



# DEERFIELD ACADEMY

Deerfield, Massachusetts 01342 P: 413-774-1479 F: 413-772-1128 [deerfield.edu](http://deerfield.edu) College Board Code Number: 220685

**Please see addendum regarding our pandemic response on page 5.**

## The School

Deerfield Academy was chartered in 1797 to serve the local population of a rural village in Western Massachusetts. Since the 1920s, it has been wholly independent and committed to excellence in a full liberal arts curriculum and wholesome community life for young men and women from throughout the United States and around the world in grades nine through postgraduate. A vibrant, ethical community that embraces diversity, the Academy prepares students for leadership in a rapidly changing world.

## Admission and Enrollment

Applicants compete for admission on the basis of academic and extracurricular achievement, school records, recommendations, character and personal promise, and scores on the SSAT, the PSAT, the ACT, or the SAT. In 2020, 2018 students applied for 213 spaces in grades nine through postgraduate. The 2020-21 enrollment of 650 students includes 69 day students and 581 boarding students from 35 states and the District of Columbia, and 47 foreign countries. There are 191 seniors in the class of 2021: 106 are boys and 85 are girls. There are 136 members of the faculty.

## Cost and Financial Aid

The annual financial aid budget is \$12,000,000. Thirty-seven percent of the student body receives aid; the average grant for a boarding student is \$50,155. The 2020-21 tuition for boarding students is \$64,640.

## Cocurricular Activities

Each student spends approximately two hours every weekday afternoon in a required faculty-supervised activity. For most students, this is an athletic commitment at the varsity, junior varsity, or recreational level. For others, this time is spent in dance classes or theater rehearsals, or pursuing volunteer work through our community service program. A few students receive permission to engage in special projects in art, music, or an academic field.

## Academic Calendar

Deerfield uses a trimester calendar. We do not have official first quarter or midyear grades. Fall Term grades are available after Thanksgiving. **Colleges will receive Fall Term grades for all senior applicants and those should be used as a student's "midyear" grades.**

## Academic Program

Students at Deerfield pursue a rigorous college preparatory curriculum that fosters the development of creativity and intellectual maturity, and promotes individual and community growth through shared challenge. We offer a wide array of courses across eight academic departments, including many electives. All departments offer college-level courses (any 500-level course or above) and many students will choose to take an AP exam to demonstrate proficiency in a subject, even without officially taking an AP course. Advanced designation varies among departments; our most challenging courses are denoted as honors, accelerated, advanced, or AP.

Deerfield students engage in five seminar-style classes (average size: 12 students) each term; most classes are year-long, though some are one- or two-trimester electives. Many students choose to take a fine or performing arts course as a sixth pass/fail class. Infrequently, an advanced student may be granted permission to take a sixth graded class. Please refer to the addendum for changes to the 2020-2021 academic program.

English and social studies classes at Deerfield are not leveled, with the exception of Honors European History, Honors US History, and American Studies. All world language courses, except those in Latin and Arabic, are conducted exclusively in the target language. As a result, some students find the adjustment to language classes at Deerfield to be difficult, and our placement of new students may reflect that. Academic work at Deerfield is evaluated on a numerical scale (0-100) where the minimum passing grade is 60 and the median grades are generally between 86 and 90. Class participation is expected and is a significant part of assessment. Grades of 90 and above are considered honors; grades of 93 and above are considered high honors. **Grade point averages are unweighted and are calculated annually, not cumulatively. We do not rank our students. One hundred percent of our graduates attend four-year colleges and universities.**

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## Curriculum

All of Deerfield's courses should be viewed as challenging and college preparatory. Many classes use college level texts and match the pace of an undergraduate college course; others are post-AP level and the AP-course is the prerequisite.

We offer AP courses in math, science, computer science, and the arts. The English, language, and history and social science departments generally do not offer AP classes as such, but students may choose to take the English AP exams (often in May of their junior year), and students in the appropriate courses may choose to take the language, US History, European History, and/or Micro and Macro Economics AP exams.

For a more complete look at our curriculum, please visit: [deerfield.edu/academics/course-catalog](http://deerfield.edu/academics/course-catalog)

### Our course numbering system conveys the level of each offering.

- 100 level** = introductory (9<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 200 level** = intermediate (9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 300 level** = advanced intermediate (10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 400 level** = advanced (11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 500 level** = AP level/1st semester college level
- 600 level** = post-AP/2nd semester college level
- 700-800 level** = second year of college +
- xx3** = Honors level (includes Accelerated, Advanced) for some courses

At the introductory or intermediate level, an accelerated pace course will end in "3" (e.g. French II Honors is French 203; Honors Precalculus is Math 403). Completion of these honors courses usually allows the student to advance more quickly to the higher level courses.

## Curricular Highlights and Distinctions

In addition to traditional seminar style classes with extensive reading, writing, and discussion, the English department also encourages students to develop their public speaking skills with **required declamatory exercises**. Ninth- and tenth-graders complete recitations in front of their classes to earn a spot in the finals where prizes are awarded to a handful of exceptional declaimers, while juniors and seniors may have audiences as large as the entire student body. Juniors write essays on American experiences and then declaim the piece, with three finalists earning a **Junior Declamation Prize**. Most seniors construct longer essays called meditations, reflections linking personal experience to something larger in the world, and are embraced by the school community as they share their personal narratives.

