

“Calhoun taught me to think, read, and communicate critically and carefully; these are the skills required for success in college and beyond. But, I think Calhoun’s main lesson was to regard learning as an essential part of my own intellectual and moral development, and I would not want any other foundation for my life’s journey.”

JUSTIN L. BROOKE '06
STANFORD UNIVERSITY '10
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL '16

Home to thinkers, doers, and leaders for over 120 years, The Calhoun School is defined by a project-oriented curriculum, a problem-solving approach to learning, the “inquiry method” of teaching, as well as a commitment to equity and social justice. A low student-faculty ratio (7:1) allows for a seminar-style approach to learning; this open, informal approach encourages intensive discussion and collaborative intellectual experiences. Our student body and faculty reflect the talent, energy, and diversity of the city we call home, which often serves as a canvas for instruction. In our work with students, we proudly reaffirm our original philosophy of education, one that has made Calhoun as distinctive in New York City educational practice as its architecture is distinctive in the history of school design and function.

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Calhoun School: The Facts and the Figures

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Calhoun enrolls 683 students, with 262 in the Upper School. There are 58 seniors in the class of 2020, all of whom plan to continue their education at four-year colleges and universities. The student body reflects the diversity of New York City: a third of our Upper School is composed of students of color, and tuition assistance is granted to one-quarter of the student body. Students travel from throughout New York City, as well as from Westchester County and New Jersey, to attend Calhoun. The average class size ranges from 10-18 students, with some classes as small as four and various opportunities for individualized study, including the Junior Workshop and Senior Work/BRiDGE. The Upper School faculty consists of approximately 40 teachers and administrators.

ACCREDITATION

Calhoun is accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS). The school is also an active member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC), the New York State Association for College Admissions Counseling (NYSACAC), and the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS).

GRADING, RANKING, AND TRANSCRIPTS

The Calhoun School does not rank students, nor does it publish a cumulative grade point average. In the five-term block schedule, students take 20 classes a year: four classes in each of the five terms, with some music and PE classes meeting throughout the year. Each class earns both a cognitive (traditional A-F) grade and an affective (1-5) grade and one credit. The affective grade reflects the student's motivation, organization, commitment and effort, as observed by the teacher.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

The following chart shows the distribution of cognitive grades earned by the members of the class of 2020 in their junior year. Note that in the five-module calendar, a student takes at least 20 classes a year. Students earn three distinct grades in most year-long courses.

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C- or below
ENGLISH 11	--	18	64	39	30	13	4	1	6
ENGLISH ELECTIVES	1	8	6	5	5	1	--	--	1
US HISTORY	1	48	40	38	29	13	3	--	3
SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES	2	10	10	3	4	--	3	--	--
FRENCH (ALL LEVELS)	3	5	7	1	4	5	4	1	2
MANDARIN (ALL LEVELS)	--	21	4	7	4	5	--	1	--
SPANISH (ALL LEVELS)	1	19	15	15	9	8	2	3	1
MATH (ALL LEVELS)	20	49	27	21	16	11	16	9	9
GEOMETRY	4	19	15	9	9	6	12	5	9
PRECALCULUS	3	20	10	11	7	4	3	4	--
SINGLE VARIABLE CALCULUS	13	9	2	1	--	1	1	--	--
BIOLOGY	6	46	49	29	21	8	7	3	--
MATH/SCIENCE ELECTIVES	6	17	7	2	6	2	4	1	2
FINE ARTS	34	86	14	3	5	2	1	--	1
	Excellent			Pass			Low Pass		In Progress
JUNIOR WORKSHOP	58			43			10		4

COURSEWORK AND SCHEDULING

Calhoun relies upon a series of courses designed by its highly qualified and talented faculty that allow students not only to explore diverse areas of study, but to delve deeply into areas of their own particular academic interest. As a progressive institution, Calhoun faculty and administrators decided that the use of set curricula to prepare for standardized examinations would be inconsistent with the school's philosophy. It is for this reason that **we do not offer any Advanced Placement or "honors" courses.** Our modified block schedule is built on the understanding that we learn best when class time permits student-directed inquiry, deep exploration, and experiential learning. A modular calendar allows our students to explore subjects in greater depth and facilitates interdisciplinary investigations. This structure also enhances the one-on-one relationships between students and teachers that undergird Calhoun's personalized approach to education.

DISCIPLINARY DISCLOSURE POLICY: In accordance with National Association for College Admissions Counseling's Statement of Principles of Good Practice, it is the policy of The Calhoun School to answer questions regarding students' disciplinary history on college and scholarship applications. Disclosures are made for infractions committed in the student's Upper School years which lead to suspension, loss of credit in a course, or expulsion. Additionally, whenever a student's academic or citizenship record changes substantially during the senior year, colleges will be notified.

