

## School Profile 2020-2021

In our caring high school community, students who love learning are challenged to think critically and read deeply, and to explore adventurously the wider world of learning at Boston University. Founded in 1993, Boston University Academy is a small, coeducational independent day school for highly motivated students in grades 9-12 located on the campus of Boston University.

### OUR COMMUNITY

- 53** Members of the Class of 2021
- 203** Total students
- 19** Faculty members —  
(6 Masters, 12 Doctorate)
- 11** Average class size

### OUR STUDENT BODY

- 40%** From independent schools
- 55%** From public schools
- 64%** Students of color.
- 47%** Multi-lingual students (represents **27** languages)
- 59** Communities represented (all cities/towns in Greater Boston)
- 4%** From parochial schools
- 1%** From int'l schools or  
homeschools

### COVID-19 RESPONSE

In March 2020, BUA and BU moved to remote learning for the remainder of the spring semester. BUA courses (both semester- and year-long) followed the standard grading scale; per BU policy, and in recognition of the challenges and inequities of the unexpected move to virtual learning, students who took a spring 2020 course at BU could opt for the letter grade earned or a 'Credit' or 'No Credit' mark. BUA and BU began fall 2020 with the Learning *from Anywhere* (LFA) model, a hybrid of in-person, remote, synchronous, and asynchronous learning.

### THE CURRICULUM

Boston University Academy's distinctive curriculum is built upon a strong liberal arts foundation, combined with coursework at Boston University. Operating independently, but drawing upon the considerable course selections, facilities and human resources of BU, BUA provides an ideal secondary school education for the most insatiable learners. BUA offers a nearly unlimited educational experience which takes our students as far as they are capable, even including BU graduate courses, as appropriate. BUA's curriculum provides the critical thinking and inquiry skills needed for an in-depth study of the humanities and sciences. Our approach to teaching the classical tradition prompts students to understand historical perspectives, think critically, delve deeply, master the use of primary texts, and hone interpretive powers. All BUA courses are honors level, and there is no tracking.

### GRADES 9 AND 10

For their first two years, BUA students take courses in traditional disciplines—English, mathematics, science, history, visual and performing arts, and physical education. Most study two years of either Latin or ancient Greek to learn the foundations of language, as well as to read the primary texts, which serve as the backbone of BUA's liberal arts curriculum. All 9<sup>th</sup> graders at BUA engage in a full-year "Foundations in Language and Logic" course.

### GRADES 11 AND 12

Students continue to take courses at BUA in addition to enrolling in courses at Boston University. Most BUA students engage in courses at the University during their junior year, typically taking as many as two or three University classes each semester, and during senior year, taking as many as four University classes each semester. All seniors are required to take an English course — either a seminar at BUA or at the University — each semester. All University classes are taken with BU faculty and students, and, with the exception of English, are typically not required for graduation from BUA. All seniors complete a thesis paper with the guidance of a University professor or content expert as a graduation requirement through a year-long Senior Thesis project. BUA students regularly complete between six (24 college credits) and twelve courses (48 college credits) from BU's undergraduate curriculum prior to high school graduation. Therefore, BUA does not offer Advanced Placement courses, yet a small number of students choose to take AP exams each May. For the Classes of 2020 and 2021, 91% of scores earned were a 4 or a 5.

# CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

**JUNIOR RESEARCH SEMINARS** Juniors with defined academic interests may enroll in one of two optional, honors-level Junior Research Seminars. These for-credit, honors level seminars are in addition to the five academic courses a student takes each semester, provide students with skills in research methodology, and introduce them to University faculty and research being undertaken at Boston University. For many students, these seminars become the basis for the Senior Thesis. In each seminar, students are asked to produce academic work on topics of interest:

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) - Regular tours of science and engineering laboratories at BU and the Boston area and the examination of current science periodicals give STEM students insight into cutting-edge scientific research. Through the course, many students secure space in a BU lab where they fulfill summer internships prior to beginning their senior year.

HAL (History, Arts, and Letters) - Students examine research methods in the humanities and social sciences, including navigating the myriad of University resources in developing research papers.

**SENIOR SEMINARS** Although many of their courses take place at the University, seniors may opt for a semester-long, honors-level Senior Seminar at BUA. These academic courses vary from year to year and offer students an in-depth study in a variety of disciplines. Fall 2020 Senior Seminars include 'Liberal-Capitalism and Its Discontents', 'Politics and Language' and 'Women in Literature', each of which satisfies the fall semester English course requirement for graduation.

