

# Tempe Preparatory Academy

*Verum Bonum Pulchrum*

Truth Beauty Goodness

1251 East Southern Avenue, Tempe, Arizona 85282

Phone: 480-839-3402 Fax 480-755-0546 CEEB #030444 www.tempeprep.org

Dr. Wayne Porter  
Headmaster

wporter@tempeprep.org

Mr. David Keating  
Dean of Students

dkeating@tempeprep.org

Ms. Karin Moffitt

Director of College Counseling

kmoffitt@tempeprep.org

## School Profile Fall 2023

### The School

Tempe Preparatory Academy is a public, independently operated charter school with an open admissions policy. The Academy is a traditional liberal arts school with small classes, a student/teacher ratio of 10 to 1, and an advanced core curriculum designed for college-bound students. Founded in 1996, the school requires a common and rigorous sequence of courses for all students; there are no electives (except the choice among mandatory foreign languages). TPA is accredited by the North Central Association. All students are required to complete a Senior Thesis and 30 hours of Community Service for graduation.

TPA serves a student population of 450 students in grades 6-12, with 245 high school students in grades 9-12 in a lower-middle-income urban/suburban demographic. **There are 48 students in the Class of 2024.**

Representative of the greater community, approximately 48% of TPA students represent various racial and ethnic minority backgrounds with many biracial students:

Hispanic/Latino	27%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	14%
Black/African American	3%
American Indian	2%
White	53%

National Merit Scholars	Class of 2024
Semifinalists	1
Commended	3
Hispanic, Indigenous, Achievement	7
Total #/Percentage of Class	12/25% (of 48)

About 55% of TPA graduates continue to STEM majors and careers. About 20% are first-generation to college.

### Philosophy

The mission of Tempe Preparatory Academy is to educate students for the lifelong pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty. TPA graduates have a foundation in the liberal arts of grammar and rhetoric, logic and mathematics, history, natural science, and philosophy, with the fine arts of music, drawing and painting, and drama. TPA has chosen to focus on our rigorous, integrated honors liberal arts curriculum rather than offer AP or IB programs. Encouraging the growth of leaders through accomplishments; we do not have student council or class officers.

### Academic Honors

Tempe Prep's students score near the highest in Maricopa County on standardized exams. Along with being a former Blue Ribbon School, TPA continues to receive local and national recognition:

- Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the State and 15<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. for College Readiness, Newsweek Top High Schools (2016)
- Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the State for percentage of college graduates from a public school (2016)
- The only open enrollment public school to be ranked in Arizona's top 10 for 2 consecutive years (2012-2013)
- NCEA Higher Performing School in All Subjects (one of only 4 high schools in the State - 2013)
- Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Maricopa County, 4<sup>th</sup> in the State of Arizona, Arizona Dept. of Education Report Card (2012)
- One of only 5 schools to receive the Arizona Department of Education's Reading Excellence Award (2011)

### Graduation

The curriculum is exclusively college preparatory honors level with many college level dual enrollment courses. Students take a minimum of six courses each semester and complete 24.5 credits to graduate.

English	4.0	Science	4.0	Community Service	0.25
Social Science	4.0	Foreign Language	4.0	Senior Thesis	0.25
Mathematics	4.0	Fine Arts	4.0	<b>Total credits</b>	<b>24.5</b>

### Grading/Rank

**TPA does not rank its students.** There are **no AP courses** and **no A+ grades**. Only the grade points and credit hours earned from courses successfully completed at TPA are used in the computation of the student's GPA. The grade distribution chart reflects all students in the class at the time; some of the students included no longer attend TPA. The transcript reflects both an unweighted and weighted GPA. Weighted grades include a 1.0 quality point for TPA Honors courses. The unweighted grading scale is as follows:

