



# MERCERSBURG

Mercersburg Academy  
300 East Seminary Street  
Mercersburg, PA 17236-1551  
CEEB#: 392570

Profile 2008-2009

## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

On our 300-acre rural campus, we instill in students a desire and a readiness to contribute to the world. A college preparatory boarding and day school founded in 1893, Mercersburg educates 438 students from 31 states and 33 countries emphasizing the value of community and collaboration, while challenging students to excel academically and in areas of individual interest.

An innovative, interdisciplinary academic program is at the heart of the Mercersburg experience. Beyond the classroom, students develop abilities in and affinity for the arts, athletics, and other activities that intensify their intellectual experiences and personal successes.

Mercersburg also encourages students to learn and live abroad to develop a cosmopolitan worldview, which is essential to becoming a good global citizen and capable leader. We underscore this belief with financial aid that is dedicated to supporting international experiences. The school culture also emphasizes service to others and stewardship of the environment.

Mercersburg is a school distinguished by possibility and opportunity. Individual Mercersburg students are defined by how they choose to bring together these opportunities to find success and discover ways to contribute and to lead.

## A FEW FACTS & FIGURES

Mercersburg offers a curriculum with 40 AP, post-AP, and Honors courses, a faculty among whom 68 percent hold advanced degrees, the Lenfest Library with 50,000 volumes, an astronomy center, and the 65,000-square foot Burgin Center for the Arts. Among other remarkable resources is a college counseling office that leads each student to maximize his or her potential, while staying true to individual needs and goals.

Mercersburg's financial aid budget is \$4.3 million. More than 49 percent of students receive some kind of aid. Mercersburg's endowment stands at more than \$200 million, a testament to alumni commitment to the value of a Mercersburg education.

## REQUIREMENTS

The school year is divided into three terms. The normal course load is 5 credits per term (15 credits for the year) for all grade levels. Almost all courses earn one credit per term. The credit value for each course is indicated on the transcript. Advanced Placement courses are offered in all major subject areas. Mercersburg does not rank students. Mercersburg is accredited by The Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. For an explanation of the grading scale, see p. 2.

To earn the diploma, a student must be in good standing and study English during each term and mathematics and world languages through the third year or until graduation. Award of the diploma is based on the number of credits earned while a student is enrolled at Mercersburg: we determine the total number of credits needed for graduation and some specific subject area requirements by the grade in which a student enters. The background of every graduate must include at least three credits of history, including American History, at least three terms of science, and courses in religion and fine arts. Though credit is not awarded, each student must also satisfy a physical education requirement.

## CONTACTS

Head of School:

Registrar:

Director of College Counseling:

Associate Director of College Counseling:

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## Grades and Scores

Beginning in the 2007–2008 academic year, grades in Honors and AP courses were weighted: 3 points are added to grades in honors courses and 5 points are added to grades in AP courses and post-AP courses. Please note that grades prior to the 2007–2008 academic year were not weighted.

### Senior Year Average Distributions for Mercersburg Graduates

Range	CLASS 2008 Weighted	CLASS 2007 Unweighted	CLASS 2006 Unweighted	Grading Scale		
				Average	Letter	GPA
100–95	5	1		100–90	A	4.0
94–90	39	15	9	89–80	B	3.9–3.0
89–85	40	44	63	79–70	C	2.9–2.0
84–80	26	46	36	69–60	D	1.9–1.0
79–75	7	19	10	<60	F	---
74–70			4	Commended Scholars have no grade below 85.		
69–65				Distinguished Scholars have no grade below 90.		
64–60						
<60						
Mean	87.2	84.2	84.7			
Mid-50%ile Graduates	84.0 – 90.7	81.1 – 87.1	82.5 – 87.4			
	122	128	124			

### Middle 50th Percentile SAT Ranges for Mercersburg Graduates

	2008	2007	2006
CR	548–653	540–660	510–660
M	570–680	540–660	540–658
Wr	540–640	540–650	503–628
CR + M	1118–1343	1080–1320	1050–1318

From 2006 to 2008, numerous Mercersburg Academy students have achieved recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program, including 29 Commendations, 1 Semi-Finalist and 1 Finalist.

### AP Exam Results by Academic Year

	2007–2008	2006–2007	2005–2006
3 or better	85%	84%	79%
4 or 5	57%	49%	43%
Total Tests Taken	357	304	293
Number of Students who took at least one test	172	142	145

In 2008, 172 students sat for 357 exams in 24 subjects, most commonly in Biology (34), Statistics (28), Calculus AB (28), Environmental Science (27), Comparative Government and Politics (27) and English Language and Composition (26).

### Middle 50th Percentile Subject Test Ranges for Graduates (2006–2008)

Test	Middle 50th percentile	Numbers of test-takers
Math 1C	550–650	147
Math 2C	620–720	89
Chemistry	590–680	65
Literature	593–700	54
U.S. History	613–678	46
Physics	590–680	45

Tests included reflect those most commonly taken – on average, at least a dozen students from each graduating class took the test.

