Community and School Information

Webber Academy is a private university preparatory school located in Calgary, Alberta. The school was founded in 1997 with an initial student population of 82. It has now grown to a junior kindergarten–grade 12 population of 928, and has produced eight graduating classes. Students entering the school must complete the SSAT or equivalent, with a minimum 80th percentile ranking.

The Fraser Institute\(^1\) has ranked Webber Academy in the top five of 288 schools in Alberta on an assessment of grade 12 achievement since the first graduating class, and ranked our school first in three of these years.

C.D. Howe\(^2\)\(^3\) compared Webber Academy to all other schools in Alberta in 2007 and again in 2013. Their assessment involved comparing the actual performance of students, based on standardized provincial testing, to their theoretical performance based on the socio-economic status of the parents. Webber Academy ranked in the 100th percentile in both years, demonstrating that students here perform better than their socio-economic status suggests they should.

Curriculum

Webber Academy is a junior kindergarten to grade 12 institution providing preparation for university. Classes at all levels and in all subjects are enhanced beyond what is mandated by Alberta's curriculum. Alberta Education requires a standardized test be completed for each grade 12 subject. This diploma examination is worth 50% of each student's final grade.

AP courses are offered in English Literature, English Language, Calculus AB, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, European History, World History and Statistics. AP examinations are written in all of these subjects, as well as in Art, Mandarin and Spanish. A pre-AP course is offered in Mathematics and English Language Arts.

We also offer extensive Spanish, French and Mandarin programmes of study. A foreign language is mandatory up to the grade 10 level, with many students continuing on in their senior years and earning recognized international proficiency diplomas (for example, DELE and DELF).

Students are required to achieve a mark of 85% in prerequisite courses and obtain their teacher's recommendation in order to proceed with AP courses.

Grading and Ranking Procedures

Grading in individual classes is done by percentage with no grade equivalent calculations performed, unless requested by American schools to which students are applying.

Test Score Information

According to the 2011-2012 diploma examination results (mandatory provincial standardized exams in core subjects) 61.1% of Webber Academy students achieved the standard of excellence, while only 23.7% of grade 12 students in Alberta achieved this standard of excellence.

Approximately 75 to 80% of our senior high students are enrolled in AP classes in any given year. In the past three years (2011, 2012 & 2013), 96.7% who wrote AP exam(s) received a mark of 3 or higher (on a scale of 5), scoring an average of 4.25 on 797 exams written from 2005 to 2013. This compares favourably to the Alberta average of 3.33 (2013) and the Canadian average of 3.46 (2013).

Furthermore, in 2013 eleven of our 53 graduates earned the title of National AP Scholar, which represents 19% of all students in Alberta and 2% of all Canadian students achieving this distinguished designation.
College Acceptance
In Webber Academy's eight graduating classes, 99% of the students were accepted by four-year universities and colleges. Of these, approximately 90 to 95% attend universities within Canada. Schools accepting Webber Academy graduates include:

Canadian Institutions
Alberta College of Art and Design
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary
Carleton University
Columbia University
Concordia University
Dalhousie University
George Brown College
King's College
University of Lethbridge
University of Manitoba
McGill University
McMaster University
Mount Allison University
Mount Royal University
University of Ottawa
Queens University
Quest University
Richard Ivey School of Business
Ryerson University
Simon Fraser University
University of Toronto
University of Victoria
University of Waterloo
University of Western Ontario
York University

European Institutions
University of St. Andrews
Trinity College, Cambridge University (UK)
University College Dublin (UK)
University of Edinburgh (UK)
University of Exeter (UK)
Hope Medical Institute (Poland)
Loughborough University (UK)
Oxford University (UK)
University of Winchester (UK)

U.S. Institutions
Amherst College
Brown University
University of California Berkeley
University of California Davis
University of California Los Angeles
University of California San Diego
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia University
Duke University
Georgetown University
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
University of Michigan
Northwestern University
University of Oregon
Princeton University
Purdue University
Reed College
Rice University
Stanford University
Texas A&M University
University of Texas
Texas Tech University
The Academy of Art University
Tufts University
Union College
Virginia Tech University
Washington University in St. Louis
Williams College
Yale University

