



Mission

- Think critically
- Act responsibly
- Lead compassionately
- Innovate wisely

Vision

To inspire students to create a better world.



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Thanks for your interest in our school. We hope this document helps you better understand our students and curriculum. As questions arise please reach out to any of us listed to the left.

Eastside Prep (EPS) is a highly selective independent school with a dynamic, interdisciplinary curriculum grounded in a liberal arts education with a heavy dose of STEM. EPS is situated in the center of Seattle's high tech, global community and was founded twenty years ago to address the desire for greater inquiry-based, experiential learning. EPS continues to evolve, driven by its students' curiosity and a collective aim to create a better world.

COMMUNITY

One of the benefits of our location is the diverse, international professional population in this region. Our student body reflects this population. Our 530 students in grades 5-12 live in 51 distinct zip codes and matriculate from 147 different schools. 60% self-identify as students of color and 36 different languages are spoken at home. EPS is also a Rainier Scholars partner school.

- Student-to-teacher ratio: 8:1
- Average class size: 16
- Maximum class size: 18 (Excluding musical ensembles and choirs)
- Faculty with advanced degrees: 82%

FINANCIAL AID

In 2022-2023, EPS allocated \$1.8M with with an average grant of \$28,650 (or \$33,355, including non-tuition funding). On the school's 20th anniversary in January 2023, EPS proudly launched the school's first endowment, The Better World Endowment, to further fund financial aid and faculty professional development. \$7.1 million dollars have been raised toward this endowment.

ACCREDITATION

- NWAIS: Northwest Association of Independent Schools
- NAIS: National Association of Independent Schools

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

- **Fall**—August 30 - November 17
- **Winter**—November 28 - March 8
- **Spring**—March 11 - June 12

COVID STATEMENT

The Class of 2024 will be our last graduates who experienced any high school classes taught remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 2020-21 year, EPS progressed from being fully remote in the fall to in-person classes in the spring. As a one-to-one laptop school with considerable technology assets, the transition to remote learning was relatively easy for us.

While we were remote, EPS students completed work consistent with the prior high expectations. Throughout COVID, courses covered the same content and were assessed and graded according to standard, pre-COVID EPS practices. The transcript remained unchanged.

The Curriculum

SCHEDULE

EPS operates on a fast-paced trimester schedule with students taking six or seven classes each 11-week trimester. A 70-minute block schedule allows for greater depth in discussion, diversity in instruction and cooperative learning.

GRADING

With a fundamental belief in equity and the unique and inherent value of each of our students, EPS does not compute a class rank or grant academic awards or honors. Given the demands of the entire curriculum, GPAs are not weighted and A+ is not part of the scale.

EPS does not offer AP classes and no courses are designated as honors level. While our classes do not specifically teach toward the AP tests, some students elect to take those examinations.

Mid 50% of GPAs for the Classes of 2020 - 2023: 3.63 to 3.95

STANDARDIZED TESTING

On average, 20% of EPS students each year are recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program. The Class of 2024 has 12 Semi-Finalists and 21 Commended Students.

Reliable access to testing remains a challenge in our region. To provide some sense of testing norms in our population, these are the middle 50% test ranges for the graduating classes of 2021 to 2023:

ACT: 30 - 34 **SAT:** 1330 - 1520

Special Programs

Independent offerings are decidedly collegiate in structure and rigor, providing students multiple opportunities to

- distinguish themselves as going above and beyond work offered in the core curriculum (in addition to advanced coursework)
- self-direct their learning and authorship of curricula
- expand coursework within the context of the core academic disciplines
- explore relevant, applied topics outside the scope of the core curriculum

SEMINARS (GRADES 10-12)

With the aim of preparing students for the collegiate experience, seminars are faculty-designed and employ a combination of teaching methods in small 3-6 student classes that meet once a week. Seminars are not graded but set high expectations for preparation and work completed outside of class time. The topics covered reflect areas of broad faculty interest, and student enrollment is entirely voluntary.

► Examples of Past Seminars

Advanced Filmmaking: A Deep Dive	Systems Thinking: An Introduction to Ecological Modeling
Bhagavad Gita: A Guide to Living	The Ethics of Indigenous Rights
Creamos: Creative Expression in Spanish	The Millennium Problems: Million Dollar Math Puzzles
Global Trends 2040	Understanding Baseball Through Statistics
Indigenous Issues in Contemporary Latin America	Understanding Gravitational Wave Sources and Detection
Introduction to Queer Theatre	Worldviews, Truths, and Consequences
Literary Translation: Global Art	You Mad, Bro?: Rethinking Masculinity
Periodic Dining Table: Topics in Food Science	
Race in the United States	
Siege Warfare	

INDEPENDENT STUDY (IS) AND INDEPENDENT PROJECT (IP)

Independent Study complements students' academic experiences at EPS, putting greater personal accountability on their learning and granting the freedom to explore a subject that piques their interest or extends beyond the offerings in our disciplines. Students design and pursue an independent course with the support of a faculty mentor. After detailing a 10-week course plan and syllabus, students propose the course in front of a faculty panel. If accepted, a student completes their self-designed course the following trimester and then presents to peers as well as a faculty panel for credit.

SENIOR THESIS

In rare cases, students choose to pursue a Senior Thesis. (Only 12 students have completed this program since the program's inception in 2016.) The Senior Thesis is the most rigorous research opportunity in the EPS academic program, providing students time and support to build on the work of previous Independent Studies to produce a substantive research product. The thesis is designed to be both a culmination in an individual academic discipline (or an interdisciplinary domain), and preparation for intensive research as an undergraduate. Students are required to have completed two Independent Studies of exceptional quality as a prerequisite for proposing a Senior Thesis.

Graduation Requirements

Each trimester course (TRI) earns one credit, with year-long (YL) earning three credits. Students must earn 72 credits to graduate with 58 assigned across disciplines. GPAs noted on the transcript include only classes taken at EPS. More details can be found in the chart on the following page.

For the complete course catalog: courses.eastsideprep.org

