



Lawrence Academy

SCHOOL PROFILE 2018–2019

Lawrence Academy
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THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1793, Lawrence Academy is an academically rigorous coeducational boarding and day college-preparatory school enrolling 395 students in grades 9–12. The day population draws from eastern Massachusetts and neighboring New Hampshire towns. Fourteen percent of the student population is international, representing 19 different countries, while the remaining boarding students come from 15 different states. On average, 100 seniors graduate each year, with 100 percent matriculating at a four-year college.

CALENDAR

Lawrence Academy operates on a trimester system, with a required two-week “Winterim” experiential education program at the end of the winter term. The first trimester ends at Thanksgiving recess; the second, approximately March 1.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Year-long courses earn one credit; term-length electives earn one-third credit. Students entering in Grade 9 must earn 18 credits; 17-1/3 credits are required for all others for graduation, including the following distribution requirements:

English	4 years
Mathematics	3 years (through Math 3)
Science	3 years of a laboratory science for students entering in Grade 9 (NGP Science, Chemistry, Biology); 2 years for others (Chemistry and Biology)
History	3 years if entering in Grade 9; 2 years for others (U.S. History plus one other)
Language	2 years of one language
Arts	2 years for students entering in Grade 9; 1/3 per year for those entering after Grade 9
Winterim	All students must pass a two-week course each year they are in attendance.
Athletics	Students must participate in an afternoon activity each term they are enrolled.
Community Service	Six hours per year of attendance

CLASS RANK

Lawrence Academy does not provide class rank, an end-of-year average, or a cumulative grade point average.

REPORTING DISCIPLINE

It is expected that students, when asked about discipline, will respond in an honest and forthright manner. If Lawrence Academy discovers that the student has not contacted the college or has not answered the question honestly and in a forthright manner, Lawrence Academy will immediately contact the college directly. If a college asks about a student’s disciplinary procedure, Lawrence Academy will answer the question honestly and in a forthright manner.

ACCREDITATION

New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Memberships are held in the National Association for College Admissions Counseling, the New England Association for College Admissions Counseling, the College Board, and the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools.

THE CURRICULUM

Year-long classes form the core of the upper class curriculum. The science and history department offer courses that are trimester in length, and in the arts, most of the classes are only one term. Lawrence Academy no longer offers Advanced Placement courses. Our most rigorous courses will be designated “Honors,” and students may only take these courses with the permission of the department chair and/or completion of a qualifying exam. In math and science, there are also courses that have the designation of “Advanced,” and these courses, while less rigorous than an Honors course, proceed at a faster pace and go into greater depth than those without the designation. Please note that arts courses are treated like all others in computing grade point average, as we do not distinguish between “minor” and “major” subjects.

Arts – The Lawrence Academy Arts Department includes the disciplines of dance, music, theatre, and visual art in a coherent and cohesive curriculum. Both breadth and depth of experience are supported and encouraged as students explore across the disciplines or choose to delve into one. There is a broad range of offerings both during and after the academic day, as well as a rigorous honors-level program in all four disciplines. Emphasis is on skill-building and individual expression as well as collaboration and problem-solving.

English – With increasing complexity over a four-year program, English courses spiral around the academic skills required for critical and creative thinking in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students read and write in a variety of modes. Seminars and workshops are essential to our learner-centered classroom pedagogy. As students move through the curriculum, they are granted expanded autonomy as scholars within all their courses, as well as opportunities to challenge themselves in Honors classes.

History/Social Science – The history curriculum begins as a historical, skills-based global cultures course that investigates human needs, behaviors, and fundamental institutions. 10th graders explore the interactions between people and institutions through a global and historical focus on conflict and change while advancing their historical skills further. Juniors embark on our signature U.S. History course; for qualified students, Honors sections are possible, focusing on a problem-solving approach to several of the critical points in U.S. history. Seniors can explore year-long classes, such as Honors U.S. Government, Honors Senior History, and Human Geography, along with term elective courses.

Language – Lawrence Academy offers four languages: Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish. All language courses put emphasis on intentional oral communication, written skills, and global competency. All modern language courses are taught as an immersion experience with appropriate support as needed. Upper-level courses allow for students to experience topics within the target languages, ranging from art history, music, and poetry to culture traditions, history, or mythology.