Extra-curricular
At Webber Academy, although we are a university preparatory school with high academic standards, we also believe in creating well-rounded individuals who excel outside the classroom. To that end, we offer the following extra-curricular pursuits:

Athletics
Badminton
Basketball
Cross Country
Golf
Rugby, boys & girls
Soccer, mixed
Track & Field
Volleyball

The Arts
Band (Concert & Jazz)
Chinese Cultural Festival
Drama
Spanish Cultural Festival
Spanish Cultural Magazine
Voices Literary Magazine

Community Investment
Food Bank
Free the Children projects
Peer Tutoring
Legacy Project (recycling/KIVA micro-loans)
Talent Show Charity
Terry Fox Run (for cancer)

Other
Debate
Law Day/Mock Trial
Model UN
Reach for the Top (Quiz Bowl)
Science Fair
Science Olympics
Speech
Students’ Council
Yearbook

The pursuit of excellence is illustrated by the athletic league and zone banners won, and numerous eminent awards received at provincial, national and international levels in band, drama, Mock Trial Law Day, Reach for the Top, Science Fair, speech and debate.

1 An independent, national data-analysis company (www.fraserinstitute.org/reportcards/schoolperformance/alberta.htm)
2 A national, non-partisan, non-profit organization for social & economic policy reform: 2007 (http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/backgrounder_104_AlbertaSchoolGrades.pdf)
3 A national, non-partisan, non-profit organization for social & economic policy reform: 2013 (http://www.cdhowe.org/albertas-best-schools-2013/22531)
Since its inception in 1955, Advanced Placement has provided motivated high school students with the opportunity to take college-level courses in a high school setting. AP courses are taught by dedicated and enthusiastic high school teachers who follow course guidelines developed and published by the College Board. All AP teachers and their courses are certified by the College Board. Each year, an increasing number of parents, students, teachers, high schools, colleges and universities turn to the AP Program as a model of educational excellence.

AP Exams
Each AP course culminates with an international, college-level AP exam administered at school in May. Students are strongly encouraged, but not required, to write these exams. AP exams are graded on the following 5-point scale of post-secondary readiness.

5 - extremely well qualified
4 - well qualified
3 - qualified
2 - possibly qualified
1 - no recommendation

*** Advanced Placement exams do not replace Alberta Education diploma exams. Additionally, AP courses do not necessarily exempt students from first year university courses. AP standing is at the discretion of the college or university to which a student is requesting admittance. It is advisable to check a college or university’s AP policy.

Who receives the AP exam results?
A student’s AP exam results are sent to their home address and to their high school. During the writing of the exam, students can request that their results also be sent to designated universities and colleges.

AP at Webber Academy
At present, Webber Academy offers the following Advanced Placement courses:

Biology
Calculus
Chemistry
English Language
English Literature
European History
Physics 1 & 2
Statistics
World History

At Webber Academy, students complete their AP courses in grades 10, 11 and 12. Pre-AP courses are offered in lower grades. Webber Academy looks forward to expanding its AP program to include additional courses. Currently, 75 to 80% of senior high students at Webber Academy enroll in Advanced Placement classes.
Advanced Placement Program courses give you a head start on college while you are still in high school. Taking the end-of-course AP exam sends a powerful message to colleges and universities that you’re ready for them, and can enable you to gain admission, college credit, and placement into advanced courses.

College Board

Who designs the AP courses and exams?
The AP Program offers a portfolio of courses and examinations that are developed by committees of college professors and experienced AP teachers. The AP committees are composed of leaders in their fields who bring cutting-edge content knowledge and expert teaching practices to the development of AP courses, which are reviewed and revised annually.

AP committee members currently teach at dozens of the nation’s top colleges, universities, and secondary schools, including:
- Dartmouth College
- Hamilton College
- Princeton University
- Spelman College
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- Yale University
- The Spence School
- Phillips Exeter Academy
- St. Louis University High School
- Thomas Jefferson High School

The value of AP
Students who take AP courses derive many benefits. Webber Academy’s goal is to prepare students for university and beyond. It is important to equip students with the skills necessary for acquiring entrance to their university of choice, and additionally, for being well-prepared to cope with studies at university.

