



# 2024-2025 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. Some students choose to independently prepare for and take the AP exam.

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

### 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

4 years	Social Studies
4 years	Literature
4 years	Math
4 years	Science
3 years	World Language
8 semesters	Electives
8	Traveling Schools
8	Expeditions*
4	Impact Programs
1	Health Class

*\*Students may meet requirements by completing pre-approved independent projects/experiences that meet the educational objectives*

**Head of School:** Julie Amberg  
**Upper School Head:** Lauren Kelley  
**Upper School Enrollment:** 54

### Independent School PK-12

19860 Tumalo Reservoir Road, Bend, Oregon 97703  
 541.382.0699, [info@cascadesacademy.org](mailto:info@cascadesacademy.org)  
[cascadesacademy.org](http://cascadesacademy.org)



## 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.

### INTERNSHIP 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 91 graduates; 100% who applied were accepted to college. Alumni have been accepted at:**

Albertson College  
 American University  
 Bard College  
 Benedictine College  
 Boise State University  
 Boston College  
 Boston University  
 California Polytechnic State University  
 Calvin University  
 Carroll College  
 Case Western University  
 Central Washington University  
 Chapman University  
 Clark University  
 Clarkson University  
 Colby-Sawyer College  
 Colorado College  
 Colorado School of Mines  
 Colorado State University  
 Cornish School of Art  
 DePaul University  
 Dickenson College  
 Drexel University  
 Eckerd College  
 Elon University  
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
 Emerson College  
 The Evergreen State College  
 Franklin & Marshall College  
 George Fox University  
 Gonzaga University  
 Grinnell College  
 Humboldt State University  
 College of Idaho  
 John Cabot University  
 Kenyon College  
 Lewis & Clark College  
 Linfield College  
 Loyola Marymount University  
 Lynchburg College  
 McDaniel University

Menlo College  
 Miami University  
 Middlebury College  
 Montana State University  
 Naropa University  
 Northern Arizona University  
 Northern Colorado State University  
 Northwestern University  
 Oberlin College and Conservancy  
 Occidental College  
 The Ohio State University  
 Oregon Institute of Technology  
 Oregon State University  
 Oregon State University - Cascades  
 Oregon State University - Honors College  
 Pace University  
 Pacific Northwest College of Art  
 Pacific University  
 Portland State University  
 Purdue University  
 Quest University  
 Reed College  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 San Diego State University  
 Santa Clara University  
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
 Seattle Pacific University  
 Seattle University  
 Southern Oregon State  
 Southern Utah University  
 Swarthmore College  
 St. John's College  
 St. Lawrence University  
 St. Mary's College of California  
 St. Michael's College  
 St. Olaf College  
 Trinity College (Dublin)  
 Trinity University  
 University of Arizona  
 University of British Columbia  
 University of California Davis

University of California San Diego  
 University of California Santa Barbara  
 University of California Santa Cruz  
 University of Cincinnati  
 University of Colorado Boulder  
 University of Kansas  
 University of Denver  
 University of Hawaii-Manoa  
 University of Idaho  
 University of La Verne  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Minnesota Twin Cities  
 University of Montana  
 University of Oregon  
 University of Oregon - Robert D. Clark  
 Honors College  
 University of Portland  
 University of Puget Sound  
 University of Redlands  
 University of Rochester and Conservancy  
 University of San Diego  
 University of San Francisco  
 University of Southern California  
 University of Texas-Austin  
 University of Utah  
 University of Vermont  
 University of Victoria, B.C.  
 University of Washington - Honors  
 Program  
 University of Wyoming  
 Warren Wilson University  
 Washington State University  
 West Virginia Wesleyan College  
 Western Washington  
 Westminster College  
 Westmont College  
 Whitman College  
 Whitworth College  
 Willamette University  
 Xavier University