



Tahoe
Expedition
Academy

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GRADING AND CLASS RANK

TEA relies on a percentage-based grading system to report grades. Student grades reflect TEA's foundation in proficiency-based grading, using skill-based learning objectives to assess, evaluate, and report on each student's academic progress, growth, and performance.

TEA believes strongly in the principles of proficiency-based grading, and utilizes learning objectives to assess, evaluate and report on each student's academic progress, growth and performance. As TEA is a small, academically rigorous school, the school does not provide a class rank. TEA utilizes a grade scale of A to C-, with less than a C- as incomplete. TEA does not offer AP and Honors level courses because our philosophy is to provide rigorous project-based learning to all students causing our baseline curriculum to be at a standard honors level. Starting with the 2022-2023 school year, TEA moved to semester grading from year long grading. All academic classes have a value of 1.0 credit and intensives have a value of 0.5.

Starting with the 2022-2023 school year, TEA returned to pre-COVID field work curriculum, which included up to 30 days a year outside of the classroom engaging in hands-on / real-world curriculum. Students were online during the 2020-2021 school year.

THE SCHOOL

Enrollment Pre-K to 12th:	238
Class of 2025:	8 students
Financial Aid:	33% of students
Student/Faculty Ratio:	8:1
Full-time Teaching Faculty:	29
Faculty with Advanced Degrees:	90%
First Graduating Class: 2017	2017

HISTORY

In 2011, TEA launched a new independent school that values academic excellence, character building, and real-world adventures. Our students master academic skills and apply them to real-world problems. We are harnessing the power of young people - not only by preparing future leaders but by tapping their creative action, right now. Since its inception, TEA has grown from 72 students in Pre-K through 8th grade to 238 students in Pre-K through 12th grade in 2023-24. Since the launch of our high school program in 2017, we have graduated a total of 74 students ready to engage with the world as creative problem solvers with a social conscience. In 2025, TEA will graduate its ninth class.

We are real-world problem solvers with a social conscience.

OUR PROGRAM

Tahoe Expedition Academy's (TEA) program connects a rigorous standards-based academic program with a modern experiential learning approach. In addition to earning the highest level of accreditation by the California Association of Independent Schools and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in 2024. All high school courses are University of California, A-G approved.

The following learner outcomes are derived from national standards like Common Core ELA and Math, Next Generation Science, National Social Science, Secondary Language Standards, as well as character and adventure standards we created.

STUDENTS AT TEA DEVELOP THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO EMBRACE CHALLENGES AS OPPORTUNITIES.

We teach our *Adapt to Thrive* learner outcome by strategically pushing students out of their comfort zone both inside and outside of the classroom. Examples include engaging with adult experts on a peer-to-peer level, grappling with real-world problems that can result in failed prototypes, extended physical challenges including multiple day 30+ mile hikes, and embracing mental curveballs that simulate a variety of challenges professionals face on any given day.

STUDENTS AT TEA UTILIZE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES TO EXAMINE ISSUES OF JUSTICE AND EQUITY THROUGH A TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE OF SUSTAINABILITY LENS.

We teach our *Triple Bottom Line for a Just and Equitable World* learner outcome through hands-on investigations of topics like climate change and the balance of power. Students learn the impact on different populations through statistical analysis, and evaluate solutions by looking at the social, political, economic, and environmental opportunities and impacts. We seek to teach our students how to critically think and analyze multiple perspectives so they can identify how they wish to contribute to the world in line with their own personal values.

DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMS

CHARACTER EDUCATION: POWERED BY CONSTRUCTIVE ADVERSITY

Our program intentionally pushes all students to and even beyond their intellectual, social, emotional, and physical comfort zones. This calculated risk-taking is the foundation of our school and builds confidence, augments character and helps students exceed their own ideas of what is possible. We know our students are ready for the real world because they have been trained to navigate and contribute to it.

A MODERN EXPERIENTIAL APPROACH

Students spend 30+ days/nights in the field and work with an average of 10-15 different industry experts per year to actively engage in solution generating processes for some of the world's most pressing issues. TEA students learn how to do hard things by actually doing hard things.

REAL-WORLD INTENSIVES

Real-World Intensives, a.k.a. electives, are one method TEA uses to bring learning to life. These real-world academic experiences are powered by Constructive Adversity to push students to the limits of their intellectual, social-emotional, and physical boundaries. In these semester-long graded courses aligned to national standards, students work individually and in groups to create solutions to 21st-century problems.



Tahoe Expedition Academy

TESTING

With the de-emphasis on standardized testing for college admissions, more of our students opt not to take an SAT or ACT.

ACT 2017-2024

TEA ACT Average: 26.8

National ACT Average: 20

SAT 2017-2024

TEA SAT Average: 1220

National SAT Average: 1060

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students achieve a minimum level of proficiency toward student learner outcomes in order to advance to the next grade level and/or receive a re-enrollment offer. Additionally, students meet specific credit requirements for graduation in order to earn a diploma from TEA.