THE CURRICULUM AND ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The Upper School curriculum provides a demanding preparation for college, offering more than 200 courses. Calhoun students must meet the following minimum credit requirements:

English 4 years
Social Studies 4 years
Mathematics 3 years

World Languages 3 years of the same language
Science 3 years
Arts 3 years

Health Education 1 year
Physical Education 4 years
Junior Workshop, Senior Work/BRIDGE

Course Offerings by Department Please visit www.calhoun.org for complete course descriptions. * Denotes an interdisciplinary course

ENGLISH

Required Courses [3 credits]

English 9: Language & Literature

English 10: Literary Forms

English 11: American Literature

Electives [1 credit]

Bible as Literature, Broadcast Journalism, Coming of Age and Making of a Hero, Democracy in Theory, in Practice, and in Film*, Documentary Storytelling I & II, Eugene O'Neill, Family in Modern American Drama, The French Lieutenant's Woman, Getting Personal: Memoir & Autobiography, Global Mythology & Folklore*, Guilt, Invisible Man: A Search for Identity and Place, Jane Austen: 21st Century Woman, Journalism*, The Literature and Science of Happiness, Magazine Style Writing, Microfiction, *Moby-Dick*, Modernism, Odysseys, The Other in Literature & Art, Outsiders in American Film, Playwriting I & II*, Poetry in Three Parts, Poetry Workshop*, Screenwriting*, The Western

SOCIAL STUDIES

Required Courses [3 credits]

Social Studies 9: World History

Social Studies 10: Modern World History

Social Studies 11: United States History

Electives [1 credit]

Adolescent Psychology, The American Political System, Intro to Anthropology, Bioethics*, Child Welfare, Constructing Childhood, Debate, Democracy in Theory, in Practice, and in Film*, Digital Storytelling, Education History through Archives, Environmental Justice, Feminisms, The Global Cold War, Global Myth & Folklore*, Journalism*, Medieval Studies, Migration Studies, On the Docket, The Politics of Food, Punishment, Politics and Culture, Race, Culture & Music in the 20th/21st Century*, Race and Housing, Strategic Thinking, Understanding Nazi Germany, US-China Relations in the Modern Era, Uses & Misuses of Scientific Evidence in Policy Making*

MATHEMATICS

Required Courses [3 credits]

Algebra I

Algebra II

Geometry

Additional Core Courses [credits as listed]

Intro to Precalculus [2]

Precalculus [3]

Calculus I: Single Variable [3]

Calculus II: Multivariable [2]

Calculus III: Differential Calculus [2]

Electives [1 credit]

Algebra Cross-Training, Beyond Algorithms: Writing Math Research, Experimental Probability & Statistics, Geometrical Design & CAD*, Geometrical Design & Technical Drawing*, Introduction to Programming, Math in Sports, Word Problems

WORLD LANGUAGES

Core Courses [3 credits]

French/Mandarin/Spanish I

French/Mandarin/Spanish II

French/Mandarin/Spanish III

French/Mandarin/Spanish IV

Introductory/Intermediate Electives [credits as listed]

Japanese Language, Art & Design* [2]

Advanced Electives [credits as listed]

French V: Conversation [2], French V: Native/Heritage Speakers [2],

Mandarin V [2], Mandarin V: Conversation [2], Spanish for Native Speakers [2],

Spanish V: Conversation [2], Spanish V: Latin American Films [2]

SCIENCE

Required Courses [3 credits]

Active Physics

Chemistry

Biology

Advanced Core Courses [credits as listed]

Biology II: Black Rock Forest / Comparative Anatomy [2]

Chemistry II [2]

Physics A: Electromagnetism [1]

Physics B: Classical Mechanics [2]

Physics II [2]

Electives [1 credit]

Astronomy, Bioethics*, Coding I & II, Environmental Science, Experimental Design, Forensic Science, Introduction to Engineering, The Science of Food, The Universe & Our Place In It, Uses & Misuses of Scientific Evidence in Policy Making*

