

UPPER SCHOOL PROFILE

Chartered in 1839, Elgin Academy is the leading independent, coeducational, preschool-12th-grade college preparatory school in the western and northwestern suburbs of Chicago. Elgin Academy's commitment to taking learning personally defines every aspect of this close-knit school community.

Students are actively engaged in academics, arts, and athletics where teachers and students build trusting relationships. These interactions create empowered learners who are willing to take academic risks that enable them to grow in self-confidence. At Elgin Academy, students learn to be secure in themselves, disciplined in their thinking, creative in their collaboration, compassionate toward others, and dedicated in their efforts.

ACCREDITATION

The Academy is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).

PORTRAIT OF A HILLTOPPER

When students graduate from Elgin Academy, they go forth as productive, conscientious, and mindful young people who continue to hone their understanding of world and self—a lifelong process that stands as the abiding gift of their Elgin Academy education. Hilltoppers are:

- *secure in themselves*
- *disciplined in their thinking*
- *creative in their collaboration*
- *compassionate toward others*
- *dedicated in their efforts*

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

The Academy's Upper School curriculum is designed to provide students with experiences most necessary for success in college and for personal development. Freshmen and sophomores are required to take the equivalent of six courses each semester. Juniors and seniors are strongly encouraged to take six courses. Upper School graduation requires completion of 25 units of credit, including:

- **English 4.0 units**
- **Mathematics 4.0 units**
- **Social Studies 3.0 units**
- **Science 3.0 units**
- **Fine Arts 2.0 units**
- **World Language 3.0 units (in one language)**
- **Electives 3.5 units**
- **PE 2.0 units**
- **January Term 0.5 units**

Physical Education and health are integrated into the total education program by participation in a minimum of six (6) seasons of sports. Completion of U.S. History constitutes passage of the U.S. and Illinois Constitution exams. Successful completion of all requirements leads to graduation.

FACULTY

The Academy's PS-12 faculty consists of 48 teachers and administrators. 79% of the Upper School faculty hold advanced degrees, with 58% having at least 15 years of teaching experience and more than 46% having at least 20 years of teaching experience.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT & HONORS COURSES

Seven Advanced Placement courses are offered in the following subjects: Biology, Calculus AB, Chemistry, European History, Psychology, Studio Art, and U.S. History. Students may choose to prepare for Advanced Placement examinations in the following subjects: Calculus BC, Computer Science A, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, French Language, Latin, Physics, Spanish Language, Statistics. Honors courses are offered in Algebra II, Chemistry, Geometry, Physics, and Precalculus.

JANUARY TERM

In the 2019-2020 school year, the Upper School added a January Term during which students enroll in a single class for the duration of the three-week program. These classes are reflected on student transcripts each year. Students will receive a letter grade (A-F); passing grades earn 0.5 graduation units. January Term grades are not included in grade-point average calculations.

THE HILLTOP

Seniors have the option of participating in the Hilltop Program, a Senior Capstone Experience. The Hilltop is designed to empower students to take control of their learning by allowing them to develop their *essential question*, to determine the mentors and resources necessary to explore and address that query, and to present their conclusions to the community using methods of their choosing. Approximately one-fourth of the Class of 2020 is engaged in this program. Grading is on a pass/fail basis.

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

Elgin Academy students regularly achieve regional and state recognition in academic competitions, art, vocal music, and interscholastic sports. The Academy offers a strong Fine Arts program and presents several exhibitions each year. The Academy also competes in a number of varsity sports for students. Additionally, students have the opportunity to participate in numerous activities that show commitment and personal interest beyond the classroom.

TEST SCORES AND INFORMATION

CLASS OF 2020

6th Semester GPA Information for the Class of 2020

(29 students)

Highest	4.26
75th Percentile	3.67
50th Percentile	3.29
25th Percentile	3.01

Test Results

Elgin Academy's college testing program consists of participation in the PSAT 8/9, Pre-ACT, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, and ACT. In addition, students applying to the most selective colleges and universities take SAT Subject Tests.

ACT Means for the Classes of 2015-2019

English:	28.3
Math:	26.9
Reading:	28.0
Science Reasoning:	27.2
Composite:	27.3

SAT Means for the Classes of 2015-2019

EBRW:	640
Math:	638
Total:	1278

SAT Subject Means for the Class of 2015-2019

(Includes only those tests taken by 5 or more students)

Biology - Ecology:	604
Biology - Molecular:	654
Chemistry:	696
English Literature:	610
French:	603
Math Level II:	683
Physics:	742
United States History:	600

GRADING: 4.0 SCALE (UNWEIGHTED)

Elgin Academy uses a letter grading system:

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | D: 60-69% | F: Below 60%

CLASS RANK

Since Elgin Academy is an intentionally small-scaled, solely college preparatory school with competitive admissions, class rank is not used.

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

In recent years between 25% and 30% of the senior class has been recognized as Illinois State Scholars by the Illinois State Assistance Commission in recognition of their high test scores and GPAs.

AP SCORES

92% of the members of the classes of 2015-2019 took at least one AP exam, with an average of 5.0 exams taken per graduate. 73% of these exams were scored with a grade of 3 or higher.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

The following is a partial list, by region, of schools to which Elgin Academy students received offers of acceptance over the last five years.

Northeast: American, Bentley, Boston College, Boston U, Brandeis, Brown, Bucknell, Carnegie Mellon, Colgate, Connecticut College, Dickinson, Drexel, Fordham, Franklin & Marshall, Goucher, Haverford, Ithaca, Johns Hopkins, Lafayette, Lehigh, U Mass, Mount Holyoke, NE Conservatory of Music, New York, Northeastern, Penn State, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rochester, Sarah Lawrence, Seton Hall, Skidmore, Smith, Syracuse, Trinity, Tufts, Vassar, Vermont, Villanova.

South: Centre, Clemson, Duke, Eckerd, Elon, Emory, Florida, Furman, Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgetown, George Washington, Kentucky, Louisville, Miami, Oglethorpe, Richmond, Rhodes, SCAD, Sewanee U of the South, Tampa, Transylvania, Tulane, Vanderbilt, Virginia Tech, Wake Forest, William & Mary.

Midwest: Augustana, Ball State, Beloit, Bradley, Butler, Carleton, Case Western Reserve, College of Wooster, Cornell College, Dayton, Denison, DePaul, DePauw, Drake, Earlham, Grinnell, U of Illinois-Chicago & Urbana-Champaign, Illinois Wesleyan, Indiana, Iowa, Iowa State, Kalamazoo, Kenyon, Kettering, Knox, Lake Forest, Lawrence, Loyola, Macalester, Marquette, Miami of Ohio, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Oberlin, Ohio State, Purdue, Rose-Hulman, St. Louis U, St. Olaf, Truman State, Valparaiso, Washington U, Wisconsin-Madison, Xavier.

West & Southwest: Arizona, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, UCLA, Cal Poly, Chapman, Colorado College, Colorado-Boulder, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State, Denver, Lewis & Clark, Occidental, Reed, San Diego, San Diego State, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Stanford, Texas A & M, Washington, Whitman.

International: Chinese U of Hong Kong, Toronto (Canada), Trinity (Dublin).