Approach and Character
In 1896, shortly after the University of Chicago was founded, Professor John Dewey—one of the great minds in education—established the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools as a place to explore and implement his theories on childhood education. Today, our 2,123 students in nursery through high school still benefit from his vision and principles.

In the High School (also known as University High School or U-High) students become accustomed to a demanding workload and rigorous expectations. Students are encouraged—and taught—to think for themselves, challenge assumptions, and, most importantly, take on increasing levels of responsibility for their own education. They leave U-High with outstanding experiences and skills that prepare them for success in college and in life.

Environment
Because the Laboratory Schools are part of the University of Chicago, the importance of intellectual life—of thought and exploration—infuses all aspects of our curriculum. More than half of our families are affiliated with the University of Chicago. The remaining families come from all over the city of Chicago, the suburbs, and northern Indiana. Families who choose to send their children to U-High care deeply about curiosity, inquiry, and creativity. They are attracted to this environment that creates and nurtures the hallmark habits of expansive thinking and complex problem solving.

U-High students have special access to unmatched resources because of the Schools’ connection with the University: the Oriental Institute, Smart Museum, Court Theatre, science labs, and sports facilities. U-Highers also have full access to and are taught to use the University’s vast library resources. University faculty—scientists, physicians, public policy experts, economists, historians—routinely visit U-High classes. Each year more than 20 U-Highers take courses at the university.

Mission
The Laboratory Schools are home to the youngest members of the University of Chicago’s academic community. We ignite and nurture an enduring spirit of scholarship, curiosity, creativity, and confidence. We value learning experientially, exhibiting kindness, and honoring diversity.
Curriculum
U-High students pursue a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum that emphasizes analytical reading, writing, research, and strong math and science skills. Through discussion, hands-on lab work, research, and other schoolwork, Lab students learn to read closely, form ideas independently, and write analytically. Approximately 90 percent enroll in at least one of the nine Advanced Placement® (AP®) or 11 Advanced Topics (AT) courses offered. University of Chicago courses, open to U-High students from September until June, may be taken at no extra cost. Starting in tenth grade, U-Highers have full privileges at the University of Chicago’s seven libraries. With these resources at their disposal, Lab students develop strong research skills and well-honed study habits. Almost every U-High graduate (approximately 98 percent) attends a four-year college or university immediately after graduation.

Because many U-Highers have powerful curiosities and unique interests, at any one time many are working with U-High faculty mentors on Independent Studies. Similarly, since 1969, seniors may work on a one-month May Project enabling most students to research, develop, and carry out an approved, significant project free of daily classroom obligations. At the project’s completion seniors are required to present their work to Lab classes and in a public exhibition.

Graduation Requirements
Students must accrue a minimum of 21.5 credits and must fulfill these core requirements:

- 4 years of English (with the exception of early graduates)
- 3 years of mathematics
- 3 years (consecutively) of the same world language
- 3 years of science (including biology and chemistry, with labs)
- 3 years of history (including courses in early, modern, and US history)
- 3 years of physical education
- 1 year of fine arts (either visual or dramatic arts)
- 1 year of music
- 1/2 year of computer science
- Service learning, 40 hours

Valuing our differences and giving back to society are concepts so important at the Laboratory Schools that the Service Learning Program is required of all High School students. Peer Leaders, upperclassmen who are trained for their roles, facilitate discussions about social issues in Freshman and Sophomore Advisory groups. (Peer Leaders do not receive academic credit for this commitment.) Students must complete 40 hours of service over the course of a year at a social service organization or community institution and write about their experiences to receive their P (Pass) for graduation credit.

A Sampling of U-High’s 150+ Courses
- AT African American History
- Discrete Mathematics and Statistics
- Classical Greek
- Rousseau’s Émile
- Cosmology
- Neuroscience and Behavior
- AP Chinese
- Jazz Band
- Sculpture
- Acting Studio
- Digital Music Production
- Advanced Journalism
- Photojournalism
- Computer Architecture

Advanced Course Offerings at U-High: AP® and AT
The most rigorous courses in the History, Economics, and Science departments are designated Advanced Topics (AT). The most rigorous courses in the Math, Computer Science, Music, and World Languages departments are designated Advanced Placement® (AP®). The most rigorous courses in the English department are the single-quarter electives, commonly known as English 3/4, and indicated on the transcript by the theme of the course.

