

ACADEMY OF THE CANYONS

Middle College High School

26455 Rockwell Canyon Rd., Santa Clarita, CA 91355, (661)362-3056 phone, (661)255-2954 fax, CEEB# 053-262

Dr. Pete Getz, Principal

www.academyofthecanyons.com

Community

The William S. Hart Union High School District is located in north Los Angeles County, serves the entire Santa Clarita Valley, and enrolls roughly 23,000 students in the district's public schools and programs for grades eight through twelve.

School

A 2015 National Blue Ribbon School, Academy of the Canyons Middle College High School (AOC) is a public alternative to the comprehensive high schools in the William S. Hart Union High School District. We are one of thirteen California Community College Middle College grant recipients. From its establishment in 2000 to 2009, AOC served grades 11 and 12 and expanded to 400 students serving grades 9-12 in 2009. We offer a unique educational experience that fosters academic and personal success in the high school and college environments. We are committed to effective classroom instruction, rigorous curricula, and quality relationships between staff, students, parents, and our college partner. In 2016, we developed a school-wide and student-driven Wellness program to include the mental and emotional health of our students in our school's mission. To attend AOC, students must enroll and take classes at College of the Canyons Community College (COC) to meet educational goals which include high school graduation, college freshmen admission, college transfer, an associate degree, and career certification. Students take college classes on the college campus with college instructors for college credit and have a college transcript.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNER

College of the Canyons
 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
 Santa Clarita, CA 91355
 www.canyons.edu
 CEEB Code: 004-117



Schedule

AOC and COC have two full-term semesters in the fall and spring. COC has short terms during winter and summer. Per COC Board Regulations, grades 9-12 enroll during fall and spring terms; and grades 11 and 12 can enroll during winter and summer. AOC's daily schedule allows easy access to college classes throughout the day. High school classes can be quarter, semester, and year-long in length. College classes are quarter or semester in length.

ACCREDITATION

Academy of the Canyons received a six-year accreditation from 2015-2021 from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).



SCHOOL POPULATION

Each grade averages about 100 students.

1% African American/Black

39% Asian

20% Hispanic/Latino

6% Multi-racial

37% White

42% Male

58% Female

High School Curriculum

All students take honors high school classes in English and social science. We offer honors and college preparatory classes in Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, Algebra II/Trigonometry, and Chemistry. We only teach college preparatory biology since our district does not offer honors level biology. Our students take college classes; therefore we do not offer Advanced Placement. College classes are used to meet high school graduation requirements in PE and practical arts when students start ninth grade with us and when necessary.

College Course Credit

Unlike common college/university practice, the William S. Hart District **does not award** a full year of credit for college-level courses; instead, they use the following college unit to high school credit equivalency formula:

COLLEGE UNIT CONVERSION	
College Unit	HS Credit
1	1.5
2	3
3	5
4, 5, 6	10
PE classes	5

GPA's and Class Ranks

As a grant-funded middle college, we are required to include college courses on the high school transcript. All AOC honors courses and **all** college courses transferable to the University of California or California State University systems are weighted in the GPA calculation for grades of A, B, and C except for physical education courses. Students taking college math and science classes, which are 4, 5, or 6 units, take fewer classes overall but earn more weighted credit than students taking more 3 unit classes. The number of credits earned, therefore, is not an equitable indicator of educational plan rigor.

GPA SCALE			
Mark	Percent	GPA Pts	Weighted
A	90-100	4	5
B	80-89	3	4
C	70-79	2	3
D	60-69	1	1
F	0-59	0	0

*Class rank is EXACT when reporting.

Assessing student success by correlating GPA to class rank is an inaccurate measure for comparison amongst our high achieving population.

CLASS OF 2018 GPA AND RANKS			
Unweighted	Rank	Weighted	Rank
3.75 – 4.00	1-29	4.00 – 4.75	1-57
3.50 – 3.74	30-63	3.75 – 3.99	58-70
3.25 – 3.49	64-79	3.50 – 3.74	71-84
3.00 – 3.24	80-89	3.00 – 3.49	85-96
2.75 – 2.99	90-99	2.75 – 2.99	97-99

The above chart shows ranks and corresponding GPAs of the recent graduating class. In both the unweighted and weighted columns, the majority of the class earns grades in the highest GPA ranges. The correlating ranks, however, don't appear as high. Many students share a rank which makes the next rank a higher number. For example, if ten students share rank #4, the next rank will be #15. The difference between GPAs is often only .001 or .002. If a "top ten rank" is assumed to correspond to the 90th percentile or the 3.5-4.0 GPA range, then for the Class of 2018, students with a ranking of 1-62 are part of the Top Ten.

For the past sixteen years, AOC students have outperformed all COC students and district high school students enrolled in the same college courses. AOC students are considered the most successful sub-group attending the college.

College Enrollment Limitations

California State law limits full-time high school students to a maximum of 11 college units per term. Many students could complete more classes if allowed. For example, if a student is taking a 5 unit college math class and a 4 unit college science or a 5 unit language class, they would not be able to take a general education class which averages 3 units. This unit limitation prevents many students from completing both a third year of science and a third year of language as well as math during grades eleven and twelve. To complete general education and associate degree requirements, students must take college classes during summer and winter terms beginning after tenth grade. We often compare this grueling pace and schedule of rigorous classes to a marathon since it tests our students in similar ways.

Associate Degrees

On average, students complete one year (30 units) of transferable college-level courses and have the opportunity to earn an associate degree (60 units) by high school graduation.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE TOTALS	
Year	# of students/class size
2018	55/99
2017	68/106
2016	28/100
2015	15/93

COC offers three types of degrees: a) those awarded by COC using requirements set by the college; b) those using the general education requirements required by the UC or CSU systems with a major of humanities, social science, or math and science; and c) those that are guaranteed transferable with junior standing to the CSU system. Students earn degrees in fields related to the major they plan to pursue for a bachelor's degree or in other areas of interest. Earning an associate degree is our most demanding educational path.

Post Graduation Plans

For the Class of 2018, 64% went directly to a 4-year college/university and 36% continued at a 2-year community college.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES	
UC:	Berkeley, Los Angeles, San Diego, Irvine, Davis, Santa Cruz, Riverside, Santa Barbara, Merced;
CSU:	Northridge, Channel Islands, Chico, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles; Sacramento State, San Diego State, San Francisco State, San Jose State; Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly Pomona; Alabama, American, Arizona St, Art Center, Azusa Pacific, Baylor, Berklee College of Music, Biola, Boston Coll, Boston U, BYU, CalTech, CalArts, CalLu, Case Western, Chapman, Claremont McKenna, Columbia, Cornell, Drexel, Duke, Embry-Riddle, Emerson, Emory, Florida St, George Washington, GeorgiaTech, Gonzaga, Grand Canyon, Harvey Mudd, Howard, Johns Hopkins, Lewis & Clark, Loyola Marymount, MIT, Master's U, Mt. Holyoke, Mt. St. Mary's, NYU, Northeastern, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Occidental, Ohio State, Otis College, Penn State, Pepperdine, Pomona College, Portland State, Rice, Rose-Hulman Institute of Tech, Savannah Coll Art/Design, Smith, St. John's, Stanford, Syracuse, Swarthmore, Temple, Texas Tech, Tufts, US Air Force Academy, USMA Westpoint, U Chicago, U Kansas, UMass Amherst, U Maryland, U Michigan, UNC Chapel Hill, UPenn, U San Diego, USC, UoP, U Victoria, U Waterloo, Washington Coll, Wellesley, Westmont, Yale, etc.