ACADEMIC PROFILE 2025-2026

WATERLOO SCHOOL

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56: 2025-2026 Enrollment
14: Class of 2026
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SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Founded in 2018, Waterloo School is an independent, college-preparatory, liberal arts day school for students in grades 9-12, located in downtown Austin, Texas. It was founded by teachers committed to keeping teachers as the fundamental decision-makers about the academic program, admissions, and school culture. As stakeholders in a teacher-led school, teachers collaborate in all aspects of academic, culture, admissions, hiring, evaluation, grading, and program development.

The mission of Waterloo School is to provide an education that integrates academics and city engagement, mentoring students to become whole people, in relationships and in Christ.

Waterloo is designed as a small-enrollment school with a maximum enrollment of 80 students. Our student to faculty ratio is 8:1, and a student to adult mentor relationship ratio of 1:3.

The school's core values of belonging, mentorship, restoration, complexity, flourishing, growth and generosity ground the life of the school, from academics to community engagement.

"THE CITY IS THE SCHOOL"

Waterloo's motto and model is to embed students' learning experiences in the resources, realities, and life of our local community so that students develop a stake in its health and a vision for its future and develop real-world experiences and proficiencies. Using free shared city resources (library, transportation, parks) enables us to reduce costs and helps students socialize to a more diverse community than any school can produce, and provide them a real-world context to develop their skills, values, and interests.

STUDENT BODY

Students attend Waterloo from all socio-economic and geographic areas of Austin, spread across 28 zip codes. 25% receive tuition assistance. 19% are people of color.

ACCREDITATION / MEMBERSHIPS

Waterloo is accredited by TAAPS (Texas Alliance of Accredited Private Schools), a member of The Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC).

JUNIOR PROJECT

All students in their junior year develop an individual project based on their interests and skills—a work of public value they present and around which they facilitate a discussion with their audience. Students develop their writing and public speaking skills as they work on 11th grade level English literature and rhetoric material. Public speaking practice is woven through out and students practice regular engagement and feedback with each other, reinforcing the value of collaboration, listening, and lifelong learning.

SENIOR PRACTICUM

The senior class completes a year long collaborative practicum credit that combines personal network-building and a partnership with a local NGO to apply human-centered design to the creation and production of a service project that adds new original value to the the organization. This year's project is with an intentional community for the formerly homeless.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Waterloo offers a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum using a trimester system with two courses per trimester for a total of six core courses per academic year. Our schedule and offerings prioritize core academic courses (math, science, English, history). The minimum number of credits for graduating seniors is 27 in the following areas:

4 - English
4 - History Including U.S. History
4 - Mathematics -1 year beyond Algebra II.
4 - Science, Biology plus one other lab science.
2 - Foreign Language - Through 2nd year of a language.
1 - Fine Arts
1 - P.E.
1 - Junior Project
6 - Additional credits include, Stakeholder, Senior Practicum, and internship
27 - Total: Credits

*compares to the Texas recommended high school diploma requirements

GRADING SCALE AND GPA

GPA is calculated using an unweighted 4.0 scale. Honors, dual-enrollment, or dual-credit courses are distinguished on the transcript. Dual-enrollment students also receive a transcript from the University of Texas at Austin. Transfer credits and independent study for credit are not calculated into the GPA.

Exceptional	Advanced	Average	
A+ 4.0	B+ 3.3	C+ 2.3	
A 4.0	B 3.0	C 2.0	D 1.0
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	B- 1.7	F 0

CLASS OF 2026 JUNIOR YEAR GRADES

A: 48.75% B: 33.75% C and D: 18.75%

CLASS OF 2026 SAT SCORES

Average SAT Math: 591 Average SAT Verbal: 643

CLASS RANK

Waterloo does not report class rank.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

We focus the student academic experience on an integration of 1) academic skills and knowledge, 2) productive mindsets and skills, and 3) personal growth and maturity.

The circle graphic on the next page outlines the areas of proficiency we track and develop in each student. All courses and experiences are designed to develop these capacities and students create goals for and are engaged and evaluated on them throughout their high school career.

SCHEDULE FOR DEPTH AND FOCUS

Students take only two credits at one one time to support depth and focus of study. Trimesters meet for 12 weeks, with 2 full credit courses per trimester and each class meeting for 2 to 2.5 hours, Monday through Thursday. Fridays are structured for community engagement, grade-level service projects, and academic enrichment.

DESIGNING FOR AUDIENCES

Waterloo's academic program is grounded in the frameworks of design thinking and project-based learning, and requires students to design products and projects for audiences *outside* of the teacher and classroom.

DESIGNED FOR ENGAGEMENT

Additionally, many courses, and all Humanities courses, are organized around a theme with both academic value and present-day cultural relevancy. Each course has a driving question students will seek to answer through the course. Examples include:

English: Senior Seminar. What is a flourishing adult and do I want to become one?

Spanish III: On the Border. What are the experiences of migrants and refugees on the Texas border and how can we engage and support?

European History: Paradigms of Thought and Culture. How did we get to 'De-nazifying' Ukraine, and what can the past tell us about where we're headed?