Grade  
Averages

SAT  
Scores

AP  
Exams

Subject  
Tests

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## Distribution of Grades (Weighted) in Upper-level Courses

2007-2008 Academic Year		100-95	94-90	89-85	84-80	79-75	74-70	69-65	64-60	<60	Total	
English	Eng 30L: American Land and its Literature		7	15	12	3	4				41	
	Eng 30V: Voices of American Literature	2	11	22	9	3					47	
	Eng 40CL: Composition and Literature	1	4	8	25	4					42	
	Eng 40LS: Seminars in Literary Study**		17	13	7						37	
	Eng 45: Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction Writing**	3	9	1	3						16	
	Eng 50AL-AP: [AP Engl Lang] American Literature	12	14								26	
History	Eng 50BW-AP: [AP Engl Lit] British and World Literature	18	4		1						23	
	His 30AS: American Studies		6	12	11	3					32	
	His 30US: History of the United States	1	4	19	16	12	7				59	
	His 40P: The Humanities		3	5	11	4	2				25	
	His 40TC: The Twentieth-Century: Ideology & Conflict	1	5	3	6	6	2				23	
	His 50AH-AP: AP Art History	1	8	4	1						14	
	His 50EU-AP: AP Modern European History	3	9	2							14	
	His 50GC-AP: AP Comparative Government and Politics	4	10	10	7						31	
	His 50U-AP: AP United States History	3	14	4							21	
	Mth 30: Algebra II with Trigonometry		1	6	3	3	2	1			16	
	Mathematics	Mth 30H: Honors Algebra II with Trigonometry	5	3	4	3	2	1				18
Mth 30S: Algebra II w/ Elementary Functions and Trig		3	13	24	22	9	5				76	
Mth 40: Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry		2	2	5	4	5	3				21	
Mth 40H: Honors Pre-Calculus		4	6	5	1						16	
Mth 40S: Pre-Calculus		7	11	21	15	6	4				64	
Mth 45: Discrete Mathematics**			1		3	1					5	
Mth 50AB-AP: AP Calculus AB		4	9	11	4	1					29	
Mth 50BC-AP: AP Calculus BC		4	5	3							12	
Mth 50S-AP: AP Statistics		6	5	8	9	2					30	
Mth 60LA: Linear Algebra with Applications		3	2	3	1						9	
Science		Bio 30: General Biology	5	21	24	20	13	5	1			89
		Bio 50AP: AP Biology	9	13	7	4	1					34
		Chem 30: Chemistry		2	17	11	6	3	1			40
		Chem 30H: Honors Chemistry	9	16	12	8	1					46
		Chem 50AP: AP Chemistry	7	7	2	5	1					22
		ES 50AP: AP Environmental Science	7	4	10	11	3					35
		Phy 30: Physics		2	4	4	7					17
	Phy 30H: Honors Physics	10	14	21	4	1					50	
	Phy 35: Astronomy**		4	2							6	
	Phy 50AP: [AP Phys C:EM/AP Phys C:M] Physics	7	2	6	1						16	
	Modern & Classical Languages	Chn 30: Third Year Chinese	2	1		2						5
		Chn 50AP: AP Chinese Language and Culture	4	1	2							7
		Cls 40: Classical Greek for Advanced Latinists**	1	1	3		1					6
		Fr 30: Intermediate French			3	2	1	1				7
Fr 30H: Honors Intermediate French			1	3	1	1					6	
Fr 40: Advanced Studies in French				3	3	2					8	
Fr 45: Contemp. Issues in the French-speaking World			3								3	
Fr 50AP: AP French Language		2		4	3						9	
Fr 55AP: AP French Literature		1									1	
Ger 30: Intermediate German				4	3						7	
Ger 50AP: AP German Language		5	2								7	
Lat 30: Intermediate Latin-Poetry & Prose				1		1					2	
Lat 30H: Honors Intermediate Latin		1	5	4	1	1	1				13	
Lat 50AP: AP Latin Literature		2	3	2	1						8	
Sp 30H: Honors Intermediate Spanish		1	6	4	1						12	
Sp 30: Intermediate Spanish			3	6	4	12	6				31	
Sp 40: Advanced Studies in Spanish			1	2	2	3	1				9	
Sp 50AP: AP Spanish Language			3	3	1						7	
Fine Arts		Art 40: Advanced Studio Art	2	6	2	1						11
		The 40: On Stage: Advanced Ensemble		7	2							9

\*\* These courses are not offered in 2008–2009. The Eng 41 Term courses replaced Eng 40LS and Eng 45. Mth 45ST and Mth 45C replaced Mth 45.