A (4.0) = 100-93  
A- (3.67) = 92-90

B+ (3.33) = 89-88  
B (3.0) = 87-83  
B- (2.67) = 82-80

C+ (2.33) = 79-78  
C (2.0) = 77-73  
C- (1.67) = 72-70

D+ (1.33) = 69-68  
D (1.0) = 67-63  
D- (0.67) = 62-60  
F (0.0) = 59-0

# The Curriculum

<b>Humane Letters</b>	<p>A cornerstone of the liberal arts curriculum at Tempe Preparatory Academy is the Humane Letters Seminar. In the 9th through 12th grades, English and History are combined in our Humane Letters Seminars: these are 2-hour long, daily seminars, directed Socratically and revolving around readings from Western Civilization's best works in philosophy, drama, economics, history, autobiography, poetry, novels, and essays. Students learn to read carefully, discuss clearly, and write coherently.</p> <p><b>Freshman:</b> A Socratic seminar on ancient literature, drama, philosophy, and history with readings from Homer, Sophocles, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle and Virgil. Students also study Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i> and <i>Julius Caesar</i>, as well as The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and selections from The New Testament.</p> <p><b>Sophomore:</b> A Socratic seminar that addresses European literature, philosophy, and history, and traces the development of cultural and political institutions, and economic patterns from the Middle Ages through the 19th century. In addition to numerous primary source documents, texts studied include those by Shakespeare, Locke, Austen, Dickens, Marx, Dostoevsky, and Solzhenitsyn.</p> <p><b>Junior:</b> A Socratic seminar that combines a survey of American history through primary sources with representative American literature and philosophy including works of Hamilton, Madison, Thoreau, Douglass, Twain, Crane, Cather, Fitzgerald, Steinbeck and Wilder as well as Shakespeare's <i>Othello</i>. The first semester concentrates on American history from the founding era through the Civil War and Reconstruction, while the second semester focus is on the 20th century with particular attention paid to W.W.I, W.W.II, and the Cold War.</p> <p><b>Senior:</b> A capstone Socratic course in which students draw upon the work of the previous three years in examining developments in literature, philosophy, history, and economics in the transition from the era of the Roman Empire through the Middle Ages and into the modern era. Works include those by Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Shakespeare, Descartes, Boethius, Rousseau, Mill, and Dostoyevsky</p>
<b>Math</b>	<p>Algebra I is completed in the 8th grade and is not shown on the transcript. The standard high school math progression at TPA is: <b>Geometry, Algebra II</b>, 1 semester of <b>Analytic Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus</b>, followed by <b>3 semesters of Calculus</b>. The students study the subject through Socratic discussion.</p>
<b>Science</b>	<p>The standard science curriculum at TPA is: <b>Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and then a choice for seniors of Advanced Physics, Advanced Chemistry, or Advanced Biology</b>. All students graduate with four years of college preparatory lab science. Emphasis is placed on learning through discussion and experimentation.</p>
<b>Foreign Languages</b>	<p>All students study Latin in 7th &amp; 8th grades. In high school, the students may switch to a modern language for four years of study, or they may continue their 3rd and 4th years of Latin, then study Ancient Greek for 2 years.</p> <p><b>Classical Languages: Latin &amp; Greek</b></p> <p>This language track affords students the opportunity to read and best appreciate some of the world's richest and most influential literature and poetry in their original languages, including Cicero, Caesar, Lucretius, Ovid, Catullus, Virgil, Plato, Homer, and Herodotus.</p> <p><b>Modern Languages: Spanish, French, &amp; German</b></p> <p>The emphasis in the modern language classes is to teach even first year courses entirely in the target language, adding both literature and composition by the second year. The class transitions to a seminar-style course in the third and fourth years, reading and discussing literary texts in the target language, including short stories, novels, plays, and poems. Students are expected to write essays of 3-4 pages in the target language.</p>
<b>Fine Arts</b>	<p>All students take each of the following fine arts classes:</p> <p><b>Music Theory/Chorus Performance I &amp; II:</b> Students study the theory and composition of four-part tonal music from Palestrina to the 20th Century and then apply their studies through choral performance.</p> <p><b>Poetry I/II:</b> The courses study drama and music in verse and develop a variety of poetic techniques. Authors studied include Moliere, Donne, Coleridge, Frost, Dickinson, Shakespeare, Shelley, Milton, Wordsworth, and Tennyson.</p> <p><b>Drama I:</b> Students study basic theatre skills. Specific attention to breath and vocal work as well as movement awareness is a key component of the curriculum. Students are guided through theatre history from its origins in ancient Greek theatre through the modern ideas/styles of the twentieth century. Students will also learn basic improvisation, stage directions, terminology and etiquette, engage in mask work, and begin to develop basic acting skills based on the techniques of Sanford Meisner, Stella Adler, Robert Cohen, and Uta Hagen.</p> <p><b>Drama II:</b> Students learn about the audition process, how to prepare for an audition, and then audition for a production. They are guided through the rehearsal process and experience the different components that make up a theatrical production.</p> <p><b>Studio Art I/II:</b> Building upon the basic art techniques taught in the junior high, these courses focus on advanced drawing techniques, art history, and an introduction to studio painting.</p>
<b>Senior Thesis</b>	<p>The culminating project for an Academy student is the Senior Thesis. At the beginning of the senior year, the student selects a field of inquiry from the curriculum—literature, philosophy, math, science, the arts—and then reads three or four substantial primary texts to examine in preparation for writing a 15-20 page analytical paper. At its core, the thesis is an exploration of one of the "Six Great Ideas" of humanity summarized as Truth, Beauty, Goodness, Justice, Liberty, and Equality. Students discuss texts in small group seminars composed of students, faculty, staff and board members, and work individually with a faculty member on the paper. After submitting the paper in the second semester, the senior then publicly defends the thesis before a three-member panel of faculty reviewers and the community at large.</p>