Mathematics – The mathematics curriculum is designed as an integrated, student-centered, technology-based experience to develop each student’s strengths. As students study mathematical theory with practical application, they learn to think critically to find reasonable solutions in a world where analysis is important. Students work collaboratively and independently as a way to enhance their ability to reason logically and to become confident and persistent problem solvers. Math 1 and 2 integrate the study of algebra I and geometry. Math 3: Functions and Applications focuses on algebra II and trigonometry. Math 4: Precalculus entails the study of traditional precalculus topics along with probability. Upper-level courses include calculus, computer science, statistics and term elective courses in linear algebra, advanced statistics, and projective geometry.

Science – The science program offers students courses designed to allow them to interact with science as a discipline, experience empirical inquiry as a method of investigation and a way of knowing, and become informed about the ways in which science affects their lives. Emphasis is placed on the process of science so that students can discover and interpret scientific knowledge, develop positive attitudes and interests related to science and scientists, and recognize that these behaviors can be applied in making decisions in an age influenced by science and technology. All science courses include a lab-based component.

The Ninth Grade Program (NGP) – Please note the NGP is no longer a part of Lawrence Academy’s curriculum. The Class of 2019 was the last class to participate in the NGP. The NGP was required of all ninth grade students. The NGP was a rigorous, skills-based, interdisciplinary study of history, English, science, and the arts. This team-taught program emphasized the intellectual skills common to these disciplines, writing, reading, reasoning and creativity, listening and speaking, and organization. Students earned credit for one year of each subject: history, English, science, and art. Each student’s average in the skills was converted to a letter grade, which was assigned to each subject. Subject grades on the transcript are therefore identical for history, English, science, and art.

English as a Second Language – ESL courses are in the English and history areas only. Students in the ESL program take mainstream math, science, and art courses. Study of a foreign language (French, Spanish, Latin, or Chinese) is not permitted while students are in the ESL program. If students enter the mainstream English and history program by the 10th or 11th grade, they are required to start a foreign language. The ESL program is a writing- and reading-intensive course of study designed to strengthen the proficiency level of those international student who, although highly motivated, still need to focus their English skills within a college preparatory context. Students in this program work with many of the same texts as their mainstream counterparts.

Winterim – A central feature of the Lawrence curriculum, Winterim is a two-week course in March dedicated to experiential learning. Courses are offered both on and off campus. The nature and educational goals of each Winterim course determine the method of evaluation (e.g., a journal, paper, or certification). Students receive grades of Honors, Pass, or Fail.

The Independent Immersion Program (IIP) – The IIP is a specialized, non-graded, independent learning program for highly motivated students. A few juniors and seniors are accepted into the program each year to pursue an intellectual or artistic interest more deeply than is possible in a traditional academic setting. Regular course distribution requirements do not apply to IIP students, and comprehensive written evaluations take the place of letter grades.

HONORS COURSES

Offered in the 2017-2018 school year; taken only with the permission of the department chair and/or the completion of a qualifying exam.

Arts: Honors Dance 1, Honors Dance 2, Honors Lawrence Academy Singers, Honors Lawrence Academy Band, Honors Theater Ensemble 1, Honors Theater Ensemble 2, Honors Music 1, Honors Music 2, Honors Visual Art 1, Honors Visual Art 2, Honors Digital Media

English: Honors Composition, Honors Writing, Honors Literature

History: Honors U.S. History, Honors Senior History, Honors U.S. Government and Politics

Language: Honors French 3, Honors French 4, Honors French 5, Honors Latin III, Honors Latin IV, Honors Latin V, Honors Spanish 3, Honors Spanish 4, Honors Spanish 5, Honors Spanish 6, Honors Chinese 3

Mathematics: Honors Math 2, Honors Math 3, Honors Math 4, Honors Calculus, Honors Computer Science, Honors Topics in Mathematics

Science: Honors Chemistry, Honors Biology, Honors Physics, Honors Environmental Science

GRADING

Letter grades A through F are used, and a weighted grade point average is computed each term using a 4.0 scale. (A GPA greater than a 4.0 is possible because of weighting.) First-trimester senior grades are included with applications or sent as soon as available. Second trimester grades are sent for all applicants in early March.

Weighting: For year-long courses, one-third (.33) of a point for each Honors course is added to the total grade points each time grades are computed; .11 is added for a term elective Honors course.

