



The Academy of the HOLY CROSS

Established 1868 • Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross

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School Profile
2009-2010

Claire M. Helm, Ph.D., President

Mary Lynne Boss, Principal

School Code: 210678

Meredith Tomatore, Director of College Counseling

Kristin Merriman, Assistant Director of College Counseling

College Counseling Office 301.929.6444

Mission Statement

The Academy of the Holy Cross, a Catholic college preparatory school sponsored by the Sisters of the Holy Cross since 1868, is dedicated to educating young women in a Christ-centered community which values diversity. The Academy is committed to developing women of courage, compassion and scholarship who responsibly embrace the social, spiritual and intellectual challenges of the world.

School and Community

The Academy has been educating young women since its founding in 1868 by the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Located for 87 years in Washington, D.C. the school moved to the Kensington campus in 1956. The Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and by the Maryland State Department of Education. Student/faculty ratio is 14:1; average class size is 20 students. The Holy Cross faculty, most of whom hold Masters degrees or higher, challenge students to reach beyond their comfort zone both in and out of the classroom. The Academy is committed to providing for individual needs and differences in learning styles. Faculty involvement with students extends beyond the classroom into many co-curricular activities. The Academy's learning space includes science labs, art studios, dark room, kiln room, rehearsal rooms and a 400-seat professional-caliber theatre. Students participate in championship-level athletic teams, an award-winning Performing Arts program and many other co-curricular activities.

Students

The current enrollment of 555 students includes 131 Seniors, 142 Juniors, 146 Sophomores, and 136 Freshmen.

School Year

The school year is divided into two semesters, of 18 weeks each, with a modified block daily schedule. Semester exams, worth 20% of the final semester grade, are given prior to Christmas break and at the end of the school year.

Christian Service Commitment (CSC) Program

The Academy of the Holy Cross is committed to justice for all by serving those most in need. All students make a commitment to Christian service in conjunction with the Theology department. Service awards are given annually based on the cumulative number of hours completed.

Grading

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	< 60

Quality points are assigned to all semester grades, ranging from 4.00 for A to 0.70 for D-. Honors courses are weighted with a 0.5 increment. AP courses are weighted with a 0.7 increment.

Grade Distribution

Class of 2010 (through six semesters)

4.0+	8%
3.75-3.99	11%
3.50-3.749	18%
3.25-3.49	18%
3.0-3.249	19%
2.75-2.99	10%
2.5-2.749	8%
<2.49	8%

Test Scores

Class of 2009

SAT	Middle 50% Range	ACT	Middle 50% Range
Critical Reading	510-640	Composite	22-28
Math	510-620		
Writing	540-640		

Class Rank

Holy Cross is selective in our admission and academic requirements; therefore, class rank is not calculated.

Madeleva Scholars Program

Students who elect to enroll in the Madeleva Scholars Program in their freshman year carry out a specified number of service hours beyond those required of all students; maintain a minimum specified GPA; enroll in Honors- and/or AP-level courses; and fulfill certain additional academic, leadership, and enrichment requirements. They culminate their program with an independent research paper written in junior and senior years. The program was named for Sister M. Madeleva (Wolff), C.S.C., a poet, scholar, educator and an esteemed Sister of the Holy Cross.



Graduation Requirements

To graduate, students must complete a minimum of 24 credits in the following areas:

Theology	4	Social Science	3
English	4	Art Fundamentals	1/2
Language	2 (in same language)	Performing Art	1/2
Math	3	Physical Education/Health	1 1/2
Science	2 1/2	Electives	3

Honors and Advanced Placement Courses

All students must apply for and be admitted to Honors- and AP-level courses. Students must meet a minimum grade requirement in related and/or prerequisite courses. All students in AP courses are required to sit for the AP exam in May.

Honors Studio Art	Honors Acting
AP Studio Art	Honors Introduction to Catholicism/Christian Sexuality
AP Art History*	Honors Christian Scripture
Honors English I, II, III	Honors Christology
AP English Language and Composition	Honors Church History
AP English Literature and Composition	Honors Biology
Honors Spanish II, III, IV, V*	Honors Earth Science
AP Spanish Language	AP Biology
Honors French III*, IV,* V*	Honors Chemistry
AP French Language*	AP Chemistry*
AP Latin Poetry: Catullus/Ovid**	Honors Physics
AP Latin Poetry: Virgil**	AP Physics B
Honors Geometry	Honors World Studies
Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry	Honors US History/Government
Honors Precalculus	Honors US History
AP Calculus AB	AP US History
AP Calculus BC	AP US Government
AP Statistics	
Honors Madrigals	* Offered when minimum enrollment is fulfilled
Honors Show Choir	** Offered alternating years

Advanced Placement Program

In May 2009, 159 students took 370 AP exams in 16 subject areas. 75% of students earned a passing score.

International Baccalaureate Programme

At the start of this academic year, the Academy of the Holy Cross is in candidate status for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Pending IBO authorization in Spring 2010, Holy Cross will offer both the full diploma programme and individual IB course certificates beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year.