Lawrence Academy

Find your voice.
Our Mission

Lawrence Academy recognizes you for who you are and inspires you to take responsibility for who you want to become…

by calling on the school
• to champion excellence in academics and in the arts, athletics, and residential life;
• to offer innovative programs which personalize learning;
• to provide students with discerning mentors who support self-discovery and risk-taking;

by calling on each other
• to consider a plurality of perspectives patiently and with curiosity;
• to engage in respectful dialogue and advance the independent thinking and success of others;
• to take action for the common good;

by calling on yourself
• to develop your voice and use it creatively, constructively, and with confidence;
• to reflect upon, understand, and learn from failure as well as success; and
• to cultivate a personal stake in lifelong learning and make honorable, informed choices;

…you will learn with others to think for yourself.
What does it mean to have a voice? To the students at Lawrence Academy it means to be able to speak effectively, informatively, and articulately about the topics they learn in class and the ever-changing world around them. It means not only having confidence in what they are saying, but also asking questions that will broaden their scope of knowledge.

To a Lawrence Academy (LA) student, having a voice starts with finding your voice, in the classroom, on the playing fields, in the dorm, in advisory. All these are places where you will learn how to interact with others and advocate for yourself. Your voice then becomes the driving force behind your participation in class and the way that you confront everyday life at Lawrence Academy. We will lead you outside of your comfort zone to learn and grow in an environment that promotes self-discovery. You will be able to follow your passions to learn more about yourself and your interests.

Find your voice.
At Lawrence Academy, learn with and from some of the most talented and diverse students and faculty in the world. Immerse yourself in the perplexing and conflicting ideas of historians, writers, and scientists. Prepare your own ideas for debates and seminars. Question the answers developed by others.

Together, broaden, seek, expand, and define each other’s voices while also creating a unique voice for yourself. Along the way, teachers, advisors, dorm parents, and coaches will guide you.

“At Lawrence Academy you receive according to how much you contribute. If you give 100%, you’ll receive that and much more in return.”

“I have learned to stretch my thinking and become more inquisitive.”
“Be prepared to grow and change.”
Take advantage of the opportunities that surround you. Your commitment and determination and the help of your teachers make for a successful formula that will cause you to thrive at Lawrence Academy.

Become an active participant in your education and future. Discover who you are and what the world means to you. Lay the foundation for your contribution to the world. Examine what you think about art, literature, and current world events. Become a creative and independent thinker. Become confident in your intellectual strengths. Share the sense of accomplishment of the senior who said, "I came to Lawrence a hockey player, and left a more complete person," or another senior who said, "Lawrence Academy has helped me develop into someone capable of facing the world."

"I learned so much in my classes at LA. The lessons were inspiring. I found true connections between my teachers and assignments, and myself."
“I chose Lawrence because I saw so many opportunities for personal growth.”
Expand your voice to discover your talents. The Ninth Grade Program (NGP) provides the basic skills necessary for success in the classroom and beyond. Here you will recognize your strengths and weaknesses and realize your potential as a student and person.

The NGP offers a unique approach to interdisciplinary learning by proposing that skills, not facts, unite the disciplines, thus encouraging students to make connections and draw on shared experiences. Students learn that the best scientists are as creative as artists, the best artists are as analytic as historians, and the best historians are as articulate as writers.

In the NGP, students learn to think for themselves in science, history, the arts, and English—and to see that success in each discipline requires mastering a common set of skills. The team of teachers focuses throughout the year on developing skills in the following five areas within a carefully integrated and rigorous curriculum: reading, writing, reasoning and creativity, listening and speaking, and organization.
“CSC taught me how to use the skills I developed in the NGP and take them to a different level.”

**Combined Studies Course (CSC)**

Take the skills you learned in the Ninth Grade Program to new levels; juxtapose the lessons that you are learning in history and English, and draw inferences that correlate the two; and develop your voice to express your knowledge.

The Combined Studies Course (CSC) curriculum demonstrates how easily the line between literature and history can blur or even disappear when the two are compared. CSC sections meet during two consecutive periods. Each is taught by an English teacher and a history teacher working as a team to coordinate teaching methods, content, skills development, and homework.

All sophomores practice the skill of writing persuasive prose as they explore and respond to a wide variety of historical and literary texts.

**DEVELOP YOUR VOICE THROUGH CSC**
“The people here are the most important element of the school. There are so many great people here that it makes you want to be a better person.”
Participating in seminars allows you to learn how to direct class discussions with your own questions—the kind of participation that teaches you, over time, how to support your conclusions with evidence. Voice your opinion by demonstrating an understanding of the material you are learning.

