

# 2025-2026 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROFILE

Cascades Academy is a PK-12<sup>th</sup> grade independent college preparatory day school. 100% of Upper School faculty have advanced degrees, and 90%+ of graduates attend four-year colleges or universities.



## FAST FACTS



**10**  
Average upper school class size



**4:1**  
Upper school student-to-teacher ratio



**100%**  
Students conduct a year-long internship in 11th grade



**100%**  
Graduates travel internationally with the school



**20**  
Upper school required days per year of overnight programming



**35%**  
Total student body receiving tuition assistance



**42**  
Students in grades 9-12



**11**  
Students in the Class of 2026

## MISSION

At Cascades Academy, we deliver meaningful, challenging, and experiential education to inspire lifelong learners who are socially responsible individuals ready for a diverse and changing world. Our core values guide everything we do: ignite curiosity, learn by doing, empower individuality, embrace challenge, share joyfulness, and foster belonging.

## HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

Founded in 2003, Cascades Academy merges challenging academics with experiential learning and is the first school in Oregon to implement the Mastery Transcript (sending class of 2027). With an average class size of 10 students in the Upper School and a calendar that includes required overnight programming three times a year, authentic faculty-student relationships are at the core of our program. In partnership with faculty, students own their unique educational journey.

## STUDENTS & SETTING

With 235 students in the school and 42 in the Upper School, Cascades Academy's program is characterized by connection, intention, and depth. Located on 45 acres along the Deschutes River, students are frequently and actively engaged in hands-on learning, conducting research, leading presentations, partnering with community leaders, and mentoring each other.

## 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

## CONTACT

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Cascades Academy provides a rigorous college preparatory education grounded in purpose and possibility. Students take ownership of their learning through student-initiated projects, independent research, and opportunities to connect coursework with real-world issues, preparing them for college and beyond.

## REQUIRED ACADEMIC COURSES

### HUMANITIES

Humanities 9: World Geo  
Humanities 10: American Studies  
Humanities 11: European Studies  
12th Grade Seminars

### MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1  
Geometry  
Algebra 2  
Precalculus  
Calc 1 & 2\*  
Statistics\*

### SCIENCE

Physics  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Environmental Science

### WORLD LANGUAGE

Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4\*, 5\*, 6\*  
*Students can fulfill language requirements through outside coursework*

### OTHER

1 Year of Fine Arts  
1 Health Class

\* Optional

## REQUIRED EXPERIENTIAL COURSES

### TRAVELING SCHOOL

#### Fall

Astoria, Oregon  
Ashland, Oregon  
Joseph, Oregon  
Mount Hood, Oregon

#### Spring

The Desert Southwest  
Oahu, Hawaii  
Florida Everglades  
Guatemala

### IMPACT PROGRAMS

Self 101 & Digital Literacy  
Community 101  
Internship Project  
Legacy Project

### ROTATING COURSES

8 Semesters of Electives  
8 Expeditions

## TRAVELING SCHOOL

Students participate in two immersive Traveling Schools each year to explore new places and cultures, deepen relationships, and embrace new challenges alongside a close-knit group of peers and faculty. These journeys push students out of their comfort zones and into meaningful growth.

## EXPEDITIONS

One afternoon a week, students leave campus for six-week interdisciplinary programs in partnership with local experts. Expeditions explore issues affecting surrounding communities and engage students in hands-on responses.

## ELECTIVES

Electives invite students to explore new interests and deepen existing passions across three categories: mind, body, and creative spirit. This approach cultivates the versatility needed to thrive in a complex world.

## HONORS PROJECT

The Honors Project allows Upper School students to increase academic challenge by designing a project related to a core course. Mentored by the course teacher, students complete independent research or creative work, earning an honors designation on their transcript when the project is successfully finished.

## IMPACT PROGRAMS

Impact Programs are a four-year sequence designed to help students develop integrity and a sense of purpose. Through experiences that blend self-discovery, service, and real-world learning, students grow as thoughtful, capable community members.

### Self 101 & Digital Literacy

Freshmen focus on becoming self-aware, empowered learners while building digital literacy skills to think critically and engage responsibly online.

### Community 101

Sophomores research social issues, raise funds, and award grants to local nonprofits, gaining insight into civic engagement and collective impact.

### Internship Project

Juniors spend eight months interning with local professionals in fields such as healthcare, architecture, journalism, river restoration, and airplane mechanics, applying classroom learning to real-world experiences. The internship culminates with a paper and presentation.

### Legacy Project

Seniors collaborate on a service-based project that leaves a lasting benefit to the school community, demonstrating leadership, initiative, and teamwork.

