

School Profile 2022-2023

ABOUT BUA

Boston University Academy is an academically rigorous independent day school located on the Boston University campus. BUA is **the only high school in New England that is part of a major research university**; students complete a challenging liberal arts curriculum in 9th and 10th grade in preparation for required Boston University coursework in 11th and 12th grade. BUA students also engage in an intensive year-long senior thesis project as a capstone to their high school academic career. At BUA, students leverage extraordinary resources to take their zeal for learning as far as they are capable.

MISSION

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.

OUR COMMUNITY

52 Members of the Class of 2023
229 Total students
19 Faculty members —
(**10** Masters, **8** Doctorate)
12 Average class size

OUR STUDENT BODY

52% From independent schools **58%** Students of color
42% From public schools **28%** Students receiving financial aid
6% From parochial schools
<1% From international schools or home schools
35% Multi-lingual students (represents **25** languages)
51 Communities represented (cities/towns in Greater Boston)

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In March 2020, BUA and BU moved to remote learning for the remainder of the semester. BUA courses (both semester- and year-long) followed the standard grading scale; per BU policy, students who took a Spring 2020 course at BU could opt for the earned letter grade or a 'Credit' or 'No Credit' mark. For the entirety of the 2020-21 academic year, BUA and BU offered Learn from Anywhere (LfA), a hybrid model of in-person, remote, synchronous, and asynchronous learning. In Fall 2021, grading returned to the pre-COVID standard and in-person learning resumed for everyone.

STANDARDIZED TESTING INFORMATION, CLASS OF 2022

20 National Merit Commended Scholars **5** National Merit Semifinalists **4** National Recognition Program Scholars

SAT Middle 50% Ranges

EBRW
725 – 770
Math
715 – 790

Mean Combined Score: **1503**

ACT Middle 50% Ranges

English 33-36
Math 31-35
Reading 32-36
Science 32-36

Mean Composite Score: **33.7**

THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY CONNECTION

Located at the heart of BU's campus, Boston University Academy offers students access to a remarkable breadth of academic opportunities and 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 have often been featured speakers at BUA's regular all-school meetings. **Over the past five years, BUA students have enrolled in 425 distinct Boston University courses across 61 departments and interdisciplinary programs.**

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’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.**

	9	10	11	12
ENGLISH	Classical Themes in Literature	English Language & Composition	American Literature	Senior Seminar at BUA or an English course at BU
HISTORY	Ancient History	Development of Modern Europe	American History	
LANGUAGE	Latin or Ancient Greek	Latin or Ancient Greek	27 languages offered at BU; placement is determined by exam (not grade level)	
	Modern Language Pilot	Modern Language Pilot		
SCIENCE	Physics	Chemistry	CAS BI 107 & 108: Biology I & II	
MATH	Typical course progression: Advanced Algebra, Geometry, Precalculus, Calculus, Calculus II, Multivariable Calculus. Placement is determined by ability and exposure, not grade level; completion of Calculus is a graduation requirement. Students can take up to Multivariable Calculus at BUA, after which higher level math courses are available at BU.			
ARTS	Chamber Ensemble, Chorus, Jazz Band, Drama or Visual Art		Advanced seminars available at BUA and BU	
ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK	Foundations in Language and Logic		Junior Research Seminar (half-credit elective)	Senior Thesis
	Physical Education	Physical Education		
	Students are required to complete 8 hours of community service for each year that they are enrolled at BUA.			

(Note: Courses in shaded areas are elective options, courses in white are graduation requirements.)

GRADES 9 AND 10

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. Ending with the Class of 2024, 9th graders engaged in a full-year “Foundations in Language and Logic” course.

GRADES 11 AND 12

BUA juniors typically take as many as two or three University classes each semester, and seniors take as many as four University classes each semester. University classes are taken with BU faculty and undergraduates. BUA students regularly complete between six (24 college credits) and twelve courses (48 credits) from BU’s undergraduate curriculum prior to high school graduation.

