



Tahoe Expedition Academy

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HISTORY

In 2011, TEA launched a new independent school that values academic excellence, character building, and real-world adventures. Our students master academic skills and apply them to real-world problems. We are harnessing the power of young people - not only by preparing future leaders, but by tapping their creative action, right now. Since its inception, TEA has grown from 72 students in PreK through 8th grade to 272 students in PreK through 12th grade in 2019-20. In 2020, TEA will graduate its fourth class of students ready to engage with the world as creative problem solvers with a social conscience.

THE SCHOOL

Enrollment Pre-K to 12th:	272
Class of 2020:	6 students
Financial Aid:	35% of students
Student/Faculty Ratio:	6:1
Full-time Teaching Faculty:	29
Faculty with Advanced Degrees:	90%
First Graduating Class:	2017

GRADING AND CLASS RANK

TEA practices Mastery or Standards-Based grading to assess, evaluate and report on each student's academic progress, growth and performance. As TEA is a small, academically rigorous school, the school does not provide a class rank. Starting in 2016-2017, TEA began using a grade scale of A to C-, with less than a C- as incomplete. TEA moved away from AP and Honors level courses because our philosophy is to provide rigorous project-based learning to all students causing our baseline curriculum to be at a standard honors level.

We are real-world problem solvers with a social conscience.

OUR PROGRAM

Tahoe Expedition Academy's (TEA) program connects a rigorous standards-based academic program with a modern experiential learning approach. In addition to earning the highest level of accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in 2017, all high school courses are University of California, A-G approved.

The following learner outcomes are derived from national standards like Common Core ELA and Math, Next Generation Science, National Social Science, Foreign Language Standards, as well as character and adventure standards we created.

CRITICAL THINKING

Critical thinking is fostered throughout core and enrichment subjects alike, as students are empowered to ask why, to question everything and to make educated, thoughtful choices in their lives using evidence, data and reflection.

STRENGTH OF CHARACTER TO ACT AS A GLOBAL CITIZEN

Graduates have proactively cultivated 8 key attributes like perseverance, collaboration, empathy and gratitude, which are necessary for success in today's world.

SURVIVE AND THRIVE IN THE REAL-WORLD

Our belief is the greatest emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual growth occurs when an individual is pushed to the boundaries of their comfort zone. By exploring the natural world, engaging with real issues and real people, and learning how to navigate the real world, our students are able to learn those invaluable life lessons they need to contribute to it.

DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMS

CHARACTER EDUCATION: POWERED BY CONSTRUCTIVE ADVERSITY

Our program intentionally pushes all students to and even beyond their intellectual, social, emotional and physical comfort zones. This calculated risk-taking is the foundation of our school and builds confidence, augments character and helps students exceed their own ideas of what is possible. We know our students are ready for the real world because they have been trained to navigate and contribute to it.

REAL-WORLD INTENSIVES

Real-World Intensives, a.k.a. Electives, are one method TEA uses to bring learning to life. These real-world academic experiences are powered by Constructive Adversity to push students to the limits of their intellectual, social-emotional and physical boundaries. In these semester-long graded courses aligned to national standards, students work individually and in groups to create solutions to 21st-century problems.

PERSUASIVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS

All students are experienced at forming opinions, presenting in public and producing compelling content, especially using digital media.

LEAD A HEALTHY & ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

Through engaging in physical and emotional challenges, such as hiking 14,000 feet elevation gain to investigate meteorology and actively engaging in social-emotional individual and group challenges, students develop a healthy and active lifestyle ready to tackle any challenge.

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVERS

Through intention and practice, graduates have learned how to identify real world problems, formulate action plans and create products to solve them.

