

### The School

Established in 2006, the Davidson Academy is a secondary school serving profoundly gifted students who are prepared to progress through a middle and/or high school curriculum in a rigorous academic setting. Located on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno, the Academy is designated by Nevada legislation as a “university school for profoundly gifted pupils” (NRS Chapter 388C). Students are grouped by ability, not by age or grade.

While the Academy is a public school, all students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

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

### Students and Alumni

For the 2016-17 school year, 159 students attend The Davidson Academy, many of whom moved from outside the state of Nevada in order to enroll. The school’s first graduate was recognized in May of 2008. Since then, a total of 123 students have graduated from the Academy. The class of 2017 consists of 25 students.

Davidson Academy students 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 Davidson 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, productive 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.

### Faculty

There are 30 full time instructors and student services staff. The majority of the 20 instructors at the Davidson Academy have attained a master’s degree or higher in the appropriate field of instruction. Teaching experience ranges between seven and 42 years, and all faculty members participate in regular curriculum and professional development.

### Curriculum

Academy students develop Personalized Learning Plans 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. Personalized Learning Plans 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 the discussions. For more information, please visit our [curriculum guide](#).

The 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 two-hour blocks on Fridays. Academy students may also enroll in courses at the University of Nevada, Reno, 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:

1. Cumulative weighted GPA of 3.0.
2. Passing score on all required Nevada Proficiency Exams and continuous progress in relation to assessment benchmarks.
3. Twenty-eight total credits. Of the 28, five (5) credits are elective and twenty-three (23) are required.

English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	4
World Languages	3
Physical Education	2
Arts/Humanities	2
Computer Literacy	1/2
Health	1/2
Social Studies*	3

\*World History, U.S. History, and American Government

### 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.

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

### Grading Scale

GPA's are calculated on a traditional 4.0 scale for all courses. Those designated as advanced are calculated on a weighted 4.5 scale. These courses include: all advanced sciences, Calculus I/II, semester-long Calculus III, and Chinese/Spanish levels III and above. University courses at the 200-400 level, as well as a few select 100 level courses. Transcripts denote both non-weighted and weighted cumulative GPA calculations for all courses taken for high school credit. GPA's for the class of 2017 range from 3.03-4.00. **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 2017 Test Scores as of September 2016

Old SAT and ACT		
Item	Mean	Range
SAT Critical Reading	747.3	630-800
Math	741.3	640-800
Writing	719.3	620-800
ACT Composite	33.6	29-36

SAT Subject Tests		
Subject	Mean	# of Students
Biology-M	774	9
Chemistry	770	6
English Literature	747	3
Math Level II	776	15
Physics	774	7
Spanish	800	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. The Class of 2017 had seven AP Scholars with Distinction, four AP Scholars, two AP Scholars with Honor, and one National AP Scholar. The Class of 2017 has 19 National Merit Semifinalists.

Class of 2017 AP Scores		
Subject	Mean	# of Students
Biology	4.63	8
Calculus AB	4.89	9
Calculus BC	5.00	5
English Literature and Comp.	4.67	3
Physics C: E & M	4.80	5
Physics C: Mechanics	4.83	6

### Additional Information

Davidson Academy Pressroom:

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

### College Acceptances and Enrollments

Academy graduates from the classes of 2008 through 2016 have been accepted to the colleges listed below.

\*Indicates schools where Davidson Academy students have chosen to enroll.

