

School Overview

Founded in 2001, Providence Academy is an independent, Catholic, co-educational pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade college preparatory school. The 42-acre campus is located in the suburban city of Plymouth, approximately 15 miles northwest of downtown Minneapolis. All grades are housed in one 250,000 square foot facility built in Georgian colonial style which features a chapel, museum-quality Antiquities Gallery, enhanced classrooms, state-of-the-art science and technology laboratories, distinctive arts and music spaces, and first-rate athletic venues.

Mission and Philosophy

From the heart of our motto, "Faith, Knowledge, Virtue," Providence Academy develops habits of spirit, mind, and action to prepare students for future leadership in vocations and civic life. The faith and morals taught by the Catholic Church provide the foundation for time-honored training in the liberal arts and sciences. The curriculum's rigor instills customs of discipline and assures breadth and depth in students' mastery of educational basics. Our aim is to educate clear thinkers, informed believers, and good citizens prepared to meet the challenges of American life in the 21st century.

Accreditation

Providence Academy received re-accreditation from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) in 2011.

Enrollment

Class of 2016: 86 students
Total Upper School: 338 students
Total PreK-12 Enrollment: 830 students

College Application and Enrollment Statistics

- 99% of graduates attend four-year colleges (2013-15)
- 70% enroll at out-of state colleges (2013-15)
- 42% enroll at Catholic colleges (2013-15)
- 30% enroll at public colleges (2013-15)
- Average of 5.5 applications submitted per senior (2015)

Marks and Course Weighting

Providence Academy uses criterion reference when grading, rather than normative reference. A strong work ethic among students encourages them to meet the Academy's high-level expectations. The following grading system is used for all courses, including regular, honors, advanced, and college-level courses:

A	4.00	C	2.00
A-	3.67	C-	1.67
B+	3.33	D+	1.33
B	3.00	D	1.00
B-	2.67	D-	0.67
C+	2.33	F	0.00

Providence Academy does not assign a class rank. Honors and ACC courses are not weighted.

Upper School Facts

- 65% of Upper School teachers hold advanced degrees
- Average class size is 20 students
- 30% of students receive need-based financial aid
- Students reside in 44 distinct municipalities
- 72% of students are Roman Catholic

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Upper School Curriculum

Providence Academy utilizes an independently designed curriculum. Students share humanities core courses in English, History, and Religion in common for all four years, assuring a solid formation and enabling common conversation and inquiry among students of all levels of academic caliber. Honors level courses in Mathematics, Science, and World Language enable students with ambitions in those disciplines to prepare more assertively for collegiate studies. Please note the following policies and highlights of our academic program:

- All students must enroll for seven credits per year
- Students are required to take three years of a world language, with at least two consecutive years in the same language
- PA faculty determine placement in all honors courses
- Advance College Credit (ACC) courses are offered through the University of Minnesota and Benedictine College and follow their curriculum in scope and rigor. These courses are noted with “ACC” on the transcript and are considered equivalent to honors or advanced level courses.
- Religion is a required four-year course sequence for all students. Requiring serious and scholarly engagement with Scripture and primary source texts in literature, philosophy, theology, and social commentary, these courses feature the same academic demands and rigor as other required disciplines. A selection of texts studied in Religion courses includes:
 - ▷ *Summa Theologica* (Aquinas)
 - ▷ *On Faith and Reason* (Aquinas)
 - ▷ *Nicomachean Ethics* (Aristotle)
 - ▷ *Confessions* (Augustine)
 - ▷ *The Closing of the American Mind* (Bloom)
 - ▷ *The Consolation of Philosophy* (Boethius)
 - ▷ *All Men are Brothers* (Gandhi)
 - ▷ *Life Everlasting* (Garrigou-Lagrange)
 - ▷ *Fear and Trembling* (Kierkegaard)
 - ▷ *Letter from Birmingham Jail* (King)
 - ▷ *Death of Ivan Ilyich* (Tolstoy)

Statement on Advanced Placement

In keeping with the independent and intentional nature of our curriculum, Providence Academy does not seek College Board’s Advanced Placement (AP) designation for any advanced or senior level courses. At the same time, PA faculty support students enrolled in upper level English, History, Math, Physics, Art, and World Language courses in preparing for the corresponding AP exams. PA students sit for up to 15 different AP exams annually.

