

2024-2025 School Profile

Mission

The mission of Duchesne Academy is to inspire and prepare young women to engage in a lifelong pursuit of their faith in God, intellectual vitality, social awareness and action, building of community and personal growth, in the living tradition of Sacred Heart education.

Sacred Heart Goals



GOAL 1

ACTIVE
FAITH



GOAL 2

INTELLECTUAL
VALUES



GOAL 3

SOCIAL
AWARENESS



GOAL 4

BUILDING
COMMUNITY



GOAL 5

PERSONAL
GROWTH

"The Goals are meant to express 5 aspects of an integrated life: a lively faith, which continues to develop as we grow; lifelong learning and using that knowledge to serve others; an awareness of the needs of an increasingly globally connected world and a desire to serve it; a realization that we are made to live in community; and a commitment to continue to grow humanly, acknowledging our journey to learn from our strengths and weaknesses to grow into wholeness."

- Sharon Karam, RSCJ

Meet Our Students

Private, Catholic, all-girls, identity-forming, college preparatory school serving age three through grade 12

- Total Enrollment: 770
- Upper School Enrollment: 308
- Freshmen: 81
- Sophomores: 86
- Juniors: 77
- Seniors: 64

2023-2024 School Year



15

COUNTRIES



76

ZIP CODES



\$2.2M+

TUITION
ASSISTANCE



26%

RECEIVE TUITION
ASSISTANCE

Social Awareness

Service Learning Requirement

Duchesne's signature experiential program is rooted in the *Sacred Heart Goals and Criteria* that call us to serve our community, act for justice, and be responsible citizens. Upper School students travel off campus to volunteer at schools, senior communities, and charitable organizations that serve the needs of marginalized populations throughout Houston. The program includes a reflection component in which students assess their volunteer experience to instill a lifelong sense of service.



Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart

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Grading Scale

An additional 0.5 quality point is awarded to the GPA for passing grades in all Advanced Placement courses and a 0.3 quality point for all Advanced courses.

97-100	4.0 points
93-96	4.0 points
90-92	3.7 points
87-89	3.3 points
83-86	3.0 points
80-82	2.7 points
77-79	2.3 points
73-76	2.0 points
70-72	1.7 points
67-69	1.3 points
63-66	1.0 points
60-62	0.7 points
Below 60	0.0 points

Graduation Requirements*

English	12 credits
Math.....	9 credits
Science	12 credits
Social Studies	12 credits
Theology	12 credits
World Languages	9 credits
Fine Arts.....	3 credits
Computer Science.....	3 credits
Physical Education	3 credits
Research Paper	1 credit
Electives	8 credits
Total credits.....	84 credits

* Equivalent to Distinguished Achievement Plan

Class Of 2025 Highlights

64 Students

- **Duchesne Academy does not report rank.**
- **Grade distribution (61 students):** Grade point average is cumulative and weighted through June 2024. *Transfer students are not included in the distribution.*
- **Top decile:** 4.18 - 4.11
Top quartile: 4.18 - 4.00
Top half: 4.18 - 3.86

Advanced Placement (AP) and Advanced Courses

- Departmental approval required for enrollment
- AP course enrollment limits: sophomores - 1, juniors - 2, seniors - 3
- Students enrolled in an AP course must take the AP exam
- AP courses audited and approved by College Board

AP Courses (20)*	Advanced Courses (13)
AP Biology	Advanced Algebra II
AP Calculus AB	Advanced Chemistry
AP Calculus BC	Advanced Choir
AP Chemistry	Advanced Dance Projects
AP Comparative Government and Politics	Advanced French II
AP Computer Science A	Advanced French III
AP English Language	Advanced French IV - DELF B1
AP English Literature	Advanced Geometry
AP Environmental Science	Advanced Physics
AP European History	Advanced Pre-Calculus
AP Macroeconomics	Advanced Spanish II
AP Music Theory	Advanced Spanish III
AP Physics I	Advanced Spanish IV
AP Spanish Language and Culture	Advanced Theater Production
AP Statistics	
AP Studio Art	
AP United States Government and Politics	
AP United States History	
AP World History	

* Students may also enroll in any AP course offered online through SophieConnect or OneSchoolhouse.

Online Courses

One Schoolhouse

Elective courses offered to students to inspire specialized learning (grades not calculated into GPA)

University Partnerships

Students receive elective credit at Duchesne and university credit at Rice University, the University of St. Thomas (UST), and other accepting universities (grades not calculated into GPA)

MOD Schedule

The Upper School operates on a six-term modular "MOD" schedule. Each MOD consists of 29 or 30 days. Classes last 80 minutes, a pace which allows concept and context to drive learning instead of content. Students take three to four courses per MOD and select classes from a combination of requirements and electives to fill up to 24 spaces each year. In keeping with our philosophy of balance, this curricula emphasizes cognitive depth, critical thinking, and skill-building. Offering students more autonomy in choosing how they gain those skills fosters intrinsic motivation to learn.

