

Scottsdale Preparatory Academy

2024-2025 Academic Year | scottsdaleprep.greatheartsamerica.org

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School Administration:

Mr. Mark McAfee
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Headmaster

School Information

School Code - 030661
Established Date - 2007
Size (9-12th grade enrollment) - 366 students
Accreditation - Cognia

Our Prep Schools



GreatHearts

Great Hearts Academies is a non-profit network of charter schools and the largest "brick and mortar" provider of classical liberal arts education in the nation.

As a public charter, we provide a tuition-free education for approximately 21,000 students in 30 academies in Arizona and Texas. Great Hearts is subject to open enrollment laws. Typically, our academies receive more applications for enrollment than there are seats available. If this is the case for any grade level at an academy, a lottery will be held. Students who are not admitted through the lottery process will be placed on a waitlist and may be offered admission during that year if a seat becomes available.

Our core curriculum is a robust liberal arts education that introduces students to the tools of critical inquiry essential to each discipline and every walk of life. The Great Books curriculum emphasizes the fundamentals of the arts, sciences, and humanities as students are in conversation with many of the most challenging, influential texts in the Western canon. This academic approach prepares college-bound students for the rigors of higher education as well as agreeing with Plato, that the highest goal of education is to become good, intellectually and morally.

Network Averages:

Testing and data results from the Class of 2024 -578 students

	Middle 50%	Mean		Middle 50%	Mean
ACT English	19 - 28	23.8	SAT EBRW	580 - 690	634
ACT Reading	20-30	24.4	SAT Math	560 - 680	625
ACT Math	19-27	23.5	SAT Composite	1160-1370	1259
ACT Science	19-26	22.6			
ACT Composite	19-27	23.7			

*177 students tested for SAT
578 students tested for ACT*

Percentage of students immediately attending a college/university	93%
Percentage of students pursuing STEM degrees	45%
Percentage of students who were offered merit-based scholarships (including athletic scholarships)	79%
National Merit Finalists	10
National Merit Commended	14
National Scholars (including National Hispanic & African American)	18
Percentage of students attending a service academy or branch	2%

2020 Impacts reflected on the Student Academic Record:

2nd Semester Grading Policy for Prep Schools (6-12th grade) for Spring 2020

– Spring of 2020 (Quarter 4) was based on a blend of synchronous and independent remote instruction. Students were awarded P/F for the Q4 grading period. Second semester grades (A-F) were heavily weighted on 3rd quarter grades with changes made only to reflect distinguished coursework or failure in the 4th quarter. Students were required to take on additional assignments in quarter 4 if they had not successfully passed 3rd quarter.

-Students who earned a "Pass" in Q4 received a letter grade for Semester 2 that is no lower than the letter grade earned for the same course in Quarter 3.

High School Curriculum - Scottsdale Preparatory Academy

Great Hearts Curriculum Refinement

In the spirit of continuous improvement, rising seniors will continue to study Humane Letters and Fine Arts; however, students will have the opportunity to select three courses out of the five honors level offerings: Honors Calculus II, Honors Physics II, a fourth year of Honors Foreign Language and two new courses.

Honors Rhetoric: an in-depth study of American speeches, debates and persuasive writing present through the lens of classical rhetorical principles.

Honors Logic and Computation: a study of formal logic from Aristotle through its modern incarnation as computer coding.

9th Grade Curriculum:

- Honors Humane Letters I: The American Tradition
- Honors Geometry
- Honors Biology (with lab)

- Honors Foreign Language: French I, Spanish I, or Latin IV
- Poetry Composition I
- Music Theory III/Choir

10th Grade Curriculum:

- Honors Humane Letters II: The Rise of Modern Europe
- Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry or Honors Pre-Calculus
- Honors Chemistry (with lab)

- Honors Foreign Language: French II, Spanish II, or Latin V
- Honors Economics
- Music Theory IV/Choir

11th Grade Curriculum:

- Honors Humane Letters III: Ancient Greece
- Honors Calculus I
- Honors Physics I: Mechanics (with lab)

- Honors Foreign Language: French III, Spanish III, or Ancient Greek I
- Drama I
- Studio Art III (including drawing, painting and sculpture)

12th Grade Curriculum:

- Honors Humane Letters IV: Western Thought from Middle Ages to Modernity
- Honors Calculus II *
- Honors Physics II: Electromagnetism / Optics / Wave Motion (with lab) *

- Honors Foreign Language: French III, Spanish III, or Ancient Greek II*
- Honors Rhetoric *
- Honors Logic and Computation*
- Studio Art IV (including drawing, painting and sculpture)
- Drama II
- Senior Thesis & Defense

*Student must choose three out of five Honors options.

Senior Thesis and Defense:

Each graduate completes a capstone project known as the Senior Thesis. The Senior Thesis is the culmination of the student's years at the academy. It is a year-long project completed in addition to the normal courseload. In this project, students work closely with an advisor from the faculty to read and discuss two significant great books in one-on-one meetings during the first and second quarter. By the end of the third quarter, the student will have produced a 15-20 page thesis that synthetically brings forth their own answer to a major philosophical question. Finally, during the fourth quarter, each student will participate in an hour-long oral defense of their work before a panel of teachers and a substantial audience. Students receive .25 credit for successfully completing their thesis and defense.