The primary advantage of AP study for students is to experience college-level material. The intensity of college exams catches far too many first year university students by surprise. Taking the AP exams will put learners a step ahead, and give a clear understanding of what is needed to succeed on a college exam.

Taking AP Courses Leads to Success at University

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a bachelor’s degree in four years or less.

What college professors say about taking AP courses

“What students who have prepared for and taken the AP exams more easily adapt to taking college essay exams, and are especially skilled in including a thesis and a well-developed argument.

They are also less intimidated by sophisticated, college-level multiple-choice questions that seek to test understanding over memorization.”
Robert Blackey, History Professor
California State University, San Bernardino

“Completing AP courses is one way applicants demonstrate a willingness to accept academic challenges. Strong grades and high test scores certainly demonstrate preparation for college.”
Lori Goldman, Director of Admissions & New Student Enrollment, University of Arizona

Comparing Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate
Both the AP and IB programs provide excellent enrichment opportunities for the dedicated student. Both programs are accepted by many universities.

Schools offering the IB program require students take a minimum number of IB courses. It is a very rigid program of studies, and therefore limits a student’s course selection choices. Whereas students in the AP program may take as many or as few AP courses as they like. In short, the AP program strives to offer the flexibility to meet individual strengths and circumstances, and to allow students to focus on and take a more rigorous selection of courses in their area of interest (ie...sciences and mathematics) while still maintaining a well-balanced program of studies. Finally, working to one’s strengths and interest(s) results in a higher overall achievement.

Both programs are externally validated through comprehensive, internationally recognized exams.

For more information, please contact:

Mrs. Christina Clouston, Head of Senior School
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cclouston@webberacademy.ca

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Or visit our web site at: www.webberacademy.ca
As students complete their final years at Webber Academy, career and post-secondary decisions become increasingly more relevant. A senior high student is faced with the challenge of understanding and meeting requirements for graduation, university admission and scholarship applications — all the while maintaining a strong standing in their courses. Webber Academy’s Career Counsellors support students through these challenges, and act as a primary source for reference letters for university entrance and scholarship requirements.

What is career counselling?

As students complete their final years at Webber Academy, career and post-secondary decisions become increasingly more relevant. A senior high student is faced with the challenge of understanding and meeting requirements for graduation, university admission and scholarship applications — all the while maintaining a strong standing in their courses. Webber Academy’s Career Counsellors support students through these challenges, and act as a primary source for reference letters for university entrance and scholarship requirements.

Universities visit Webber Academy
Universities have expressed a keen interest in meeting with our students. Post-secondary recruiters deliver presentations right here on our campus throughout the year. Students have the opportunity to receive the latest admission information and ask specific questions during a question and answer period. By attending these sessions, our students learn about the rainbow of opportunities available to them at university. This knowledge is essential in making the right choice of university and faculty.

Career counselling process
All senior high school students may attend several career counselling sessions each year or may receive relevant information through our CALM 20 (Career and Life Management) course. These sessions explore self-awareness, enhance understanding of university and graduation requirements, explore available scholarships, enhance understanding of the role of and preparing for SATs, and more. We also actively encourage grade twelve students to book individual appointments with our career counsellors to strategically explore options, discuss admission procedures, receive assistance in navigating university websites and answer the many questions that arise. The same services are accessible to grade ten and eleven students as they prepare for their final high school years and university admission.

There is more to discovering a student’s area of strength than simply identifying their strongest school subject. Students are engaged in activities and assessments throughout high school in order to formulate a strategic developmental plan that will successfully meet their graduation and university admission requirements.

Together with the Career Counsellors, students can then map their areas of interest and post-secondary desires in an effort to identify their universities of
choice based on a sound assessment of interests, aptitudes and financial means. With Canada’s colleges and universities offering tens of thousands of unique program choices, selecting a suitable program and school can be overwhelming. Students are encouraged to reframe the question, “How do I find the top university?” to “How do I find the right university for me?” The Career Counsellors equip students with the skills and resources to more comprehensively research and analyze their schools of interest. It is important to explore the details and flexibility of each program choice, and to align the individual student to the particular character and competencies of the university.