Curriculum Highlights

English

Courses are offered as topics. Students choose three topics to create a year-long sequence that fulfills the requirement. Any non-AP class may be added as an elective on top of the three-class requirement.

Grade 9: Personal Legends and Manifestos; Demystifying the Essay; Burning Insights - Analyzing *Fahrenheit 451*

Grade 10: In Theory... It's *Star Wars!*; Shakespeare - Time and Timelessness; The Bronte Sisters; Monsters Inc; Wilderness and the Soul - Exploring Literary Depths

Grade 11: AP English Language and Composition; Rhetoric - Language & Persuasion; Short Stories - Purpose and Craft; The American Dream; Virginia Woolf and Modernism; All Austen; Best Sellers and Prize Winners; Writing for Change

Grade 12: AP Literature: Studies in Africa, Shakespeare and the Meaning of Life, Blockbusters; An Unoriginal English Bin; Home Free; "Still I Rise": Black American Women Writers; Shakespeare and Power

Electives: Mythology - From Athena to Zeus; Dive Into Your Imagination; Advanced *Star Wars* Elective - Exploring the Science, Philosophy, and Religion of a Galaxy Far, Far Away

Math

Core Offerings: Algebra I; Geometry; Advanced Geometry; Algebra II; Advanced Algebra II; Data Science; Precalculus; Advanced Precalculus; AP Precalculus; Calculus; AP Calculus AB; AP Calculus BC; AP Statistics

Electives: Trigonometry; History of Mathematics; Keanu Reeves Could Teach You - An Introduction to Linear Algebra; Beyond BC - Advanced Selected Topics in Mathematics

Science

After completing *Biology, Chemistry, and Physics*, students may choose three topics to create a year of science. Any non-AP class may be added as an elective on top of the three-class requirement.

Core Offerings: Biology; Chemistry; Advanced Chemistry; Physics; Advanced Physics

Electives: AP Biology; AP Chemistry; AP Physics I; AP Environmental Science; Environmental Science; Introduction to Human Anatomy; Marine Biology; Food and Chemistry; The Physics of Harry Potter; Genetic Disorders; Forensic Science; Epidemiology; Exploring Light and Color - Physics, Psychology, and Practical Applications

Social Studies

Grade 9: Introduction to Global Studies

Grade 10: AP World History - Modern Era; Modern World History

Grade 11: AP United States History; 20th Century US History

Grade 12: AP US Government and Politics; AP Macroeconomics; AP Comparative Government and Politics; American Government; Economics; America's Interplay Between Government and the Economy

Electives: Genocide Studies - Overview of the 20th Century in Conflict; Crowns and Conflicts - Royally Dramatic Scandals, Intrigues, and Betrayals in History; Teen Titans of History - Extraordinary Youth Who Shaped the World; The Holocaust through Literature and Film; Introduction to Psychology; World Area Studies; Through the Eyes of the World - A Close Look at International Film

World Languages

French: French I; French II; Advanced French II; French III; Advanced French III; French IV/V - French for Travelers - Destination Quebec; French IV/V - French Movies and Art; French IV/V - la Dégustation Francophone; French DELF; French Vlog, Podcast, and Literature

Spanish: Spanish I; Spanish II; Advanced Spanish II; Spanish III; Advanced Spanish III; Spanish IV;

(continued on next page)

Pre-AP Advanced Spanish IV; Spanish Literature for Spanish Speakers; AP Spanish Language and Culture
American Sign Language: American Sign Language I; American Sign Language II; American Sign Language III

Computer Science

Course Offerings: Computer Science for the Curious; Introduction to Java; Maker's Arduino Applications; Game Design; Digital Product Design; Introduction to Robotics; Introduction to Cybersecurity; Engineer Your World I, Design, and Analysis; AP Computer Science A; Digital Media I; Digital Media II; Film Production; UX/UI Design

Information Technology Internship: IT Interns are immersed in the fundamental knowledge of information technology and perform real-world tasks by working in the school helpdesk. They learn PC hardware and software, basic networking, and maintain CAVE resources and outreach.

Information Technology Apprenticeship: IT Apprentices deepen their knowledge of Information Technology by pursuing a Microsoft or Test Out certification in combination with working the school helpdesk.

Fine Arts

Visual Arts: AP Studio Art; Foundations of Art; Concepts of Art and Design; Drawing I; Drawing II; Painting I; Painting II; Digital Photography; Stained Glass; Mixed Media; Hand-Built Ceramics; Wheel-Thrown Ceramics; Sculpture I; Sculpture II; Idea Development

Art History: Art History - In the Beginning; Art History - Ages of Innovation; Art History - Global and Contemporary

Music: Treble Choir; Advanced Choir; Guitar I; Guitar II; Vocal Development; Handbells; Music Theory; AP Music Theory

Theater: Introduction to Theater; Musical Theater; Improv Theater; Scene Study; Playwriting and Adaptation; Movement and Stage Combat; Advanced Theater Production; Theater Technology and Design I; Theater Technology and Design II

Dance: Dance I - Dance Styles; Dance II; Dance III; Advanced Dance Projects, Aerial Dance

Physical Education

Sports and PE Credit: Students who participate in an entire season of an afterschool sport at Duchesne receive one graduation credit towards PE. After a third bin is accomplished through afterschool sports, a PE class can only count as an "elective" towards graduation requirement.

