

Central Academy

Est. 1985

Focused on inquiry, depth of knowledge and skills

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<https://ca.dmschools.org>

History

Central Academy was established in 1985 to bring together students who demonstrate early readiness for advanced work to challenge them with an accelerated, compacted, and enriched curriculum. Beginning in seventh grade, students from the greater Des Moines area form a supportive community of motivated learners focused on inquiry and depth of knowledge and skills.

Mission

Central Academy provides additional services for students in comprehensive schools by offering the Accelerated Core Pathway and unique AP & World Language courses. Our Accelerated Core Pathway fosters academic excellence through the challenge of compacted curricula by offering acceleration and enrichment for students who demonstrate early readiness for advanced work. Students, especially those under-represented in gifted programs, develop competence, connection, and confidence as they embrace challenging coursework.

Advanced Placement Program:

Central Academy offers the Advanced Placement Capstone program in addition to a broad range of AP classes. Students have the option to take Advanced Placement courses both at Academy and at their comprehensive school. The Central Academy Advanced Placement courses are often accelerated and compacted versions if the courses are offered in both schools. Central Academy also offers courses that go beyond AP offerings for college credit. For example, students may take the History of the Middle East and Islam or Advanced Mathematical Problem Solving.

Advanced Placement Courses Offered in 2024-2025:

English Language and Composition*	Pre-Calculus *
English Literature and Composition*	Calculus AB*
Human Geography*	Calculus BC
United States History*	Computer Science A
European History	Statistics
Comparative Government	Macroeconomics
World History, Modern	Chemistry
Chinese Language & Culture	Physics 1*
French Language & Culture	Physics 2
German Language & Culture	Physics C: Mechanics
Italian Language & Culture	Physics C: Electromagnetism
Japanese Language & Culture	Capstone Seminar
Spanish Language & Culture	Capstone Research

*Accelerated and compacted curricula

Updated 9/24/2024

In the spring of 2024, 932 AP exams were given to students enrolled in AP courses at Academy with 67% earning a score of 3 or higher and 36% with a score of 4 or higher. High School enrollment was 1295 with 283 seniors in the class of 2024.

Sample of Advanced Placement Scores FY2024 Central Academy

2024 Exam Name (10 or more exams administered)	Participation	Percent w/ 3 or higher	Average Score	Percent score 5	Percent Score 4	Percent Score 3	Percent Score 2	Percent Score 1
AP Research- Academy	96%	83%	3.09	0.0%	26.1%	56.5%	17.4%	0.0%
AP Research- World		86%	3.35	13.0%	26.0%	48.0%	11.0%	2.0%
AP Seminar- Academy	94%	94%	3.94	35.3%	35.3%	23.5%	0.0%	5.9%
AP Seminar- World		85%	3.19	9.0%	19.0%	56.0%	11.0%	4.0%
AP Computer Science A- Academy	79%	59%	3.04	25.9%	14.8%	18.5%	18.5%	22.2%
AP Computer Science A- World		67%	3.18	26.0%	21.0%	20.0%	11.0%	22.0%
AP English Language and Composition-- Academy	63%	57%	2.78	7.5%	15.7%	33.6%	33.6%	9.7%
AP English Language and Composition-World		55%	2.79	10.0%	21.0%	23.0%	29.0%	17.0%
AP English Literature and Composition- Academy	48%	89%	3.49	8.9%	43.0%	36.7%	11.4%	0.0%
AP English Literature and Composition- World		72%	3.16	14.0%	27.0%	32.0%	16.0%	11.0%
AP Calculus AB- Academy	89%	80%	3.69	28.6%	34.3%	17.1%	17.1%	2.9%
AP Calculus AB-World		64%	3.22	21.0%	28.0%	15.0%	23.0%	13.0%
AP Calculus BC- Academy	79%	91%	4.45	72.7%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	0.0%
AP Calculus BC- World		81%	3.92	48.0%	21.0%	12.0%	14.0%	5.0%
AP Pre-Calculus- Academy	14%	91%	4.00	36.4%	36.4%	18.2%	9.1%	0.0%
AP Pre-Calculus- World		76%	3.41	26.0%	24.0%	26.0%	15.0%	10.0%
AP Statistics- Academy	70%	81%	3.56	25.0%	25.0%	31.3%	18.8%	0.0%
AP Statistics- World		62%	2.96	18.0%	22.0%	22.0%	16.0%	22.0%
AP Chemistry- Academy	82%	65%	2.74	0.0%	9.3%	55.6%	35.2%	0.0%
AP Chemistry- World		76%	3.31	18.0%	27.0%	30.0%	17.0%	8.0%
AP Physics 1- Academy	76%	26%	2.00	0.0%	13.2%	13.2%	33.8%	39.7%
AP Physics 1- World		47%	2.59	10.0%	18.0%	19.0%	26.0%	27.0%
AP Physics 2- Academy	83%	76%	3.03	6.9%	20.7%	48.3%	17.2%	6.9%
AP Physics 2- World		71%	3.20	19.0%	18.0%	33.0%	23.0%	7.0%
AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism- Academy	76%	56%	3.13	18.8%	25.0%	12.5%	37.5%	6.3%
AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism- World		72%	3.53	35.0%	22.0%	15.0%	17.0%	11.0%
AP Physics C: Mechanics- Academy	91%	80%	3.55	30.0%	20.0%	30.0%	15.0%	5.0%
AP Physics C: Mechanics- World		76%	3.50	29.0%	27.0%	21.0%	13.0%	10.0%
AP European History- Academy	64%	61%	3.00	6.8%	27.3%	27.3%	36.4%	2.3%
AP European History- World		72%	3.23	13.0%	33.0%	25.0%	21.0%	8.0%
AP Human Geography- Academy	83%	67%	3.13	20.2%	25.5%	21.3%	12.8%	20.2%
AP Human Geography- World		56%	2.83	18.0%	21.0%	18.0%	14.0%	30.0%
AP Macroeconomics- Academy	65%	69%	3.06	10.9%	25.0%	32.8%	21.9%	9.4%
AP Macroeconomics- World		65%	3.13	21.0%	24.0%	21.0%	21.0%	14.0%

