

2026-2027 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROFILE

Cascades Academy is a PK-12th 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



8

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



36

Students in grades 9-12



7

Students in the Class of 2027

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. With an average class size of 8 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 36 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



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: 4 YEARS
(LANGUAGE ARTS + SOCIAL STUDIES)
Humanities 9: World Geo
Humanities 10: American
Studies
11th & 12th Grade Seminars

MATHEMATICS: 4 YEARS
Algebra 1
Geometry
Algebra 2
Precalculus
Calc 1 & 2
Statistics

*Honors level coursework
available in core courses*

SCIENCE: 4 YEARS
Physics
Biology
Chemistry
Environmental Science

**WORLD LANGUAGE:
3 YEARS**
Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
*Students can fulfill language
requirements through outside
coursework*

OTHER
1 Year of Fine Arts
1 Health Class

REQUIRED EXPERIENTIAL COURSES

TRAVELING SCHOOL
Fall Immersives
Ashland, Oregon
Astoria, Oregon
Mount Hood, Oregon
Diamond Peak, Oregon

IMPACT PROGRAMS
Upper School Life & Self 101
Community 101
Internship Project
Senior Capstone:
Thesis + Project

Spring Immersives
Desert Southwest
Florida Everglades
Oahu, Hawaii
Guatemala

ROTATING COURSES
16 Semesters of Electives
12 Expeditions

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

All students must demonstrate mastery of the 26 competencies foundational to the school's seven Mastery Transcript credit areas, found below.

Students earn advanced credits of their choosing to showcase honors level distinction.

**EVIDENCE-BASED
CRITICAL THINKING**
Problem Solving
Reasoning
Research

**LOCAL & GLOBAL
CITIZENSHIP**
Cultural Competency
Community Relations
Social Justice

COMMUNICATIONS
Oral Communication
Written Communication
Active Listening
Multilingualism

**SCIENTIFIC &
TECHNICAL FLUENCY**
Qualitative Modeling
Quantitative Modeling
Experimentation
Science Literacy
Math Literacy
Technical Fluency

**CHARACTER &
WELLBEING**
Self-Directed Learner
Balance & Wellness
Empowered Individuality
Perseverance & Grit

**SOCIAL & ETHICAL
FLUENCY**
Social Issue Analysis
Literacy
Philosophical Inquiry

**CREATIVITY &
ORIGINALITY**
Creative Expression
Curiosity
Inventiveness & Ingenuity

IMPACT PROGRAMS →

Four-year sequence of seminars to cultivate self-discovery, citizenship, and real-world learning.

TRAVELING SCHOOL

Two immersive trips per academic year: exploring new cultures, deepening relationships, and embracing challenges alongside peers and faculty.

EXPEDITIONS

Six-week interdisciplinary programs partnering with local experts, tackling issues through hands-on learning.

ELECTIVES

Eight week-long mini courses such as journalism, graphic design, fermentation, current events, and robotics.

Upper School Life & Self 101

Freshmen are oriented to high school and build tools to succeed, followed by Wayfinder curriculum focused on self-reliance, confidence building, and sense of purpose.

Community 101

Sophomores research social issues, raise funds, and award grants to local nonprofits.

Internship Project

Juniors spend eight months interning under a local professional mentor, researching a global issue, and presenting learnings in a paper and presentation.

Senior Capstone: Thesis + Project

Two semester-long projects: One research project producing a 20-page thesis. One project responding to a community problem using human-centered design.

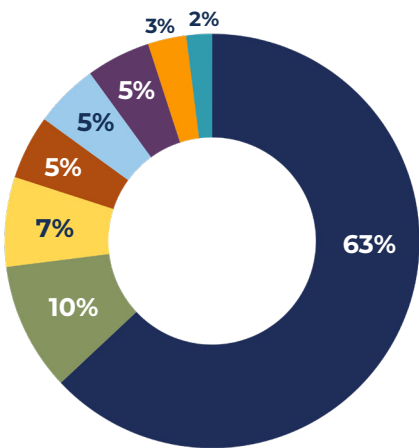
BEYOND ACADEMICS: OUTCOMES THAT MATTER

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...	THEY DEVELOP...
Complete a year-long internship as juniors	professionalism, independence, and career-ready skills
Participate in 8 separate Traveling School Programs	self-reliance, global citizenship, empathy, and cultural competency and responsiveness
Consistently learn in a class size of 10 or less	the ability to embrace academic risks and develop meaningful relationships with adults
Participate in weekly off-campus expeditionary programs led by community partner organizations	an understanding that learning can happen anywhere
Write their senior thesis	curiosity and inventiveness as self-directed scholars
Complete their senior project	capacity to make an impact and build partnerships in their community
Participate in multi-grade classes throughout all four years	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 2027 AT A GLANCE

Out of 7 graduates

-> 5 members of the Pacific Northwest Robotics Sustainability Award-Winning Team
-> 2 National Merit Semifinalists
-> 2 nonprofit board members
-> 2 robotics captains
-> 1 district champion mock trial team captain
-> 1 youth orchestra first chair
-> 1 professional photographer
-> 1 trilingual scholar
-> 1 published author
-> 1 international student

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES & ENROLLMENTS 2020-2026

Bold = Enrollments

American University
Arizona State University
ArtCenter College of Design–
Pasadena
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
Massachusetts College of Art and
Design
McDaniel University
Marist College
Middlebury College

Montana State University
Northern Arizona University
Oberlin College & Conservatory
Oregon State University (Honors)
Occidental College
Pace University
Pacific Union College
Penn State World Campus
Portland State University
Pratt Institute
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 Nevada, Las
Vegas**
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
Walla Walla University
Warren Wilson University
Washington State University
Westminster University
Western Washington University
Whitman College
Whitworth University
Willamette University
Williams College