**SENIOR THESIS** All BUA students complete an independently researched Senior Thesis on a topic of their choice. A year-long project and culminating experience, the Senior Thesis demonstrates students' ability to read closely, research thoroughly, think analytically, and write coherently in scholarly fashion. In addition to working with a faculty advisor from BUA with regard to their thesis, students select a university professor or outside content expert to serve as their advisor. Students present their research before their advisors and members of the Boston University Academy community in the spring.

**LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY** BUA students are required to study either Latin or ancient Greek in freshman year; most continue that study in the sophomore year. BUA offers two language pilot programs: one allows qualified freshman who wish to continue study of a modern foreign language to do so via an online course, monitored by BUA, while the other allows sophomores to forego a second year of classical language in lieu of modern language at BU, provided they place into the third semester or higher. Juniors and seniors may opt for any language offered at BU. BU language courses often allow students to achieve, in two years, the equivalent of four years of high school language study. As a result, many BUA students graduate with proficiency in two languages: one classical and one modern.

**STATE-OF-THE-ART RESOURCES** Located at the heart of BU's campus, Boston University Academy offers students access to cutting-edge learning facilities: Mugar Memorial Library, science laboratories at the Photonics Center and the College of Engineering, as well as studios and performance spaces at the College of Fine Arts. Additionally, BUA students benefit from the intellectual resources at BU. Post-doctoral researchers and professors teach our students in University courses, work alongside our students in lab internships, and often speak at BUA's weekly all-school meetings.

---

## ATHLETICS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The BUA sports program features interscholastic teams to satisfy student-athletes looking for a competitive experience. All students are encouraged to be involved, but participation is not required. Current teams: basketball, crew, cross-country, fencing, sailing, soccer, tennis, and ultimate Frisbee.

Physical Education meets once a week and is required in freshman and sophomore years. BUA students have access to/benefit from BU's extraordinary athletic facilities.

## STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Student groups at BUA are ever-evolving, as students may propose new organizations geared toward their specific interests. A small sample of regular activities include Admission Ambassadors, Art Club, Chess Club, Gay-Straight Alliance, The Muse (literary magazine), Math Club, Model UN, Peer Advisors, Peer Tutors, Philosophy Club, Robotics Team, Science Team, Student Council, and Yearbook.

## ARTS – VISUAL AND PERFORMANCE

Boston University Academy students gain an appreciation for the arts by exploring their creativity through BUA and BU coursework and participation in extracurricular activities. Freshmen and sophomores are required to enroll in a visual or performing arts course each year. Juniors and seniors may opt into year-long seminars in Visual Arts, Music Theory or Drama. Students may participate in Art Club, Vox Caeli or Polytropos (select audition-based a cappella groups), Drama Club, Jazz Band, and Photography Club after school. All students are welcome to audition for BU music groups, as well as the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra in residence at BU.

**GRADING** Boston University Academy and Boston University award letter grades in all academic subjects. Grades are unweighted. BUA uses a traditional A-F grading scale. There are no A+ grades awarded at BUA or at BU. D is the lowest passing grade.

**RANK IN CLASS/GPA** Given our small size and hybrid BUA/BU program, the Academy does not provide class rank or report GPA.

**TRANSCRIPTS** The BUA transcript reflects all coursework taken at both the Academy and at the University for each academic year. Grades recorded for University courses are provided by the Office of the University Registrar. If requested by a college admission or registrar office, each student may arrange for an official BU transcript to be forwarded.

## COMMON TRANSCRIPT ABBREVIATIONS

S1 – Semester One course  
 S2 – Semester Two course  
 YR – Yearlong BUA course  
 BUA – Boston University Academy course  
 BUASC – Short Course; non-credit BUA course  
 CAS – College of Arts and Sciences course at BU

Letters following CAS or BUA are department codes:  
 AN – Anthropology, BI – Biology, CH – Chemistry,  
 CL – Classics, CS – Computer Science, EC – Economics,  
 EN – English, HI – History, LC – Chinese, LG – German, LS – Spanish,  
 MA – Math, NE – Neuroscience, PO – Political Science, PS – Psychology, PY – Physics, RN – Religion, etc.

### GRADE DISTRIBUTION – TENTH GRADE, 2018-2019

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	Total
CG45: Ancient Greek II	1	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
CH45: Chemistry	16	15	4	5	6	1	1	3	-	-	51
CL25: Latin I	24	5	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	33
CL45: Latin II	21	7	5	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	39
CL65: Latin III	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
EN45: English Lit. & Comp.	17	11	10	14	3	-	-	-	-	-	55
HI45: Dev. Of Modern Europe	17	14	10	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	55
MA25G: Geometry	8	2	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	18
MA70: Pre-Calculus	14	9	6	9	1	1	2	3	-	-	45
MA80: Calculus I	21	11	11	1	1	2	3	-	-	-	50
MA90: Integral Calculus (S1)	6	5	3	8	2	1	1	-	-	-	26
MA95: Multivariate Calculus (S2)	6	2	4	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	16
PY25: Physics	25	9	4	7	1	-	-	-	1	-	47

