



Think. Play. Belong.

Tuscaloosa Academy

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PROFILE 2010

Tuscaloosa Academy, founded in 1967, is a non-sectarian, independent, co-educational, college-preparatory school serving approximately 370 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade (115 students in grades nine through 12). Located 50 miles south of Birmingham in West Alabama, the city and surrounding areas of Tuscaloosa is home to approximately 245,740 people. International students comprise 15 percent of the total enrollment at Tuscaloosa Academy. Traditionally, 100 percent of Tuscaloosa Academy graduates attend four-year colleges and universities. The class of 2010 has 31 students. 38 percent of the faculty has Masters Degrees and 7 percent has Doctoral Degrees. Tuscaloosa Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In addition to a superior college preparatory/honors curriculum, denoted as CP (college preparatory) on official transcripts, the students learn and abide by an Honor System. This is a means of instilling in each individual student an active sense of honor, integrity, personal responsibility, honesty, trustworthiness, self-respect, good citizenship, and respect for the school. It creates an atmosphere of trust at the school by encouraging the entire student body to hold these qualities in the highest esteem.

Tuscaloosa Academy students are involved outside of the classroom and are given the opportunity to excel in extracurricular activities. Upper School students average 20 hours of community service and more than 75 percent play at least one sport. All students in grades seven-12 are required to purchase a personal tablet PC resulting in a mastery of technology before graduation. Student health and safety is supported by a preventative mandatory drug testing program for all students in grades seven-12.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

All students are enrolled in a combination of required core courses and electives. A typical course load consists of six courses and one study period. Concurrent enrollment at the University of Alabama is offered to qualified seniors at Tuscaloosa Academy, giving them the opportunity to earn college credit, while continuing their required senior year courses.

Students may elect to pursue an Enhanced Course Requirements Certification upon graduation, which requires taking five AP courses or dual enrollment courses with the University. The ERC meets the standards of the Gymnasium in the German Education System.

With approval from the dean, students may also elect to enter the TA Scholar Program, which involves writing a thesis in addition to achieving the Enhanced Course Requirement Certificate.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Since 2000, Tuscaloosa Academy has had 13 National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists; 13 National Merit Scholarship Winners; four Commended Students; including two in the 2009-2010 school year.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Twenty-six credits are required for graduation. Many students graduate with more by taking electives each year in addition to the following required course of study, grades nine-12. The TA Scholars Distinction Certificate involves taking Philosophy and writing a thesis in addition to the Enhanced Course Requirements.

English	4 credits
History	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Laboratory Science	4 credits
Foreign Language	3 credits
Computer Science	1 credit
Health	½ credit
Speech	½ credit
Fine Arts	1 credit
Physical Education	1 credit
Elective	3 credits

ELECTIVES

In addition to the required courses, students choose from the following electives.

Anatomy & Physiology
Art I, II, III, IV, Studio Art
Calculus
Creative Writing
Drama
French IV
Journalism
Latin I, II, III, IV
Music
Philosophy
Pre-Cal/Trig
Psychology/Sociology
Spanish IV
Strength and Conditioning

GRADING SCALE

Tuscaloosa Academy uses a 'weighted' GPA with AP courses receiving an additional one point and "College Prep/Honors" receiving a .5 increase.

A+	101+	A+	4.3
A	94-100	A	4.0
A-	90-93	A-	3.7
B+	87-89	B+	3.3
B	83-86	B	3.0
B-	80-82	B-	2.7
C+	77-79	C+	2.3
C	73-76	C	2.0
C-	70-72	C-	1.7
D+	67-69	D+	1.3
D	63-66	D	1.0
D-	60-62	D-	0.7

STANDARDIZED TEST DATA

ACT Assessment: the average ACT Composite score for the class of 2010 was 24.6. SAT Assessment: the average SAT I score for the class of 2010 was 608 Critical Reading, 568 Math, and 573 Writing.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Advanced Placement classes are open to all Junior and Senior students and are offered in the following courses: English Language, English Literature, Calculus, United States History, Biology, Chemistry, Government/Economics, Psychology, Physics, Spanish, French, and Studio Art. Students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the AP examinations. In 2009-2010, students took 64 advanced placement exams in eight subject areas.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Since 2004, the following four-year colleges and universities are among those offering admission to graduates of Tuscaloosa Academy:

Auburn University
Belmont University
Birmingham-Southern College
Boston College
Clemson University
College of Charleston
Columbia University
Dallas Baptist University
Duke University
Emory University
Emory and Henry
Fresno State
Georgetown
Harding University
Harvard University
Huntingdon College
Johns Hopkins University
Louisiana State University
Mississippi College
MIT
Purdue University
Rhodes College
Rice University
Samford University
Sewanee—The University of the South
Southern Methodist University
Spring Hill College
Stanford University
Tulane University
University of Alabama
University of Alabama Birmingham
University of California, Davis
University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Georgia
University of Kansas
University of Mississippi
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Alabama
Vanderbilt University
University of Virginia
Wellesley College
Yale