MINIMUM TOTAL CREDITS:

20 credits over four years

English	4 Credits
Math	4 Credits
Science	4 Credits
Social Science	3 Credits
Electives*	2 Credits
Second Language	2 Credits
Individual Senior Intensive	1 Credits

**At least one year of visual and performing arts is required*

COURSE OFFERINGS 2024-2025

ENGLISH

- ELA 9
- ELA 10
- ELA 11
- ELA 12

MATH

- Math I
- Math II
- Math III
- Pre Calculus
- Calculus I

SCIENCE

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Environmental Science

REAL-WORLD INTENSIVES & ELECTIVES

- Photography
- Physics in the Real World
- Intro to Drawing and Painting
- Music
- Learning and the Brain
- Yearbook & Journalism
- Engineering
- Engineering and Design
- Psychology
- Wildflower Ecology
- Entrepreneurship
- College and Career

SOCIAL SCIENCE

- Human Geography
- Modern World History
- US History
- Government & Politics

SECONDARY LANGUAGE

- Spanish I
- Spanish II
- Spanish III
- Spanish IV

SNAPSHOT OF THE CLASS OF 2024

INDIVIDUAL SENIOR INTENSIVE

Each senior creates, develops and implements their own multi-week field intensive study. This capstone experience empowers students to create positive impacts on the world and to demonstrate what they are able to do, before going to college.

SNAPSHOT OF REAL WORLD PROBLEM SOLVING OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS

With over 100 days/nights in the field over the past four years, the class of 2025 is comfortable with change, uncertainty and traveling the world. Through dozens of stewardship and service-learning projects, our graduates understand how to do good for others and the environment. With over 300 hours spent working alongside industry experts from organizations like NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NOAA, California Department of Juvenile Justice, Universal Studios, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, USDA, ASOMOBI, and the Bureau of Land Management, our students have learned how to combat important issues in the world that are happening now. This world map previews a small selection of the real world problems and field study highlights experienced by students from the class of 2025.

GRIT, COMMUNITY AND SELF GROWTH: GRAND CANYON

During a backpacking trip that spanned 32 miles with a gain and loss of 15,000 vertical feet, students learned about geology, climate change, water management, leadership, and photography, and most importantly they learned about overcoming challenge and their own perceived limits.

CLIMATE CHANGE: COSTA RICA

Through a Spanish-language immersion combined with service work at a women-run coffee and chocolate farm, students learned about the economy, ecology, agricultural history and culture of Costa Rica through authentic interactions with locals, guided expert tours, and reflective group conversations.

WATER IMPACTS ON IMMIGRATION: RIO GRANDE

Canoeing on the Rio Grande River on the border of Texas and Mexico allowed students to explore the impacts of drought on the environment, economy, and people in the area. Visiting the world's largest inland desalination water treatment plant, students learned about water management in the Chihuahuan desert.



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES 2017-2024

100% of our seniors who applied to college since 2017, were accepted to 4-year colleges/universities, earning over **\$7,211,760** in merit-based scholarships to date. Acceptances are listed with **bold listings** as enrollments from 2017-2024:

Academy of Art University

Arizona State University

Babson College

Bard College

Baylor University

Belmont University

Berklee College of Music

Boston University

California Polytechnic, Humboldt

California Polytechnic, Pomona

California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo

California Polytechnics, San Luis Obispo (Honors)

California State University, Channel Islands

California State University, Chico

California State University, East Bay

California State University, Fullerton

California State University, Long Beach

California State University, Maritime

California State University, Monterey Bay

California State University, San Francisco

California State University, Sonoma

Case Western University

Chapman University

Colby College

Columbia College Chicago

Colorado College

Colorado School of Mines

Colorado State University

Concordia University (Montreal)

Eckerd College

Edinburgh Napier University (Scotland)

Elon University

Emerson College

Eugene Lange College of Liberal Arts at the New School

Fort Lewis College

Georgetown University

Gonzaga University

Hawai'i Pacific University

Holy Names University

Hult International Business School

Ithaca College

John Cabot University (Italy)

Lewis and Clark College

Loyola Marymount University

Loyola University Chicago

Marquette University

Marymount Manhattan College

Michigan State University

Montana State University

Montana Technological University

New York University

Northeastern University

Northern Arizona University

Oberlin College

Oregon Institute of Technology

Oregon State University

Oregon State University, Honors

Parsons School of Design at the New School

Pennsylvania State University

Pepperdine University

Pitzer College

Portland State University

Principia College

Quest College (Canada)

Reed College

Regis University

Richmond American University, London

Rochester Institute of Technology

Saint Mary's College of California

San Diego State University

San Francisco State University

San Jose State University

Santa Clara University

Scripps College

Seattle Pacific University

Sierra Nevada University

Simmons University

Simon Fraser University (Canada)

Skidmore College

South Dakota School of Mines

Southern Methodist University

Stanford University

Texas Christian University

The University of Alabama

The University of Montana

Tulane University

University of Arizona

University of British Columbia (Canada)

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Davis

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, Merced

University of California, Riverside

University of California, San Diego

University of California, Santa Barbara

University of California, Santa Cruz

University of Colorado, Boulder

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

University of Colorado, Denver

University of Denver

University of Hawaii, Manoa

University of Idaho

University of Kansas

University of Miami

University of Nevada, Reno

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

University of Oregon

University of Oregon (Honors)

University of Pittsburgh

University of Portland

University of Puget Sound

University of Redlands

University of San Diego

University of San Francisco

University of Utah

University of Vermont

University of Washington, Seattle

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Utah State University

Washington State University

Wesleyan University

Western Colorado University

Western Washington University

Whittier College

Whitworth College

Willamette University