

Headmaster

Rene Menard

Director of School Counseling

Kelley Hodgman-Burns

School Counselors

Jeffrey Camire

Mark DeFrancesco

Abigail More

Kelsey Ramsey

Melanie Serrano

Sarah Tibbetts

Lucretia Wallace

CEEB Code: 200875

Mission

Thornton Academy offers a rigorous and broad-based program of academic, arts, and athletic opportunities that challenges students to reach their potential. Our graduates are lifelong learners who are prepared to be productive participants in a changing world.

Historic Independent School

Thornton Academy is a historic, independent school educating 6-12th graders in Saco, Maine. Founded and chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1811, Thornton Academy is one of New England's oldest independent schools. The upper school's population of 1354 students come from diverse geographic, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Students enroll as: 1) day students who come from public schools by municipal contract in the towns of Saco, Dayton, and Arundel; 2) day students from other towns in southern Maine who apply as tuition students; or 3) residential students who apply from other states and countries. Roughly 10% of the student body comes from more than 30 different countries.

Accreditation/Affiliation

Thornton Academy is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC). Affiliations include: National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), Independent School Association of Northern New England (ISANNE), Maine Association of Independent Schools (MAIS), and the College Board. TA is a SEVIS certified school.

Curriculum, Credits, and Grading

Four-year upper school students complete 22 credits to satisfy graduation requirements, including: English (4), mathematics (3), social science (3), science (3), wellness (1.5), fine arts (1), and Electives (6.5).

College-bound students are encouraged to take a minimum of two years of the same language. International students who study less than four years must meet the following minimum requirements: 1 year student—6 credits, to include English, math, science, U.S. history, and 2 additional credits; 2 year student—11 credits, including 2 English, 2 math, 2 science, 1 U.S. history, 1 wellness and/or art, and 3 additional; 3 year student—16 credits, including 3 English, 3 math, 3 science, 1 U.S. history, 1 social science, 1 fine art, 0.5 wellness, and 3.5 additional.

Signature Programs

Advanced Placement

29 Advanced Placement courses are available: Economics, Government, Physics I & II, Physics C, Psychology, Calculus AB and BC, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, U.S. History, European History, Computer Science A, Environmental Science, Human Geography, English Literature/Composition Latin, Studio Art, Spanish, French, Chinese, and Music Theory

Honors

42 Honors Courses, including: German I-IV, Arabic I-III, Homeric Greek I-III, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Honors English 9-12, Statistics, Geometry, Algebra I & II, Calculus A, Pre-Calculus, French I-V, Latin III, Spanish I-IV, Chinese I-IV, Modern US History, Introduction to Engineering, Physical Science, and Visual Arts

Arts

32 Courses in Music, Dance, Theater, and Visual Arts.

School-to-Work

4 courses, plus technical and college preparatory programs offered through Biddeford Regional Center of Technology (BRCOT)

Foreign Language

36 offerings in seven languages: French, Spanish, Latin, Chinese, Arabic, Homeric Greek, and German

Technology & New Media

14 offerings in Movie Making, Graphic Design, and Sports Journalism

Faculty

Thornton Academy has 87.5 full-time equivalent upper school teachers; 70% with a master's degree or higher.

2020 Post-Secondary Outcomes

Four Year College	57.5%
Two Year College	20.4%
Gap Year	2.2%
Employment	18.7%
Military	1.2%

Thornton Academy's approach to college counseling is student-based, thorough, and wide-ranging. Each year we place a diverse body of students at top universities and liberal arts colleges, community colleges, culinary schools, engineering schools, fine arts colleges, technical colleges, and an array of other 2- and 4- year institutions.

