

School Overview, Mission, and Philosophy

Founded in 2001, Providence Academy is an independent, Catholic, co-educational college preparatory school serving students in Pre-K through Grade 12. All divisions share a 300,000 square foot Georgian colonial school building. The 42-acre campus is 11 miles northwest of downtown Minneapolis in the suburban city of Plymouth.

From the heart of our motto, “Faith, Knowledge, Virtue,” Providence Academy aims to develop 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 both breadth and depth in students’ mastery of core knowledge that is the foundation for higher learning. Our mission is to educate clear thinkers, informed believers, and good citizens prepared to meet the challenges of American life in the 21st century.

The facilities and program reflect a threefold emphasis in academics, arts, and athletics. Learning spaces include modern classrooms, fully equipped science laboratories and computing labs, a metal and wood shop, a museum-quality Antiquities Gallery, and well-appointed spaces for the performing and visual arts, including a 650-seat, professional-quality performing arts center and a 1,500-seat artificial turf stadium convertible to a seasonal dome.

Accreditation

Providence Academy received re-accreditation from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) in 2018.

Enrollment

Total PreK-12 Enrollment: 943 students
Students reside in 65 cities/municipalities

College Application and Enrollment Statistics

- 97% of graduates attend 4-year colleges (2022-25)
- 75% enroll at out-of-state colleges (2022-25)
- 31% enroll at Catholic colleges (2022-25)
- 43% enroll at public colleges (2022-25)

More About the Upper School

- Class of 2026: 80 students
- Upper School: 329 students
- 71% of Upper School teachers hold advanced credentials
- 25% of students receive need-based tuition assistance
- 68% of students are Roman Catholic

Key Academic Policies

- Providence Academy does not assign a class rank
- As of Fall 2022, Providence Academy reports both cumulative unweighted GPAs (4.0 scale) and supplemental weighted GPAs on transcripts
- Providence allows students a singular retake of most assessments under 70% for up to a maximum value of 70%. Full value retakes are also offered in some courses and circumstances.

Student Conduct & Disclosure Policy

Any student on track to graduate in good standing receives the endorsement of the administration of Providence Academy. PA reports appropriate records that colleges may request. This includes academic transcripts, teacher referrals, and disciplinary records including any suspension that exceeds one day, and expulsion. PA expects students to disclose their disciplinary history when it is required of them in the college enrollment process. Following graduation, PA sends a final report to the college to which a student has enrolled, including a final transcript, as well as any change in standing which supersedes previous responses on school forms.

College Counseling Contact Information

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Upper School Curriculum

Providence Academy utilizes an independently designed curriculum. Students share core courses in English, History, and Religion in common for all four years, assuring a solid formation and shared engagement with ideas and texts. Upper School students have the opportunity to choose between college preparatory and honors pathways in all disciplines, allowing them to customize a program to suit their individual talents, abilities, and interests.

- Honors courses are currently offered in Mathematics, Sciences, World Language, Fine and Performing Arts, as well as in core courses in English, History and Religion (*the curriculum chart on the facing page indicates only those course offerings which were available to the Class of 2026, not all present offerings*)
- Utilizing an “embedded honors” approach, courses in English, History, Religion, Spanish and French include students at both the honors and college preparatory levels in the same classroom
- Students must complete two years of world language in Upper School, completing level 3 in one world language or level 2 in two different world languages
- Honors course placements are application-based and determined by the academic department chairs
- Advance College Credit (ACC) courses are offered through the University of Minnesota and Benedictine College. Courses noted with “ACC” on the transcript are equivalent to honors or advanced level courses
- Students have the opportunity to graduate with Latin Honors, qualifying on the basis of cumulative weighted GPA, credit total, and rigor of curriculum

Curriculum Notes & Distinctive Programs

Advanced Placement - In keeping with the independent and intentional nature of our curriculum design, 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 several upper level English, History, Math, Science, Art, and World Language courses in preparing for the corresponding AP exams.

Classical Greek I-II - Students who completed dual enrollment Latin Prose ACC and Latin Poetry ACC (4 credits each), are eligible to take dual enrollment Classical Greek I-II (5 credits each) in their senior year. As the syllabus states, “the curriculum is very difficult and the pace is extremely rigorous.” Students who complete Classical Greek I-II are in a rarefied category of language mastery entering college.

Testing Data

2022-2025 Advanced Placement Exam Results

Total administered: 597 exams

Exams scored at 3 or above (*pass rate*): 78%

Exams scored at 4 or above: 44%

Total AP Scholars: 51 students

National Merit Scholars

(Percentage of class recognized)

Class of 2023 - 6%

Class of 2024 - 9%

Class of 2025 - 8%

ACT Scoring, Classes of 2022-2025

Mid 50% Composite Score Range: 24-31

Composite Score Mean: 28

SAT Scoring, Classes of 2022-2025

Mid 50% SAT Score Range: 1210-1450

Religion - Required all four years and demanding scholarly engagement with Scripture and primary source texts in literature, philosophy and theology, Religion courses feature the same rigor as other core disciplines. Authors studied in Religion courses include Aquinas, Aristotle, Augustine, C.S. Lewis, Boethius, Gandhi, Garrigou-Lagrange, Martin Luther King, and Tolstoy.