Within the language department, students may choose to pursue a **Classical Studies Program**. This course of study includes sitting for the AP Latin exam and successful completion of Latin 600 and/or Greek 100. In addition, students are required to take History 201 ("Ancient Civilizations") or English 656 ("Classics in Translation"), declaim a literary passage in their junior year, share a culminating reflection in their senior year, and are encouraged to participate actively in the Classics Club. The program culminates in a Classics Seminar taken during the Spring Term of the junior or senior year that may cover such topics as the epic tradition, ancient drama, Roman and Greek mythology, and Greek & Roman philosophy. Another exciting feature within our language program is our partnership with **School Year Abroad**. Each year, up to five of our students, usually juniors, are selected for the opportunity to live and learn abroad with SYA China, Italy, France or Spain.

The science and mathematics departments offer AP courses in AB Calculus, BC Calculus, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, and Computer Science. Each also offers courses beyond the AP level for advanced students. In the math department these include **Advanced Calculus with an Introduction to Multivariable Calculus, Advanced Calculus and Differential Equations, Linear Algebra, and Independent Study in Mathematics**. In the Science Department, these include **Molecular Biology Research, Experimental Neurology, Data Structure & Algorithms, Dig Logic & Comp Architecture, Introductory Organic Chemistry, and Research in Sustainability**. Students in these science electives often engage in experimental design and independent research, and participate in Deerfield's Science Symposium.

While the vast majority of humanities courses are not tracked, there are four courses in the history and social science department that require departmental permission and operate at a more intense pace: **Economics, Honors European History, Honors US History, and American Studies** (a co-taught, double-block course studying the intersection of American history and literature). These courses, while not nominally AP classes, are rigorous electives that usually culminate in a student sitting for the associated AP exams. Deerfield also offers **AP Seminar: Global H2O & Food Systems**, which focuses on addressing the environmental, social, and economic issues associated with the worldwide struggle to acquire clean water, as well as on local and global issues related to agriculture and food production, nutrition, and culture, and hunger and food insecurity.

## Diploma Requirements†

English:	4 years
Mathematics:	3 years or through Algebra II
Foreign Language:	3 years of one language at Deerfield or the equivalent*
History and Social Science:	2 years, including a year of U.S. History or American Studies
Science:	2 years of laboratory science
Fine Arts:	2 trimesters
Philosophy or Religion:	1 trimester
Health Issues:	1 year in 9th grade and 1 trimester in 10th grade

\*Students for whom English is a second language may request to satisfy this requirement with their native language.

†These requirements are for our three- and four-year students. Visit <https://deerfield.edu/students/academics/graduation-requirements/> to learn more about graduation requirements for new juniors, new seniors and PGs.

## Grade Distribution Chart

### Deerfield Academy does not rank its students.

Unweighted annual GPAs appear on the transcript at the end of each school year.

GPAs earned by the Class of 2021 *in the junior year only*

Grade	Number of students	% of class
95.00 and above	2	1%
93.00 to 94.99	10	5%
91.00 to 92.99	50	26%
89.00 to 90.99	53	28%
87.00 to 88.99	35	18%
86.99 or below	19	10%
No Deerfield GPA (SYA Juniors/new Seniors of PGs)	22	12%

## Standardized Testing

Testing profile for the last graduating class (2020)

SAT	Middle 50%	Mean	ACT	Middle 50%	Mean
EBRW	640-730	680	English	27-35	31
Math	640-770	691	Math	25-34	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>1280-1480</b>	<b>1371</b>	Reading	28-35	31
			Science	25-34	30
			<b>Composite</b>	<b>27-34</b>	<b>30</b>

## Advanced Placement Examinations

In the class of 2021, 144 candidates sat for 486 AP exams.

90% of AP exams earned scores of 3 or higher.

Scores of 5 = 30%

Scores of 4 = 34%

Scores of 3 = 26%

## Disciplinary Disclosure Policy

Deerfield Academy's disciplinary system reflects the purposefully high behavioral and academic standards to which we hold our students. When an application asks whether a student has been placed on disciplinary probation and/or suspended at any time during his or her high school career, the student and the college advisor must answer the question honestly. The student must send a letter of explanation with the appropriate applications; a copy of this letter must also be provided to the Deerfield College Advising Office by the application deadline. If the infraction occurs after applications have been submitted, the same expectation for notification applies. The student's college advisor will also report the infraction and the Academy's response in a timely manner.

Deerfield Academy maintains and benefits from a relationship with colleges, universities, and other educational programs that is based on openness and trust. For serious infractions, we reserve the right to communicate with colleges or other programs regardless of the particular application's requirements. If a senior is required to withdraw or does not graduate on schedule, the student's college advisor will notify colleges or other programs to which the student applied.