Course Offerings: EmPOWERment; Mixed Martial Arts - Intro and Kickboxing Cardio; Pursuit of Healthiness; Yoga; Rhythm Based Activities; Zumba

Afterschool Sports: Basketball; Cross Country; Dance Team; Field Hockey; Golf; Lacrosse; Soccer; Softball; Swimming; Tennis; Track & Field; Volleyball

Theology

Grade 9: History and the Bible; Jesus' Message - Acts, Paul, and The Early Christian Community

Grade 10: Beginnings - Setting the Stage for the Messiah; The New Testament - The Messiah has Come!; Church - the People of God

Grade 11: Justice and Morality; Global and Social Awareness; Sacraments

Grade 12: World Religions - Asian Traditions; World Religions - Judaism, and Islam; World Religions - The Americas; Peacemaking; Prayer and Worship; Bioethics; Encountering the Divine Through Film

Research Paper

Beginning with an essential question of their choice, Grade 11 students research a topic, develop a thesis, and complete a college-level argumentative research paper, focusing on global and social awareness. This carefully guided process teaches students essential skills in research, writing, and documentation. This course is required to be completed by the end of Grade 11.

General Electives

Cake Art; How to Adult; Quilts for a Cause; Crochet Elective; Disability Studies; College Essays and Convos; SAT/ACT Prep; Open Your Own Business; Introduction to Culinary Arts; Yearbook Editor; Introduction to Debate; The Future of Artificial Intelligence

Co-Curricular Programs



12 Sports - Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Teams



40+ Clubs and Activities



15 + Fine Arts Performances Annually



10,000+ Student and Community Volunteer Hours Served Annually



Award-Winning **Robotics Program**



Nationally Recognized **Debate Team**



State Championship Athletics

Head of School
Hillary Feerick-Hillenbrand
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Head of Upper School
Alaina Scorsone
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Head of Middle School
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Accreditation & Affiliations

- ★ Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB ED)
- ★ Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS)
- ★ Sacred Heart Commission on Goals (SHCOG)
- ★ Southwest Preparatory Conference (SPC)
- ★ Houston Junior Preparatory Conference (HJPC)

College Matriculation (2021 - 2024)

We share this list in celebration of our recent graduates and the continuation of their academic journeys. At Duchesne, fit, which is multi-dimensional and individually assessed, is the ultimate outcome of the college application process. Our goal is that each student looks back on their college search with pride and moves forward with confidence. Wherever they ultimately go, we want them to continue to cultivate and carry with them the Sacred Heart Goals they have made their own. Schools in bold signify Class of 2024 matriculations.

University of Alabama
University of Alabama, Birmingham
Allegheny College
American University of Paris
University of Arizona
Arizona State University, Phoenix
Arizona State University, Tempe
University of Arkansas
Auburn University (2)
Babson College
Baylor University (4)
Belmont University
Blinn College (2)
Boston College
Boston University
University of California, Davis
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University of America
University of Chicago
Claremont McKenna College
Clemson University
University of Colorado, Boulder
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Cornell University
Culinary Institute of America
Dalhousie University
University of Dallas
Denison University
DePaul University
Drexel University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott
University of Findlay
University of Florida
Fordham University
George Washington University
University of Georgia
Holy Cross University
University of Houston (2)
Houston Christian University
Louisiana State University (2)
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University New Orleans
University of Miami
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
Mississippi State University
University of Missouri
Mount Holyoke College

University of New Mexico
New York University
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
University of Notre Dame
Oberlin College
University of Oklahoma (4)
Purdue University
Randolph-Macon College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rice University (2)
Rollins College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Saint Mary's College
Sam Houston State University
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seattle University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Shenandoah University
Southern Methodist University (5)
Southwestern University
Saint Edward's University
Stephen F. Austin State University
Sweet Briar College
University of Tennessee (2)
Texas Tech University
University of Texas, Arlington
University of Texas, Austin (8)
University of Texas, Dallas
University of Texas, San Antonio (2)
Texas A & M University, College Station (5)
Texas A&M University, Galveston
Texas Christian University (3)
Texas State University
Trinity University (2)
Tulane University
United States Air Force Academy
United States Military Academy
University of St. Thomas (TX)
Utah Valley University
Valencia College
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
University of Virginia
Washington University in St. Louis
College of William & Mary
University of Wisconsin
Wittenberg University
Xavier University of Louisiana

Class of 2024

56%	40%	4%	46%	54%
IN STATE	OUT OF STATE	INTERNATIONAL	PRIVATE	PUBLIC