Testing Data

2013-2015 Advanced Placement Exam Cycles

Total administered: 268 exams

Exams scored at 3 or above (*pass rate*): 76%

Exams scored at 4 or above: 46%

Total AP Scholars: 33 students

National Merit, Achievement and Hispanic Scholar Competitions (Percentage of class recognized)

Class of 2014 - 19%

Class of 2015 - 8%

Class of 2016 - 9%

Classes of 2013-2015 ACT Scores

Mid 50% Composite Score Range: 25-31 (*n=197*)

Composite Mean Score: 28.0

Classes of 2013-2015 SAT Scores

Mid 50% CR+M Score Range: 1180-1400 (*n=62*)

CR 610-720

M 570-680

W 590-700

Classes of 2013-2015 SAT Subject Test Mean Scores

(*Tests with 10 or more scores reported*)

Molecular Biology: 705

Literature: 654

Latin: 599

Math I: 652

Math II: 684

Physics: 669

Student Conduct and Non-Disclosure Policy

Providence Academy considers discipline to be a private matter between the student and the school. Therefore, PA faculty and staff do not generally disclose disciplinary consequences short of expulsion—including detentions and suspensions. Any student on track to graduate in good standing is fully reconciled with PA’s community and receives the full and unqualified endorsement of the faculty and administration. We expect our students to disclose their disciplinary history when it is required of them in college or scholarship application processes.

Providence Academy Curriculum

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	
English **No honors courses offered	British Literature	American Literature	Classical Literature	Senior English Seminar	
History **No honors courses offered	Ancient, Classical, and Medieval Worlds	U.S. History I (1492-1877)	U.S. History II (1877-Present)	Modern Western Civilization	
Religion	Introduction to the Creed	Moral Theology	Elements of the Christian Life <i>Elements of the Christian Life ACC</i>	Reason & Revelation <i>Reason & Revelation ACC</i>	
Science <i>(see Note 1)</i>	Chemistry <i>Chemistry Honors</i>	Biology <i>Biology Honors</i>	Physics <i>Physics Honors</i>	Earth & Space Science <i>Advanced Biology</i> <i>Advanced Chemistry</i> <i>Advanced Physics</i>	
Mathematics <i>(see Note 2)</i>	Pre-Algebra Algebra I, <i>Algebra I Honors</i> Algebra II Fundamentals, Algebra II, <i>Algebra II Honors</i> Geometry and Trigonometry, <i>Geometry and Trigonometry Honors</i> Data Analysis		Pre-Calculus, <i>Pre-Calculus Honors</i> Calculus I, <i>Calculus I Honors</i> Probability and Statistics <i>Calculus II</i>		
World Language <i>(see Note 3)</i>	French I, II, III, IV, <i>Advanced French</i> Spanish I, II, III, IV, <i>Spanish IV ACC, Advanced Spanish, Advanced Spanish ACC</i> Latin I, II, III, Latin Poetry, Latin Prose, <i>Latin Poetry ACC, Latin Prose ACC</i>				
Electives	<u>Physical Education</u> General Phys. Ed. Team Sports Indiv. & Dual Sports Life & Athletic Fitness Ball'r'm & Latin Dance Introduction to Golf	<u>Fine Arts (0.5 cr)</u> Acting Intro. to Theater Photography I, II	<u>Fine Arts (1.0 cr)</u> Academy Chorale Music Consortium Publications Studio Art I, II, III, IV Symphonic Band	<u>Dept. Electives (0.5 cr)</u> Critical Thinking Skills Computer Systems Current Events Debate I Entrepreneurship Foods&Nutrition I, II History of Western Art Philosophy	<u>Dept. Electives (1.0 cr)</u> Econ./Accounting Journalism: Wrtg/Pub Prin. Engineering I, II Env. Sci. Research I, II

Italics denote an honors, advanced, or Advance College Credit (ACC) course

Note 1: The science sequence shown above is the standard sequence. Alternate sequences are possible based on year of PA entry and student scheduling needs.

Note 2: At the math department's discretion, students may have completed the two-course Algebra II and Geometry/Trigonometry sequence over the course of three academic years. This modified sequence appears as Algebra II:1-2, Algebra II:3 and Geometry and Trigonometry: 1,2, and 3 on the transcript.

Note 3: Latin Poetry and Latin Prose are distinct courses in scope and rigor from Latin Poetry ACC and Latin Prose ACC. Students who complete Latin Poetry or Prose and later enroll in the corresponding ACC Latin courses do not repeat any work.

Graduation Requirements

Religion: 4 credits

History: 4 credits

English: 4 credits

Mathematics: 3 credits

Science: 3 credits

World Language: 3 credits

Senior Core Options: 2-3 credits

Physical Education: 1 credit

Fine Arts: 1 credit

Electives: 2-3 credits

TOTAL: 28 credits

Other Curriculum Information

“Oratio” is a graduation requirement for seniors which includes the research, preparation, and delivery of a senior speech before a panel of faculty judges and an assembly of the junior and senior classes.