STEM - Students may deepen applied math and science skills through robust electives in computer programming or full-year Engineering courses that introduce students to design thinking, programming, and a fully equipped metal and woodworking shop. Students may also participate in FIRST Robotics. Students may also contribute to a professional scientific research project by engaging with faculty in experimental design, implementation, data collection and analysis, and the preparation of high quality written summaries of findings via summer research and/or by enrolling in science research electives.

Visual & Performing Arts - PA’s visual art courses provide intensive training in drawing techniques and the sophisticated development of ideas in all artistic media. Seniors taking Studio Art Honors create a portfolio of quality and breadth which they submit as part of the AP Drawing or Art & Design exams. Theater students both stage and perform in world-class shows utilizing a state-of the art Performing Arts Center. Music students may enroll in their courses at the honors level based on audition, expanded participation, and success at state contests. The audition-based Chamber Choir is among select choirs to perform at annual state/regional conventions.

Providence Academy Curriculum for the Class of 2026

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English	Classical Literature <i>Classical Literature Honors</i>	British Literature <i>British Literature Honors</i>	American Literature <i>American Literature Honors</i>	Senior English Seminar <i>Senior English Seminar Honors</i>
History	Ancient and Medieval Worlds <i>Ancient and Medieval Worlds Honors</i>	European History <i>European History Honors</i>	U.S. History I (1492-1877) <i>U.S. History I Honors</i>	U.S. History II (1877-Present) <i>U.S. History II Honors</i> Economics Human Geography
Religion	Introduction to the Creed <i>Introduction to the Creed Honors</i>	Moral Theology <i>Moral Theology Honors</i>	The Christian Life <i>The Christian Life ACC</i>	Reason & Revelation <i>Reason & Revelation ACC</i>
Science (see Note 1)	Chemistry <i>Chemistry Honors</i> Introductory Earth Science	Biology <i>Biology Honors</i>	Physics <i>Physics ACC</i>	Earth & Space Science <i>Advanced Biology</i> <i>Advanced Chemistry</i> <i>Advanced Physics</i> <i>Computer Systems ACC</i>
Mathematics	Algebra I, <i>Algebra I Honors</i> , Intermediate Algebra Geometry, <i>Geometry & Trigonometry Honors</i> Algebra II, <i>Algebra II Honors</i> , Data Science Functions, Trigonometry, & Statistics (FTS) Pre-Calculus, <i>Pre-Calculus Honors</i> <i>Probability & Statistics Honors</i> <i>Calculus I Honors, Calculus II Honors</i>			
World Language (see Note 2)	French I, II, III, IV, <i>French IV Honors, Advanced French</i> Spanish I, II, III, IV, <i>Spanish IV Honors, Advanced Spanish</i> Latin I, II, III, Latin Poetry, Latin Prose, <i>Latin Poetry ACC, Latin Prose ACC</i> <i>Classical Greek I & II ACC</i>			
Electives	<u>Physical Education (.5 cr)</u> Health & Fitness Individual & Dual Sports Strength & Conditioning Team Sports <u>Electives (1.0 cr)</u> Journalism <i>Journalism Honors</i> Prin. of Engineering I, II	<u>Electives (.5 cr)</u> Apps of Computer Prog. Biotechnology Current Events Debate I, II Foods & Nutrition I, II History of Western Art In Their Own Words Intro to Computer Prog.	<u>Electives (.5 cr) cont'd</u> Intro. to Woodworking Microbial & Antibiotic Research I, II Personal Finance Philosophy Political Ideas Sewing & Design I, II Speech & Debate I, II	<u>Fine Arts (.5 cr)</u> Beginning Studio Band <u>Fine Arts (1.0 cr)</u> Academy Chorale <i>Chamber Choir Honors</i> Music Consortium <i>Music Consortium Honors</i> Publications <i>Publications Honors</i> <u>Fine Arts (1.0 cr) cont'd</u> Studio Art I, II, III, IV <i>Studio Art Honors</i> Symphonic Band <i>Symphonic Band Honors</i> Intro. to Theater

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

Note 1: The standard science sequence begins with Chemistry in Grade 9. Alternative sequences are possible based on year of PA entry and student scheduling needs. Students may complete Introductory Earth Science in Grade 9 if their mathematics placement requires a delay before enrolling in Chemistry.

Note 2: Latin Poetry and Latin Prose are distinct courses in content and rigor from Latin Poetry ACC and Latin Prose ACC. Students who complete Latin Poetry or Prose and later enroll in the similarly named Advance College Credit course do not repeat any work.

