

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**

COVID-19 UPDATES

Starting March 16, 2020, all courses transitioned to online learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. During that time, students engaged in synchronous and asynchronous activities with their teachers. Our grading scale remained unchanged: students earned A-F grades for the second semester of 2019-2020, and grade-point averages were updated accordingly. For the 2020-2021, students have the choice of learning on campus or remotely. Our grading scale remains the same for all students.

TRIMESTER SYSTEM

In the 2020-2021 school year, the Upper School initiated a trimester system during which students are taking up to two complete block courses each trimester and at most one course that runs year-long. Each student will complete six courses over the year in this system. Grades will be updated on transcripts and grade-point averages will be calculated at the end of each trimester.

FACULTY

The Academy's PS-12 faculty consists of 39 teachers and administrators. 82% of the Upper School faculty hold advanced degrees, with 64% having at least 15 years of teaching experience and 40% having at least 20 years of teaching experience.

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 25.5 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 1.0 unit**

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.

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

Upper School students participate in a three-week January Term program in which they enroll in a single course. These classes are reflected on student transcripts. Students earn a letter grade (A-F); passing grades earn 0.5 graduation credits. 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.

TEST SCORES AND INFORMATION

CLASS OF 2021

6th Semester GPA Information for the Class of 2021

(32 students)

Highest	3.93
75th Percentile	3.67
50th Percentile	3.46
25th Percentile	3.09

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 2016-2020

English	Mean: 27.9	Top Quartile: 33-36
Math	Mean: 26.4	Top Quartile: 30-36
Reading	Mean: 27.7	Top Quartile: 34-36
Science	Mean: 26.9	Top Quartile: 31-36
Composite	Mean: 27.0	Top Quartile: 31-36

SAT Means for the Classes of 2016-2020

EBRW	Mean: 628	Top Quartile: 690-800
Math	Mean: 626	Top Quartile: 690-800

SAT Subject Means for the Classes of 2016-2020

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

Biology - Ecology	610
Biology - Molecular	660
Chemistry	700
English Literature	609
French	591
Math Level II	683
United States History	610

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

94% of the members of the classes of 2016-2020 took at least one AP exam, with an average of 4.9 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 of schools to which Elgin Academy students from the Classes of 2016-2020 received offers of acceptance. Bold type indicates that one or more graduates matriculated at that school.

Adelphi, **Alabama**, Albion, **American**, **Arizona**, **Arizona State**, Auburn, **Augustana**, Ball State, **Belmont**, **Beloit**, **Benedictine**, **Bentley**, Boston C, **Boston U**, Bradley, Brandeis, Brown, Bucknell, Butler, **CA Coll of the Arts**, **Cal Poly**, UC Davis, UC Irvine, **UCLA**, **UC San Diego**, **UC Santa Barbara**, **UC Santa Cruz**, Carleton, Carnegie Mellon, **Carroll**, **Carthage**, Case Western, **Chapman**, Clemson, **College of Wooster**, **U Colorado Boulder**, **Colorado College**, **Colorado School of Mines**, **Colorado State**, **Columbia College**, Connecticut College, **Cornell College**, Dayton, **Denison**, **Denver**, **DePaul**, DePauw, **Dickinson**, **Drake**, Drexel, **Duke**, Earlham, **Eckerd**, **ECC**, Elmhurst, Elon, Emory, **Florida**, Fordham, Furman, George Washington, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Goucher, **Grinnell**, Hampton, Haverford, Hobart William Smith, Hofstra, **Hope**, **U Illinois Chicago**, **U Illinois Urbana-Champaign**, **IIT**, **Illinois Wesleyan**, Indiana, **Iowa**, **Iowa State**, **Ithaca**, Johns Hopkins, **Judson**, Kalamazoo, **Kansas State**, **Kentucky**, Kenyon, Kettering, **Knox**, Lafayette, **CLC**, **Lake Forest**, **Lawrence**, **Lehigh**, LSU, **Louisville**, **Loyola**, **Macalester**, **Marquette**, Maryland, U Mass, **Miami - Ohio**, **U Miami**, Michigan, **Michigan State**, MSOE, Minnesota, **Missouri**, UMKC, Mount Holyoke, New College FL, **NYU**, North Central, **Northeastern**, **Northern Arizona**, **Northwestern**, **Notre Dame**, **Oberlin**, Occidental, **Oglethorpe**, Ohio State, Ohio Wesleyan, Oregon, Penn State, **Pittsburgh**, **Purdue**, Quinnipiac, Redlands, Reed, RPI, **Rhodes**, **Richmond**, **RIT**, Rochester, Rollins, Rose-Hulman, Rutgers, Saint Louis, **U San Diego**, **San Diego State**, USF, Santa Clara, Sarah Lawrence, **SCAD**, Seton Hall, Sewanee, **Southern Methodist**, St. John's College, St. Lawrence, **St. Olaf**, **Stanford**, Syracuse, **Tampa**, Texas A&M, Transylvania, Trinity C, Truman State, Tufts, **Tulane**, **United States Naval Academy**, Utah, Valparaiso, **Vanderbilt**, Vermont, Villanova, **Wabash Valley**, **Wake Forest**, **Washington University**, **U Washington**, **Western Michigan**, Whitman, Whittier, Wisconsin Madison, **Wisconsin Milwaukee**, Xavier