Humane Letters

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the high school curriculum at Great Hearts is Humane Letters. In the 9th through 12th grades, English and History are combined in the Humane Letters courses: these are 2-hour long, daily seminars, directed Socratically and revolving around readings from Western Civilization's best works in philosophy, drama, history, autobiography, poetry, novels and essays. This collaborative setting allows for the development of the art of conversation, which includes above all the habit of listening well to both the great authors as well as their peers. The class is an exploration of the permanent questions that animate any truly human life through the history and literature of the Great Tradition of the West. What is a good man and good citizen, what are the qualities of a true friend, what kinds of virtue are necessary for a flourishing political and moral life are just a few of the important questions that are addressed with uncommon subtlety and profundity in the books that we read together.

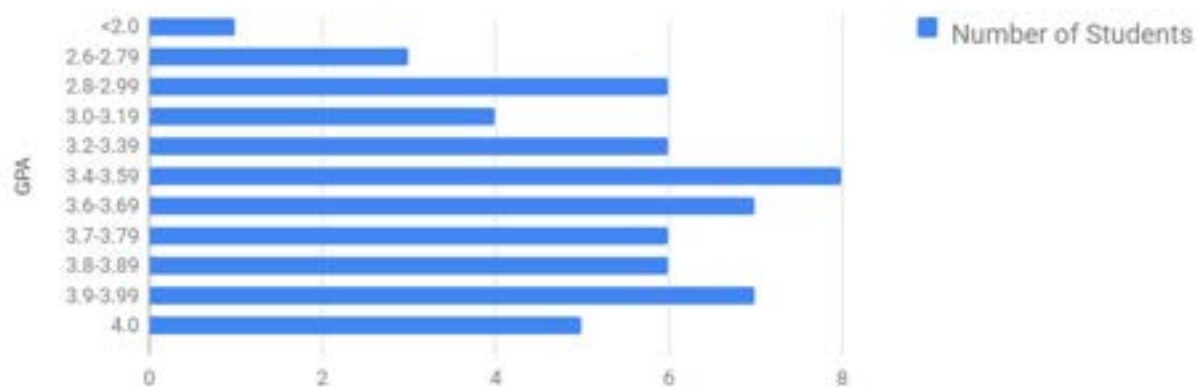
- Due to our deliberate Great Books curriculum and dedication to Socratic seminar, no AP classes or electives are offered.

-- Core Course Studies may be reflected on a student's transcript. The Core Course Studies class provides students with instruction and support to enable them to progress academically in core content areas. This instruction supplements but does not supplant any core-area course in which students are also enrolled.

GPA Distribution- Scottsdale Preparatory Academy

GPA Distribution

Number of Students per GPA Range



*Class of 2025 has 82 students

Scottsdale Prep Class of 2024 Facts

Number of graduates	67
Unweighted GPA Range	1.3-4.0
Average Unweighted GPA	3.4
% of graduates attending a 4-year college/university	98%
% of graduates attending a 2-year college	2%
% of graduates that self-identify as students of color	27.5%
% of graduates accepted to an honors college/program	40%
% of graduates entering STEM majors	34%
# of National Merit Finalists	5
# of National Merit Commended	2

TEST	Middle 50%	Mean	# Tested
ACT	23 - 31	26.6	67
SAT CR & M	1180-1430	1304	51

Select Features

Beginning Fall 2019, all student transcripts will include level 8 Algebra with P/F (pass/fail) grade to indicate a student's complete level of mathematical progression.

The Arizona state requirement, one full credit, for U.S. History is fulfilled in 9th grade Humane Letters.

The Arizona state requirement, one-half credit, for U.S. Government is fulfilled in 10th grade Humane Letters.

The highest course level in all subjects, with the exception of Poetry, performing and fine arts, is Honors.

For the weighted GPA, all Honors courses receive a full extra point for GPA calculation.

We believe in the growth of leaders through accomplishments; we do not have class officers or NHS.

We do not rank our students, and letter grades and competition among students are de-emphasized.

Transfer students may have a different curricular sequence.

The GPA presented on transcripts only includes classes taken at a Great Hearts Academy.

Enrichment Opportunities 23-24:

Offerings are operated by SPA and not required of students. We do not permit student-led groups, as we believe the host of options crafted and executed by us allows for the best opportunity for student involvement and success. Offerings include athletics, enrichment courses, and volunteer opportunities, which could include assisting the school in organizing and executing special events, providing peer support, leading mentor programs, or editing school publications. Enrichment courses are additional opportunities for students to receive instruction from our faculty outside of the school day. The menu of courses that we can offer come from a fixed list that our network can best support, supervise and continually improve. Courses have attendance requirements and culminate with a final project at the end of the semester. Courses may include: Speech and Debate, Chess, Strategic Games, Choir, Theater, Mock Trial, Robotics, Instrumental Music, etc.