<b>A</b> Agnes Scott College* Allegheny College American University American University of Paris Amherst College Arizona State University <b>B</b> Bard College Barnard College Bay Path University Baylor University Bennington College* Bentley University Berea College Boston University* Bowling Green State University Brandeis University Brown University Bryn Mawr College Butler University <b>C</b> California Institute of Technology* California Polytechnic State University* Carnegie Mellon University* Case Western Reserve University Central Michigan University Chapman University* Clark University Clarkson University Clemson University College of the Atlantic* College of William and Mary College of Wooster Colorado College Colorado School of Mines* Columbia University* Connecticut College* Cornell University* <b>D</b> Daniel Webster College Dartmouth College* Davidson College DePaul University Dominican University of California Drexel University Duke University <b>E</b> Earlham College Emerson College Emory University <b>F</b> Florida Institute of Technology Fordham University	<b>G</b> George Mason University George Washington University Georgetown University* Georgia Institute of Technology Gettysburg College Gonzaga University Goucher College* Grinnell College Gustavus Adolphus College <b>H</b> Hampshire College* Harvard University* Harvey Mudd College* Haverford College* Hofstra University Hope College <b>I</b> Illinois Institute of Technology Indiana University at Bloomington Indiana University <b>J</b> Johns Hopkins University* Juniata College <b>K</b> Kent State University Kettering University <b>L</b> Lake Erie College Lawrence Technological University Lehigh University Lewis & Clark College* Linfield College Loyola Marymount University* <b>M</b> Macalester College Marist College Massachusetts Institute of Technology* Michigan State University Milwaukee School of Engineering Mizzou— University of Columbia Montana State University, Bozeman Mount Holyoke College* <b>N</b> New England Conservatory of Music New York University* Northeastern University Northwestern University <b>O</b> Oberlin College* Occidental College Olin College of Engineering* Oregon State University	<b>P</b> Pitzer College* Pomona College* Princeton University* Purdue University <b>R</b> Reed College* Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rice University* Roanoke College Rochester Institute of Technology Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Rutgers University* <b>S</b> Saint Mary's College of California Santa Clara University* Savannah College of Art and Design Scripps College* Siena College Sierra Nevada College* Simon's Rock Smith College Soka University of America* St. Bonaventure University St. John's College St. Louis Community College at Forest Park St. Olaf College* Stanford University* Stony Brook University Swarthmore College* Sweet Briar College Syracuse University <b>T</b> Temple University Japan Texas Tech University – BS/MD* Tufts University Tulane University <b>U</b> United States Naval Academy University of Alabama University of Alabama at Birmingham – BS/MD* University of Arizona* University of California, Berkeley* University of California, Davis University of California, Irvine University of California, Los Angeles* University of California, San Diego University of California, Santa Barbara University of California, Santa Cruz University of Chicago* University of Colorado at Boulder University of Colorado at Denver University of Denver	University of Houston University of Idaho* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* University of Kentucky University of Massachusetts, Amherst University of Miami University of Michigan University of Minnesota, Twin Cities University of Missouri -Kansas City University of Nevada, Las Vegas University of Nevada, Reno* - BS/MD* University of New Mexico University of Notre Dame University of Oklahoma University of Oregon University of Pennsylvania University of Pittsburgh University of Puget Sound* University of Rochester* University of San Diego University of San Francisco University of South Alabama University of Southern California* University of Tennessee, Knoxville University of Texas, Austin University of Texas, Dallas University of the Pacific University of Tulsa University of Virginia University of Washington* University of Wisconsin, Madison* Ursinus College <b>V</b> Valparaiso University Vanderbilt University* Vassar College Villanova University* Virginia Commonwealth University <b>W</b> Washington and Jefferson College Washington and Lee University* Washington State University* Washington University in St. Louis* Wellesley College* Wesleyan University Western Washington University Westminster College Whitman College Whittier College Willamette University Worcester Polytechnic Institute <b>Y</b> Yale University
--	--	--	---

### Contacts

Colleen Harsin, Director: [charsin@davidsonacademy.unr.edu](mailto:charsin@davidsonacademy.unr.edu)

Laurie Parish, Counselor: [lparish@davidsonacademy.unr.edu](mailto:lparish@davidsonacademy.unr.edu)

Shannon Harrison, Counselor and College Coordinator: [sharrison@davidsonacademy.unr.edu](mailto:sharrison@davidsonacademy.unr.edu)