“House” is a curricular component of Upper School consisting of weekly meetings and activities designed to promote community and leadership development. Students belong to one of sixteen houses (eight male houses and eight female houses). Houses are led by a House Leader, an upper division student selected by the faculty through a competitive application and interview process.

Providence Academy College Outcomes

At least one PA graduate from the Classes of 2013-2015 *matriculated* to the following institutions:

Auburn University	Lafayette College	University of California, Berkeley
Baylor University	Liberty University	University of Chicago
Bemidji State University	Loras College	University of Cincinnati
Benedictine College	Luther College	University of Dallas
Bethel University (MN)	Marist College	University of Dayton
Boston College	Marquette University	University of Iowa
Boston University	Miami University, Oxford	University of Kansas
Carnegie Mellon University	Montana State University, Bozeman	University of Mary
Case Western Reserve University	New York University	University of Minnesota, Duluth
Chapman University	North Dakota State University	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Christendom College	Northern State University (SD)	University of Missouri, Columbia
College of Saint Benedict	Northwestern University	University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Colorado Christian University	Pepperdine University	University of North Dakota
Colorado School of Mines	Providence College	University of Notre Dame
Cornell University	Purdue University	University of Portland
Creighton University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of St. Andrews (UK)
Dartmouth College	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	University of St. Thomas (MN)
Davidson College	Sacred Heart University	University of San Diego
Elon University	Saint John's University (MN)	University of Texas, Austin
Fordham University	Saint Mary's University of Minnesota	University of Utah
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Seton Hall University	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Georgetown University	South Dakota School of Mines and Tech.	Vanderbilt University
Gonzaga University	South Dakota State University	Villanova University
Grinnell College	Southern Methodist University	Wake Forest University
Gustavus Adolphus College	St. Olaf College	Washington University in St. Louis
Harvard College	Texas A&M University	Wheaton College (IL)
Hillsdale College	Texas Christian University	Williams College
Indiana University, Bloomington	Thomas Aquinas College	Winona State University
Iowa State University	United States Military Academy	Yale College
James Madison University	University of Alabama	

In addition to the above institutions, the following institutions *admitted* at least one student from the Classes of 2013-2015:

Aquinas College (TN)	Furman University	Seattle University
Assumption College (MA)	George Fox University	St. Bonaventure University
Augsburg College	George Washington University	St. Catherine University-St.Paul
Augustana College (SD)	Grand View University	St. Cloud State University
Ave Maria University	Grove City College	St. Norbert College
Barry University	Hamline University	Stanford University
Belmont Abbey College	High Point University	Temple University
Bradley University	Johnson & Wales University (RI)	Trinity University
Brescia University	Kenyon College	Tufts University
Bucknell University	Lake Forest College	University of Colorado, Boulder
Butler University	Lawrence University	University of Connecticut
Calif. Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	Lewis University	University of Denver
Cardinal Stritch University	Loyola University, Chicago	University of Findlay
Carleton College	Maryville University (MO)	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Carroll University (WI)	McGill University (Canada)	University of Kentucky
Catholic University of America	Michigan State University	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Central Michigan University	Michigan Technological University	University of Miami (FL)
Chaminade University of Honolulu	Minnesota State University, Mankato	University of Michigan
Champlain College	Minnesota State University, Moorhead	University of Minnesota, Morris
Clarke University	Mount Holyoke College	University of Northern Colorado
Clemson University	Mount Mercy University	University of Pennsylvania
Coe College	Mount Saint Mary's University	University of Pittsburgh
College of the Holy Cross	North Carolina State University	University of Puget Sound
College of St. Scholastica	Northeastern University	University of Richmond
College of William and Mary	Northern Michigan University	University of Rochester
Colorado College	Otis College of Art and Design	University of South Carolina
Colorado State University	Palm Beach Atlantic University	University of South Dakota
Columbia University	Pennsylvania State University, University Park	University of Southern California
Concordia College, Moorhead	Pomona College	University of Tampa
Cornell College	Pratt Institute	University of Vermont
Covenant College	Princeton University	University of Virginia
Culinary Institute of America	Regis University (CO)	University of Washington
Denison University	Rice University	University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
DePaul University	Saint Louis University	University of Wisconsin, La Crosse
Dominican University	Saint Mary's College (IN)	University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Drake University	Saint Michael's College	University of Wyoming
Duke University	Saint Xavier University	Valparaiso University
Duquesne University	Santa Clara University	Viterbo University
Emory College	Savannah College of Art and Design	Washington and Lee University
Fairfield University	Seattle Pacific University	Xavier University (OH)