## Class of 2022 Test Scores

Test	Middle 50%	Mean	# Tested
<b>SAT (V/CR + Math)</b>	1100-1310	1219	42
Reading/Writing	580-660	612	
Math	550-660	607	
Writing	28-34	31	
<b>ACT (Composite)</b>	23-29	26	34
English	22-30	27	
Math	22-28	25	
Reading	23-32	28	
Science	21-28	24	




 **National Merit  
Semifinalists**



 **National Merit  
Commended Scholars**



 **National Recognition  
Program Scholars**

Tempe Prep's 10 seniors in the Class of 2022 who received prestigious National Merit recognition. 30% of the class was recognized as National Merit Finalists and Commended Scholars by the National Merit Scholarship Program that honors the top 1% of students nationally.



Tempe Prep's 50 seniors in the Class of 2019 graduated with 7,100 hours of volunteer service in the community and \$11 million in scholarship offers to 90 colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad, including Dartmouth College, University of California at Berkeley, Brandeis University, Rensselaer Polytechnic University, Thomas Aquinas College, Santa Clara University, Honors Colleges at University of Arizona and Arizona State University, and many more public and private institutions. With the foundation of Tempe Prep's nationally recognized liberal arts education, Tempe Prep's 50 new graduates are ready to embark on a wide variety of academic endeavors, from studies in Chemical Engineering to Nursing to Comparative Literature and East Asian Studies.

# Class of 2024

## COVID-19

For much of the pandemic, Arizona set national records for COVID-19 hospitalizations. With our close proximity to the largest university in the nation, our community was frequently on high alert with strict COVID precautions. Many of our students had significant family health issues and also significant financial issues with businesses closed, loss of employment, etc. The Class of 2024 was significantly adversely affected with lock downs occurring in such a pivotal growth time in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year and their first year of high school.

**Spring 2020:** Following the completion of our 3rd quarter and spring break, Tempe Prep quickly pivoted to remote learning on March 23, 2020 for the start of our 4th quarter. Classes met online using a synchronous and asynchronous schedule. We utilized a variety of web-based learning systems and discussion platforms, primarily Zoom, with all classes meeting twice per week. Regarding Semester 2 grading, we continued our high expectations with our rigorous curriculum; students' 4th quarter and semester grades could not be lower than 3rd quarter grades, adjusting for the complexities of a new virtual platform.