# BEYOND ACADEMICS: OUTCOMES THAT MATTER

At Cascades Academy, school is more than academics, and our students are more than scholars. With an emphasis on social responsibility and student voice, the curriculum challenges learners to think critically, collaborate authentically, and apply their knowledge to create meaningful impact in their communities.

## CHARACTER, HEART, & MINDS CULTIVATED IN COMMUNITY

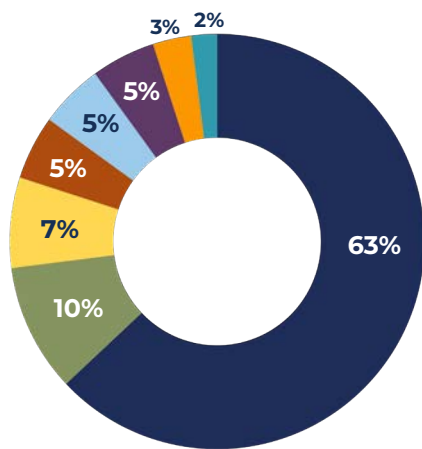
### WHEN CASCADES ACADEMY STUDENTS...

- Complete a year-long internship as juniors .....>
- Participate in 8 separate Traveling School Programs .....>
- Consistently learn in a class size of 10 or less .....>
- Participate in weekly off-campus expeditionary programs .....>  
led by community partner organizations
- Participate in Impact Programs .....>
- Participate in multi-grade classes throughout all four years .....>

### THEY DEVELOP...

- professionalism, independence, and career-ready skills
- self-reliance, global citizenship, empathy, and cultural competency and responsiveness
- the ability to embrace academic risks and develop meaningful relationships with adults
- an understanding that learning can happen anywhere
- curiosity and inventiveness as self-directed scholars, as well as capacity to make an impact and build partnerships in their community
- collaboration skills, listening skills, leadership

## HOW STUDENTS SPEND THEIR TIME



- Core Academic Classes
- Immersive Travel Programs
- Electives
- Community-Based Expeditions
- Winter Sports & Outdoor Ed
- Internships/Service Learning
- Advisory
- Clubs

Majority of students also participate in additional co-curriculars.

## CLASS OF 2025 AT A GLANCE

### Out of 17 graduates

- .....> 100% accepted, 95% attend four-year college or university
- .....> 100% participated in an extracurricular outside of school
- .....> 5 students on a district champion robotics team
- .....> 4 students on the regional champion mock trial team
- .....> 2 students run nonprofits they founded
- .....> 2 champion barrel racers
- .....> 1 student ranked 4th (1A) in the state as a track athlete
- .....> 1 National Merit Finalist
- .....> 1 student co-authored published peer-reviewed academic research
- .....> 1 first-generation college-bound scholar

# COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES & ENROLLMENTS 2020-2025

## **Bold = Enrollments**

American University

Arizona State University

**Bates College**

Belmont University

**Boise State University**

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

**Calvin University**

Case Western Reserve University

Chapman University

**Clark University**

Clarkson University

Colgate University

**Colorado College**

Colorado School of Mines

**Colorado State University**

Columbia College Chicago

**Davidson College**

**Dickenson College**

**DePaul University**

Drexel University

**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**

Fairfield University

Fordham University

**Gonzaga University**

Illinois Institute of Technology

**John Cabot University, Rome**

**Lawrence University**

**Lewis & Clark College**

**Long Island University**

Loyola Marymount University

Loyola University Chicago

**McDaniel University**

Marist College

Middlebury College

Montana State University

Oberlin College & Conservatory

**Oregon State University (Honors)**

Occidental College

Pace University

Penn State World Campus

Portland State University

Providence College

Reed College

Regis University

**Rochester Institute of Technology**

Roger Williams University

**Sacred Heart University**

Salve Regina University

San Diego State University

Santa Clara University

Savannah College of Art and Design

Seattle University

Skidmore College

St. Lawrence University

St. Michael's College

**St. Olaf College**

Stony Brook University

Swarthmore College

Thomas Jefferson University

**Trinity College Dublin**

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 Colorado–Denver

University of Denver

University of Florida

University of Idaho

University of Illinois

University of Kansas

**University of Michigan**

**University of Oregon (Honors)**

**University of Portland**

**University of Puget Sound**

**University of Redlands**

University of Rochester

**University of San Diego**

University of San Francisco

**University of Southern California**

**University of Texas–Austin**

**University of Utah (Honors)**

University of Vermont

**University of Washington**

**Warren Wilson University**

Washington State University

**Westminster University**

Western Washington University

**Whitman College**

Whitworth University

**Willamette University**

**Williams College**