



A Guide to Exploring Classical Colleges in the United States

As a LCHS high school student exploring higher education options, you may be curious about institutions offering a classical education. Whether you're drawn to studying liberal arts, philosophy, or the classical languages themselves, there's a classical college out there for you.

What is a Classical College?

A classical college is an institution of higher learning that emphasizes the study of classical languages (Latin and Ancient Greek), literature, history, philosophy, and the arts. These colleges often have a curriculum rooted in the traditions of ancient Greece and Rome, with a focus on critical thinking, communication skills, and a well-rounded education.

Key Features of Classical Colleges:

1. **Emphasis on Liberal Arts:** Classical colleges prioritize the liberal arts, including literature, history, philosophy, mathematics, and natural sciences.
2. **Language Study:** One distinguishing feature of classical colleges is the opportunity to study Latin and Ancient Greek.
3. **Small Class Sizes:** Many classical colleges maintain small class sizes, allowing for more personalized attention from professors and fostering a tight-knit academic community.
4. **Great Books Curriculum:** Classical colleges often utilize a "great books" curriculum, which involves studying seminal works of literature, philosophy, and political theory throughout history. Students engage in discussions and debates about these texts, gaining a deeper understanding of the human experience.
5. **Focus on Critical Thinking:** Critical thinking is a central component of a classical education. Students are encouraged to question, analyze, and evaluate ideas from multiple perspectives, preparing them to become informed and thoughtful leaders in their communities.

Notable Classical Colleges:

[St. John's College \(Annapolis, MD, Santa Fe, NM\)](#)

[Hillsdale College \(Hillsdale, MI\)](#)

[Amherst College \(Amherst, MA\)](#)

*[Baylor University \(Waco, TX\)](#)

*[Gutenberg College \(Eugene, OR\)](#)

*[Thomas Aquinas College \(Santa Paula, CA\)](#)

* Faith-based schools

*[Grove City College \(Grove City, PA\)](#)

*[Ave Maria University \(Maria, FL\)](#)

*[Wheaton College \(Wheaton, IL\)](#)

*[Biola University \(La Mirada, CA\)](#)

*[University of Dallas \(Dallas, TX\)](#)

*[Messiah University \(Mechanics, PA\)](#)

[Furman University \(Greenville, SC\)](#)

Other Resources:

- Consider taking the [Classic Learning Test \(CLT\)](#) as an alternative to, or alongside the SAT or ACT, to uniquely showcase your analytical and critical thinking skills. [Partner Colleges](#) actively recruit CLT test-takers and recognize a student's commitment to a meaningful education.
- [Great Books Colleges](#)