



**University of Chicago
Laboratory Schools
High School**

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**Learning and
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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

In 1896, shortly after the University of Chicago was founded, Professor John Dewey established the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools to explore and implement his progressive theories on childhood education. Today, Our **2,203 students** in nursery through high school continue to benefit from his vision and principles.

U-High students have access to unmatched resources because of our unique relationship with the University of Chicago as an academic division. They also have full access to and are taught to use the University’s vast library system. University faculty—scientists, physicians, public policy experts, economists, historians—routinely visit U-High classes.

More than half of our families are affiliated with the University of Chicago. Remaining families come from all over the city of Chicago, the suburbs, and northern Indiana.

GRADING AND ACADEMIC CALENDAR

U-High uses a **4.00 unweighted grading scale** with no class rank calculated. The school year is divided into two semesters. All credit-bearing courses are included in the cumulative GPA, including PE, art, drama, music, computer science, and journalism. U-High does not track students academically; any student may take any class if prerequisites are met.

Students receive a letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F). A grade of D- is a passing grade. 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. U-High does not use a block schedule. Grades for the fall and spring semesters are available in mid-February, and mid-June, for grade 12 only.

Only courses taken at U-High are listed on the transcript and included in the GPA. Other relevant transcripts are sent as attachments to the student’s U-High transcript, including courses taken at the University of Chicago and high schools from which a student may have transferred.

Please see addendum for details on Lab’s COVID-19 response and adoption of remote learning program.

GPA RANGE

As the end of their junior year, the GPA range for the Class of 2023 is 4.00 TO 2.64.

The median GPA is 3.81 and the average GPA is 3.71.

| | MEAN | | | MIDDLE 50% | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | class of 2022 | class of 2021 | class of 2020 | class of 2022 | class of 2021 | class of 2020 |
| SAT | | | | | | |
| EBR/CR | 697 | 701 | 705 | 660-750 | 640-755 | 675-760 |
| Math | 707 | 715 | 725 | 640-780 | 650-785 | 675-790 |
| ACT | | | | | | |
| English | 32.5 | 33.1 | 32.3 | 30-35 | 33-35 | 31-35 |
| Math | 30.4 | 31.4 | 31.1 | 27-35 | 29-34 | 29-35 |
| Reading | 32.6 | 33.2 | 32.3 | 30-36 | 32-36 | 30-35 |
| Science/Reasoning | 30.8 | 30.7 | 30.8 | 29-35 | 28-35 | 28-34 |
| Composite | 31.5 | 32 | 31.4 | 30-35 | 30-35 | 29-34 |

RIGOR AT U-HIGH

All academic courses at U-High are college preparatory and should be considered equivalent to honors-level courses. Most rigorous courses are noted by AP® or AT (Advanced Topics) on the transcript, but are not weighted in the GPA calculation. Students taking the courses in our English, History, and Science Departments are well prepared for AP® exams. There is no limit set for the number of AP®/AT courses a student may take. Students who take AP® courses are not required to sit for the AP® exam.

AP® COURSES

Chinese
 French
 German
 Spanish
 Calculus AB
 Calculus BC
 Statistics
 Computer Science
 2D Art & Design
 Drawing

AT COURSES

African American History
 Comparative Politics & Global Relations I and II
 Economics (AT for 2021-2022 only)
 Global Cold War
 Imperial Dreams
 Latinx Histories
 Modern European History
 Modern World History
 War and Violence
 Words of Asia I and II
 US History
 Biology
 Chemistry C and M
 Physics I and II