### GRADE DISTRIBUTION – ELEVENTH GRADE, 2019-2020

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	Total
CH45: Chemistry	12	20	6	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	45
CL45: Latin II	15	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
CL65: Latin III	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
EN65: American Literature	21	14	15	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	54
HI65: American History	15	19	11	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	54
MA70: Pre-Calculus	20	8	7	7	2	1	-	1	-	-	46
MA80: Calculus I	30	12	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	-	52
MA90: Integral Calculus (S1)	14	5	8	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	35
MA95: Multivariate Calculus (S2)	15	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
*CAS BI107: Biology 1 (S1)	11	6	7	7	2	1	2	-	-	-	36
*CAS BI108: Biology 2 (S2)	13	2	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	21

NOTE: Each chart illustrates the distribution of final grades for all academic BUA courses in which members of the Class of 2021 were enrolled. The charts include students from all grade levels who were enrolled in these classes.

\*BUA students enroll in a wide array of classes at Boston University in junior year; the second chart does not reflect grades for all of a student's classes. Since many juniors enroll in one or both introductory Biology courses at BU, these two classes are included in the second chart.

## STANDARDIZED TEST INFORMATION, CLASS OF 2021

\*NOTE: Due to COVID-19, many students – if able to test at all through August 2020 – were limited to one test sitting.

- 19 National Merit Commended Scholars      5 National Merit Semifinalists
- 4 National Recognition Program Scholars

	Middle 50% Scores				Mean Score
SAT	<b>EBRW</b> 630-750 (Mean 687)	<b>Math</b> 710-800 (Mean 744)			1432
ACT	<b>English</b> 34-35	<b>Math</b> 32-35	<b>Reading</b> 27-35	<b>Science</b> 31-35	33.4

## DISCIPLINARY ACTION POLICY

BUA will disclose reportable instances of Disciplinary Probation, out-of-school suspension, or dismissal from BUA during a student's 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade career, as outlined in BUA's Student and Family Handbook.

The school will also inform colleges, within two weeks of any change, if a student receives a reportable disciplinary sanction after college applications are submitted.

## COLLEGE MATRICULATION: CLASSES 2015–2020

---

Graduates of the last six Boston University Academy classes have enrolled in the following institutions. In a typical year, 100% of students enroll in 4-year colleges. At least one member of the Class of 2020 enrolled at the schools in bold type.

**Barnard College (2)**

Bates College

Binghamton University

Boston College

**Boston University (36)**

**Brandeis University (6)**

**Brown University (12)**

Carnegie Mellon University (2)

Case Western Reserve University

**Colby College**

**Colorado College**

**Columbia University (3)**

**Connecticut College (2)**

**Cornell University (3)**

**Dartmouth College (2)**

Drexel University

Emory University (2)

Franklin & Marshall College

The George Washington University (2)

**Georgia Institute of Technology (2)**

**Harvard University (12)**

Harvey Mudd College (2)

Haverford College (3)

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

**Indiana University - Bloomington**

Ithaca College

Johns Hopkins University (4)

Lawrence University

Lehigh University

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology (5)**

**McGill University (5)**

Mount Holyoke College

The New School

New York University (7)

**Northeastern University (13)**

**Northwestern University (3)**

Oberlin College

Pomona College

Princeton University

Purdue University (2)

Reed College (2)

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (5)**

**Rhode Island School of Design**

Sarah Lawrence College

Savannah College of Art and Design

**School of the Art Institute of Chicago**

Sciences Po – Columbia University Dual BA Program

**Simmons College**

Skidmore College (2)

Smith College (8)

**Stanford University (3)**

**Swarthmore College (2)**

**Tel Aviv University – Columbia University Dual Degree Program**

Trinity College (CT)

**Tufts University (8)**

Tulane University

Union College (2)

University of California at Berkeley (3)

**University of California at Los Angeles**

**University of Chicago (7)**

**University of Connecticut (2)**

University of Edinburgh

University of Glasgow

**University of Maryland, College Park (2)**

University of Massachusetts at Amherst (3)

University of Massachusetts at Boston

University of Michigan (4)

University of Oxford

**University of Pennsylvania (2)**

University of Rochester (5)

University of Southern California (2)

University of St. Andrews

University of Tampa

The University of Texas, Austin

University of Toronto (3)

**Washington University in St. Louis (2)**

Wellesley College (4)

**Wesleyan University (2)**

Williams College (2)

**Worcester Polytechnic Institute (4)**

Yale University (4)