



SCHOOL PROFILE

2024-2025

History & Philosophy

Established in 1957, Dunn School is a grade 6–12, co-educational, independent school for boarding and day students, located in rural Santa Barbara County on California’s Central Coast. The school is characterized by seminar-style classes that encourage curiosity and open inquiry, responsiveness to a range of learning styles, and a close community of educators who value both intellectual and personal growth.

We are STARS

Dunn School is located in a rural area of Northern Santa Barbara County, on the Central Coast of California. We are fortunate to partner with the STARS (Small Town and Rural Students) program as we prepare students for college.

We are Global

Our globally diverse campus (our students come from 16 countries around the world) is enhanced by our partnership with the Round Square global exchange network. Round Square is an international network of more than 250 schools in 50 countries on six continents that connect and collaborate to offer world-class programs and experiences, developing global competence, character and confidence in students. Many of our students take advantage of opportunities to go abroad through Round Square, and we also host students from around the world on our campus throughout the year. Coupled with our Winter Term trips abroad, our students gain cultural competency that prepares them well for life beyond Dunn.

Mission & Values

The Dunn community educates the whole student to their fullest potential in preparation for a life of learning and responsible leadership in society. We strive toward the balanced education of the whole person. Our curriculum, both in the classroom and beyond, is designed around five core values: Emotional Wellness, Physical Readiness, Intellectual Growth, Social Responsibility, and Moral Courage.

Students & Setting

The 28 members of the Class of 2025 have distinguished themselves in a variety of ways. Several have been recognized by the National Merit program as Commended Scholars, Hispanic Scholars and Rural Scholars.

The class includes a variety of talented artists, academics, and athletes. Many students (both boarding and day) also work part-time jobs in the local community.

The Students in the Class of 2025 are from 7 countries (Austria, Czech Republic, China, Finland, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Vietnam) and 3 US States (California, Montana, and Texas). Forty-four percent are students of color.

28 Class of 2025	46% Upper School Students Receiving Financial Aid	27% International Students
166 Upper School Enrollment	98% Class of 2024 4-year College Admission	16 Nations of Origin
49/51% Boarding/Day	16% Domestic Students of Color	5:1 Student-to-Faculty Ratio
55 Acre Rural Campus		12 Average Class Size

CONTACTS

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Head of School
SIMON SWEENEY
Associate Head of School

School Memberships:
NACAC, WACAC, ACCIS,
NAIS, CAIS, TABS, COLLEGE BOARD



Academics & Grading System

ACADEMICS

Dunn's academic curriculum encourages intellectual growth and skill mastery. Our supportive and accessible faculty promote creativity, intellectual courage, curiosity, and ethics in the learning process. This balanced approach allows us to engage a broad range of learners across disciplines in an authentic and purpose driven approach to their academic life.

Advanced Curriculum

Dunn does not offer AP courses but instead provides Advanced curricular offerings that are responsive to the interests, abilities and aspirations of our students, and the unique strengths of our faculty. In addition to high intellectual standards, Advanced courses place a greater emphasis on creative thought, evidence-based arguments, and intellectual risk - emphasizing skill mastery through multiple modes of assessment. Students in these courses engage with more sophisticated materials across all disciplines and are held to a higher standard of participation. Due to the rigor of these courses, students are encouraged to take only 2-3 advanced courses each year. Students who are significantly advanced in academic areas may be asked to participate in an independent study and serve as a TA (Teacher's Assistant) for a class. The course selection process, including placement in advanced courses, includes oversight by the Academic Dean, Director of College Counseling, and faculty advisors, to ensure appropriate rigor and balance. Advanced courses receive one additional point in the GPA calculation.

Experiential & Enrichment Curriculum

Central to our whole student philosophy, we dedicate over 100 hours each year to experiential-based learning. Our week-long wilderness trips focus on character development and community mindedness. Our three-week Winter Term encourages students to follow their curiosity and pursue areas of interest along with faculty leaders, and our membership in RoundSquare allows students to connect with like-minded learners around the world through classes and exchange programs.

Learning Strategies

Dunn School offers a unique Learning Strategies program that provides highly personalized academic support designed to meet the needs of students with mild learning differences.

Discipline Policy

Dunn reports discipline in accordance with application requirements. Students are counseled to truthfully answer all questions regarding disciplinary actions rendered through their Dunn tenure.

