



**University of Chicago  
Laboratory Schools  
High School**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Laboratory Schools are home to the youngest members of the University of Chicago’s academic community. We ignite and nurture an enduring spirit of scholarship, curiosity, creativity, and confidence. We value learning experientially, exhibiting kindness, and honoring diversity.

**SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY**

In 1896, shortly after the University of Chicago was founded, Professor John Dewey established the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools to explore and implement his progressive theories on childhood education. Today, our 2,205 students in nursery through high school continue to benefit from his vision and principles.

U-High students have access to unmatched resources because of our unique relationship with the University of Chicago as an academic division. They also have full access to and are taught to use the University’s vast library system. University faculty—scientists, physicians, public policy experts, economists, historians—routinely visit U-High classes.

More than half of our families are affiliated with the University of Chicago. Remaining families come from all over the city of Chicago, the suburbs, and northern Indiana.

**GRADING AND ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

U-High uses a **4.00 unweighted grading scale** with no class rank calculated. The school year is divided into two semesters. All credit-bearing courses are included in the cumulative GPA, including PE, art, drama, music, computer science, and journalism. U-High does not track students academically; any student may take any class if prerequisites are met.

Students receive a letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F). A grade of D- is a passing grade. Plusses and minuses (+ and -) appear on the U-High transcript with grades in courses and are used in calculating the GPA. The GPA scale is noted on the transcript. U-High does not use a block schedule. Grades for the fall and spring semesters are available in mid-February, and mid-June, for grade 12 only.

Only courses taken at U-High are listed on the transcript and included in the GPA. Other relevant transcripts are sent as attachments to the student’s U-High transcript, including courses taken at high schools from which a student may have transferred.

**GPA RANGE**

At the end of their junior year, the GPA range for the Class of 2026 was 2.874-4.00.

The median GPA is 3.83 and the average GPA is 3.752.

**MEAN**

**MIDDLE 50%**

	class of <b>2025</b>	class of <b>2024</b>	class of <b>2023</b>	class of <b>2025</b>	class of <b>2024</b>	class of <b>2023</b>
<b>SAT</b>						
<b>EBR/CR</b>	712	711	704	680-760	660-750	660-750
<b>Math</b>	723	717	722	690-790	670-780	670-780
<b>ACT</b>						
<b>English</b>	30.8	31.8	32	28-35	26-35	29-35
<b>Math</b>	30.3	30.8	31	26-35	28-34	28-34
<b>Reading</b>	31.4	32.2	32.5	29-35	30-35	31-36
<b>Science/Reasoning</b>	30.3	30.3	31.5	26-34	26-34	29-35
<b>Composite</b>	30.9	30.9	31.5	28-34	28-34	29-34

## RIGOR AT U-HIGH

All academic courses at U-High are college preparatory and should be considered equivalent to honors-level courses. Lab's most rigorous courses are noted by AP® or AT (Advanced Topics) on the transcript, but are not weighted in the GPA calculation. Students taking AT courses in the Fine Arts, History, and Science Departments may choose to take AP® exams. There is no limit set for the number of AP®/AT courses a student may take. Students who take AP® courses are not required to sit for the AP® exam. [Click here to access our Program of Studies.](#)

## AP® COURSES

Chinese  
French  
German  
Spanish  
Calculus AB  
Calculus BC  
Statistics  
Computer Science  
Drawing and Painting  
Photography

## AT COURSES

African American History  
Art History  
Comparative Politics & Global Relations  
Latinx Histories  
Modern European History  
Modern Global History  
Native American Histories  
War and Violence in World History  
Worlds of Asia  
US History  
Biology  
Chemistry and Accelerated Chemistry  
Physics I and II

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### 4 years

#### English

#### History

Early World United States  
Modern World or European

#### Science

Biology Chemistry  
Third year of any science

#### Mathematics

#### Physical Education

### 2 years

#### World Language

Two consecutive years of the same language

### 1 year

#### Computer Science

One year for a half credit

#### Music

#### Fine Arts

#### Service Learning

40 hours & reflection papers



## DEMOGRAPHICS

The Laboratory Schools' student body reflects differences in race, ethnicity, religious, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, and socioeconomic status.

**2,205**  
**STUDENTS**  
**in 15 GRADES**

**608** High School students

**60+**

Languages spoken in students' homes

—2% Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander, Native American

\*Self Identified as ethnicity, and may also choose a racial identity

## POST GRADUATION

Between 95% and 100% of U-High grads attend four-year colleges immediately after graduation. Some graduates choose to travel, pursue a gap year, or work prior to continuing their education. [Click here](#) for a list of colleges and universities attended by Lab graduates.

## VISITING U-HIGH

College representatives may make visit reservations for the fall of each school year using RepVisits at [counselorcommunity.com](http://counselorcommunity.com).

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline infractions are not noted on the transcript. Serious discipline is reported on college applications by both the student and the college counselor, per the stipulations of the application.

## ACCREDITATION

Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), North Central Association (NCA), and Illinois State Board of Education-recognized (ISBE)

## MEMBERSHIPS

- Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS)
- College Board, the National and Illinois Associations for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC and IACAC)
- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)