INDEPENDENT LEARNING & GROWTH

The two-class trimester system provides students with 120 hours of instructional time per class. This allows us to set aside Fridays for community building and developmentally-aligned personal and productive skill building. All students come together in mixed grade teams for Community Learning Time, an opportunity to address topics and develop skills foundational to maturity and adulthood. Students also spend time on Fridays in grade level practicum courses, working on both individual and group projects and developing personal and productive skills through planning events that are central to the life of the school community. Every student has an active Personal Growth Plan to guide, direct, and support personal, productive, and academic growth.

COLLEGE CREDIT

Dual-Enrollment courses are offered through the UT OnRamps program. Each course provides a potential three units of college credit awarded by the University of Texas. Waterloo also awards dual credit for courses at other reputable institutions. Students have the opportunity to earn 3, 3 credit courses, RHE 306 Introduction to Rhetoric, RHE 309 Reading and Writing Rhetoric, and E S 301 Engineer Design / Problem Solving.

We do not offer AP courses. AP test preparation support is available for students who choose to pursue AP test taking independently.

CURRICULUM

We seek to produce thinkers who are also doers, forming young adults who are equipped by rich and deep study of literature and history, mathematics and the sciences, to address the problems and opportunities of the present and future. Our interdisciplinary bias encourages students to make connections among all their fields of study, creating real work of value for real audiences.

HUMANITIES

Humanities courses are multi-grade and interdisciplinary, theme-based courses that center on the great ideas and conversations in human civilization, with individualized primary reading sources tailored to the different grades and levels. Courses focus on developing students' ability in critical reading, aticulate writing, group analysis, discovering relevance, and public presentation. From exploring and interrogating the values that past civilizations and thinkers have considered essential to "the good life," to tackling contemporary controversies in college level Rhetoric courses and global realities in their history courses, our students are grounded in the great thinkers and writers while addressing the current and potential questions of human civilization.

SCIENCES

Science courses are problem-based and experiential, seeking to develop students' observational and analytical skills to understand the world around them within the context of traditional scientific disciplines (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) and STEM application (Engineering). Each science course includes a major laboratory component, critical analysis of scientific data, and presentation. Upperclassmen are eligible for a dual-enrollment Engineering course offered in conjunction with the University of Texas at Austin.

MATHEMATICS

Our math courses develop a problem-based approach to understanding and skill development, utilizing technology, collaboration, and real-world application. Our interdisciplinary focus encourages students to make connections between mathematical thinking and other fields of study and provides opportunities to apply math skills in project work and real-world situations.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Waterloo offers Spanish as a locally important second language, with an emphasis on effective use and cultural engagement. Students develop their language proficiency through writing, speaking, and encounters with bilingual and solely Spanish-speaking communities in Austin and on the Texas-Mexico border. Their project is dual-language picture books for recent Spanish-speaking immigrants.

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT LEARNING

Students have the opportunity to earn credits in interdisciplinary projects and courses (IDP) that integrate multiple subject into a single project. Examples include literature; optical physics around solar eclipses; writing and producing a historical play, and archeology.

ARTS AND ATHLETICS

Waterloo School is a member of TCSAAL (Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League) competing in district and state athletic, academic, and fine arts events. Students are also encouraged to participate in the arts, music, and athletic opportunities in our city to receive credit. Further opportunity to develop extracurricular interests and skills is offered through course projects, which combine academics with skill development and performance.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Approximately 95% of the class of 2025 was accepted into four-year institutions. In the past four years, students have been accepted into the following colleges and universities:

University of Aberdeen | Aberystwyth University (Wales) | Abilene Christian University | University of Alabama, Birmingham | University of Arkansas | Auburn University | University of Austin | Baylor University | Boston University I Butler University | University of California (Berkeley) University of California (San Diego) | University of California (Santa Barbara) | University of California (Santa Cruz) | University of Canterbury (New Zealand) | Case Western University | Champlain College | Colby-Sawyer College | Colorado State University | Colgate University | Connecticut College | Denison University | University of Denver | Earlham College | East Texas A&M University | Elon University | Florida Gulf Coast University | Furman University | Georgia Southern University | George Mason University | Goucher College| Hendrix College | Hillsdale College | Hobart and William Smith College | Hope College | University of Houston | Houston Baptist University | Indiana University | Johns Hopkins University | LeTorneau University | Lewis and Clark College | University of Maryland | Mount Allison University| University of Mississippi | University of Nevada, Las Vegas | New College of Florida | University of Notre Dame | University of Oklahoma | University of Oregon | Oregon State University | University of Puget Sound | Purdue University | Reed College | Rhodes College| Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology | Saint Mary's College of California | Sam Houston State University | Schreiner University | St. Edward's University | St. Lawrence | St. Olaf College | Seattle University | Smith College | Southern Methodist University Methodist University| Southwestern University| Sweet Briar College | Stonehill College | Texas Christian University | Texas A&M University | Texas A&M PSA | Texas State University | Texas Tech University | University of North Texas | University of Texas at Arlington | University of Texas at Austin | University of Texas at Dallas | University of Texas El Paso | University of Texas San Antonio | Trinity University | United States Air Force Academy | University of Vermont | Warren Wilson College | William and Mary University | Willamette University | University of Wisconsin-Madison | Western Washington University | Whitman University | Xavier University of Louisiana