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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 in 1811 and chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Thornton Academy is one of New England's oldest independent schools. The upper school students come from diverse geographic, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Students enroll as: 1) day students who come by municipal contract from public schools 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.

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), the College Board, and 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 highly encouraged to take a minimum of three years of the same foreign 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, US History, and 2 additional credits; 2 year student—11 credits to include: 2 English, 2 Math, 2 Science, 1 US History, 1 Wellness and/or Art, and 3 additional; 3 year student—16 credits including: 3 English, 3 Math, 3 Science, 1 US History, 1 Social Science, 1 Fine Art, 0.5 Wellness, and 3.5 additional.

Signature Programs

Advanced Placement

25 Advanced Placement courses are offered: Art & Design, Music Theory, Language & Composition, Literature & Composition, US History, European History, Government & Politics, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, Chinese, Latin, French, Spanish, Statistics, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Biology, Chemistry, Physics I&II, Physics C, Environmental Science, Computer Science A, Computer Science Principals

Honors

50 Honors Courses, including: German I-IV, Arabic 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 / Technology & New Media

34 Courses in Music, Dance, Theater, Visual Arts, Movie Making, Graphic Design, and Computer Programming.

School-to-Work

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

Foreign Language

36 offerings in six languages: French, Spanish, Latin, Chinese, Arabic, and German.

Faculty

Thornton Academy has 95+ full-time equivalent upper school teachers; 70% with a masters degree or higher.

2023 Post-Secondary Outcomes

Four Year College	55.7 %
Two Year College	26.8%
Employment	16.0%
Military	1.5%

Total Upper School Enrollment

1302

Boarding Students:

149

Day Students:

1153

International Students:

11%

Thornton Academy Profile

SAT Scores

Below are mean scores for SAT exams during the 2022-23 school year.

Section	Mean
Math	528
ERW	553
Total	1081

Students Tested
116

AP Scholar Designation:

In the 2023 Advanced Placement exam season, 248 students took a total of 443 exams. Thornton had 27 AP Scholars (scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams), 12 AP Scholars with Honors (scores of 3 or higher on 4 or more AP exams), 18 AP Scholars with Distinction (scores of 3 or higher on 5 or more AP exams) 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.

College Acceptances

AMDA College of the Performing Arts (Los Angeles)
Anderson University
Arizona State University (Main Campus)
Assumption College
Babson College
Bard College
Bates College
Bay Path University
Beloit College
Bentley University
Boston University
Brandeis University
Bryant University
Bucknell University
Castleton University
Central Maine Community College
Clark University
Clarkson University
Colby College
Colby-Sawyer College
Concordia University (Montreal)
Connecticut College
Curry College
Dalhousie University
DePaul University
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Eastern Maine Community College
Elon University
Embry- Riddle Aeronautical University
Emerson University
Emmanuel College
Endicott College
Florida Institute of Technology
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Gettysburg College
Hampshire College
Harvard University
High Point University
Hofstra University
Husson University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University
(Bloomington)
Lasell University
Lehigh University
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Chicago
Maine Maritime Academy
Marquette University
Marymount Manhattan College
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Merrimack College
New York University
Nichols College
North Carolina State University
North Central College
Northeastern University
Nova Southeastern University
Penn State University (University Park)
Plymouth State University
Purdue University (Main Campus)
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Roanoke College
Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design
Roger Williams University
Rutgers University (New Brunswick)
Saint Joseph's College of Maine
Saint Joseph's University
Salve Regina University
Santa Clara University
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of Visual Arts
Simmons University
Southern Maine Community College
Southern Methodist University
Southern New Hampshire University
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas A&M University
The University of Tampa
Thomas College
Union College
United States Merchant Marine Academy
United States Naval Academy
University of Central Florida
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Hartford
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Maine
University of Maine at Farmington
University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
University of Massachusetts (Boston)
University of New England
University of New Hampshire (Main Campus)
University of New Haven
University of Northern Colorado
University of Prince Edward Island
University of South Florida (Main Campus)
University of Southern California
University of South Carolina
University of Southern Maine
University of Vermont
University of Wisconsin (Madison)
Wheaton College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University
York County Community College

COVID-19 Impacts:

During the academic year 2020-21 Thornton Academy operated 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. Students received grades of A-F on a traditional grading scale. P (pass) and AUD designations were used as an intervention when COVID related impediments prevented a student from accessing course work.