



# University High School

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

CEEB Code: 030488

School Profile 2023-2024

University High School (UHS) is a rigorous, public, and diverse college preparatory high school serving academically focused and intellectually gifted students.

421 N Arcadia Ave  
Tucson, AZ 85711  
(520) 232-5900

[www.uhs.tusd1.org](http://www.uhs.tusd1.org)

### Principal

Alberto Ranjel

[alberto.ranjel@tusd1.org](mailto:alberto.ranjel@tusd1.org)

### Assistant Principals

Jeanette Apaez-Gutierrez

[jeanette.apaezgutierrez@tusd1.org](mailto:jeanette.apaezgutierrez@tusd1.org)

Andrea Evans

[andrea.evans@tusd1.org](mailto:andrea.evans@tusd1.org)

### Counseling & Support Staff

Amy Villagio, *Dept Chair*

11th & 12th last names A-G & P-R

[amy.villagio2@tusd1.org](mailto:amy.villagio2@tusd1.org)

Max Encinas

11th & 12th last names H-O & S-Z

[maximiliano.encinas2@tusd1.org](mailto:maximiliano.encinas2@tusd1.org)

Meghan Hammer

10th grade

[meghan.hammer@tusd1.org](mailto:meghan.hammer@tusd1.org)

Thomas Donahue

9th grade

[thomas.donahue@tusd1.org](mailto:thomas.donahue@tusd1.org)

Marcos Flores

Student Engagement Coordinator

[marcos.flores@tusd1.org](mailto:marcos.flores@tusd1.org)

Megan Palos

College & Career Readiness Coordinator

[megan.palos@tusd1.org](mailto:megan.palos@tusd1.org)

Katrina Messing

Recruiting Coordinator & Advisor

[katrina.messing@tusd1.org](mailto:katrina.messing@tusd1.org)

Renee Jordan

Registrar

[renee.jordan@tusd1.org](mailto:renee.jordan@tusd1.org)

## OVERVIEW

Established in 1976, University High School (UHS) is an academically selective high school. Admission is based on qualifying scores on the Cognitive Abilities entrance exam and grade point average from the two semesters prior to enrollment. All students who place in the 95th percentile (average subset score) and have a 3.0 GPA or higher are extended offers of admission.

UHS is accredited through Cognia and is routinely recognized as a top institution on lists and rankings of the nation's best high schools, with students' scores on standardized tests consistently the highest among all Arizona public schools. Tucson's cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity is reflected in the UHS student population. For the 2023-24 school year, 29% of students qualified for free and reduced lunch according to self-reported data.

# 62%

Identify as African American, Hispanic, Native American or Asian

# 1007

Total Enrollment:  
2024—275; 2025—209  
2026—258; 2027—265

# 80+

Middle schools represented from across Southern Arizona

# 55

National Hispanic, African American & Indigenous Scholars (Classes of 2024 & 2025)

# 96%

enroll in college upon graduation:  
90% 4-year; 6% 2-year (Classes of 2020-2023)

# 19

National Merit Semifinalists (Class of 2024)

## CURRICULUM & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

UHS offers a college preparatory curriculum where **all academic core courses are at the Honors or AP level**. Students are required to complete 23 credits to graduate. However, students are also expected to take 6 courses each year, resulting in most earning 24. Credits are fulfilled through the required core coursework outlined below and their elective choices. While most electives are taught every year, our master schedule is ultimately built around student choice; therefore, some courses are not offered every year.

### Required Core Coursework

#### 9th Grade

Honors English 9  
Math (by placement)  
AP Human Geography  
AP Environmental Science

#### 10th Grade

Honors English 10  
Math (by progression)  
AP European History or AP World History  
Honors Chemistry or AP Chemistry

#### 11th Grade

AP English Language & Composition\*  
*\*Culturally Relevant, Mexican American & African American Focus*  
Math (by progression)  
AP U.S. History  
AP Physics 1 or AP Physics C

#### 12th Grade

AP English Literature & Composition or Writing 101/102 Dual Enrollment\*  
*\*w/ Pima CC, Film Analysis Focus*  
Math (by progression)  
AP U.S. Government & Politics

**AND:** (2) years World Language;  
(1) year Fine Art or CTE; (1) year Physical Education;  
(.5) year Economics; (.5) year Health

### Electives

Adv Journalism/Yearbook; Applied Sustainability; Art; Band; Biotechnology (CTE); Choir; College Study Skills; Color Guard; Computer Science Adv Topics; Creative Writing; Dance; Engineering Design; Health; Jazz Band; Orchestra; Physical Education; Student Council; Theater; Yoga; Weight Training

**AP:** 2D Art; Art History; Biology; Computer Science Principles (CTE); Computer Science A (CTE); Drawing; French Language & Culture; German Language & Culture; Spanish Language & Culture; Macroeconomics; Microeconomics; Psychology; Statistics

**Dual Enrollment:** Psychology 101 (w/ Pima CC); Engineering 102 (w/ Univ of Arizona); French 101 (w/ Pima CC); German 101 (w/ Pima CC)

**Honors:** Economics; French; German; Spanish; Spanish for Heritage Learners

### Math Courses

**Placement by exam.** *Trajectory can include:*  
Honors Algebra 1, Honors College Algebra, Honors Geometry, Honors Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus 1, Honors Pre-Calculus 2/Calculus 1, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, & AP Statistics

## GRADING & RANK

Only AP & Dual Enrollment courses are weighted; honors & non-AP courses are not weighted.

**UHS students are not ranked.**

Due to our academically challenging program, and our admissions criteria, students would likely be at the top of the graduating class at their respective home schools.

