

School Profile 2026 – 2027

Dr. Alixe Callen '88, Head of School | Rachel Stone, Upper School Principal | Laurén Carter, Dean of College Counseling

Mission

Milton Academy cultivates in its students a passion for learning and a respect for others. Embracing diversity and the pursuit of excellence, we create a community in which individuals develop competence, confidence, and character. Our active learning environment, in and out of the classroom, develops creative and critical thinkers, unafraid to express their ideas, prepared to seek meaningful lifetime success and to live by our motto, "Dare to be true."

About Milton Academy

- Founded in 1798
- Independent, college preparatory school for students from Kindergarten through Grade 12
- Located just south of Boston, Milton offers students a beautiful, 130-acre campus with easy access to the amenities, culture, and opportunities of a major city
- Upper School (Grades 9 through 12) is half boarding, half day students
- 720 students in the Upper School
- 187 graduates in the Class of 2026 matriculated to 83 different colleges and universities
- 56 percent students of color
- 15 percent international students
- 29 countries and 23 states represented
- Student-teacher ratio: 5:1; average class size 14
- Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- \$16.5 million financial aid budget
- 37 percent of students receive financial aid
- 137 full-time faculty members

Graduation Requirements

Graduates of Milton Academy must pass the following:

- English: 4 years
- Mathematics: 2 years (Proof & Problem Solving, Algebraic Concepts/Algebra II)
- Foreign language (ancient or modern): Up to Level III
- History: 2 years (World History & United States History)
- Lab Science: 2 years (physics or chemistry, and biology)
- Arts: 1 arts program course to be taken in Classes III-I
- Non-credit courses taken in Classes IV and III: health, project adventure, music, performing arts, visual arts, fitness concepts, and public speaking. *These courses do not appear on the transcript.*

College Counseling Office

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Milton Academy Curriculum

Overview

Milton Academy offers a rigorous liberal arts education, encouraging students to grow as critical thinkers, discover and explore new interests, and develop confidence as they meet challenges. The school offers nearly 200 courses across 11 academic departments. Each department offers electives and opportunities for students to study at advanced levels. To read full course descriptions and graduation requirements, visit our [Course Catalogue](#) online.

GPA & Student Ranking

Milton Academy transcripts do not include GPA or class rankings.

Class Load & Course Levels

Milton students may enroll in a maximum of 5 courses in Class IV (Grade 9), and 5.5 courses in Classes III–I (Grades 10–12). The minimum course load is 4 courses. Milton has several designations for accelerated work: Honors, Accelerated, Intensive, Advanced, and one Advanced Placement course in Latin Literature. Half courses are worth 0.5 units of credit and meet less frequently than full-year courses, though they run the entire year. Semester courses meet for either the first or second semester and are awarded 0.5 credits for the year on transcripts.

Class IV Transcript

Milton's Class IV (Grade 9) transcript does not include grades. This allows students new to Milton a more equitable opportunity to acclimate to the school's academic rigor and to focus on growth and well-being. The transcript reports 1.0 credit for each year-long course successfully completed in Class IV.

Senior Projects

Dating back to the late 1960s, senior projects are one of Milton's signature traditions. All students have the opportunity to trade the final month of classes (May) for an independent and self-directed hands-on learning experience under the mentorship of a faculty sponsor. Students choose their own topics, design their own plans, and hold themselves accountable for successful outcomes. The month-long experience culminates in campus-wide presentations and a Senior Project Fair. Past projects have spanned science and research, building and woodworking, filmmaking and music, entrepreneurship/app development, community service, and gaining insight into the fields of medicine, business, architecture, and more.

Special Programs

Milton partners with three off-campus programs for immersive living and learning. Students must qualify and apply for admission; the programs are highly selective.

- Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki in Wiscasset, Maine, offers a rigorous curriculum for juniors focusing on the natural world as a laboratory.
- School Year Abroad (SYA) offers students a full year or semester of study in France, Italy, or Spain. Students participate in a rich program of language study as well as traditional academic courses and live with local host families. In SYA Italy, France, and Spain, academic courses (except English and mathematics) are taught entirely in the host country's language. Laboratory sciences are not offered at SYA.
- The Mountain School of Milton Academy (TMS) in Vershire, Vermont, is a robust interdisciplinary program for juniors and seniors, who spend a semester living on a working 400-acre farm. The program centers on issues of community and the environment.

Disciplinary Reporting Policy

Some colleges and secondary schools ask the School and the student about their disciplinary history. In accordance with our motto, "Dare to be true," the School will answer these questions truthfully and expects students to do the same. Expulsion will appear on a student's transcript.



