

The School

Established in 2006, the Davidson Academy offers two academically rigorous educational options: [an online campus](#) for U.S. residents grades 7-12; and our flagship day school on the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) campus. Serving students middle school to high school, the Academy is designated by Nevada legislation as a “university school for profoundly gifted pupils” (NRS Chapter 392A). At the Academy, students are grouped by ability, not by age or grade. All students, both online and in Reno, must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A score of 99.9% or above on nationally normed intelligence tests and/or nationally normed tests.
- Demonstration of superior academic achievement and intellectual potential.
- 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.**

Student Demographics

Total Enrollment: 187 students

Class of 2020: 22 students

10%: Eligible for test fee waivers, financial assistance with university courses and materials, and discounted or free school items.

Ethnicity:

- American Indian/Alaska Native: 1%
- Asian: 33%
- Black/African American: 1%
- Hispanic/Latino: 4%
- White: 56%
- Two or more races: 5%

Students who choose to attend the Davidson Academy have a strong desire to learn and 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 Academy, we strive to foster not only exceptional scholars, but exceptional individuals who are aware of how their behavior impacts others. We strive to prepare our students for meaningful futures by providing students opportunities to become the best version of themselves. We help them understand their potential (the ability to adapt and grow in any given situation) through our courses; monthly community meetings; and direct, personalized feedback with regard to their strengths and weaknesses.

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 (PLPs) 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. 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 their learning. For more information, please visit our [curriculum guide](#).

The Reno 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 four graded courses each semester of their senior year. Typically, core subjects are offered four days per week, and electives are offered in three two-hour blocks on Fridays. Academy students may also enroll in courses at UNR, 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:

- Cumulative non-weighted GPA of 3.0.
- Twenty-eight total credits. Of the 28, five (5) credits are elective and twenty-three (23) are required.

English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Foreign Language	3
PE	2
Arts/Humanities	2
Computer Lit	1/2
Health	1/2
Social Studies*	3
<small>*World History, U.S. History, and American Government</small>	

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. Currently, 1/3 of DA students are enrolled in one or more university courses. [Here](#) is a complete list of courses students are taking for the Fall 2019 semester.

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 a college worth three or more 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 a college that is worth three or more credits, with a grade of "C-" or better. A pre-approved one-credit course successfully completed at a college equals 0.33 credit at the Davidson Academy.

Grading Scale

GPA's are calculated on a traditional 4.0 scale for all courses. As of August 2019, GPA's for the class of 2020 range from 2.7 -4.0. **The Davidson Academy does not rank students.**

Grade	Percent
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

Class of 2020 Test Scores as of August 2019

SAT and ACT		
Item	Mean	# of students
Reading & Writing	751	15
Math	778	15
ACT Composite	34.8	21

SAT Subject Tests		
Subject	Mean	# of Students
Biology-M	740	3
Chemistry	795	4
Math Level II	798	12
Physics	782	6
Spanish	720	1
World History	760	1

Advanced Placement

The Davidson Academy does not offer designated Advanced Placement (AP) courses. However, many students choose to self-study and sit for AP exams. In 2019, 70 Academy students took 161 exams. For the Class of 2020, 14 students received AP Scholar Awards.

Advanced Placement	
Score	# of exams
5	103
4	36
3	20
2	2

Graduates

To see where students have been accepted and matriculated, please visit our [graduates page](#).

Additional Information

To contact the College Advising Team, please send an email to collegeadvising@davidsonacademy.unr.edu

Davidson Academy Pressroom:
<http://www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu/Press-Room>

The Davidson Academy complies with the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice.

Last Revised 8/26/2019