FINE ARTS

Music

Beginning Strings, Chamber Winds, Chorus, History Through Popular Music,

Introduction to Jazz Improvisation, Jazz Improvisation, Advanced Jazz

Improvisation, Percussion I, Percussion II, Practical Music Theory,

Advanced Musical Theory, Race, Culture & Music in the 20th/21st Century*,

Strings Ensemble, Vocal Workshop, Wind Ensemble

Theater Arts

Acting & Directing from A to Z, Advanced Acting: Scene Study, Being Charlie

Chaplin: Silent Film Comedy & Performance, Comedy Performance (I & II),

Comedy Writing/Performance, Fall Production, Musical Theater Workshop,

Playwriting I & II*, Poetry Workshop*, Public Speaking, Screenwriting*,

Spring Workshop Production, Technical Theater, Theater 101

Visual Arts

Anatomy for Artists [& Advanced Anatomy for Artists], Cameras Inside & Out,

Core Art Practices [required for Class of 2020 and beyond], Design for Publishing,

Drawing (I & II), Digital Photo: The Microscopic World, Digital Photo: Sense of

Place, Sense of Time, Future Artifacts, Future Fossils, Geometrical Design &

CAD*, Graphic Design (I & II), Illustration, Japanese Language, Art & Design*,

The Mask in Form and Function, Packaging Design, Painting (I & II), Photography

(I & II), Pottery (I & II), The Printed Matter, Printmaking (I & II), Sculpture (I & II)

Writing Arts

See interdisciplinary offerings in English Department.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Required Course [1 credit]

Life Skills (9th)

Elective [1 credit]

Peer Leadership (12th)

COMMUNITY ACTION

Electives [1 credit]

Community Action,

Community Action: Students Teaching, Hunger & Homelessness in NYC

Additional Transcript Notations:

Calhoun's *Community Service* requirement mandates 60 hours of service before graduation (non-credit), and many students exceed this requirement impressively.

In the junior year, students earn one course credit for *Junior Workshop*, a guided independent study in which each student designs, researches, presents, and defends an interdisciplinary research project.

In the fifth module of senior spring, students participate in Senior Work/BRIDGE. Senior Work involves a seven-week internship at an organization of their choice, while BRIDGE (Build on, Reflect, Implement, Develop, Grow, Enrich) gives seniors tools to transition from high school to their next step.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

Virtually all of Calhoun's graduates continue their education at four-year colleges and universities; students apply to and enroll at schools that reflect each student's individual interests and strengths. The following list includes all of the colleges and universities where Calhoun graduates from the last five years enrolled as first-year students.

MATRICULATIONS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS BY INSTITUTION (2015-2019)

The Calhoun School graduated 291 students who chose to enroll at 122 different colleges and universities.

Academy of Media Arts Cologne	Emory University	Purdue University
American University	Fairfield University	Quinnipiac University
American University of Paris	Fashion Institute of Technology	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Arizona State University	Fordham University	Rhode Island School of Design
University of Arizona	Franklin & Marshall College	Rhodes College
Babson College	George Washington University	University of Richmond
Bard College	Georgia Institute of Technology	University of Rochester
Barnard College	Gettysburg College	Royal Holloway, University of London
Bates College	Goucher College	Sarah Lawrence College
Bennington College	Hampshire College	Savannah College of Art & Design
Berklee College of Music	Harvard University	School of Visual Arts
Boston University	Haverford College	Skidmore College
Bowdoin College	Indiana University	Smith College
Brandeis University	Ithaca College	University of Southern California
Brown University	Johns Hopkins University	Stony Brook University
Bucknell University	Kenyon College	SUNY Binghamton
CalArts	Lafayette College	SUNY Geneseo
University of California Los Angeles	Leeds College of Art & Design	SUNY Purchase
Carleton College	Lehigh University	Susquehanna University
Chapman University	Lewis & Clark College	Swarthmore College
University of Chicago	LIM College	Syracuse University
Clark University	Loyola University Maryland	University of Tampa
Cleveland Institute of Music	Loyola University New Orleans	Temple University
Colgate University	Manhattan College	Trinity College
University of Colorado Boulder	Maryland Institute College of Art	Tufts University
Colorado College	University of Massachusetts	Tulane University
Columbia University	Miami University	Union College
Concordia University	University of Miami	University of Vermont
Connecticut College	University of Michigan	Villanova University
University of Connecticut	Muhlenberg College	Virginia Tech
Cornell University	The New School	Wake Forest University
CUNY/Macaulay Honors College	New York University	Wellesley College
Dalhousie University	Northwestern University	Wesleyan University
Dartmouth College	Oberlin College	Wheaton College MA
Davidson College	University of Oregon	College of William and Mary
Delaware Valley University	Pace University	Williams College
University of Delaware	Pennsylvania State University	University of Wisconsin
Drew University	University of Pennsylvania	The College of Wooster
Drexel University	Pitzer College	Xavier University
Elon University	Pratt Institute	Yale University
Emerson College	Princeton University	