Grading System

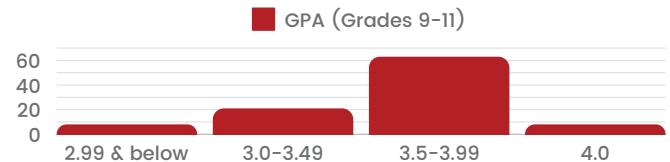
- 34 instructional weeks
- A trimester system began in the 2022-23 school year. Grades are issued three times per year. Previously a semester system was in place.
- 4.0 grading scale
- Advanced classes receive 1.0 bonus point
- Honors classes received 0.5 bonus point
- Both weighted and unweighted GPAs are reported
- Remediated classes taken at Dunn School replace previous grades earned in like classes
- Class rank is not computed nor reported

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	4.0
A-	90-92.99%	3.7
B+	87-89.99%	3.3
B	83-86.99%	3.0
B-	80-82.99%	2.7
C+	77-79.99%	2.3
c	73-76.99%	2.0
C-	70-72.99%	1.7*
D+	67-69.99%	1.3
D	63-66.99%	1.0
D-	60-62.99%	-.7
F	0-59.99%	0.0

*minimum passing grade

Class of 2025 GPA Distribution



Standardized Testing

The majority of Dunn School students changed their plans for standardized testing due to Covid-19. Our data is insufficient and could be misleading, therefore in fairness to all students we will not be sharing Class of 2024 averages.

Full Year Courses

<p>English English 9 English 10 Advanced English 10 English 11 Advanced English 11* English 12 Advanced English 12* Creative Writing Speech and Debate</p>	<p>History History 9 World History Advanced World History* U.S. History Advanced U.S. History* Advanced American Studies Western Studies: Postmodernism and the History of Power Advanced Micro/ Macro Economics*</p>
<p>Math Integrated Math 1 Advanced Integrated Math 1 Integrated Math 2 Advanced Integrated Math 2 Integrated Math 3 Advanced Integrated Math 3 Integrated Math 4 Advanced Statistics* Advanced Calculus (AB)* Advanced Calculus (BC)* Computer Science</p>	<p>Science Conceptual Physics Chemistry Advanced Chemistry I Advanced Chemistry II* Biology Advanced Biology I Advanced Biology II* Advanced Physics (11th- 12th) Anatomy and Physiology</p>
<p>Visual Arts Studio Art 1 Studio Art 2 Studio Art 3 – Portfolio Development Studio Art 3 – Portfolio Completion Ceramics 1 Ceramics 2 Ceramics 3 – Portfolio Development Ceramics 3 – Portfolio Completion Digital Photo 1 Digital Photo 2 Videography</p>	<p>World Language Spanish 1 Spanish 2 Advanced Spanish 2 Spanish 3 Advanced Spanish 3 Advanced Spanish 4* Multi-Lingual Support (MLS) French 1</p>
<p>Performing Arts Applied Music Fundamentals Ensemble 1 Ensemble 2 Ensemble 3 Vocal Ensemble Acting</p>	<p>Interdisciplinary Electives Jurgensen’s Toolkit Jurgensen’s Pioneers (11th only) Jurgensen’s Investors and Philanthropists Entrepreneurship Adv. Economics (11 and 12)*</p>

University Partnerships: Syracuse University & University of Delaware

The Robert W. Jurgensen Entrepreneurship Program at Dunn School is distinguished by its unique partnerships with Syracuse University and the University of Delaware, offering students unparalleled access to college-level entrepreneurship education. Through Syracuse University, students take Micro and Macro Economics courses on Dunn’s campus, earning six college credits while gaining a solid foundation in economic theory. This hands-on learning experience is further enriched by Dunn’s partnership with the University of Delaware, where students can concurrently enroll in Delaware’s EntreX program alongside Dunn’s own Economic Ideas and Issues course.

Dunn also hosts the regional finals of Delaware’s prestigious Diamond Challenge, an international entrepreneurship pitch competition. Each year, over 30 schools participate, allowing Dunn students to compete against top young innovators from across the country as they pitch their business and social entrepreneurship ideas to a panel of judges.

These partnerships provide Dunn students with real-world entrepreneurial experience that goes beyond the classroom, combining rigorous academic coursework with practical applications. By integrating college-level economics and entrepreneurship training with hands-on experiences like the Diamond Challenge, the Jurgensen program gives students a significant head start as they prepare for their college studies and future careers.

The Jurgensen Entrepreneurship Program at Dunn School provides students with over 750 hours of hands-on learning in business management, investment strategies, and marketing. Through managing student-run businesses and a \$425,000 investment fund, students develop essential skills and confidence, preparing them to make a meaningful impact in their future endeavors.

