



# 2023-2024 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROFILE

*Ignite Curiosity, Learn By Doing, Foster Belonging,  
Empower Individuality, Embrace Challenge, Share Joyfulness*



## MISSION

Cascades Academy's mission is to deliver meaningful, challenging, and experiential education to inspire lifelong learners who are socially responsible individuals ready for a diverse and changing world.

## ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

**Accreditations:** Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS), Cognia

**Memberships:** Independent Schools Experiential Education Network (ISEEN), National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), Mastery Transcript Consortium

## SCHOOL HISTORY

Cascades Academy is an independent PK-12 day school. The school opened in September 2003 to address the need for an independent college preparatory school in Central Oregon. Enrollment has grown from an initial 61 students to its current student population of 245. The Upper School has 54 students in grades 9-12 and a 7:1 student-faculty ratio. Due to the small size of the classes, Cascades Academy does not rank its students.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

Cascades Academy seeks to create a safe, nurturing community that honors everyone's unique selves, embraces the diverse perspectives and backgrounds of others, and promotes social responsibility both within the school and beyond.

## CURRICULUM

Cascades Academy balances a challenging, college-preparatory curriculum with meaningful experiences outside of the classroom, including required professional internships, service learning, fine arts classes, travel (both domestically and internationally), and outdoor education. An integrated studies approach is applied to humanities courses as well as other subject areas, allowing Upper School students to make strong connections between subjects and their own lives.

The Upper School program includes class trips outside of the school and provides students with opportunities for internships in the local community. The goal of the Cascades Academy Upper School program is to successfully prepare students for the years ahead of them, both in college and beyond. Cascades Academy strives to create empathetic leaders, lifelong learners, critical, independent thinkers, and socially conscious individuals.

Cascades Academy proudly distinguishes itself by offering rigorous experiential curriculum that fosters critical thinking and hands-on learning. Students who choose to take AP exams consistently achieve top national scores.

Cascades Academy is a Mastery Transcript Consortium sending school for the class of 2027.

<b>Head of School:</b>	Julie Amberg
<b>Upper School Head:</b>	Lauren Kelley
<b>Upper School Enrollment:</b>	54
<b>Independent PK-12 School</b>	
19860 Tumalo Reservoir Road, Bend, Oregon 97703	
541.382.0699, info@cascadesacademy.org	
cascadesacademy.org	

GRADING	
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	Below 60%

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	
12 credits*	English
12 credits	Social Studies
12 credits	Science
12 credits	Math
9 credits	World Language
3 credits	Mastery Project
2 credits	Legacy Project
2.5 credits	Electives
1.5 credits	Fine Arts
.5 credits	Health
2 credits	Fitness

\* 3 Credits = Full Year Course



## IMPACT PROGRAMS

Impact Programs are four year-long courses anchored in developing student purpose. The program is the context through which the Upper School teaches social emotional learning and builds the character and integrity skills core to the portrait of a graduate.

### SELF 101 & DIGITAL LITERACY

In the first year, students explore what it means to be an empowered, self-directed, self-aware student in the Upper School. In addition, students engage in the Digital Literacy course with the goal of enabling them to critically consume and analyze information.

### COMMUNITY 101

Community 101 is a program designed to support sophomores in becoming engaged, socially-concerned, and responsible citizens. The class identifies social issues of concern, and through research, fundraising, and communication with an appropriate organization, ultimately awards organizations of their choice grant money to further their work.

### MASTERY PROJECT

Every junior participates in a required eight-month (October – May) internship with a local organization to learn new skills from community-based experts. Students choose the internship based on personal or professional interest, working an average of two hours each week. Recent internships include journalism, healthcare, river restoration, architecture, and airplane mechanics.

### LEGACY PROJECT

In their final year, students complete the Legacy Project, a service-oriented project that leaves a tangible benefit to the school community. Students work as a class to create their project, detail a timeline of the different tasks to be completed, choose mentors to help them through the process, draw up a business plan if fundraising or sales are involved, and design a culminating presentation that clearly displays the process of this project.

## TRAVELING SCHOOL

Twice a year the Cascades Academy Upper School travels to places directly related to different subject areas in their curriculum in order to learn experientially. Trips around the Pacific Northwest serve to teach students about our local region, including topics related to the social sciences, literature, writing, art, and science. Trips further away, such as Central America support not only these subjects but also complement the Spanish language program. Community connections and service learning are also prominent parts of this program.

## HONORS PROJECT PROGRAM

The Honors Project is a program which provides any student in the Cascades Academy Upper School the chance to increase their academic challenge by creating a project based on a topic of interest. The topic chosen is directly related to a core course and mentored by the teacher of that course. When the Honors Project is successfully completed, the student receives an honors designation on their grade report and transcript.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CREATES ENGAGED LEARNERS

As a school that believes students ought not be siloed from the world — nor should the world be deprived of the power of young people — Cascades Academy students are meaningfully engaged with their community. Each Wednesday afternoon, the student body is off campus for Expeditions, six-week interdisciplinary programs taught in partnership with local experts and partners. Students learn about issues affecting their surrounding communities and actively participate in their response. Expeditions include areas like the Local Food Economy, International Culinary Arts, and Outdoor Stewardship & Recreation.

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

**Since our first graduating class of 2005, Cascades Academy has had 75 graduates; 100% who applied were accepted to college. Alumni have been accepted at:**

Albertson College	Pace University
American University	Pacific Northwest College of Art
Bard College	Pacific University
Benedictine College	Portland State University
Boise State University	Purdue University
Boston College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Boston University	Santa Clara University
California Polytechnic State University	School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Calvin University	Seattle Pacific University
Carroll College	Seattle University
Case Western University	Southern Oregon State
Central Washington University	Southern Utah University
Chapman University	Swarthmore College
Clark University	University, St. John's College
Clarkson University	St. Mary's College of California
Colby-Sawyer College	Trinity College (Dublin)
College of Charleston	Trinity University
Colorado College	University of Arizona
Colorado School of Mines	University of California Davis
Colorado State University	University of California San Diego
Cornish School of Art	University of California Santa Barbara
DePaul University	University of California Santa Cruz
Drexel University	University of Cincinnati
Eckerd College	University of Colorado Boulder
Elon University	University of Denver
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	University of Hawaii-Manoa
Emerson College	University of Idaho
The Evergreen State College	University of Kansas
George Fox University	University of Michigan
Grinnell College	University of Montana
Humboldt State University	University of Oregon
College of Idaho	University of Oregon-Robert D. Clark Honors College
John Cabot University	University of Portland
Kenyon College	University of Puget Sound
Lewis & Clark College	University of Redlands
Linfield College	University of Rochester and Conservancy
Loyola Marymount University	University of San Diego
Lynchburg College	University of San Francisco
McDaniel University	University of Texas-Austin
Menlo College	University of Utah
Middlebury College	University of Vermont
Montana State University	University of Victoria, B.C.
Naropa University	University of Washington - Honors Program
Northern Arizona University	University of Wyoming
Northern Colorado University	Warran Wilson University
Oberlin College and Conservancy	Washington State University
Occidental College	Westminster College
The Ohio State University	Whitman College
Oklahoma State University	Willamette University
Oregon Institute of Technology	Williams College
Oregon State University	Whitworth College
Oregon State University - Cascades	Xavier University
Oregon State University - Honors College	