CURRICULAR INNOVATION IN 2022 BUA’s humanities curriculum has challenged students to “read deeply” and “think critically” since our founding; students read primary sources closely and consider fundamental questions: Why am I here? What is my role in society? What does it mean to live a good life? In 2022, English and History faculty engaged in a thoughtful redesign of our humanities courses that embraces these core ideals while injecting a global and diverse outlook, ensuring the curriculum has deep relevance to students’ lives in the 21st century. New course titles are: *Self and Society: The Literary Canon in Conversation* (9th grade English); *Global Citizens: The Evolution of English Literature* (10th grade English); *Power and Wisdom in the Ancient World* (9th grade History); and *Makings of the Modern World* (10th grade History). These changes are effective Fall 2022; students in the Classes of 2023 and 2024 will continue to have the previous course titles on their transcript.

JUNIOR RESEARCH SEMINARS Juniors with defined academic interests may enroll in one of two optional, honors-level Junior Research Seminars – STEM and HAL (History, Arts, and Letters). Taken in addition to the five academic courses a student takes each semester, they 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.

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 help guide their project. 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 their freshman and sophomore years. 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 via placement test. 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.

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
 CAS – College of Arts and Sciences course at BU
 QST – Questrom School of Business course at BU
 CDS – Computing & Data Science course at BU
 MIL – Middlebury Interactive Languages (online course)

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

GRADE DISTRIBUTION – ELEVENTH GRADE, 2021-2022

NOTE: The chart illustrates the distribution of final grades for all academic BUA courses in which members of the Class of 2023 were enrolled. The chart includes students from all grade levels who were enrolled in these classes.

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	Total
CL65: Latin III	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
EN65: American Literature	16	26	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	52
HI65: American History	19	15	10	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	52
MA70: Pre-Calculus	13	9	4	7	2	3	-	-	-	-	38
MA80: Calculus I	16	7	6	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	33
MA90: Integral Calculus (S1)	18	5	4	5	6	2	-	-	2	-	42
MA95: Multivariate Calculus (S2)	21	8	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	32
*CAS BI107: Biology 1 (S1)	15	17	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
*CAS BI108: Biology 2 (S2)	18	5	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	27

*BUA students enroll in a wide array of classes at Boston University in junior year. Since many enroll in one or both introductory Biology courses at BU, these two classes are included in the chart.

ARTS – VISUAL AND PERFORMING

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, honors-level 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, Performance 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.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND ATHLETICS

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. 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.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION POLICY

Boston University Academy expects students to respond honestly to application questions about disciplinary history and to report instances of probation, out-of-school suspension, or dismissal from BUA as outlined in our Student and Family Handbook. BUA students are also expected to inform colleges and universities, when required, of any reportable disciplinary sanction after college applications are submitted.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION: CLASSES 2018–2022

Graduates of the last five 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 2022 enrolled at the schools in bold type.

Barnard College (1)

Bates College (1)

Boston College (1)

Boston University (48)

Bowdoin College (1)

Brandeis University (4)

Brown University (7)

Carnegie Mellon University (2)

Colby College (1)

Colorado College (2)

Columbia University-Sciences Po Dual BA Program (1)

Columbia University-Tel Aviv U Dual BA Program (1)

Columbia University (3)

Connecticut College (1)

Cornell University (4)

Dartmouth College (2)

Emory University (2)

George Washington University (1)

Georgia Institute of Technology (2)

Hamilton College (1)

Harvard University (9)

Haverford College (2)

Indiana University-Bloomington (2)

Johns Hopkins University (1)

Kenyon College (1)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (7)

McGill University (3)

Mount Holyoke College (1)

New York University (7)

Northeastern University (18)

Northwestern University (6)

Occidental College (1)

Princeton University (3)

Purdue University (1)

Queen's University (1)

Reed College (1)

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (4)

Rhode Island School of Design (2)

School of the Art Inst. of Chicago (1)

Simmons University (1)

Smith College (5)

Stanford University (3)

Swarthmore College (2)

The University of Edinburgh (1)

Tufts University (10)

Tulane University (1)

Union College (NY) (2)

United States Air Force Academy (1)

University of California-Berkeley (2)

University of California-Los Angeles (1)

University of California-San Diego (1)

University of Chicago (10)

University of Connecticut (2)

University of Florida (1)

University of Glasgow (1)

University of Illinois (2)

University of Maryland (2)

University of Massachusetts-Amherst (1)

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (3)

University of Pennsylvania (4)

University of Rochester (3)

University of Southern California (3)

University of Toronto (1)

University of Warwick (1)

University of Washington (1)

Washington University in St Louis (1)

Wellesley College (2)

Wesleyan University (2)

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (1)

Yale University (3)