**College  
Matriculation**

Colleges attended by three or more students in the last five graduating classes (2015-2019)  
\*by 10 or more students / \*\*by 20 or more students / \*\*\*by 30 or more students

Amherst College*	New York University*
Bates College	Northeastern University*
Bentley University	Northwestern University
Boston College*	University of Notre Dame
Boston University*	Occidental College
Bowdoin College*	University of Pennsylvania**
Brandeis University	Pennsylvania State University
Brown University***	University of Pittsburgh
Bucknell University	Princeton University**
University of California at Berkeley	Rhodes College
University of California at Los Angeles	University of Richmond
Carnegie Mellon University	Rochester Institute of Technology
University of Chicago*	Rollins College
Colby College*	Santa Clara University
Colgate University*	Sarah Lawrence College
Colorado College	Skidmore College
Columbia University***	University of Southern California*
Connecticut College*	Southern Methodist University
Cornell University***	University of St. Andrews
Dartmouth College**	St. Lawrence University
Davidson College	Stanford University*
University of Denver	Swarthmore College
Dickinson College	University of Toronto
Duke University**	Trinity College**
Endicott College	Tufts University*
Fordham University	Tulane University
George Washington University	Union College
Georgetown University***	United States Military Academy
Gettysburg College	United States Naval Academy
Hamilton College	University College London
Harvard University*	University St. Andrews in Scotland
Hobart & William Smith Colleges	Vanderbilt University
College of the Holy Cross	University of Vermont
Howard University	University of Virginia***
Johns Hopkins University	Wake Forest University
Lafayette College	Washington & Lee University
Lehigh University	Washington University in St Louis
University of Massachusetts at Amherst	Wellesley College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Wesleyan University
McGill University	College of William & Mary
University of Michigan*	Williams College**
Middlebury College*	Yale University*
Mount Holyoke College	

## PANDEMIC RESPONSE AT DEERFIELD ACADEMY

### Spring Term 2020 at Deerfield Academy

In response to the disruptions, anxiety and uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic introduced into the lives of our students, Deerfield Academy transitioned to remote learning for the 2020 Spring Term. The Spring Term academic schedule was modified to include two hours of synchronous learning per week per class with an equal amount of asynchronous learning. We also elected to adopt a Pass/Fail grading system for the term. This decision allowed for each student's progress to be measured in context and was mindful of possible extenuating circumstances (inability to participate in synchronous learning due to time zone differences and/or technology limitations, extensive familial responsibilities, COVID-19 within the home, etc). The 2019-2020 annual GPA for each course only reflects numeric grades received during the Fall and Winter Terms.

### Changes to the Academic Schedule for 2020-2021

Deerfield adopted a new modular academic schedule for the 2020-2021 academic year in order to reduce the number of contacts any student may have over the course of the day, thus allowing us to better trace and manage any potential positive diagnoses on campus. Whereas, in years past, five concurrent yearlong courses had always been the expectation, **students are now enrolled in two year-long-equivalent classes in each of three terms, totaling six courses per year.** No term GPAs will be computed, but an annual GPA will be calculated at the conclusion of Spring Term.

### Academic Calendar Adjustments for 2020-2021

We have revised our annual calendar to allow for a longer winter holiday to minimize travel on and off our campus and to avoid in-person instruction during the time some experts predict that a surge of COVID-19 cases could occur. We are also adding a new "D Term," which will be held in December and will consist exclusively of remote programming.

To accommodate students who were not able to travel back to campus as well as those forced to quarantine due to a positive COVID test result or contact tracing, we are offering remote learning to students this year. Those taking classes remotely can attend either synchronously or asynchronously.

### Curricular Adjustments for 2020-2021

In order to adopt a modular schedule, Deerfield made the following adjustments to our course offerings:

- Accelerated science courses were not offered (Chemistry 1A, Biology 1A and Physics 1A) so students who ordinarily would have taken accelerated science courses were not given that option.
- AP Physics C was broken down into two full-year-equivalent courses, AP Physics C: Mechanics (Fall Term) and AP Physics C: E & M (Winter Term).
- We had to remove some courses from our catalog – for example, several one-term courses and EV Engineering were eliminated.

**Standardized  
Testing for the  
Class of 2021**

It has been a complicated and frustrating year in regards to testing. Deerfield typically recommends that our students begin sitting for the SAT or the ACT in the spring of their junior year. For the class of 2021, most of the tests offered during their junior spring and summer were cancelled. Furthermore, both the College Board and ACT have induced further complications for students to take a standardized test (i.e. The ACT not allowing a student to test twice in one month and the College Board limiting SAT Subject Tests to open test dates). For the Fall Term, Deerfield plans to offer the SAT on campus in September and November and the ACT in October, but all tests will have limited seating capacity due to our commitment to de-densifying our campus and limiting the number of contacts a student may have. Furthermore, for health concerns, students were discouraged from testing in August during the two weeks of our pre-arrival quarantine and are not allowed to leave campus during the Fall Term to take tests at other testing sites. Our plans to offer testing during the Winter and Spring Terms is still uncertain. As a result, many of our students, through no fault of their own, will likely either not have test scores to report or may have only been able to sit for one test administration. We are appreciative of our college colleagues who have adopted test optional policies, and have stated that not having tests will not disadvantage a student in the application process.

Deerfield Academy College Advising Office