## EASTSIDE PREPARATORY SCHOOL <br> - Think critically <br> - Act responsibly <br> - Lead compassionately <br> - 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 $\$ 1.8 \mathrm{M}$ 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


## - Examples of Past Seminars

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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

## - Humanities Core

12 credits English* 9 credits History and Social Sciences

In grades 9-11, English and History courses are taught as integrated pairs. In grades $9 \& 10$, students choose from two each trimester. Throughout, our humanities courses require critical analysis, research and high-level writing.


There are no designated advanced courses in Humanities. These senior courses presume prior content and are taught to expose students to college-level reading and writing.

## English TRI

Modernist Literature, Film, and Music
Literature and the Natural Environment
Postmodern Theory \& Literature
Renaissance Drama
Western Fiction and Drama
The Modern Novel

## Social Science TRI

Democratic Theories and Civic Practices
Comparative Government
Law, Justice, and the American Legal System
Public Policy
International Relations
The Economics of Development

## - Science 9 credits $\mathbf{Y L}$

The introductory courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics must be taken prior to enrollment in subsequent advanced courses. Advanced Sciences are taught at an accelerated college-level pace with the most in-depth and conceptually challenging content. All Science classes include extensive laboratory work.

Grade 9
Biology
Grade 10
Chemistry
Grade 11
Physics

## Courses YL Adv Biology Adv Chemistry Adv Physics Organic Chemistry Environmental Studies <br> Environmental Studies

Courses TRI
Astronomy
Data Science 1 \& 2
Ecology
Geoscience
Marine Biology

## Math $\quad 9$ credits YL

Students follow standard progression per year with completion through Algebra 2 required. Advanced Calculus exceeds BC level AP and Adv Topics explores complex themes taught in college coursework.

Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus Calculus Adv. Adv. Calculus Topics

## - Spanish 9 credits YL

Spanish is the only World Language offered, an intentional decision to optimize for advanced literacy, rigor and depth of courses and to integrate Spanish across disciplines.

Spanish 4 must be completed before enrolling in the advanced coursework. A small number of students enroll in world language classes outside of EPS.

## Spanish

Spanish 1
Spanish 2
Spanish 3
Spanish 4

Courses YL
Advanced Language
Advanced Literature

Courses TRI
Advanced Spanish:
Current Events
Film
Music

## Technology and Computer Science Courses TRI

Students have open access to a state-of-the-art Makerspace and Robotics Lab to enrich their study.

## Programming

Programming $1 \& 2$
Advanced Programming: Topics in Computer Science

|  | Design |
| :--- | :--- |
| Advanced Programming: | Web Design 1 \& 2 |
| Algorithms \& Data Structure | Physical Meets Digital |

Advanced Programming: Topics in Computer Science

## Interdisciplinary Courses TRI

Coursework in this area equips students to think critically across various disciplines so that they can better understand and navigate the modern world.

| Expression | Media | Place-based | Thinking |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Intro to Public Speaking | Truth in Film | Experience: Seattle | Undercover Economics |
| Creative Writing | Modern Mythology | Experience: Arches | Evolution of Society |
| Adv Creative Writing | in American Film | National Park | Philosophy |
|  | Media Literacy | Topics in Urban Planning <br> and Community Design |  |

- Fine \& Performing Arts 5 credits TRI

| Music | Theatre | Visual Art |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Chamber Choir* | Acting $1 \& 2$ | Arts Portfolio Dev |
| Chamber Music Ensemble* | Directing | Digital Filmmaking $1 \& 2$ |
| Digital Music Studio | Stagecraft | Digital Photography |
| Intro to Instrumental Music: Band |  | Drawing \& Painting $1 \& 2$ |
| Intro to Instrumental Music: Orchestra |  | Graphic Design $1 \& 2$ |
| Rock Orchestra |  | Mixed Media |
| Understanding Music |  | Paper Engineering |
| Vocal Rock Studio | Printmaking |  |
| *YL, audition required |  |  |

## - Physical Education 5 credits TRI

A wellness class is required in grade 9. Additional courses may be completed at any time during the upper school. Credits can also be earned through interscholastic sports participation.


College Matriculations

During the five-year period 2019-2023, one EPS graduate has attended each institution listed below. When more alumni have attended, the number is noted in parentheses.

Arizona State University (3)
Babson College
Bard College (2)
Bates College (2)
Belmont University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College (3)
Brandeis University (2)
Brown University (4)
California College of the Arts
California Institute of Technology (2)
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (3)
Carleton University
Carnegie Mellon University (4)
Cascadia College
Case Western Reserve University (3)
Chapman University (6)
Charles University
Claremont McKenna College (3)
Colby College
Colorado College (3)
Colorado School of Mines
Columbia College Chicago (2)
Columbia University
Cornell University (5)
Dalhousie University

Dallas Baptist University
Davidson College
Denison University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Duke University
Eastern Washington University
Edmonds College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University,
Prescott (2)
Emerson College (3)
Emory University (2)
Fashion Institute of Design \& Merchandising
Fordham University (2)
Franklin University Switzerland
George Fox University
George Washington University (4)
Gonzaga University (2)
Hamilton College
Harvard University (2)
Harvey Mudd College (4)
Haverford College
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana University, Bloomington (2)
Johns Hopkins University (2)
Kenyon College (2)
Lafayette College
Lewis \& Clark College

Loyola Marymount University (3)
Macalester College
Maryland Institute College of Art
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2)
McDaniel College
McGill University
New York University (3)
Northeastern University (5)
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College (4)
Olin College of Engineering
Oregon State University (4)
Oxford College of Emory University
Pacific University
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College (2)
Pomona College (2)
Purdue University
Queen's University
Reed College (2)
Rice University (3)
Rochester Institute of Technology (3)
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University (12)
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design (2)

School of Drama at The New School Scripps College (3)
Seattle University (3)
Simpson College
Skidmore College
Smith College (2)
St. Olaf College
Stanford University (8)
Swarthmore College (3)
Syracuse University (2)
Temple University, Japan
Texas A\&M University
The College of William and Mary
The Ohio State University (2)
The University of Tampa
Trinity College Dublin (2)
Tufts University (5)
Tulane University of Louisiana (2)
University of Arizona
University of British Columbia (2)
University of California, Berkeley (5)
University of California, Irvine (3)
University of California, Los Angeles (6)
University of California, San Diego (2)
University of California,
Santa Barbara (2)
University of California, Santa Cruz (3)
University of Chicago (4)

University of Colorado, Boulder (7)
University of Denver (3)
University of Hawaii, Manoa
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania (4)
University of Portland (2)
University of Redlands
University of Richmond
University of Southern California (4)
University of Toronto (4)
University of Victoria
University of Washington, Bothell University of Washington, Seattle (32)
University of Waterloo (2)
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vanderbilt University (2)
Villanova University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis (2)
Wesleyan University
Western Washington University (6)
Whitman College (6)
Whittier College
Willamette University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (4)
Yale University (2)

