

College Admissions Profile

2025-26

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Head-Royce is a nonsectarian college preparatory day school with co-educational classes from kindergarten through 12th grade. Founded in 1887 in Berkeley, California as the Anna Head School for Girls, it was relocated in 1964 and now occupies a 22-acre campus in a residential area of Oakland.



417
students in the
Upper School



72%
students of color in our
community



\$8.4M
tuition assistance
awarded



20
years average
Upper School
faculty teaching
experience



81%
of Upper School
faculty
hold advanced
degrees



25
interscholastic
teams



64
league
championships
in 10 years



37
D1/D3
athletes in the
past 5 years

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HEAD-ROYCE SCHOOL

Our Academic Program

Head-Royce's Upper School, located in Oakland, in the heart of the San Francisco Bay Area, is a highly rigorous, college preparatory school. Our curriculum provides depth and breadth across the academic disciplines with a focus on critical analysis, writing, independent inquiry, and experiential learning. We offer more than 60 Honors and Advanced courses across academic areas, with robust electives in Robotics, Engineering, Debate, and the Visual and Performing Arts, among other areas.

The Upper School curriculum is grounded in discovery and experiential learning. Through our 9-12 Humanities Core, students progress through an inquiry-driven, interdisciplinary program that explores essential questions of identity within the context of their local, domestic, and global communities and experiences. In Senior Seminars, students choose a subject area to explore in depth.

Through our curriculum, which reflects the diversity, globalism, environmental awareness, and innovation of the Bay Area, we seek to inspire lifelong learners who routinely demonstrate character, intellect, and creativity.



CLASS OF 2026

98

Students
in the Class

4.76

High
GPA

65

Honors
Courses

13

National Merit
Finalists
(Past three years)

13

National Merit
Semi-Finalists
(Past three years)

Program Highlights

Head-Royce strives to foster a dynamic and connected learning environment where students are active participants in and co-creators of their own learning experiences.

The Center for Community Engagement: The CCE connects students with opportunities to explore civic engagement on a personal level with internships and summer programs. The center helps students form authentic partnerships with organizations that promote social change and encourage leadership training.

Capstone Experiences: All seniors design a capstone project that brings them off campus to apply the skills they have developed at Head-Royce in a real-world context. Projects take place over the course of three weeks in the spring and culminate in a presentation to the community. Additionally, all seniors take on a role in the senior play, an annual reimagining of a Shakespeare classic.

Experiential Education: Students participate in a number of off-campus experiences, including Fall Out, an annual outdoor overnight experience with their grade-level peers, and Intersession, a two-day break from the regular class schedule where students choose a course inspired by the passions and expertise of our talented faculty. Our Global Studies Program facilitates robust study-travel experiences for students around the world.

Interdisciplinary Learning: Students integrate learning across disciplines. Through course "partnerships" like Asian American Literature (an English Seminar) and Intro to Asian American Studies (a History Seminar), students cultivate their understanding of an interconnected world.

Robust Elective Offerings: Students take advantage of our rich elective offerings. In addition to our competitive debate program and varied VPA offerings, students have access to robust STEM offerings, including a four-year computer science curriculum and offerings in Engineering and Robotics.

Head-Royce College Admissions (2021-25)

The following is a partial list of colleges and universities that have offered admission to graduates of Head-Royce, followed by the number of students enrolling in those colleges over the past five years.

American University (1)

Amherst College (2)

Barnard College (4)

Bates College (1)

Boston College (3)

Boston University (6)

Bowdoin College (2)

Brandeis University (1)

Brown University (8)

Bryn Mawr College (2)

Cal Poly, Pomona (4)

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (5)

Cal State, Northridge (1)

California College of the Arts (1)

Carleton College (4)

Carnegie Mellon University (2)

Case Western Reserve University (2)

Chapman University (3)

Claremont McKenna College (8)

Colby College (3)

Colgate University (8)

Colorado College (5)

Columbia University (4)

Cornell University (8)

Dartmouth College (4)

Duke Kunshan University (2)

Duke University (1)

Emory University (4)

Fordham University (1)

Franklin & Marshall College (1)

George Washington University (3)

Georgetown University (2)

Grinnell College (1)

Harvey Mudd College (3)

Haverford College (2)

Howard University (5)

Indiana University, Bloomington (1)

Johns Hopkins University (2)

Lehigh University (1)

Lewis & Clark College (2)

Loyola Marymount University (6)

Massachusetts Institute of Tech. (1)

Middlebury College (4)

New York University (13)

Northeastern University (13)

Northwestern University (9)

Oberlin College (1)

Occidental College (6)

Pitzer College (7)

Pomona College (5)

Princeton University (3)

Purdue University (4)

Reed College (1)

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1)

Rhode Island School of Design (1)

Rice University (4)

San Diego State University (1)

Santa Clara University (7)

Scripps College (2)

Skidmore College (1)

Smith College (2)

Southern Methodist University (3)

Spelman College (2)

Stanford University (9)

Swarthmore College (2)

Syracuse University (1)

Texas Christian University (1)

