



CHINESE AMERICAN SCHOOLS

International College-Preparatory Program for Chinese Christian Schools

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Are the courses at Chinese Christian Schools recognized by major colleges and universities?

Yes. The college-preparatory classes at Chinese Christian Schools have been reviewed and approved by the University of California to satisfy their “a-g” admissions standards. Chinese Christian Schools is also accredited by the Association for Christian Schools International and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

What percentage of Chinese Christian Schools’ graduates go on to college?

Since its first high school graduating class in 1984, CCS has graduated approximately 600 students from senior high, **100% of whom have gone on to college**. Of those who have already completed college, approximately 25% have gone on to do graduate or professional-level work.

What colleges do Chinese Christian Schools’ graduates attend?

Approximately 90% of our graduating seniors are accepted into 4-year universities, about 70% into the University of California system. About 50% end up attending the University of California, 30% California State Universities, 10% private colleges, and 10% community colleges. Please refer to our “*Chinese Christian High School Profile*,” for more information.

What are honors and Advanced Placement classes?

Honors and Advanced Placement classes are even more advanced and rigorous than regular college preparatory courses. In recognition of the accelerated pace and level of these classes, many colleges give students an extra grade point for grades earned in these classes. Students taking Advanced Placement classes are prepared to take the Advanced Placement exam in that subject. Students who pass an Advanced Placement exam are granted college credit by most colleges.

What honors and Advanced Placement classes does Chinese Christian Schools have?

Chinese Christian Schools offers recognized honors level classes in English, Mandarin, and Pre-Calculus. Advanced Placement courses are currently available in Calculus AB and BC, English Language, English Literature, United States History, European History, Chinese Language, Studio Art, Computer Science, Physics B, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Micro-Economics, and U.S. Government and Politics.

Some high school subjects at CCS have no specific sequence. How does a student know which course to take?

Students have a general plan of college-preparatory classes they can take to satisfy graduation and college-admission requirements. A specific sequence is not given because it is to a student’s advantage to take Honors and Advanced Placement courses in their sophomore and junior years, if they are academically ready. For these students, taking courses “out of sequence” allows them to take Honors or AP classes earlier and gives them an advantage in college applications. Based on the student's stated goals, the school will recommend classes but the student always has the opportunity to enroll in other classes as well.

Does the school provide academic counseling?

Yes. The school provides academic counseling as well as college counseling. The Academics Advisor helps students make the proper choice of classes to insure they graduate and fulfill their goals and requirements. College counselors help students prepare for college admission, including admissions testing, applications, financial aid, and college/career planning. The College Planning Resource Center has information on hundreds of different colleges and resources on every aspect of the college application and admission process.

How do CCS students perform on standardized tests?

Every student in Chinese Christian Schools takes the Stanford-10 Exam in grades kindergarten through 9th. The average percentile scores for the entire school in 2010 were: Math = 88.4; Reading = 82.3; Language = 85.2; Total Battery = 84.1. In 2003, CCS earned the distinguished National Blue Ribbon Award in recognition of its students' academic excellence. Since 2000, CCS students have scored in the top 10% nationally on standardized tests.

All students in the 10th & 11th grades take the PSAT exam at CCS and 11th and 12th graders are encouraged to take the SAT or ACT test at least twice. CCS students score above national and state averages in these tests as well. Since 1997, CCS has had 14 National Merit Scholars, 4 National Merit Finalist, and 39 National Merit Commended students. The average scores of our graduates the past six years:

SAT-I Scores of CCS Graduates

Graduating Class	Students Tested	Average Total Score	Average Verbal Score	Average Math Score	Average Writing Score
2005	53	1150	544	606	--
2006	47	1690	541	607	542
2007	45	1761	574	621	566
2008	41	1827	588	656	583
2009	43	1790	582	637	571

How does the school calculate grade point average?

Chinese Christian Schools counts all academic courses in the grade point average, not just college preparatory classes. Additionally, the school does compute "+" and "-" grades into the overall computation. The computation is determined by adding the grade points earned and dividing it by the number of units earned. Honors and Advanced Placement Courses are weighted on a 5.00/4.00 scale for grades above a C-.

Is this different from how colleges calculate grade point average?

Grade point average computation is done differently by each college campus. Most colleges no longer count "+" or "-" grades and merely round to the nearest full grade. Some colleges will count all courses in computing GPA, some only college-preparatory classes. Colleges and universities vary in their policies regarding repeat classes, honors-level classes, and college-level course credit. Please check with the college you plan to attend to determine its practice in computing grade point averages.

Why is the grading at Chinese Christian Schools harder than other schools?

It is generally true that most students who transfer into or out of Chinese Christian Schools will find the grading here more difficult. There are a number of possible explanations for this:

- 1) CCS does not grade any class on “the curve.” Therefore, there are no “guaranteed A” grades in any class. Every student must earn his grade by demonstrating knowledge and proficiency on an absolute scale.
- 2) CCS offers mostly college-preparatory courses for college-bound students. Students will not find themselves in situations where they are well above the academic level of the subject matter or his classmates. Therefore, there are no “easy classes” or “easy grades.”
- 3) Many public schools have succumbed to “grade inflation” and give out top grades for very little accomplishment. Because of this practice, many colleges now rely more heavily on standardized tests and look at other objective criteria.

Will the grading policies at Chinese Christian Schools hinder my child’s chances of going to college?

College admissions officers encourage us to keep preparing students for college and to give students an honest appraisal of how they will do at a top-notch university. Grades are just one aspect of a student that colleges consider. Colleges are placing more emphasis on extra-curricular activities showing leadership and commitment, plus some colleges require essays, letters of recommendation, and interviews.

Do you provide college counseling?

Yes. Every student in high school meets with a college advisor at least once a year. More frequent appointments may be made by request. The college advisors also hold special meetings and seminars for parents and students. There is also a College Planning and Resource Center that has information on all aspects of college admissions. College representatives come and visit our campus often and the school periodically sponsors trips to local colleges or college fairs. Other information is available through PowerSchool announcements, the CCS web page, various books and pamphlets, and on the Internet.

Who can we contact for information about college admissions and finances?

Our Academics Advisor, Miss Carol Wong, works with our high administrators to provide information and guidance to students and families regarding college admissions and financial aid. The Parent-Teacher fellowship also sponsors several meetings and events each year to keep parents informed about college admissions. You may contact any school staff through the school office: (510) 351-4957, officestaff@ccs-rams.org.