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

4 years

English

3 years

History

Early World United States
 Modern World or European

Science

Biology Chemistry
 Third year of any science

Mathematics

Physical Education

2 years

World Language

Two consecutive years of the same language

1 year

Computer Science

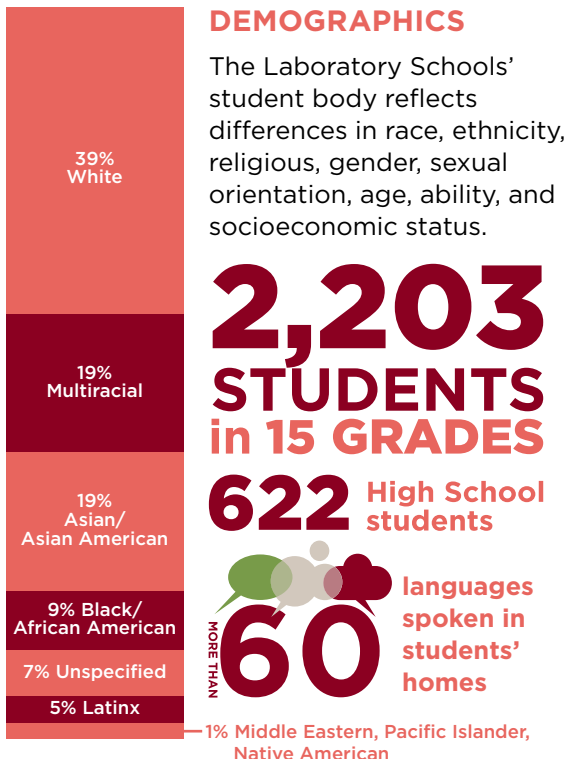
One year for a half credit

Music

Fine Arts

Service Learning

40 hours & reflection papers



POST GRADUATION

Between 95% and 100% of U-High grads attend four-year colleges immediately after graduation. Some graduates choose to travel, pursue a gap year, or work prior to continuing their education. [Click here](#) for a list of colleges and universities attended by Lab graduates.

VISITING U-HIGH

College representatives may make visit reservations for the fall of each school year using RepVisits at counselorcommunity.com. U-High does not host spring college rep visits.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline infractions are not noted on the transcript. Serious discipline is reported on college applications by both the student and the college counselor, per the stipulations of the application.

ACCREDITATION

Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) and North Central Association (NCA)

MEMBERSHIPS

Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS), College Board, the National and Illinois Associations for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC and IACAC)



2019–2020 Move to Remote Learning

In March 2020, with only three days notice, the Laboratory Schools shifted our students in 15 grades to a fully remote program. When our High Schoolers started remote school on March 13, no one realized that they would not step back into their classrooms for the remainder of the school year and that major milestone activities and end-of-year events, trips, sports, and performances would all be canceled. It is significant that a large number of parents at our school work at the University of Chicago Medical Center, and so were under extreme pressure and increased risk at a frightening time.

Spring 2020: Temporary, Semester-long Pass/No Pass Policy

With a focus on what was best for students socially and emotionally—and in consultation with UChicago Admissions staff, Lab College Counseling staff, and peer high schools—our high school adopted a Pass/No Pass policy for spring semester-long courses. Year-long courses and fall semester courses were evaluated with a letter grade.

2020–2021 Fully Remote Program

While Lab strongly preferred to bring all students back for the in-person educational and co-curricular activities that comprise the rich Lab experience, the COVID-19 situation in Chicago made this impossible. In partnership with UChicago medical experts, Lab developed contingency plans to ensure the health and safety of its students, faculty, staff, and families. Until March 2021, Grades 3–12 remained fully remote.

For the 2020–21 year only, the High School adopted a simplified block schedule (ABCAB) which provided major benefits to consistency, clarity, and time away from screens:

- Students met two times per week with each teacher and advisor.
- All High School class and advisory meetings were synchronous with fixed meeting times to help ensure students find their days more predictable and consistent.
- All classes used our learning management system in parallel fashion.
- Defined open time allowed students to meet one-on-one with Learning & Counseling faculty and for other individualized purposes.
- Wednesdays included community time, social-emotional and DEI programming, and fixed office hours for all HS faculty during which students engage remotely with faculty for one-on-one support.

Students in the Class of 2023: Standardized Testing

Our seniors have been counseled to prioritize their health and the health of their family, and to focus on submitting their high school transcript as the best evidence of their readiness for college.