2024 Exam Name (10 or more exams administered)	Participation	Percent w/ 3 or higher	Average Score	Percent score 5	Percent Score 4	Percent Score 3	Percent Score 2	Percent Score 1
AP United States History- Academy	74%	71%	3.04	6.0%	22.9%	42.2%	26.5%	2.4%
AP United States History- World		72%	3.23	13.0%	33.0%	26.0%	19.0%	8.0%
AP World History: Modern- Academy	71%	88%	3.46	12.5%	33.3%	41.7%	12.5%	0.0%
AP World History: Modern- World		64%	3.11	12.0%	32.0%	20.0%	27.0%	9.0%
AP Spanish Language- Academy	50%	79%	3.42	25.0%	12.5%	41.7%	20.8%	0.0%
AP Spanish Language- World		83%	3.54	21.0%	31.0%	30.0%	14.0%	3.0%

Graduates of Central Academy (2012-2024) attended the following institutions:

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| American University | Harvard University | Tufts University |
| American University of Paris | Harvey Mudd College | Truman State University |
| Amherst College | Howard University | United States Air Force Academy |
| Augustana College | Iowa State University | United States Military Academy |
| Baylor University | Kansas City Art Institute | United States Naval Academy |
| Bates College | Knox College | University of Chicago |
| Barnard College | Lehigh University | University of Colorado |
| Beloit College | Lewis and Clark College | University of Denver |
| Berkeley—Univ. of CA | Loyola University | University of Iowa |
| Bowdoin College | Luther College | University of Kansas |
| Butler College | Macalester College | University of Miami |
| Brigham Young University | Marquette University | University of Minnesota |
| Carnegie Mellon University | Massachusetts Inst. of Tech (MIT) | University of Missouri |
| Central College | Miami of Ohio University | University of Nebraska |
| College of the Atlantic | Northwest Missouri State Univ | University of Nebraska-Omaha |
| Colorado College | Northwestern University | University of Northern Iowa |
| Colorado State University | Notre Dame University | University of Oklahoma |
| Columbia College | New York University | University of Oregon |
| Cornell University | Oregon State University | University of South Florida |
| Creighton University | Pace University | University of Southern Cal. |
| DePaul University | Purdue University | University of Texas – Austin |
| DePauw University | Rice University | University of Toronto |
| Drake University | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute | University of Tulsa |
| Drew University | Savannah College of Art/Design | University of Vermont |
| Earlham College | Seton Hall University | Univ of Wisconsin-Madison |
| Fordham University | Simpson College | Wake Forest |
| George Mason University | St. Louis University | Washington University |
| Georgetown University | St. Mary’s University | Western Kentucky University |
| Graceland University | St. Olaf College | Williams College |
| Grandview University | St. Thomas University | Xavier University |
| Grinnell College | Stanford University | Yale University |
| Gustavus Adolphus College | Texas Christian University | |