Total Upper School Enrollment:

1354

Boarding Students:

135

Day Students:

67

District Students:

1152

International Students:

10%

COVID-19 Impacts

Thornton Academy adopted a fully remote learning model from March of 2020 through the end of the school year. Students received a P/INC and were given credit for the 4th quarter; these grades were adjusted only if the adjustment served to benefit the student. Please note that 4th quarter grades were not used in the computation of the cumulative GPA. For the 20-21 school year, Thornton Academy is operating under a combined on-campus/remote hybrid model, with an 8-course block schedule. Each student has been assigned two on-campus days per week (either M/T or Th/F), with Wednesdays as an asynchronous remote day for all. With the exception of asynchronous Wednesdays, students participate remotely and synchronously on their at-home days.

SAT Scores

Due to COVID-19, juniors did not sit for the April 2020 school administration of the SAT. (These results are from April 2019.)

Section	Middle 50%	Mean	Students Tested
Math	420-580	509	
ERW*	430-570	502	
Total	870-1150	1012	357

*ERW: English Reading & Writing

Graduation Distinction:

The class of 2020 had 35 graduates with Summa Cum Laude distinction (GPA of 4.0 or higher), 27 Magna Cum Laude distinction (GPA of 3.9-3.9999), and 21 Cum Laude distinction (GPA of 3.8-3.89999).

AP Scholar Designation:

In the 2020 Advanced Placement exam season, 229 students took a total of 379 exams. Thornton had 23 AP Scholars (scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams), 8 AP Scholars with Honors (scores of 3 or higher on 4 or more AP exams), 14 AP Scholars with Distinction (scores of 3 or higher on 5 or more AP Exams), and 2 National AP Scholars (scores of 4 or higher on 8 or more AP exams).

Special Curricular Features:

Thornton Academy has articulation agreements with both the University of Maine and the University of New England. The University of Maine agreement is for motivated engineering-bound students who strive to challenge themselves while working to earn advanced placement in college. Students who successfully complete the rigorous STEM sequence may gain admission to the renowned UMaine Engineering Program with sophomore standing. The humanities-focused articulation agreement with the University of New England involves at least 8 Advanced Placement classes in the areas of Math, Science, English, Environmental Science, and Studio Art. Upon successful completion, students may gain admission to the College of Arts and Sciences at UNE with sophomore standing.

Weighted Rank Conversion Chart

	Range	Core	Honors	AP
A	94-100	4.00	4.20	4.30
A-	90-93	3.67	3.87	3.97
B+	87-89	3.33	3.53	3.63
B	84-86	3.00	3.20	3.29
B-	80-83	2.67	2.87	2.96
C+	77-79	2.33	2.53	2.63
C	74-76	2.00	2.20	2.29
C-	70-73	1.77	1.87	1.96
D+	67-69	1.33	1.53	1.63
D	64-66	1.00	1.20	1.29
D-	60-63	0.67	0.87	0.96
F	0-59	0.00	0.00	0.00

Courses labeled "Foundations", "CR" (credit recovery), or "AE" (Alternative Education) are not considered college preparatory.

