

School Profile 2019-2020

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

- 47** Members of the Class of 2020
- 201** Total students
- 19** Faculty members —
(6 Masters, 12 Doctorate)
- 11** Average class size

OUR STUDENT BODY

- 39%** From independent schools
- 7%** From parochial schools
- 52%** From public schools
- 2%** From int'l schools or
homeschools
- 57%** Students of color.
- 47%** Multi-lingual students (represents **26** languages)
- 55** Communities represented (all cities/towns in Greater Boston)

THE CURRICULUM

Boston University Academy's distinctive curriculum combines liberal arts coursework with classes at Boston University. Operating independently, but drawing upon the considerable course selections, facilities and human resources of BU, Boston University Academy provides an ideal secondary school education for the most insatiable learners. BUA offers a nearly unlimited educational experience, one in which our students' zeal for learning takes them as far as they are capable, even including BU graduate courses, as appropriate.

Built upon a strong liberal arts foundation, 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, students take courses in traditional disciplines—English, mathematics, science, history, visual and performing arts, and physical education. Most students 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 9th graders at BUA engage in a full-year "Foundations in Language and Logic" course.

GRADES 11 AND 12

Students continue to take courses offered by 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 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 (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 not required for graduation from BUA. All seniors complete a thesis paper with the guidance of a University professor as a graduation requirement through a year-long Senior Thesis project.

Boston University Academy students regularly complete between six (24 college credits) and twelve courses (48 college credits) from Boston University'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 2019 and 2020, 67% of scores earned were a 4 or a 5.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

WRITING WITH SOURCES Junior-year American History and English (American Literature), in a series of coordinated exercises and papers that prepare for the Senior Thesis, introduce students to the humanistic research process, to the role of sources in inquiry and argument, and to methods of fairly incorporating them into one's work.

JUNIOR RESEARCH SEMINARS Juniors with defined academic interests may enroll in one of two optional, honors-level Junior Research Seminars. These for-credit seminars are in addition to the five academic courses a student takes each semester, provide students with skills in research methodology, and introduce students 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 the University's science and engineering laboratories and the examination of current science periodicals give STEM students insight into cutting-edge scientific research. Many students conclude the course in University labs 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 2019 Senior Seminars include 'Liberal-Capitalism and Its Discontents' and 'Jane Austen in our Time,' 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 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

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 always changing, as students may propose new organizations geared toward their specific interests. A sample of regular activities include Admission Ambassadors, Art Club, Chess Club, Gay-Straight Alliance, The Muse (literary magazine), Math Club, Model UN, Performing Arts Outing Club, 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, Chamber Ensemble, Chorus, 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 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, CL - Classics,
 CS - Computer Science, EN - English, LG - German, LS - Spanish, LX - Linguistics, MA - Math,
 PS - Psychology, PY - Physics, RN - Religion, etc.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION - TENTH GRADE, 2017-2018

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	Total
CG45: Ancient Greek II	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
CH45: Chemistry	15	9	9	7	5	2	1	2	1	-	51
CL25: Latin I	32	5	4	2	5	1	1	-	-	-	50
CL45: Latin II	13	6	5	4	3	1	2	-	-	-	34
CL65: Latin III	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
EN45: English Lit. & Comp.	11	7	10	16	4	-	-	-	-	-	48
HI45: Dev. Of Modern Europe	12	9	12	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	48
MA25G: Geometry	5	5	7	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	23
MA70: Pre-Calculus	22	5	5	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	43
MA80: Calculus I	22	4	12	4	5	3	-	-	-	-	50
MA90: Integral Calculus (S1)	2	6	5	4	3	1	-	-	1	-	22
MA95: Multivariate Calculus (S2)	4	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
PY25: Physics	15	21	10	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	54

GRADE DISTRIBUTION - ELEVENTH GRADE, 2018-2019

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	Total
CH45: Chemistry	16	15	4	5	6	1	1	3	-	-	51
CL45: Latin II	21	7	5	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	39
CL65: Latin III	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
EN65: American Literature	14	9	16	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	47
HI65: American History	10	14	11	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	47
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
*CAS BI107: Biology 1 (S1)	20	7	6	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	38
*CAS BI108: Biology 2 (S2)	10	3	4	4	4	2	1	2	-	-	30

NOTE: Each chart illustrates the distribution of final grades for all academic BUA courses in which members of the Class of 2020 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 final marks 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 2020 (includes June 2019)

13 National Merit Commended Scholars

2 National Merit Semifinalists

	Middle 50% Scores				Mean Score
SAT	EBRW 680-750 (Mean 708)	Math 685-775 (Mean 719)			1427
ACT	English 31-35	Math 30-34	Reading 33-35	Science 29-35	32.6

DISCIPLINARY ACTION POLICY

BUA will report all suspensions and expulsions occurring during a student's 9th-12th grade career in the context of the school report provided to each college.

The school will also inform colleges if a student is placed on disciplinary probation at any time during their tenure in our community.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION: CLASSES 2014–2019

In the past six years, graduates of Boston University Academy have enrolled in the following colleges and universities. In a typical year, 100% of students enroll in 4-year colleges. The schools at which at least one member of the Class of 2019 enrolled are identified in bold type.

Babson College
Barnard College
Bates College
Bennington College
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University (30)
Brandeis University (7)
Brown University (10)
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University (3)
Case Western Reserve University (2)
Champlain College
Columbia University (2)
Connecticut College
Cornell University (2)
Dartmouth College
Drexel University
Emory University (2)
Franklin & Marshall College
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering
The George Washington University (3)
Georgetown University
Harvard University (12)
Harvey Mudd College (3)
Haverford College (3)
Hobart and William Smith Colleges (2)
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University (4)
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (6)
McGill University (4)
Mount Holyoke College (2)
The New School
New York University (8)
Northeastern University (15)
Northwestern University (2)
Oberlin College (2)
Pomona College
Princeton University
Purdue University (2)
Reed College (2)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (6)
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Sciences Po - Columbia University Dual BA Program
Skidmore College (3)
Smith College (9)
Stanford University (3)
Stevens Institute of Technology
Swarthmore College
Trinity College (CT)
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University (7)
Tulane University
Union College (2)
University of California at Berkeley (3)
University of Chicago (7)
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts at Amherst (4)
University of Massachusetts at Boston
University of Michigan (4)
University of Oxford
University of Pennsylvania
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
Williams College (2)
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (3)
Yale University (4)