**Fall 2020:** For the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade 2020-21 academic year, school began online on August 17, 2020, with all 6 periods of classes meeting daily M-F. On September 8, 2020 we added hybrid in-person instruction with 60% of our students in-person and 40% as distance learners; all 6 periods continued to meet daily M-F. Normal letter grading was consistent regardless of instructional method and students continued to experience a rigorous curriculum with high academic standards. Hybrid in-person and remote instruction continued until the end of the 2020-21 year.

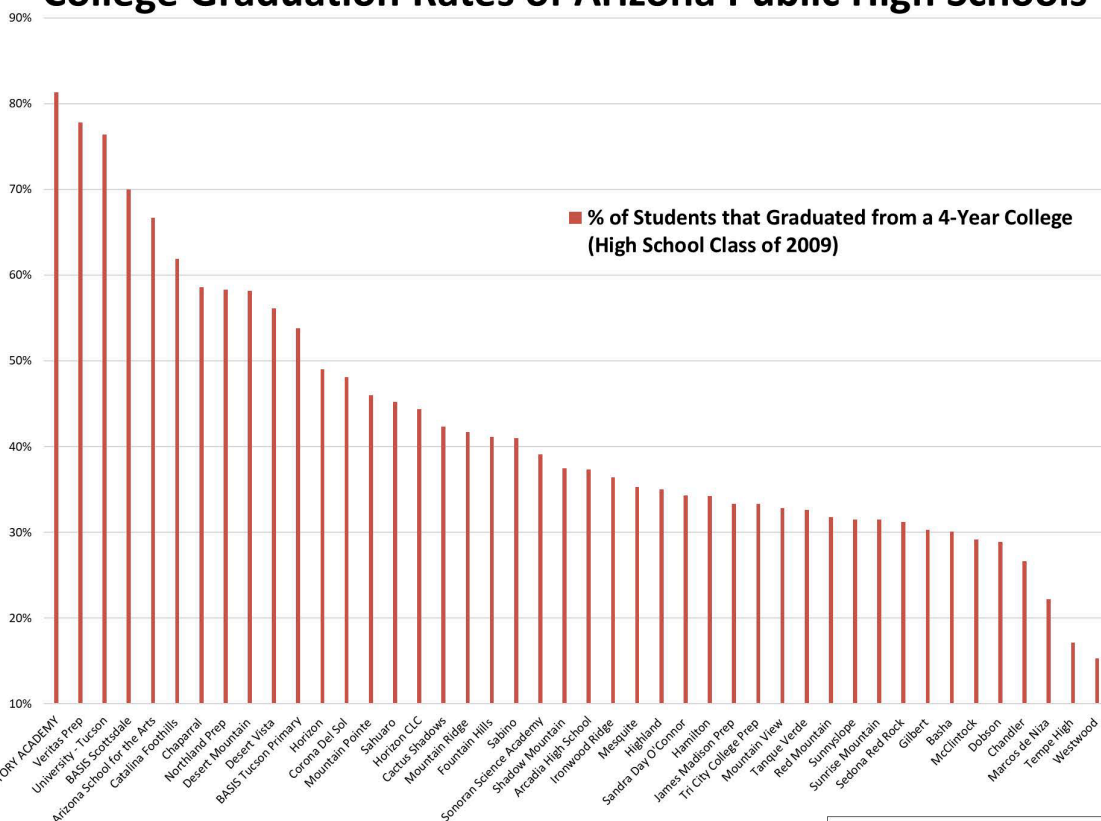
**Fall 2021:** All learning returned to in-person with mandatory masking as students began 10<sup>th</sup> Grade; optional masking began in Spring 2022

## College Credit

The following courses all qualify for dual enrollment college credit through the Rio Salado College and the Maricopa County Community College District:

