



# 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  
Williams College  
Xavier University



**CASCADES  
ACADEMY**

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