Webber Academy maintains a library of post-secondary resources. This library is always available to students and includes current:

- admission requirements
- university profiles
- university directories
- scholarship directories
- scholarship and university applications
- S.A.T. registration packages
- S.A.T. preparatory resources

**Preliminary SATs (PSAT)**

The PSAT is a standardized test that provides first-hand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test. It also gives students a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs.

The PSAT measures:

- critical reading skills
- math problem-solving skills
- writing skills

Webber Academy is proud to be a writing centre for the PSAT.

**Did you know?**

The following universities have visited Webber Academy:

- Rice University
- University of the Arts London
- University of Toronto
- Queen’s University
- University of Calgary
- University of Alberta
- University of Lethbridge
- McGill University
- Richard Ivey School of Business
- Western University
- University of British Columbia
- Mount Allison University
- Grant MacEwan University
- Oxford-Brookes University
- Memorial University
- University of Victoria
- Dalhousie University
- Mount Royal University
- Reed College
- University of Waterloo
- Quest University
- St. George’s Medical School, University of London

For more information, please contact:

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jhayward@webberacademy.ca

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What is a credit?
Alberta Education defines one credit as the equivalent of learner outcomes that most students can achieve in 25 hours of instruction.

How many credits can a student earn for one class?
That will depend on the course. At Webber Academy, most full-year classes are worth 5 credits. C.A.L.M. is a half-year course, and students earn 3 credits for this course. CTS courses operate on the basis of 1-credit modules.

Will my child have enough credits to graduate?
Alberta Education requires a minimum of 100 credits to graduate. Most Webber Academy students who have completed all three grades of high school have well in excess of this minimum requirement. Transfer students will meet with the Head of Senior School and the Career Counsellors to determine the amount of credits required. However, it is important to stress the fact that the minimum graduation requirements are not usually sufficient for university admission.

What is AP (Advanced Placement)?
The Advanced Placement program provides senior high school students exposure to college-level courses and examinations. Webber Academy alumni consistently confirm that AP was a significant factor to a smoother transition to their post-secondary studies.

What is the Career and Life Management (C.A.L.M.) course?
All Alberta students are required to take C.A.L.M. in order to graduate. Its aim is to enable students to make well-informed, considered decisions and choices in all aspects of their lives and to develop behaviours and attitudes that contribute to the well-being and respect of self and others, now and in the future. The aim of C.A.L.M. is articulated through three general outcomes:

1. **Personal Choices**
   Students will apply an understanding of the emotional/ psychological, intellectual, social, and physical dimensions of health – and the dynamic interplay of these factors – in managing personal well-being.

2. **Resource Choices**
   Students will make responsible decisions in the use of finances and other resources that reflect personal values and goals and demonstrate commitment to self and others.

3. **Career and Life Choices**
   Students will develop and apply processes for managing personal, lifelong career development.
What second languages are offered at the senior high level?
Webber Academy offers second languages (French, Mandarin and Spanish) at different levels in each grade. Research shows that knowledge of another language is beneficial to a student's academic performance in their mother tongue in a variety of subjects. It is also our belief that second languages will be essential in the global environment.

Do second language classes have different levels?
Yes, at each grade level, Webber Academy offers instruction at different levels determined by the particular group of students. For example, a student in grade 10 could take Spanish 10 (beginner level), Spanish 20 (intermediate, grade 11 level), Spanish 20S (more advanced), or Spanish 20N (most advanced).

Is there a second language requirement for university entrance?
It is not generally required; however, there are many faculties that do have a language requirement and many will consider a second language mark for admission or scholarship purposes. Based on the Webber Academy philosophy, there is a second language requirement in grade ten.

What are Diploma exams?
In order to obtain credits for certain 30-level courses, a student must write a diploma examination authored by Alberta Education. The following Diploma courses are offered at Webber Academy:
- English Language Arts 30-1
- Mathematics 30-1
- Social Studies 30-1
- Biology 30
- Chemistry 30
- Physics 30

The examinations are written at the school on days scheduled by Alberta Education.