Pre-Calculus/Calc I	Advanced Biology	Greek II
Calculus II	Music Th/Choral I	French III & IV
Advanced Physics	Music Th/Choral II	German III & IV
Advanced Chemistry	Latin III & IV	Spanish III & IV

## College Graduation Rates of Arizona Public High Schools



For graduation rates of additional Arizona public high schools, go to [azregents.edu/arizona-college-completion-report](http://azregents.edu/arizona-college-completion-report)

# College Acceptances & Matriculation\* 2014-2023

University of Alabama (3)*	Duke University	Univ of Pennsylvania-Wharton (2)*
American University*	Eckerd College*	Pepperdine University (2)*
American University of Paris	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ (2)*	Pitzer College*
Amherst College*	Emory University*	Princeton University (2)*
Arizona State University*	Fordham University*	University of Portland
University of Arizona*	Franciscan University of Steubenville*	Princeton University (2)*
Azusa Pacific University	Franklin & Marshall College*	Purdue University (2)*
Baldwin Wallace University	Fresno Pacific University*	Queen's University Toronto*
Bard College*	George Mason University*	University of Redlands
Barnard College	Georgetown University*	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)*
Barry University	George Washington University	Rhodes College
Barrett Honors College at ASU*	Georgia Institute of Technology*	Rice University*
Baylor University (2)*	Gonzaga University	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Belmont University*	Grand Canyon University*	Saint Louis University
Benedictine College (2)*	Grinnell College*	Saint Mary's College (IN)
Boisie State*	Hamline University*	Saint Mary's College of California
Boston College (2)*	Harvey Mudd College	University of San Diego
Boston University*	Hawaii Pacific University	Saint Olaf College*
Brigham Young University*	Hillsdale College	Santa Clara University*
University of California-Berkeley*	Howard University	Scottsdale Community College*
University of California-Irvine	University of Illinois-	Scripps College
University of Calif-Los Angeles (3)*	Urbana/Champaign*	Seattle University
University of California-San Diego	Illinois Wesleyan University	Seton Hall University
University of California-Santa Cruz	The International Culinary Center*	Smith College
Cairn University*	John Paul the Great Catholic Univ*	University of Southern California
Calif State Univ-San Diego*	Kenyon College	University of St. Andrews (Scotland)*
Cal Polytechnic-Pomona*	King's College	Spellman College*
Cal Polytechnic-San Luis Obispo (4)*	Knox College*	Stanford University (3)*
Carnegie Mellon University (2)*	Lafayette College	Swarthmore College
Carson-Newman College	Lehigh University*	Texas Christian University*
Case Western Reserve University	Lewis & Clark College	University of Texas-Austin*
Catholic University of America	Louisiana State University (2)*	University of Texas-Dallas*
Central College*	Loyola Marymount University*	Thomas Aquinas College (2)*
Chapman University	Maryville University St. Louis*	Tufts University (2)*
Christendom College	Mesa Community College*	Tulane University
Claremont McKenna College*	Middlebury College*	US Coast Guard Academy*
Clarke University#	University of Michigan*	Utah State University*
Colorado Mesa University	University of Missouri-Columbia*	Vanderbilt University*
Colgate University*	Mount Holyoke College*	Villanova University*
Univ of Colorado - Colorado Springs*	New Hope Christian College*	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Colorado College*	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	University of Virginia
Colorado School of Mines	University of New Haven	Wartburg College*
Colorado State University-Fort Collins*	University of New Mexico	Washington Univ in St Louis*
Columbia College Chicago	The New School*	University of Washington
Columbia University*	Northeastern University*	Wellesley College (3)*
Concordia University-Irvine*	Northern Arizona University*	Wesleyan University*
Covenant College*	Northwestern University (4)*	Wheaton College MA*
Cornell College	University of Notre Dame (7)*	Whitman College
Creighton University (6)*	University of Oklahoma*	Whitworth University
University of Dallas (4)*	University of Oregon*	Willamette University
Dartmouth College (3)*	Oregon State University	William and Mary
Drexel University	Pacific Lutheran University*	Williams College