



University High School

SCHOOL PROFILE 2020-2021

421 North Arcadia Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85711



OVERVIEW

University High School (UHS) is a rigorous, diverse college preparatory school serving academically focused and intellectually gifted students by providing curriculum and social supports that educate the whole student.

Tucson’s cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity is reflected in the UHS student population. Forty-five percent are students of color from African American, Hispanic, Native American and Asian backgrounds. During 2019-2020, fifty-six percent of our families qualified for the free and reduced lunch program; however, during the 2020-2021 school year, and possibly an effect of COVID-19, twenty-two percent of students qualified for free and reduced lunch.

Established in 1976, UHS is routinely recognized as a top institution on lists and rankings of the nation’s best high schools. Our students’ scores on standardized tests (SAT/ACT/AZMerit) and Advanced Placement (AP) exams are consistently the highest of all Arizona public schools.

ACCREDITATION

UHS is accredited through AdvancEd.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

UHS is an academically selective high school. Admission is based on applicants’ qualifying scores on the Cognitive Abilities entrance exam and their grade point average from the two semesters prior to enrollment. For the 2020-21 school year, approximately 3,037 students tested for entrance to UHS. Of those, 537 were extended offers of admission; 366 enrolled.

CURRICULUM

University High School offers a thorough, college preparatory, four-year curriculum in Mathematics, Science, English, Social Studies, Modern Languages, and Fine Arts. All academic courses at UHS are Honors or Advanced Placement (AP).

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A total of 23 credits are required for graduation from UHS, including:

SUBJECT AREA	Credits Required	Sample Course Offerings (all academic courses are Honors-level, unless AP indicated)
Economics	½	Economics, AP Microeconomics, AP Macroeconomics
English	4	English 9, English 10, AP English Language & Composition, AP English Literature & Composition; English 12 Writing 101 [dual enrollment through Pima Community College]
Mathematics	4	Algebra 1, College Algebra, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Trigonometry, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics
Science	3	AP Biology, AP Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics 1, AP Physics C, Advanced Research Methods, Biotechnology
Social Studies	4	AP U.S. Government & Politics, AP U.S. History, AP World History, AP European History, AP Human Geography, AP Seminar
World Languages	2	French, German, Spanish, AP German Language and Culture, AP Spanish Language and Culture
Physical Education	1	Coed Physical Education, Yoga, and Advanced Yoga
Health	½	Health
Fine Arts	1	Int. Band, Adv. Band, Jazz Band, Percussion, Int. Orchestra, Adv. Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Piano & Theory, Beg. Choir, Adv. Choir (mixed), Adv. Choir (girls), Choraliers, Beg. Theater, Int. Theater, Adv. Theater, Beg. Dance, Int. Dance, Ivesia (Adv. Dance), Primavera (Adv. Dance – Highest Level), Color Guard, Beg. Art, Int. Art, Adv. Art, AP Studio Art, AP Art History
Elective Courses	3	AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, Student Council, Yearbook, AP Psychology, Engineering [dual enrollment through the University of Arizona]

NO CLASS RANKING

UHS students are not ranked due to our highly selective admissions criteria that result in a large number of students entering with superior qualifications.

GPA WEIGHTING

Honors and non-AP courses **are not** weighted and grading is based upon the following traditional 4.0 scale:

A = 4.00 B = 3.00 C = 2.00 D = 1.00 F = 0.00

N = No Grade/No Credit P = Pass/Credit

GPA weighting is only available for Advanced Placement (AP) courses and is based on the following scale:

A = 5.00 B = 4.00 C = 3.00 D = 2.00 F = 0.00

2020 SAT MEAN SCORES

	UHS	State	Group Total
Evidence Based Reading & Writing	656	571	528
Mathematics	660	568	523

2019 ACT MEAN SCORES

	UHS	State	National
English	27.9	17.9	20.1
Mathematics	28.6	19.2	20.4
Reading	29.1	19.3	21.2
Science	27.5	19	20.6
Composite	28.4	19	20.7

2020 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS

Total Number of AP exams: 2,273

Percent of students scoring 3 and above: 79%

Average AP Score 3.5

2021 NATIONAL MERIT QUALIFYING TEST

15 National Merit Semifinalists

13 Finalists (2020)

26 Commended

28 National Hispanic Scholars (2020)

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

UHS students compete in regional, state and national academic competitions such as Future Business Leaders of America, Model UN, Econ Challenge, Economics Critical Thinking, Mock Trial, Academic Decathlon, Science Olympiad, the International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) and Envirothon, as well as in the state and national

Math and Modern Language Exams. Arizona's 2010 male and 2016 female Presidential Scholars are UHS graduates.

ATHLETICS & FINE ARTS

UHS shares the campus with 1310 students from Rincon High, a comprehensive high school. Together, we provide extracurricular opportunities in fine arts and athletics, including varsity sports, to 2,547 students.

FACULTY

UHS has an award-winning faculty of 50 teachers. Two have doctorates, another holds a JD, and 36 hold master's degrees.

COLLEGE

The percentage of UHS students directly matriculating into four-year institutions has remained at or above 98 percent for over 20 years.

Graduates of our 2020 class are attending:

Arizona State University, Clark University, Colgate University, Colorado School of Mines, Douglass Education Center Pennsylvania; Tom Savini Special Makeup Effects Program, Earlham College, Gnomon – School of Visual Effects, Games, & Animation, Harvard University, Haverford College, Kings College London, Middlebury College, New Mexico State University, Northeastern, Northern Arizona University, Occidental College, Pomona, Reed College, Scripps College, Smith College, Southern University A & M College, Swarthmore College, The Ohio State University, Trinity University, Tufts University, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, United States Air Force Academy, University of Arizona, University of California San Diego, University of Chicago, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, University of New Mexico, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, University of Notre Dame, University of Oregon, University of Pennsylvania, University of San Diego, University of Southern California, University of Utah, University of Virginia, University of Washington, Yale University

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Principal	Joel Bacalia
Assistant Principal	Karla Martinez
Assistant Principal	Rosalinda Rodriguez
Registrar	Shelley Dominguez
Counselor	Noemi Morales
Counselor	Thomas Donahue
Counselor	Amy Villagio
College & Career Readiness	Megan Palos
Recruiting Coordinator/ Advisor	Carmen Hernandez
Student Engagement Coordinator	Marcos Flores