Students taking the standard courses offered in our English curriculum are well prepared for either the AP® Language and Composition or Literature and Composition exams. Students taking the most rigorous courses offered in our History, Science, Economics, Math, Art History, Advanced Photography, Computer Science, Music Theory, and World Languages courses are well prepared for AP® exams in those disciplines.

Extracurricular Activities
Students run more than 40 school-sponsored organizations, ranging from religious and ethnic clubs to activities in the arts, culture, academics, philanthropy, and social activism. U-Highers devote significant time to many different extracurricular activities: joining sports, math, science, debate, or Model UN teams; serving in student government or community service roles; and participating in theater productions or music performances.

U-High offers varsity and junior varsity teams in baseball, basketball, cross country, dance troupe, fencing, golf, sailing, soccer, squash, swimming, tennis, track and field (indoor and outdoor), and volleyball. Our athletic teams are subject to the IHSA rules, and our teams participate in the Independent School League athletic conference. In some years students have also organized co-ed club or recreational teams, including badminton, flag football, ice hockey, rugby, and Ultimate Frisbee.

Our students’ high level of commitment reveals just how engaged they are in the academic, social, and personal aspects of their total education. U-High students typically take themselves, their work, and their creativity seriously.

Students may sit for the AP® exams without taking AP® courses. There is no limit set for the number of AP®/AT courses a student may take. Departments individually may set pre-requisites for enrollment into any particular AP® or AT course. Our AP® Statistics class is a full-year course and is a rigorous experience.

AP® Courses
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chinese Language and Culture
- Computer Science
- French
- German
- Music Theory
- Spanish
- Statistics

AT Courses
- African American History
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Modern European History
- Physics I
- Physics II
- US History
- World History
Students receive a standard letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F). A grade of D is considered a passing grade. We use an unweighted 4.0 grading system for determining GPA. Plusses and minuses (+ and −) appear on the U-High transcript with grades in courses and are used in calculating the GPA. The GPA scale is noted on the transcript. University High does not use a block schedule and is on the quarter system (Fall, Winter, Spring) for its school calendar. Grades for the Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters are available in December, late March, and mid-June.

All regular academic courses at U-High are college preparatory and should be considered equivalent to an honors-level course. Advanced courses are noted by AP® or AT on the transcript, but are not weighted in the GPA calculation. Only classes taken at U-High are listed on the transcript and included in the GPA. University High does not rank. GPAs include grades earned in all courses taken (including PE, art, drama, music, computer science, and journalism) from freshman year through the final quarter of junior year. The GPA is recomputed at the end of the first and final quarters of senior year. The GPA listed on the Laboratory Schools’ transcript of any transfer student is based solely on courses taken at University High.

**Profile: Class of 2018**

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**Standardized Testing Data**

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<td>630–770</td>
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**MEAN**

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<td>Math</td>
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<td>Reading</td>
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<td>Science</td>
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**MEAN**

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**Highlights, Honors & Awards**

> Through Summer Link and other partnerships with the University of Chicago, select students have paid internships with professors, scientists, economists, alumni-connected businesses, Southside nonprofits, and computer science projects.

> Since 2016 students have conducted research at the Marine Biology Lab at Woods Hole.

> Our language students perform well on national language exams, and participate in exchanges in France, Spanish-speaking countries, Germany, and China, or trips to Greece and Italy.

> U-High’s newspaper, yearbook, and journalists consistently win state and national awards. In 2017 U-High was one of 49 schools nationwide named as a finalist for the prestigious Pacemaker Award from the National Scholastic Press Association.

> Students have been chosen to attend the State and National History Day competitions and to publish in The Concord Review.

> Lab visual artists have been selected for the Illinois High School Art Exhibition, and many artists and writers receive keys from the Scholaristic Art and Writing Awards.