NUMERICAL EQUIVALENTS USED FOR AVERAGING

A	4.0	B+	3.33	C+	2.33	D+	1.33	F	0.0
A-	3.67	B	3.0	C	2.0	D	1.0		
		B-	2.67	C-	1.67	D-	0.67		

Cum Laude: Top 10 percent of juniors with no grade below a B-

High Honor Roll: Average of 3.50 and above with no grade below B

Honor Roll: Average of 3.00 and above with no grade below B-

SSAT SCORES: MIDDLE 50 PERCENT

	Class of 2018	Class of 2017	Class of 2016
Evidence Based Reading and Writing	560-650	545-630	490-600
Mathematics	540-680	525-640	510-650
Writing	28-34	29-33	510-610

ACT COMPOSITE SCORES: MIDDLE 50 PERCENT

	Class of 2018	Class of 2017	Class of 2016
Composite	22-28	21-28	22-27

Please note: SAT and ACT scores do not appear on a student's transcript. It is the student's responsibility to have official score reports sent to colleges. The College Counseling Office will send or fax an unofficial testing record upon request.

Colleges Attending – Lawrence Academy Graduates 2015-2018

Acadia University	Instituto Tecnologico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey	The George Washington University (4)
Adrian College	Iowa State University	The New School - All Divisions (2)
American International College	Ithaca College (2)	The University of Alabama (2)
American University (6)	Kenyon College (3)	The University of Arizona
Arizona State University	Lafayette College (3)	The University of Tampa
Babson College (4)	Lehigh University	The University of the Arts
Bard College (2)	Lewis & Clark College	Trinity College (9)
Barnard College	Loyola University Maryland (4)	Tufts University (4)
Bates College (6)	Marist College	Tulane University (3)
Bentley University (5)	Maryville University	Union College (5)
Boston College (8)	Messiah College	United States Military Academy Army
Boston University (8)	Miami University, Oxford	University of British Columbia
Bowdoin College	Michigan State University	University of California, Berkeley (2)
Brandeis University (10)	Middlebury College (3)	University of California, Davis
Bridgewater State University	Millersville University of Pennsylvania	University of Cincinnati
Brown University (3)	Mount Holyoke College	University of Colorado at Boulder (7)
Bryant University	Muhlenberg College	University of Connecticut
Bryn Mawr College	New York University (7)	University of Delaware (2)
Bucknell University (2)	Northeastern University (12)	University of Denver
Butler University	Pace University, New York City	University of Guelph
Carleton College	Pennsylvania State University (2)	University of Hartford (3)
Champlain College	Pitzer College	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Chapman University	Providence College (5)	University of Kentucky
Claremont McKenna College	Quinnipiac University (4)	University of Maine (3)
Clark University (2)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2)
Colby College (5)	Rhode Island School of Design	University of Massachusetts, Lowell
Colgate University (2)	Robert Morris University (PA)	University of Miami (4)
College of Charleston (4)	Rochester Institute of Technology (2)	University of Michigan
College of the Holy Cross (4)	Roger Williams University (3)	University of New England
Columbia University (3)	Sacred Heart University (2)	University of New Hampshire at Durham (6)
Connecticut College (13)	Saint Anselm College (9)	University of Redlands (2)
Curry College	Saint Joseph's College (ME)	University of Rhode Island
Dartmouth College (2)	Saint Michael's College (6)	University of Rochester
Denison University (4)	Santa Clara University	University of South Carolina (2)
Dickinson College	School of Visual Arts	University of Southern California
Drew University	Simmons College	University of Vermont (6)
East Carolina University	Skidmore College (5)	University of Washington
Eckerd College	Smith College	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Elmira College	Sophia University	Utah State University
Elon University (9)	St. Lawrence University	Utica College
Emory University	St. Olaf College	Vassar College
Endicott College (3)	St. Petersburg College	Villanova University
Fairfield University (5)	State University of New York at Albany	Wake Forest University (2)
Fordham University (6)	State University of New York at New Paltz	Washington University in St. Louis
Franklin Pierce University (4)	Stonehill College	Wesleyan University (2)
Furman University	Stony Brook University	Wheaton College (MA) (5)
Georgetown University	Suffolk University	Wilkes University
Georgia Institute of Technology (2)	Syracuse University (6)	Williams College
Gettysburg College (4)	Temple University (2)	Wittenberg University
Grinnell College (2)	The College of Wooster	Worcester Polytechnic Institute (4)
Hobart and William Smith Colleges (12)		