Grade	AP/DE	Honors
A	5.0	4.0
B	4.0	3.0
C	3.0	2.0
D	2.0	1.0
F	0.0	0.0

## TESTING

**SAT (class of 2023)** **1289**

ERW: Reading & Writing 647  
Math 642

**ACT (class of 2023)** **27.6**

English 27.7  
Math 27.7  
Reading 28.2  
Science 26.4

### 2023 AP Exams

# of exams taken: 2197  
Scores of 3 or higher: 86%  
Average score: 3.7

## FACULTY

UHS has an award-winning faculty of 46 teachers, two with PhDs & 29 with master's degrees, and a student support team that includes grade-level counselors; coordinators for college & career readiness, student engagement, and retention; and a writing specialist.

## CAMPUS LIFE

UHS shares a campus with 1000+ students from Rincon High School, a comprehensive high school. We share extracurricular opportunities in fine arts, athletics & over 85 cross-campus clubs. Students compete and place in regional, state, and national academic and fine arts competitions such as Future Business Leaders of America, Model UN, Econ Challenge & Critical Thinking, Mock Trial, Science Olympiad, International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) and Envirothon, as well as state and national Math & Modern Language Exams.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

UHS was ranked the #1 public high school in Arizona and #25 nationally among all high schools in the 2023-24 U.S. News & World Report rankings. The 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholar in Arts for Arizona came from UHS. Forty students from the class of 2023 graduated with a State Seal of Fine Arts and/or Biliteracy on their diploma. In addition, UHS boasts the highest number of National Merit Semifinalists in southern Arizona for the class of 2024. UHS has award-winning fine arts programs; our jazz band has been ranked Superior with Distinction in the state of Arizona for 10+ years in a row. As of 2023, UHS has been recognized as an Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus school.

## COLLEGE MATRICULATION (CLASSES OF 2020-2023)

Students matriculated to the following colleges & universities over the last four years. Those in **bold** signify that more than one student matriculated.

American University	Gnomon School of Visual Effects, Games & Animation	Portland State University	University of California, Santa Cruz
Amherst College	Grand Canyon University	<b>Princeton University</b>	<b>University of Chicago</b>
Arizona Christian University	Hampton University	<b>Reed College</b>	University of Colorado, Boulder
<b>Arizona State University</b>	<b>Harvard University</b>	<b>Rice University</b>	University of Connecticut
<b>Boston University</b>	Haverford College	<b>Rochester Institute of Technology</b>	University of Denver
Brigham Young University	Hillsdale College	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	<b>University of Evansville</b>
Butler University	Hofstra University	Santa Clara University	University of Hawaii, Manoa
California Institute of Technology	<b>John Jay College of Criminal Justice</b>	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign
<b>California Poly, San Luis Obispo</b>	Johns Hopkins University	Savannah College of Art & Design	<b>University of Massachusetts, Amherst</b>
California State University, Fullerton	Johnson & Wales University	Scripps College	<b>University of Missouri</b>
<b>Carleton College</b>	Kansas State University	Seattle University	University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Carnegie Mellon University	Kings College London	<b>Smith College</b>	University of New Hampshire
<b>Case Western Reserve University</b>	Lansing Community College	Soka University of America	<b>University of New Mexico</b>
Charleston Southern University	Lawrence University	Sonoma State University	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Claremont McKenna College	Le Tourneau University	Sophia Online College	University of Notre Dame
Clark University	Lehigh University	Southern University and A&M College	<b>University of Oregon</b>
Colgate University	Lewis & Clark College	Springfield College	<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>
College of the Holy Cross	Loyola University Chicago	<b>St. John's College (Santa Fe)</b>	University of Rhode Island
College of William & Mary	Marquette University	Stanford University	University of Richmond
College of Wooster	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Swarthmore College	University of Rochester
Colorado College	<b>McGill University</b>	Temple University	<b>University of San Diego</b>
Colorado School of Mines	Mesa Community College	Temple University, Japan	<b>University of Southern California</b>
<b>Cornell University</b>	Miami University	Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi	University of Texas, Austin
Dalhousie University	Michigan State University	The George Washington University	University of the Pacific
<b>Dartmouth College</b>	Middlebury College	The Ohio State University	University of Utah
Davidson College	<b>New Mexico State University</b>	Trinity College	<b>University of Vermont</b>
Doane University	<b>New York University</b>	Trinity University	University of Virginia
Douglass Education Pennsylvania, Tom Savini Special Makeup Effects	New York University, Abu Dhabi	<b>Tufts University</b>	<b>University of Washington</b>
<b>Duke University</b>	<b>Northeastern University</b>	<b>Tulane University</b>	University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Earlham College	<b>Northern Arizona University</b>	Union College	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University	Oberlin College	<b>United States Air Force Academy</b>	<b>Vanderbilt University</b>
Emerson College	<b>Occidental College</b>	Universal Technical Institute	<b>Vassar College</b>
<b>Emory University</b>	Ohio Wesleyan University	<b>University of Alaska, Fairbanks</b>	Washington State University
ETH Zurich	<b>Oregon State University</b>	<b>University of Arizona</b>	Washington University in St. Louis
Franklin W Olin College of Engineering	Pepperdine University	<b>University of California, Berkeley</b>	Wayland Baptist University
Gateway Community College	<b>Pima Community College</b>	<b>University of California, Davis</b>	<b>Wellesley College</b>
Georgia Institute of Technology	Pima Medical Institute	<b>University of California, Irvine</b>	Wesleyan University
	Pitzer College	University of California, Santa Barbara	Willamette University
	<b>Pomona College</b>	<b>University of California, San Diego</b>	<b>Yale University</b>