“Seminars” are classes in which students demonstrate preparation for and participation in a class discussion devoted to exploring assigned questions, topics, and texts. Success in seminars is obtained using skills gained from your teachers and each other. You learn how to listen and formulate thoughtful questions. You judge the relevance of each contribution to the discussion and compose your replies accordingly. Seminars value discovery and discussion over debate, collaboration over competition. The overall goal of a seminar is for students to assume greater responsibility for both their own progress and the progress of the entire class in understanding a topic or text. Along the way, seminars help reinforce what is critical to student-centered learning: active learning (not watching from the sidelines), keeping an open mind, and relying on careful analysis of evidence to support or refute conclusions.

“Being able to express yourself is among the greatest skills you can acquire while going through high school and into college.”
**Advisor Program**

Your advisor is your link to the faculty. He or she is your go-to person when it comes to academics, but he or she is also your biggest advocate. Your advisor will help guide your voice through the transitions you encounter during your time at Lawrence, and at the same time encourage you to step outside of your comfort zone.

At the heart of Lawrence Academy's student support structure is the advisor system. For each student, an advisor is often the faculty member who best knows and understands his or her life at the school. For many students, an advisor becomes a trusted friend, a guide through the challenges of daily life, and a motivator who applauds successes while pushing them to meet their full potential. It is no surprise, in daily contact with their advisors, that students learn to trust and depend on them. Formally, advisors monitor students' welfare and academic progress, serve as the chief channel of communication between school and family, and approve course selections and travel plans. Each student’s weekday morning begins with advisor contact, either in a 20-minute, small-group meeting on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday, or by touching base and sitting with the student at the all-school assemblies held on Tuesday and Friday.

Since the student-teacher partnership is such a crucial part of life at Lawrence, the school matches advisors with students carefully. Returning students choose their own advisors based on common interests, experiences, and personal comfort. New students are matched with advisors on the basis of what Lawrence has learned through the admissions process.

"Advisory has really helped me. Being in an advisor group has shown me how others approach different aspects of school, and it has helped broaden my view of what I can do at Lawrence. I get to learn about their lives and build relationships with others that will extend beyond Lawrence Academy.”
At Lawrence, students receive weekly written progress reports from each of their teachers. Advisors review and distribute the comment cards on Wednesday mornings at advisee meetings. The comment cards provide constructive criticism, advice, and specific pointers on how to improve academic performance. They also give advisors insight into patterns or changes in a student’s attitude and behavior in the classroom.

It is common to have a written comment from a teacher spark a one-on-one discussion between advisor and advisee, a faculty room conversation with the teacher, or a dialogue with parents. The comment card also provides encouragement and reinforcement to the student who is excelling or expending outstanding effort.

“Comment cards are a practical way for teachers to let students know how they are doing without it being a big deal. They can be a friendly reminder, a warning to get back on track, or a reassurance to know that you are doing well. It helps you constantly to evaluate what you need to change in your classes.”

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“My advisor is amazing. She was also my college counselor and it worked out really well. I tell her everything—we even text. She has been a very important part of my experience here.”

“It’s important to have people who believe in you. It’s a really powerful thing.”

“All of the students are heavily influenced by their teachers. With such great educators here, the students are really on the right road.”

“The faculty members are ‘my people.’ I’ve learned so much from the director of theatre and my English teachers. And through the faculty, I have been able to see the world in a different way. I hope to continue learning from them even after I graduate.”

“Your teachers and advisors will influence your voice.”
College Counseling

Your college counselor gets to know you as a person, as a student, and as a member of the Lawrence Academy community. Consistent with Lawrence’s student-centered educational philosophy, the College Counseling Office works to help each student identify colleges that fit his or her individual academic, extracurricular, and personal needs. At Lawrence Academy, we begin working with students during the fall term of their junior year. We counsel each student and his or her family in one-on-one sessions, meetings, group gatherings, and through letters home.

Students come to Lawrence Academy because they want to develop from the inside out; they are mentored throughout their time here toward realizations about who they are. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that our graduates matriculate in colleges and universities that reflect their unique priorities, personalities, and academic goals.

“My advisor is my college counselor and my French teacher. He helped me compile a list of colleges that were the perfect fit for me as a person and a student. I can’t wait to go to Bowdoin!”
Dorm life at LA teaches the value of cooperation, compromise, and self-reliance. Living with people from different backgrounds can positively and permanently change people's perspectives of themselves and the world.

The same teachers seen in the classroom and on the athletic field provide care, structure, and supervision in the dormitories. Assisting them are dorm affiliates, who are also teachers and administrators, and student proctors, who set an example and provide peer leadership. Dorm living is an intense and enjoyable experience and a source of close relationships among students and between students and faculty. Study hours are from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. during the week. Each of Lawrence's 10 dormitories is fully wireless, providing Internet access to each room as well as email and a variety of other online resources.

"I live here more than I live at home. This is a home for me."
“I have so many different friends. As a boarder, you get to know people really well by living with them.”
Step onto Lawrence Academy’s campus and it will not take you long to see and feel what makes our school unique. From your first visit to your departure following graduation, you are respected for who you are and who you can become. We are a school that values and emphasizes integrity, trust, self-respect, and concern for the community.