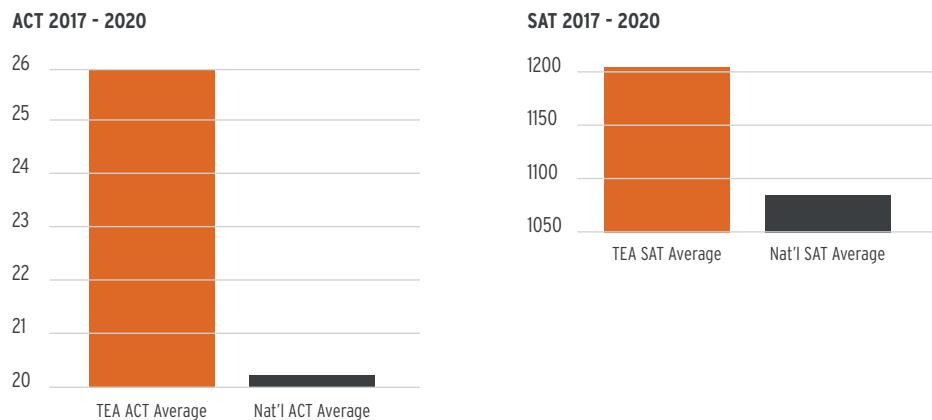
A MODERN EXPERIENTIAL APPROACH

Students spend 30+ days/nights in the field and work with an average of 10-15 different industry experts per year to actively engage in solution generating processes for some of the world's most pressing issues. TEA students learn how to do hard things by actually doing hard things.



TESTING

With ACT and SAT testing data starting with the class of 2017, our students have performed above the national averages. As our first four graduating classes are relatively small, with a total of 15 students, we present these four-year averages.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students achieve a minimum level of mastery toward student learner outcomes in order to advance to the next grade level and/or receive a re-enrollment offer. Additionally, students meet specific credit requirements for graduation in order to earn a diploma from TEA.

MINIMUM TOTAL CREDITS:
20.5 credits over four years

English	4 Credits
Math	4 Credits
Science	4 Credits
Social Science	4 Credits
Electives*	2 Credits
Foreign Language	2 Credits
Individual Senior Intensive	.5 Credits

*At least one year of visual and performing arts is required

COURSE OFFERINGS 2019-2020

ENGLISH

- American Literature
- World Literature
- Literature & Composition
- Creative Fiction and Non Fiction Writing
- Human Dimensions of Environmentalism

MATH

- Math I
- Math II
- Math III
- Statistics
- Pre-calculus
- Calculus A/B

SCIENCE

- Physical Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Earth Science

SOCIAL SCIENCE

- Modern World History
- Human Geography
- US History
- US Government & Politics

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Spanish I, II, III, IV
- American Sign Language I
- American Sign Language II

REAL-WORLD INTENSIVES & ELECTIVES

- Physics of Flight
- Renewable Energy
- Wild California
- A Life Aquatic - Underwater Submersibles
- Aventura Dominica
- Climbing the Sea-Level Staircase
- Let Food Be Thy Medicine
- Human-Animal Connection

- Digital Music
- Introduction to Film
- Fashion & Textiles
- Intro to Drawing and Painting
- Intro to 2D Media & Design Art
- Product Design I
- Design & Fabrication
- Intro to Computer Science

- Yearbook & Journalism
- Fitness
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Biomimicry
- Meteorology
- Sports Psychology
- Art & Science of Film
- Into the Wild



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES 2017 - 2019

100% of our 15 seniors who applied to college since 2017, were accepted to 4-year colleges/universities, earning over \$1,200,000 in merit-based scholarships to date. Acceptances with bold listings are current enrollments from 2017-2019:

Boston University
California State University, Channel Islands
Case Western University
Chapman University
Columbia College Chicago
Colorado College
Colorado State University
Eckerd College
Emerson College
Ithaca College
Montana Technological University
New York University
Northeastern University
Oregon Institute of Technology

Portland State University
Principia College
Quest College (Canada)
Scripps College
Simon Fraser University (Canada)
South Dakota School of Mines
Tulane University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of California, San Diego
University of British Columbia
University of Colorado, Boulder

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
University of Denver
University of Edinburgh Napier
University of Hawaii, Manoa
University of Idaho
University of Nevada, Reno
University of Oregon (Honors)
University of San Francisco
University of Utah
University of Washington, Seattle
Western State Colorado University
Western Washington University

SNAPSHOT OF THE CLASS OF 2020

INDIVIDUAL SENIOR INTENSIVE

Each senior creates, develops and implements their own multi-week field intensive study. This capstone experience empowers students to create positive impacts on the world and to demonstrate what they are able to do, before going to college.

SNAPSHOT OF REAL WORLD PROBLEM SOLVING OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS

With over 120 days/nights in the field over the past four years, the class of 2020 is comfortable with change, uncertainty and traveling the world. Through dozens of stewardship and service-learning projects, our graduates understand how to do good for others and the environment. With over 300 hours spent working alongside industry experts from organizations like JPL / NASA, NOAA, Friends of Cedar Mesa, California Department of Juvenile Justice, Universal Studios, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Bureau of Land Management, our students have learned how to combat important issues in the world that are happening now.

This world map previews a small selection of the real world problems and field study highlights experienced by students from the class of 2020.