Class of 2020 College Acceptances

Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences	Instituto Tecnológico Autonomo De Mexico	Stevens Institute of Technology
American University	Ithaca College	Stonhille College
American University in Dubai	Jacksonville University	Suffolk University
Anna Maria College	James Madison University	SUNY College at Purchase
Arizona State University-Tempe	Johns Hopkins University	SUNY College at Plattsburgh
Assumption University	Johnson & Wales University	SUNY Institute of Technology
Auburn University	Keene State College	Susquehanna University
Auburn University at Montgomery	Keiser University	Syracuse University
Augustana College	Kent State University	Tecnologico Universitario
Bard College	Keuka College	Temple University
Bates College	Lakeland University	Texas A&M University
Baylor University	Lasell University	Texas Christian University
Bentley University	Lehigh University	The College of Saint Rose
Binghamton University	Lesley University	The New School
Boston College	LIM College	The University of Alabama
Boston University	Louisiana State University	The University of Arizona
Bowdoin College	Loyola Marymount University	The University of Northwestern Ohio
Brandeis University	Loyola University Chicago	The University of Sheffield
Bridgewater State University	Loyola University Maryland	Thomas College
Bryant University	Loyola University New Orleans	Trinity University
Bryn Mawr College	Maine College of Art	Universidad de Navarra
Butler University	Maine Maritime Academy	Universidad Panamericana
Carnegie Mellon University	Manhattanville College	University at Albany, SUNY
Case Western Reserve University	Marist College	University at Buffalo-The State University of New York
Castleton University	Maryland Institute College of Art	University of British Columbia
Central Maine Community College	Massachusetts College of Art & Design	University of California-Davis
Champlain College	MCPHS-Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences	University of California-Irvine
Clark University	Massachusetts Maritime Academy	University of California-Los Angeles
Clarkson University	Merrimack College	University of California-Riverside
Clemson University	Michigan State University	University of California-San Diego
Colby College	Middle Tennessee State University	University of California-Santa Cruz
Colby-Sawyer College	Monmouth University	University of Central Florida
College of the Holy Cross	Montserrat College of Art	University of Cincinnati
Colorado State University	Muehlenberg College	University of Colorado at Boulder
Columbia College-Chicago	Nazareth College	University of Connecticut
Concordia University-Montreal	New England College	University of Exeter
Connecticut College	New Jersey Institute of Technology	University of Florida
Cornell College	New York Institute of Technology	University of Hartford
Cornell University	Newbury College	University of Hawaii at Manoa
CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College	Nichols College	University of Maine
CUNY Brooklyn College	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	University of Maryland-Baltimore County
Curry College	Northern Vermont University	University of Maryland-College Park
Dalhousie University	Norwich University	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Dean College	Nova Southeastern University	University of Massachusetts-Boston
DePaul University	Ohio State University	University of Miami
DePauw University	Ohio University	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Dickinson College	Ohio Wesleyan University	University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Drake University	Old Dominion University	University of Mississippi
Drexel University	Otis College of Art and Design	University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Earlham College	Otterbein University	University of New England
East Carolina University	Oxford Brookes University	University of New Hampshire
Eastern Maine Community College	Pace University-New York	University of New Haven
Eastern University	Palm Beach Atlantic University	University of North Carolina
Eckerd College	Pennsylvania State University	University of Pittsburgh
Elms College	Plymouth State University	University of Rhode Island
Elon University	Providence College	University of Rochester
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach	Purdue University	University of San Diego
Emerson College	Quinnipiac University	University of San Francisco
Emmanuel College-Boston	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of South Carolina
Endicott College	Rhode Island College	University of South Florida
ESCP Europe Business School-London	Rhode Island School of Design	University of Southampton
Fairfield University	Rivier University	University of Surrey
Fisher College	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Sydney
Flagler College-St. Augustine	Rockport College	University of Tampa
Florida Atlantic University	Roger Williams University	University of Toronto
Florida Gulf Coast University	Rollins College	University of Utah
Florida Institute of Technology	Rutgers University-New Brunswick	University of Vermont
Florida International University	Sacred Heart University	University of Virginia
Florida State University	Saint Anselm College	University of Washington-Seattle
Fordham University	Saint Joseph's College of Maine	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Framingham State University	Saint Joseph's University	UNSW Sydney
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Saint Michael's College	Utica College
Franklin Pierce University	Salisbury University	Villanova University
Furman University	Salve Regina University	Virginia Commonwealth University
George Mason University	Savannah College of Art & Design	Virginia Polytechnic University
George Washington University	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Georgia State University	School of Visual Arts	Washington and Jefferson College
Georgian Court University	Seton Hall University	Washington and Lee University
Gordon College	Shenandoah University	Washington State University
Hawaii Pacific University	Simmons University	Wentworth Institute of Technology
High Point University	Skidmore College	West Virginia University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Southern Maine Community College	Western New England University
Hofstra University	Southern Methodist University	Westfield State University
Hollins University	Southern New Hampshire University	Wheaton College-Massachusetts
Husson University	Spa Tech Institute-Westbrook	White Mountains Community College
Illinois Institute of Technology	Springfield College	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Indiana University	St. John's University	Worcester State University
Indiana University at Bloomington	St. Lawrence University	Xavier University
	Stetson University	York County Community College