Trinity College Dublin (1)

Tufts University (10)

Tulane University (12)

United States Military Academy at West Point (1)

United States Naval Academy (2)

University of British Columbia (2)

University of California, Berkeley (22)

University of California, Davis (5)

University of California, Irvine (3)

University of California, Los Angeles (18)

University of California, San Diego (6)

University of California, Santa Barbara (3)

University of California, Santa Cruz (5)

University of Chicago (17)

University of Colorado, Boulder (3)

University of Denver (1)

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (2)

University of Massachusetts, Amherst (1)

University of Miami (1)

University of Michigan (9)

University of Oregon (3)

University of the Pacific (1)

University of Pennsylvania (8)

University of Redlands (1)

University of Richmond (1)

University of Southern California (16)

University of St. Andrews (4)

University of Utah (1)

University of Virginia (7)

University of Washington, Seattle (15)

University of Wisconsin, Madison (3)

Vanderbilt University (2)

Vassar College (6)

Villanova University (1)

Wake Forest University (2)

Washington University in St. Louis (13)

Wellesley College (3)

Wesleyan University (9)

Whitman College (1)

Williams College (5)

Yale University (4)

Course Offerings 2025–26

Subject Requirements	Required Courses Grades 9–11	Upper Division Courses
English Four years required	English 9 English 10 English 11 (H)	Senior Seminars + Asian American Literature (H) Communication and Choice (H) Detective and Crime Fiction (H) Great American Novel (H) Invisible Man (H) Literature and Film (H) Poetry: Lyric Poetry (H) Memoir and Creative Nonfiction (H) Postcolonial Literature (H) PostModern Literature: Hybrid Genres (H) Queer Lit (H) Shakespeare (H) Short Story (H) Wit Lit – The Art of Satire (H)
History Three years required	History 9 History 10 (H) History 11 (H)	Senior Seminars + Asia Rising (H) Asian American Studies (H) The Bay Area (H) The Civil Rights Movement (H) Civil Society and American Democracy (H) Economics (H) Global Indigenous Studies (H) History of Repair and Reconciliation (H) History of the Holocaust (H) Oakland Through Many Lenses (H) Psychology (H) Women in Modern America (H)
Science Three years required	Physics 9 Chemistry (H) Biology Biology (H)	Advanced Chemistry (H)* Anatomy and Physiology* Astronomy* Environmental Science (H) Neurobiology (H)* Planetary Science Physics (H) Principles of Engineering (H) Principles of Organic Chemistry*
Mathematics Three years required	Geometry Geometry (H) Algebra 2 Algebra 2 (H) Precalculus Precalculus (H)	Calculus Calculus (H) Data Science (H) Multivariable Calculus (H)

World Languages

World Languages Three years required; Students must complete Level 3 of one language	French 1 French 2 French 3 French 4 (H) French Language and Culture (H) French Literature and Cinema A (H) French Literature and Cinema B (H)	Latin 1 Latin 2 Latin 3 Latin 4/5 (H) Latin Seminar A (H) Latin Seminar B (H)	Mandarin 1 Mandarin 2 Mandarin 3 Mandarin 4 (H) Mandarin 5 (H) Mandarin Language and Culture (H) Mandarin Literature and Cinema A (H) Mandarin Literature and Cinema B (H)	Spanish 1 Spanish 2 Spanish 3 Spanish 4 (H) Spanish Electronic Music Production Spanish Language and Culture (H) Spanish Seminar A (H) Spanish Seminar B (H)
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Arts Electives

Introductory Courses	Advanced Courses <i>One year of Advanced Art required</i>
2D Art	Advanced 2D Art Studio Art Portfolio (H)
3D Art – Beginning Ceramics	Advanced 3D Art – Ceramics
Dance 1	Dance 2 Dance 3 Dance Production (H)
	Chorus Colla Voce
Drama 1 Theater Production	Drama 2 Drama 3 Drama 4 (H)
Intro to Graphic Design	Advanced Graphic Design Advanced Graphic Design – Yearbook
	Jazz Band 1 Jazz Band 2
	Orchestra
Photography 1	Photography 2 Photography 3 Photography Portfolio (H)
Technical Theater 1	Technical Theater 2

Other Electives

Computer Science	CS 1: Intro to CS, Engineering, and Robotics CS 2: Principles and Practices of CS (H) CS 3: Data Structures (H) CS 4: Advanced Topics in CS (H)
Humanities	Expository Writing Speech / Debate 1 Speech / Debate 2
Global Online Academy (GOA)	Head-Royce is a founding member of GOA, a consortium of leading independent schools from around the world whose mission is to translate into online classrooms the intellectually rigorous programs and excellent teaching that are hallmarks of its member schools.
BlendedEd Consortium	As of fall 2025, Head-Royce is a member of the BlendEd Consortium. Founded in 2013, the consortium jointly offers a set of distinctive hybrid courses, combining online and face-to-face instruction, to students at member schools.

Legend

(H) Honors, which is a rigorous, college-level curriculum

+ All English and History Senior Seminars are semester-long courses

* Semester-long senior elective