Lawrence Academy stands out for its many opportunities to develop in depth a special talent or skill; discover and use your leadership abilities; and take advantage of the school’s cultural and social diversity. We provide the challenge and support that encourage you to take constructive risks and to build self-confidence while also contributing to the school community in ways you may never have imagined.

“I was elected school president, was featured in the winter dance recital, and was a three sport varsity athlete. I have added to my identity in ways that I could never have imagined.”
I don’t know if there is a typical Lawrence Academy student. I think the best part about this school is that we have a little bit of everything.”
Activate your voice.

Whether you are a thirds-, JV-, or varsity-level athlete, being a Lawrence Academy student makes you a Spartan. Challenge yourself to try something new, develop your skills to get to the next level, or compete with your classmates to win a league championship. Become a part of a winning tradition.

Lawrence Academy fosters a competitive skill based athletic environment that allows our students to reach his or her own athletic potential in the 16-school Independent School League (ISL). ISL members share a common philosophy that highlights friendly competition and sportsmanship.

“This winter I decided to play JV hockey, just to try it out. Lawrence offers many opportunities for you to go out of your comfort zone and really push yourself.”
FALL
Cross Country
Dance
Field Hockey
Football
Soccer
Volleyball
Tennis (Intramural)
Mountain Biking
Outdoors
Strength & Conditioning
Yoga (Intramural)

WINTER
Alpine Ski Racing
Basketball
Dance
Hockey
Rec Skiing/Snowboarding
Strength & Conditioning
Wrestling
Yoga (Intramural)

SPRING
Baseball
Dance
Golf
Lacrosse
Outdoors
Softball
Strength & Conditioning
Tennis
Track
Lawrence Academy offers a range of sports at several levels so students can compete intensely in their favorite sport or try one that is totally new. Whatever your ability and your goals, you will find coaches at Lawrence who will help you improve your skills. You may also participate in our outdoor program, dance program, theatre productions, or join the stage crew to meet the sports requirement.

If you have already risen to an elite level in an individual sport not offered at LA, such as figure skating or horseback riding, permission may be granted for you to pursue that sport as an “independent.” Athletics are vibrant at Lawrence Academy and offer the opportunity for the individual or the team to set and meet high standards.

“The coaches here have changed my life. They’ve taught me what it means to give everything and how hard I have to work to achieve success.”
“Athletics at Lawrence have been fantastic. I’ve developed a bond with all my teammates. The coaches are motivating, and there is a desire to pursue excellence, maintain a good GPA, and be outstanding citizens within the community.”
The Arts Department invites students to discover and express what they feel and think about the world while teaching them the interpretive, technical, and expressive skills needed to create meaningful works of art. The Arts Department’s classrooms encourage young artists to find their own “voice”—their unique artistic and intellectual identities—and to use this voice and their own experiences to create original art.

Students are encouraged to take risks, to become creative problem-solvers, to respond emotionally and thoughtfully to the work of other artists, and to develop the technique necessary to communicate their ideas artistically. The arts are an integral part of the curriculum at Lawrence. Divided into dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, the department offers a varied and sequential program by teaching skills at all levels.

“Dance is a reflection of life. I am now a more developed dancer because I know what is behind the movement.”
“At first I didn’t understand why we had art requirements. I now realize how my art courses have opened my eyes to a more creative way of thinking. The arts and the theatre classes are so diverse. It’s cool to see people with different perspectives come together with one common interest.”
"Theatre allows you to step into the role of another person, which really helps you to understand and empathize with people around you."
Dance
Dance is available both as an academic class and as part of the Athletic Department program. Courses and performance opportunities abound for beginners and serious, experienced dancers. The success of Lawrence Academy’s dance program may be measured by its appeal to a wide variety and large number of students over the years. It has been honored on three occasions with invitations to perform at the internationally renowned Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the world’s largest performing arts festival. LA dance has brought original choreography to the Edinburgh Fringe in 2003, 2006, and 2009. Our dancers have also been invited to perform outside of LA on other numerous occasions.

Music
Lawrence Academy offers music students a rich variety of classes, ensembles, and private lessons. Music classes emphasize composition, with students being able to take advantage of a fully equipped music technology lab in order to create their own music. As they progress into more advanced coursework, students learn more about music notation and music theory, and the most motivated students take the AP Music Theory course. Ensembles include a jazz band, a classical ensemble, a chorus, and an auditioned a cappella choir. There is also an outstanding group of adjunct music teachers who give lessons on piano, guitar, drums, violin, saxophone, clarinet, flute, trumpet, and voice.