How is the final mark for Diploma courses determined?
The final mark is an average of the school-awarded mark and the Diploma examination mark.

How many option courses can a student take?
That depends on the grade as well as that student's long-term goals. After students choose their core subjects, we strive to accommodate their choice of options.

What extracurricular activities do we offer at the high school level?
We are proud to offer a wide variety of activities. Specific offerings depend on students' interests and participation. Activities include: athletics teams (volleyball, basketball, cross-country running, golf, soccer, badminton, track and field, rugby), speech, debate, drama, Reach for the Top, yearbook, Voices (our student literary magazine), jazz band, Law Day competitions, Model UN, student council, the Legacy Project, Math Club, Science Olympics and more.

For more information, please contact:

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Does Webber Academy organize immersion trips for the language students, as well as national or international trips for extracurricular teams and clubs?
Yes. Every second year we have immersion programs in place for Spanish, French and Mandarin. For instance, students have travelled to Costa Rica, China and France in past years. Then every other year teams or clubs have the opportunity to travel nationally or internationally. For instance, three years ago, our band travelled to New Orleans and last year they toured Europe. Also last year, our Model UN club competed at an international tournament in Beijing, China.

What is the average class size?
It depends on the subject and grouping. 23 to 25 students is our maximum, but most classes are considerably smaller. This year, we have an average class size of 12.

How is Webber Academy different from other schools?
We have 100% graduation rate and 99% acceptance rate to universities, with most graduates being accepted by their university of choice.

We are proud to offer a very strong academic program, both in AP and the non-AP streams, with excellent results (For specific results, please refer to the School Profile.). Our classes are small and individual attention is given to students. As previously mentioned, Webber Academy also offers a wide variety of options including second and third languages, drama, music, as well as many extracurricular activities such as athletics, speech, debate, theatre, yearbook, film club, etc.

We also have a Career Counselling program in which each student participates in group and individual guidance sessions.
Alberta High School Graduation Requirements

Below are the minimum requirements for a student to attain an Alberta High School diploma. The requirements for entry into post-secondary institutions will likely require additional and/or specific courses.

A student must earn a minimum of 100 credits including in the following:

- 30-Level English Language Arts
- 30-Level Social Studies (Geography/History)
- 20-Level Mathematics
- 20-Level Science
- Physical Education 10
- Career and Life Management 20 (CALM 20)

10 credits, in any combination from:

- Fine Arts
- Physical Education 20 and/or 30
- Second Languages
- Career and Technology Studies (C.T.S.)

- 10 credits in any 30-level courses (in addition to English Language Arts and Social Studies)

Webber Academy High School Graduation Requirements

In order to receive a graduation certificate from Webber Academy, students must fulfill the following additional requirements:

- Webber Academy’s passing mark is 60% for all courses.
- Mathematics 30-1 is successfully completed (to Webber Academy requirements).
- A 5-credit second language class in Grade 10 was successfully completed (to Webber Academy requirements), unless special permission is granted to students joining the school in later years.
Returning Students

An initial fee of $2,000 is required by February 1st to confirm enrollment.

Once registered, the student will select courses for the next academic year. The Head of Senior School and the Career Counsellors will be available to assist students with the selection of their courses.

New Students

Fill out the application form and submit it to the school accompanied by:
- a copy of the child's most recent report card
- a copy of the child's birth certificate
- a non-refundable application fee of $100
- a small photograph.

All candidates will write an admissions exam scheduled by the admissions office. For testing dates, please contact Mrs. Dianne Lever at 277-4700, Ext. 225.

Candidates may be invited for a full-day classroom visit which will provide an opportunity to meet other students and learn about the school.

Webber Academy would like a confidential school report from the child's previous educational institution when possible.

We advise prospective families of acceptance as soon as possible. An initial fee of $2,000 is required in order to hold the placement.

Once registered, the student will select courses for the next academic year. The Head of Senior School as well as the Career Counsellors will be available to assist students in the selection making process.

Please understand that we begin timetabling in January. The schedules are based on students’ choices; therefore, in order to secure the courses of choice, it is advisable to submit the course selection sheet as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact:

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Preparing students to thrive in university and beyond

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