## 2005–2008 College Matriculations

Agnes Scott College	Frostburg State University	Plymouth State University	University of Delaware
Albion College	Furman University	Princeton University - 2	University of Evansville
Albright College	George Mason University	Purdue University	University of Florida - 2
Alfred University	George Washington University - 2	Radford University	University of Georgia
Allegheny College - 2	Georgetown University - 5	Reed College	University of Glasgow
American University - 6	Gettysburg College - 3	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute - 5	University of Kentucky
Amherst College - 2	Goucher College - 3	Rhodes College - 2	University of Mary Washington - 3
Arizona State University - 3	Grinnell College	Rider University	University of Maryland, Balt. Co.
Bates College	Hamilton College - 3	Ringling College of Art and Design	University of Massachusetts
Bellarmino University	Hampton University - 2	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Miami
Beloit College	Hartwick College	Rollins College - 3	University of Michigan
Bentley College	Harvey Mudd College	Rutgers, The State Univ. of NJ	University of Mississippi
Biola University - 2	Haverford College - 2	Saint Francis University	University of Oregon
Birmingham-Southern College - 2	Hobart & William Smith Colleges	Saint Vincent College	University of Pennsylvania - 4
Boston College - 4	Hood College	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Pittsburgh
Boston University - 8	Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Shenandoah University	University of Puget Sound
Bowdoin College	Indiana University, Bloomington - 2	Shepherd University	University of Redlands - 3
Brandeis University	James Madison University - 3	Shippensburg University	University of Rhode Island
Bridgewater College	John Carroll University	Smith College - 3	University of Richmond - 3
Brown University	Johns Hopkins University	Spelman College	University of Rochester - 6
Bryant University	Johns & Wales University	St. John's College (MD)	University of South Carolina - 2
Bryn Mawr College - 2	Juniata College - 4	St. Joseph's University - 3	University of Southern California - 5
Bucknell University - 7	Kalamazoo College - 3	St. Lawrence University - 2	University of Tampa - 2
Canisius College	Kenyon College - 3	St. Mary's College (CA)	University of Tennessee
Carnegie Mellon University - 5	Lafayette College - 4	Stetson University - 3	University of Texas, San Antonio - 2
Case Western Reserve University - 2	Lebanon Valley College - 2	Susquehanna University - 2	University of the Arts
Catholic University of America	Lehigh University - 5	Swarthmore College	University of the South - 6
Claremont McKenna College	Long Island University	Syracuse University - 4	University of Toronto - 2
Clark University - 2	Louisiana State University	Temple University	University of Utah
Clemson University	Loyola University (LA)	Texas A&M University	University of Vermont - 2
Coastal Carolina University - 5	Lycoming College	Trinity College - 2	University of Virginia - 2
Colby College	Lynchburg College - 2	Trinity University - 4	University of West Florida
Colby-Sawyer College	Macalester College	Tufts University - 2	University of West Georgia
Colgate University - 3	Marietta College	Tulane University - 2	University of Wisconsin - 2
College of Charleston - 7	Marlboro College	Union College - 4	Ursinus College - 3
College of the Holy Cross - 3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology - 2	United States Air Force Academy - 2	Vanderbilt University - 3
College of William and Mary - 4	McGill University - 2	United States Coast Guard Academy	Villanova University
College of Wooster - 3	Messiah College	United States Military Academy - 2	Virginia Commonwealth University - 3
Colorado State University	Miami University - 3	United States Naval Academy - 20	Virginia Military Institute
Columbia University - 3	Middlebury College - 4	Univ. Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil - 2	Virginia Polytechnic Institute - 4
Connecticut College	Millersville University - 2	University of Massachusetts	Virginia Wesleyan College
Cornell University - 4	Mount Holyoke College	University of North Carolina, Asheville	Wagner College
Davidson College - 3	Muhlenberg College - 3	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	Wake Forest University - 4
Dickinson College - 12	New York University - 5	University of North Carolina, Wilmington - 2	Washington and Jefferson College - 2
Drew University - 2	Northeastern Ohio Accelerated Med	University of Pittsburgh - 2	Washington and Lee University
Drexel University - 4	Northwestern University - 3	University of Toronto	Washington College - 3
Duke University - 4	Oberlin College	University of Arizona	Washington University
Duquesne University - 2	Occidental College - 2	University of California at Irvine	Wellesley College
Earlham College	Ogelthorpe University	University of California at Los Angeles	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Eckerd College	Ohio State University - 3	University of California at Santa Cruz - 4	Western Washington University
Edgewood College	Ohio University	University of California at Santa Barbara	Wheaton College
Elizabethtown College - 4	Ohio Wesleyan University - 3	University of Chicago - 2	Williams College
Elon University - 4	Oxford College of Emory University - 2	University of Colorado - 2	Wilson College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ. - 3	Pace University - 2	University of Connecticut	Wingate University
Emerson College - 3	Parsons The New School for Design - 4		Worcester Polytechnic Institute - 3
Emory University - 2	Pennsylvania State University - 5		Wright State University
Fairfield University - 2	Pitzer College		Yale University
Florida Institute of Technology			York College
Florida State University - 2			
Fordham University - 2			
Franklin and Marshall College - 3			