> The Math and Science teams often finish among the state’s top teams. Dozens qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam, with one advancing to USAMO, and another selected for the MOSP Blue Team. Our WYSE and JETS teams advanced to nationals twice. The 2017 Environthon team placed seventh overall at nationals, winning the orals component.

> Lab computer scientists have been recognized locally, regionally, and nationally, including by the National Center for Women in Information Technology and the Facebook Favorite at a statewide Hackathon.

> U-High musicians perform with local, state, and national groups. Our musicians have been chosen for All-State and District recognition in choir, jazz, orchestra and chorus; 26 received gold and 13 received silver in the 2017 IHSA Band Competition.

> Debate team competes at the national level, and the Model UN team perennially ranks in the top five in the nation.

> Lab athletic teams compete at high levels of competition, including state competitions, and achieve this within a “no cut” policy system, and which distinguishes U-High from most athletic programs.
WHERE U-HIGH GRADUATES GO
COLLEGE PLACEMENTS
2014–2017

American University  2
Augustana College  2
Bard College  6
Barnard College  6
Bates College  2
Beloit College  2
Bentley University  2
Berklee College of Music  2
Boston College  3
Boston University  5
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University  4
Brown University  6
Bryn Mawr College  2
Butler University  3
California College of the Arts (San Francisco)
California Institute of Technology
Carleton College  6
Carnegie Mellon University  2
Case Western Reserve University  2
CCC, Harold Washington College
Colgate University  3
Colorado College  5
Columbia University  7
Cornell University  7
Dartmouth College  4
Delaware State University
Denison University  3
DePaul University  2
Emmanuel College
Emory University  2
Fordham University
Georgetown University  3
Goucher College
Grinnell College  3
Hamilton College - NY  2
Harvard University
Haverford College  2
Hofstra University
Indiana University at Bloomington  3
Iowa State University
Johns Hopkins University  4
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College  2
Knox College  2
Lake Forest College  4
Lawrence University
Lewis & Clark College
Loyola University Chicago  2
Luther College
Macalester College  7
Marist College
Marquette University  2

Lab facts at a glance
Average composite ACT: 31.1
2,123 students in 15 grades
Average SAT:
740 EBRW
730 Math
60% of Lab families are associated with the University of Chicago
98% of seniors attend a four-year college after Lab
150 classes offered each year at U-High
40+ high school clubs and activities
55% students of color
Approximately 20 high school students attend classes at the University of Chicago each year at no extra cost

560 high school students
35 high school sports teams
30,000 volumes held in U-High’s Pritzker Traubert Family Library

Marymount Manhattan College  2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  4
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
Mount Holyoke College  2
New York University  15
Northeastern University  10
Northwestern University  22
Norwich University
Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences  4
Oberlin Conservatory of Music
Occidental College  3
Old Dominion University
Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD)
Oxford College of Emory University
Pennsylvania State University, Erie: The Behrend College
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Princeton University  6
Purdue University  2
Queen Mary University of London
Reed College  4
Rice University
Saint Anselm College
Sarah Lawrence College
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Visual Arts
Sciences Po–Columbia University Dual BA Program
Scripps College
Seattle University
Skidmore College
Spelman College
St. John’s College
St. Olaf College
Stanford University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
The College of Wooster
The University of Edinburgh  2
The University of Iowa
The University of Montana, Missoula
The University of Texas, Austin
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University
Tulane University
United States Military Academy–Army
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
University of British Columbia
University of California, Berkeley  5
University of California, Los Angeles  5
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Chicago  63
University of Colorado at Boulder  4
University of Denver
University of Evansville
University of Illinois at Chicago  5
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  21
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville
University of Michigan  13
University of Notre Dame  4
University of Pennsylvania  7
University of Puget Sound  4
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco  2
University of Southern California  4
University of Toronto  3
University of Vermont  2
University of Washington  2
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vanderbilt University  5
Vassar College  4
Washington University in St. Louis  6
Wellesley College  4
Wesleyan University  3
Wheaton College IL  2
Whittier College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University  17

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