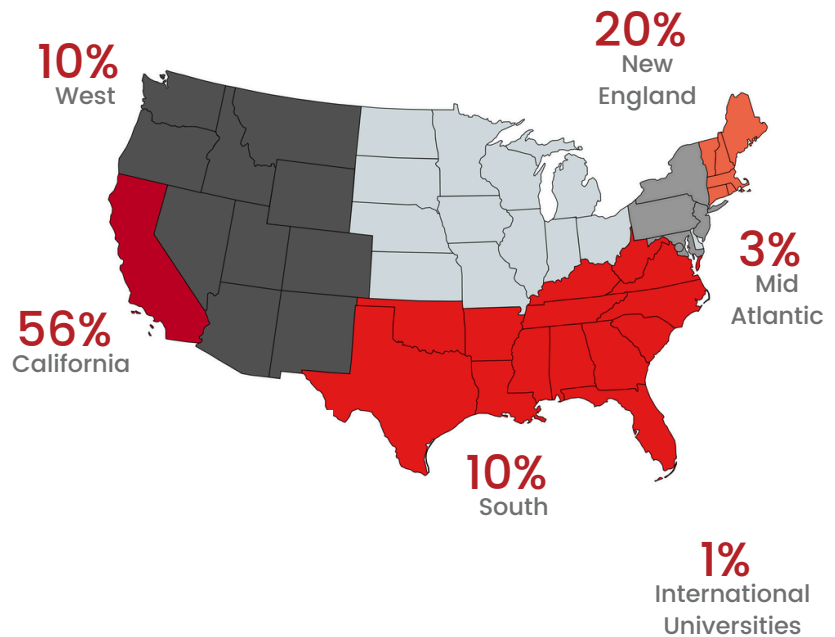
*An asterisk next to the course name indicates that the class is comparable to the course that most prepares students for the AP exam. Advanced courses receive 1 bonus point when calculating weighted GPAs.

Educational Outcomes

The 42 members of the Class of 2024 received 171 offers of admission and will attend 31 different colleges in the US and abroad. Ninety-seven percent are attending four-year colleges, and three percent chose to attend a two-year college.

College Matriculation 2020-2024

The graduates of the Classes of 2020-2024 attended the following four-year colleges and universities in 32 US States and the District of Columbia, and five countries abroad (Canada, France, Great Britain, Scotland, and Spain).



College Matriculation 2020-2024

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| American University | Hollins University | The University of Tennessee |
| Arizona State University - 2 | Indiana University-Bloomington | The University of the South - 2 |
| Babson College - 2 | JCA London Fashion Academy (UK) | The University of Texas at Austin |
| Barnard College | Lawrence University | Trinity College |
| Belmont University | Les Roches International School (Spain) | University at Buffalo |
| Berea College | Lewis & Clark College | University of Arizona - 2 |
| Berklee College of Music - 2 | Linfield University | University of California-Berkeley |
| Boise State University - 2 | Loyola Marymount University - 7 | University of California-Irvine - 3 |
| Boston University | Macalester College | University of California-Los Angeles - 6 |
| Brown University | Marist College | University of California-Riverside - 5 |
| California Lutheran University - 2 | Montana State University - 2 | University of California-San Diego |
| California Poly San Luis Obispo - 10 | Mount Holyoke College | University of California-Santa Barbara - 2 |
| California Poly University, Humboldt - 2 | Muhlenberg College | University of California-Santa Cruz |
| California State University-Bakersfield | New York University | University of Colorado Boulder - 2 |
| California State University-Dominguez Hills | Northeastern University - 6 | University of Connecticut - 2 |
| California State University-Los Angeles | Occidental College - 2 | University of Denver - 2 |
| California State University-Northridge | Oklahoma State University - 3 | University of Hawaii at Manoa - 2 |
| Chapman University - 5 | Otis College of Art and Design | University of Idaho |
| Chatham University | Pepperdine University - 3 | University of Miami - 2 |
| College of Charleston - 2 | Pratt College of Art and Design | University of Michigan |
| Colgate University | Princeton University - 2 | University of Notre Dame |
| Columbia College Chicago | Purdue University - 3 | University of Oregon - 3 |
| Columbia University in the City of New York | Rice University | University of Richmond |
| Connecticut College | Rochester Institute of Technology - 3 | University of San Diego |
| DePaul University | Saint Mary's College of California | University of San Francisco |
| Duke University | Sarah Lawrence College | University of Southern California - 3 |
| Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - 2 | Savannah College of Art & Design | University of St Andrews (Scotland) |
| Emerson College - 2 | Scripps College | University of Toronto (Canada) |
| EU Business School - Spain | School of the Art Institute of Chicago | University of Tulsa |
| Fordham University | School of Visual Arts | University of Washington |
| Fort Lewis College | Sciences Po (France) | University of Wyoming |
| George Washington University | Skidmore College | Washington University in St Louis |
| Goucher College | Stanford University - 2 | Wellesley College |
| Hawaii Pacific University | Syracuse University | Wesleyan University |
| | Texas Christian University | Whitworth University |
| | The Catholic University of America | Willamette University |
| | The College of Wooster | Xavier University |
| | The New School - 2 | |