Theatre
Lawrence Academy offers students opportunities in theatre that allow them to discover their own creative voices, to become a member of an ensemble, to explore important ideas about the world, and to have fun while engaged in the serious learning of a craft. Participating in theatre beyond the classroom at LA can be as a performer on stage, a member of the technical team working behind the scenes, or as a director.

Visual Arts
From their first ninth grade course in arts, students at Lawrence Academy are asked to perform or produce original work to develop their own viewpoints and to discover their individual artistic voices. Students of all abilities and interest levels find a supportive environment in drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, print making and film. Using these techniques the students can express themselves visually for personal growth and through exhibiting their work in one of the school’s three galleries. The arts provide unique and powerful opportunities for students to see, feel, and understand themselves and the world.
ENGAGE YOUR VOICE BY BECOMING INVOLVED

Engage your voice.

"Extracurriculars aren’t extra— they are at the center of my life at Lawrence Academy."

Extracurricular activities are an essential part of the Lawrence Academy experience. They enable students to become active participants in the life of the school and to build relationships with fellow students and members of the faculty and staff.

Students formally give back to the school community through the work duty program. Depending on their academic schedules, they are required to give one hour a week to a specific area of the school. These include the alumni and development office, the technology department, the admissions office, the business office, and dining services.

Student Government
Judiciary Council
Chorus
Jazz Band
Theatre Productions
Community Service
Stage Crew
ABLE Diversity Club
Student Newspaper
Literary Magazine
Yearbook
Admissions Tour Guide
Peer Tutoring
Multicultural Alliance
LBTGSA
Dormitory Proctor
Peer Counselor
Student-Faculty Senate
Spartan Spirit Club

Engage your voice.
"I'm so thankful for the environment I'm in and this amazing opportunity to explore. I try to do many different things to challenge myself."
**Passion**

Voice your passion.

**Independent Immersion Program (IIP)**

Each year a select group of students is accepted into the Lawrence Academy Independent Immersion Program (IIP). Under the supervision of the director and a faculty mentor, students create unique academic programs which include intensive independent studies with on- and off-campus professionals, internships, and traditional course work.

To be accepted into the program, students must display the motivation and maturity necessary to work independently. They are released from the traditional academic requirements and given the time, facilities, and adult guidance to pursue their central interests.

The IIP is based on the belief that if students are allowed to focus on a deep interest, their inquiries will lead them naturally into related fields, creating individualized distributions of studies that expand from a central passion. Recent programs include studies of psychology, music, biology, theatre, and philosophy.

“This program has enabled me to learn for my own benefit. I have been able to truly follow my passion for film in a way that I could not have otherwise experienced.”

**VOICE YOUR PASSION THROUGH IIP**
“I have become more independent. You fall into the mindset where you are able to get your work done on your own.”
Winterim

For two weeks in March, the entire Lawrence Academy community shifts its focus from the regular academic routine to intensive courses of study dedicated to experiential learning. In small groups of 8 to 16, students and teachers immerse themselves in the world outside the classroom. Each year, about half of the school’s population leaves campus to explore the people, art, or environs of an American or international location. Others choose to remain on campus to devote themselves to community service or a specific skill or project in the Greater Boston area.

“Winterim exposed me to a world completely different than my own. It changed my life.”
Whether building a school for a village in the Dominican Republic, kayaking and snorkeling in the Caribbean, or volunteering at Headstart in Lowell, MA, explore the boundaries of your voice through our Winterim program. Pick your passion at home or abroad and push yourself to learn, to discover, and to understand the world around you.

"Winterim is a jump-start to getting out there and doing something that we’ve never done. It teaches us that there are opportunities that allow us to grow and learn about something completely different."

EXPLORE YOUR VOICE THROUGH WINTERIM
Lawrence Academy Campus Map

1 Waters House
2 The First Unitarian Universalist Church
3 First Parish Parsonage
4 Dana House, Frigoletto Family Health Center
5 Bigelow Hall
6 Brazer House
7 Prescott House
8 Schoolhouse
9 Sheedy Faculty Residence
10 Lawrence House
11 Richardson-Mees Performing Arts Center, Conant Gallery
11a Richardson-Mees Parking Lot
12 Gray Building, Williams Arts Center, Dining Hall, MacNeil Lounge
13 Ferguson Building
14 Spaulding Hall
15 Ansin Academic Building
16 Dr. Green House
17 Pillsbury House
18 Madigan Student Center
19 Academy Way Faculty Housing
20 The Grant Rink
21 The Stone Athletic Center
22 Elm Tree Hall
23 Alumni Development House
24 Park House
25 Thompson House
26 Shumway House
27 Shumway Fields and Tennis Courts
28 Loomis House
29 Butler House
30 Groton Public Library
31 Spaulding-Stearns Fields
32 Peabody House
33 Gibbet Hill Grill
34 Upper Tennis Courts
35 Murbach Field
Use your voice today and contact the Admissions Office!