Graduation Requirements

Religion: 4 credits

History: 4 credits

English: 4 credits

Science: 3 credits

Mathematics: 2 credits*

World Language: 2 credits**

Physical Education: 1 credit

Fine Arts: 1 credit

Senior Speech/Project

TOTAL: 21 credits

*2 years of math and completion of Alg. II required

**Completion of level 3 in one language or level 2 in two languages required

Senior Speech/Project (Capstone)

Twelfth grade students either research, write, and deliver a formal speech or prepare for and complete a short-term externship that allows them to try a possible career path, contribute to a local community organization, or explore an area of interest related to their future field of study.

In either form, we emphasize both process and final product with faculty/staff advisors offering checkpoints throughout the process to completion.

College Application and Matriculation Data

Recent Graduates were admitted (and matriculated*) to the following four-year institutions:

American University	Indiana University*	Syracuse University*
Arizona State University*	Iowa State University*	Texas A & M University
Auburn University*	John Carroll University*	Texas Christian University*
Augustana University*	John Paul the Great Catholic University*	Thomas Aquinas College
Ave Maria University*	Johnson & Wales University*	Trinity College Dublin*
Bates College*	Kansas State University*	Tulane University
Baylor University*	Lafayette College	Union College
Belmont Abbey College	Lawrence University	United States Naval Academy*
Beloit College	Lipscomb University*	United States Military Academy*
Benedictine College*	Louisiana State University	The University of Alabama*
Bennington College*	Loyola Marymount University*	University of Arizona*
Bentley University*	Loyola University Chicago*	University of Arkansas
Bethel University*	Lynn University	University of Chicago*
Boston College*	Macalester College*	University of Colorado Boulder*
Bucknell University	Marquette University*	University of Dallas*
Butler University*	Miami University-Oxford	University of Dayton*
California Polytechnic State University*	Michigan State University	University of Denver*
Carleton College	Michigan Technological University*	University of Florida*
Carroll College*	Middlebury College	University of Georgia*
Carthage College*	Milwaukee School of Engineering*	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
Case Western Reserve University	Minneapolis College of Art and Design*	University of Iowa*
The Catholic University of America*	Missouri University of Science & Technology	University of Kansas*
Christendom College*	New York University*	University of Kentucky*
Clarkson University	North Carolina State University	University of Mary*
Clemson University	North Central University*	University of Miami*
Coastal Carolina University*	North Dakota State University*	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*
Coe College*	Northeastern University*	University of Minnesota-Duluth*
Colgate University	Northwestern University*	University of Minnesota-Twin Cities*
College of Charleston	Nova Southeastern University*	University of Mississippi*
College of the Holy Cross*	Oakwood University*	University of Missouri*
College of St. Benedict*	The Ohio State University*	University of Nebraska-Lincoln*
College of St. Scholastica*	Pennsylvania State University*	University of New Hampshire
Colorado School of Mines*	Pepperdine University*	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*
Colorado State University*	Providence College*	University of Notre Dame*
Creighton University*	Purdue University*	University of North Dakota
Dartmouth College*	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Oklahoma*
Denison University*	Rhodes College	University of Richmond*
DePaul University	Rice University*	University of Rochester
Drake University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of St. Thomas (MN)*
Duke University	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	University of San Diego*
Eckerd College	Sacred Heart University	University of South Carolina*
Elon University	Saint Anselm College	University of South Dakota*
Emory University*	Saint John's University*	University of Southern California
Fairfield University	Saint Louis University*	University of Tampa*
Florida Gulf Coast University*	Saint Mary's University*	University of Tennessee-Knoxville*
Florida State University*	Saint Norbert College	University of Texas at Austin
Fordham University*	St. Catherine University*	University of Toronto*
Franciscan University of Steubenville	St. Cloud State University*	University of Virginia
Furman University	St. Edward's University	University of Wisconsin-La Crosse*
Gettysburg College*	St. John's College	University of Wisconsin-Madison*
The George Washington University	St. Lawrence University	University of Wisconsin-River Falls*
Gonzaga University*	St Olaf College*	Vanderbilt University*
Grand Canyon University*	Samford University	Vassar College*
Grinnell College	San Diego State University	Villanova University
Gustavus Adolphus College	Santa Clara University	Virginia Military Institute*
Hamilton College	Savannah College of Art and Design*	Virginia Tech
Harvard University	Seton Hall University	Wake Forest University*
Hawaii Pacific University*	Skidmore College	Washington and Lee University*
High Point University*	South Dakota School of Mines*	Washington University in St Louis*
Hillsdale College*	South Dakota State University	Winona State University*
Holy Cross College*	Southern Methodist University	William and Mary*
Hope College	Stevens Institute of Technology	Xavier University
Howard University*	Stonehill College	

Sampling of Institutions with the most applications in recent cycles:

Auburn University	Miami University-Oxford	University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Baylor University	Northwestern University	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Benedictine College	Pepperdine University	University of Notre Dame
Boston College	Purdue University	University of San Diego
Clemson University	Texas Christian University	University of St. Thomas (MN)
Creighton University	University of Colorado Boulder	University of Tampa
High Point University	University of Iowa	University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Hillsdale College	University of Miami	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Indiana University	University of Michigan	Wake Forest University