intro Biochemistry MATH330 Linear Algebra PHIL450 Ethical Theory	HIST211 History of Asia I STAT352 Probability and Statistics EE220 Circuits I CHEM341 Organic Chemistry JOUR475 Global Media ENGR100 Intro to Engineering Design
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COLLEGE MATRICULATION: CLASSES 2020-2024 131 GRADUATES, 67 INSTITUTIONS

100% of graduates attend 4-year institutions | *two or more students | **five or more students

ASU; Boston U; Brown; Caltech*; Cal Poly SLO; Carnegie Mellon*; Colorado State, Fort Collins; Columbia U*; Cornell*; DePaul; Dominican; Duke Kunshan; Emory*; Fordham*; GW; Georgia Tech; Grinnell; Harvard*; Harvey Mudd*; Johns Hopkins; Lewis & Clark*; MIT**; NAU; Oregon Tech; Oxford College at Emory

Pepperdine; Pomona; Purdue*; Rice*; Ringling College of Art and Design; Rose-Hulman Institute of Tech; Sarah Lawrence; Smith College; Stanford**; Swarthmore; Temple; Trinity College Dublin; College of Wooster; U of Alabama; UBC; UC Berkeley*; UC Davis*; UCSD*; UCSB*; UCSC; U Chicago*

U of Edinburgh; U of Hawaii, Manoa; UIUC*; UMich; U of Minnesota, Twin Cities*; UNLV; U of Nevada, Reno**; U of Oklahoma*; U of Pittsburgh; U of Rochester*; UT Dallas**; USC; U of Virginia; U of Washington*; U Wisconsin, Madison; Utrecht; Vanderbilt; WashU*; Western Washington; Williams; Yale*

Grading Scale

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

Davidson Academy uses a semester schedule. GPAs are calculated on an unweighted 4.0 scale for all courses. Only Davidson Academy and Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) courses are calculated in the GPA. Courses graded pass/fail and approved outside coursework are not included in GPA calculations. Some Davidson Academy electives are pass/fail.

For the class of 2025, the mean GPA is a 3.8. Davidson Academy does not rank students.

Testing

Nevada's College and Career Readiness (CCR) assessment is the ACT + Writing. The class of 2025 took the ACT + Writing in the spring of 2024.

Advanced Placement

Davidson Academy does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses, but many students choose to take AP Exams. As of 2024-2025 Students may take up to 3 AP exams per year. Below is a summary of testing from May 2024:

- 68 students
- 142 exams
- 97% of test scores 3 or above

COVID-19 Response

2020-2021 School Year

Academy classes were available via a remote learning model for the entire 2020-2021 school year. The majority of the students choose to access this option for the duration of the year from home. However, students were welcomed to the school building by signing up to engage in remote learning from school when in-person classes were an option.

The Academy recognized individual students experienced various effects of the pandemic. As a result, students and their families were offered options to consider in the context of their unique situation. Students were given the choice to continue with regular letter grades, or switch from letter to a pass/fail grade for select high school classes. A pass is 70% or higher.