Curriculum

Core Subjects

Course Information

English	As students progress through the program, they engage in an ever-widening exploration of literature and language. Milton's English curriculum is known for its breadth and depth, culminating in an impressive selection of more than a dozen different senior electives, each one offering students a chance to delve into specific genres, authors, or thematic questions. Whether analyzing the intersections of literature and social justice, diving deep into Shakespeare's works, or experimenting with creative nonfiction, students are encouraged to pursue their passions and challenge their perspectives. Though there are no designated levels, junior- and senior-year courses are taught at the collegiate level with an emphasis on the seminar-style discussion of literary texts and on critical writing. Skills are taught and assessed through department-wide standards.
Mathematics	Coursework emphasizes depth, extension, problem solving, and real-world connections through student exploration. Beginning with courses like Proof and Problem Solving and Algebra II, students build a strong base in reasoning and technique. Many students choose Milton specifically for the depth of our upper-level math courses, which include options such as Linear & Abstract Algebra, Advanced Statistical Methods, Advanced Topics: Probability, and Advanced Topics: Differential Forms and Calculus on Manifolds, and Multivariable Calculus—offerings rarely found in secondary schools. Outside the classroom, students participate in a number of extracurricular activities supported by the department, including Investment Club, Data and Sports Analytics Club, and Math Team, which held back-to-back championships in the New England Math League in 2024 and 2025.
Science	To best foster scientific inquiry, communication, and knowledge application skills, Milton has adopted the "Physics First" model of science education. We believe that the visible and pattern-oriented nature of physics grounds students in the habits of data collection, observation, and quality control, while also highlighting the interconnected nature of the academic program. Milton students have an impressive slate of advanced courses to choose from that rival college-level offerings, including advanced biology, chemistry, environmental science, and physics. There are also a wide range of elective courses ranging from marine science, to molecular genetics, to organic chemistry. The science department also leans into our inquiry-based identity by requiring all students in full-year, lab-based courses to complete a Design Your Own or "DYO" experience. The DYO is a 4-6 week-long culminating process where students design, execute, and report on a novel experiment of their own design.
History and Social Sciences	All students engage in the craft of the historian through Harkness table discussions of primary documents and writing analytical papers. Students analyze evidence, explore diverse perspectives, and develop their own voices in ongoing conversations about power, identity, justice, and the human experience. Though there are no designated levels, all courses focus on developing and strengthening individual students' analytical and critical thinking skills. The cornerstone of the curriculum is the research paper, where students engage in independent research. Our economics program features three course offerings, each diving deeply into global systems, market behavior, and human decision-making. This level of choice and academic rigor is a distinguishing feature of the Milton experience, providing opportunities usually reserved for college students.
Modern Languages	Courses are offered in Spanish, French, and Mandarin Chinese, empowering students to speak, think, and connect across cultures. From day one, students will speak in the target language with native or near-native faculty as they dive into real-world cultural materials, from film and literature to food, music, and current events. Students in advanced courses discuss literature, analyze global events, and create meaningful projects entirely in the target language. Milton has long-standing relationships with schools in France, Spain, and China, where our students can experience real immersion and practice their language beyond the classroom, and develop cultural competency. Exchange and semester-abroad opportunities enrich students' language learning and expand their understanding of cultures and the world.
Classics	Classics at Milton offers both Latin and Greek from the beginning to the advanced level. Students develop powerful cognitive tools: pattern recognition, critical interpretation, and understanding their own processes. They will apply their learning of vocabulary, forms, and grammatical constructions to authentic text throughout the program, but shift to reading and analyzing ancient texts full-time in Latin 3. Latin 2-3, a course that combines two years of language study into one, offers an accelerated grammar study. Students who complete Latin 2-3 subsequently enroll in AP Latin Literature. Post-AP semester and half courses in advanced Latin are author- and genre-based literature courses and require students to read, analyze, and research. Intensive Classical Greek is offered to any student who has completed a language through level 4. By the end of this course, students can read selections from Plato and Homer.



Curriculum

Core Subjects	Course Information
The Arts	The visual arts curriculum balances foundational skill-building with opportunities for advanced, independent exploration, and developing sophisticated portfolios suitable for competitive college applications. A wide range of courses are available, including drawing and painting; photography and digital imaging, sculpture, ceramics, and three-dimensional design; filmmaking and visual storytelling; architecture and design; and digital and emerging media.
	Milton's performing arts curriculum supports both exploration and advanced study, emphasizing acting and performing technique, dance technique and choreography, directing and playwriting, technical theatre and design, and public speaking and debate. Milton holds 10 to 12 theater productions every school year, including musicals, plays, student-directed pieces, sketch comedy, and dance.
	Our music program welcomes beginners and advanced musicians alike with opportunities to love and appreciate music—and to become more skilled through their engagement with choral music, orchestral music, jazz, and private lessons.
	Coursework in Creative Writing is also available to students through the English Department and can be taken to fulfill the graduation requirement in the arts.
	In any year, more than 65 percent of seniors take or will have taken an advanced art course as well. Similarly, creative writing, while not usually considered a traditional academic course, is rigorous and demanding, with substantial reading and writing requirements. In recent years, Milton Academy has had several Presidential Scholars in the Arts.
Computer Science	Our robust course offerings prepare students to engage deeply with both foundational concepts and emerging fields, including artificial intelligence, app development, robotics, and more. At the introductory level, students learn basic languages, beginning with Java and moving on to languages such as Swift, XML, and Python—all through project-based learning. Once they're comfortable with the language, they learn how to collaborate on developing code together, using industry-standard organizational tools to communicate and synchronize their work—sharing responsibility and ensuring efficient workflow. In advanced courses, faculty serve more as team members than instructors, supporting and brainstorming along the way. Outside the classroom, many of our students participate in our nationally-recognized robotics club, as well as in hackathons at Milton and MIT.

College Matriculation

Top College Matriculations 2024-2026 (four or more)

Harvard College	32	Boston University	11	Amherst College	7	UC Berkeley	5
Georgetown University	19	Middlebury College	10	MIT	7	College of the Holy Cross	4
Brown University	19	Northwestern University	10	Dartmouth College	7	Emory University	4
Northeastern University	16	Princeton University	10	University Southern California	7	Indiana University	4
University of Chicago	15	Trinity College	9	Carnegie Mellon University	6	Syracuse University	4
Boston College	15	Bowdoin College	9	University of Richmond	5	Bates College	4
Wake forest University	14	Cornell University	8	University of North Carolina	5	UCLA	4
Colby College	13	University of Michigan	8	University of St Andrews	5	American University	4
Wesleyan University	13	Tufts University	8	Barnard College	5	University of Illinois	4
Yale University	12	New York University	8	University of Pennsylvania	5		
Columbia University	12	Stanford University	7	Tulane University	5		

