



# Tahoe Expedition Academy

CEEB 054842:

9765 Schaffer Mill Rd.  
Truckee, CA 96161  
530-546-5253

## CONTACTS

Head of School  
David Maher  
dmaher@tea-mail.org

Program Director  
Mara Morrison  
maramorrison@tea-mail.org

High School College and Career Counselor  
Records  
Katy Watts  
kwatts@tea-mail.org

## 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 base-line curriculum to be at a standard honors level.

For the 2021-2022 school year, we are back to our pre-COVID field work curriculum, which we anticipate to include up to 30 days a year outside of the classroom engaging in hands-on / real-world curriculum.

## THE SCHOOL

Enrollment Pre-K to 12th:	210
Class of 2022:	11 students
Financial Aid:	35% of students
Student/Faculty Ratio:	8:1
Full-time Teaching Faculty:	29
Faculty with Advanced Degrees:	90%
First Graduating Class:	2017

## 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 240 students in PreK through 12th grade in 2020-21. In 2021, TEA will graduate its fifth class of students ready to engage with the world as creative problems solvers with a social conscience.

# 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.

### STUDENTS AT TEA DEVELOP THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO EMBRACE CHALLENGES AS OPPORTUNITIES.

We teach our Adapt to Thrive learner outcome by strategically pushing students out of their comfort zone both inside and outside of the classroom. Examples include engaging with adult experts on a peer-to-peer level, grappling with real-world problems that can result in failed prototypes, extended physical challenges including multiple day 30+ mile hikes, and embracing mental curveballs that simulate a variety of challenges professionals face on any given day.

### STUDENTS AT TEA UTILIZE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES TO EXAMINE ISSUES OF JUSTICE AND EQUITY THROUGH A TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE OF SUSTAINABILITY LENS.

We teach our Triple Bottom Line for a Just and Equitable World learner outcome through hands-on investigations of topics like climate change and the balance of power. Students learn the impact on different populations through statistical analysis, and evaluate solutions by looking at the social, political, economic, and environmental opportunities and impacts. We seek to teach our students how to critically think and analyze multiple perspectives so they can identify how they wish to contribute to the world in line with their own personal values.

## 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.

### 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.

### REAL-WORLD INTENSIVES

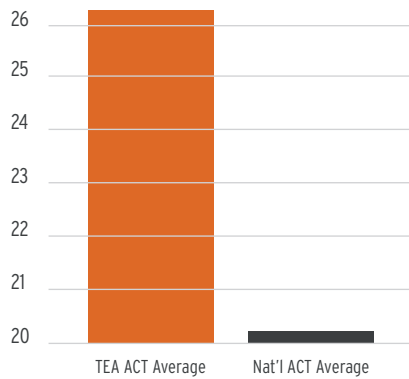
Real-World Intensives, a.k.a. Electives, are one method TEA uses to bring learning to life. These real-world academic experiences are powered by Constructive Adversity to push students to the limits of their intellectual, social-emotional and physical boundaries. In these semester-long graded courses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

## TESTING

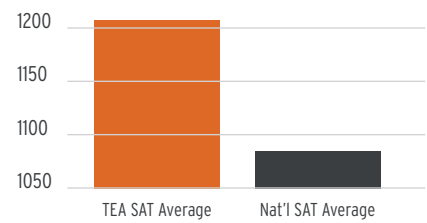
With ACT and SAT testing data starting with the class of 2017, our students have performed above the national averages. As our first five graduating classes are relatively small, with a total of 40 students, we present these four-year averages.

In addition, with the de-emphasis on standardized testing for college admissions, more of our students are opting to not take an SAT or ACT.

ACT 2017-2021



SAT 2017-2021



## 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
Second Language	2 Credits
Individual Senior Intensive	.5 Credits

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

## COURSE OFFERINGS 2021-2022

### ENGLISH

- ELA 9
- ELA 10
- ELA 11
- ELA 12

### MATH

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

### SCIENCE

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

### SOCIAL SCIENCE

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

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Spanish I, II, III, IV

### 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 - 2021

100% of our seniors who applied to college since 2017, were accepted to 4-year colleges/universities, earning over \$1,550,000 in merit-based scholarships to date. Acceptances with bold listings are current enrollments from 2017-2021:

### Academy of Art University

### Arizona State University (Main Campus)\*

Babson College

Baylor University

Boston University\*

California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo)\*

California State Polytechnic University (Pomona)

California State University (Channel Islands)

California State University (Chico)\*

California State University (Fullerton)

California State University (Long Beach)

California State University (Maritime Academy)

Case Western Reserve University

### Chapman University\*

### Colorado College\*

### Colorado School of Mines

Colorado State University (Fort Collins)\*

Columbia College (Chicago)

Eckerd College

Edinburgh Napier University

Emerson College\*

Fort Lewis College

### Georgetown University

Gonzaga University\*

Hult International Business School (San Francisco)

Ithaca College

Lewis & Clark College\*

### Loyola Marymount University\*

Loyola University Chicago

Marquette University

Michigan State University\*

Montana State University\*

Montana Tech

New York University

Northeastern University

Northern Arizona University\*

Oberlin College

Oregon Institute of Technology

Oregon State University\*

Pennsylvania State University (Main Campus)\*

### Pitzer College

Portland State University

### Principia College

### Quest University Canada\*

Regis University

### San Diego State University\*

San Francisco State University

San Jose State University\*

Santa Clara University\*

### Scrapps College

Seattle Pacific University

Sierra Nevada University

Simmons University

Simon Fraser University

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

### Southern Methodist University\*

### Stanford University

### Texas Christian University\*

The University of Alabama\*

The University of Montana\*

Tulane University of Louisiana

University of Arizona\*

### University of British Columbia\*

### University of California (Berkeley)\*

### University of California (Davis)\*

University of California (Irvine)

University of California (Los Angeles)

University of California (Merced)\*

University of California (Riverside)\*

### University of California (San Diego)\*

University of California (Santa Cruz)\*

University of Colorado (Colorado Springs)

### University of Colorado Boulder\*

University of Denver\*

University of Hawaii at Manoa

University of Idaho

### University of Nevada (Reno)\*

University of Portland

University of Puget Sound

### University of San Diego\*

University of San Francisco\*

University of Utah\*

University of Vermont

University of Washington (Seattle Campus)\*

### University of Wisconsin (Madison)\*

Wesleyan University

Western Colorado University

Western Washington University\*

Whittier College

### Whitworth University

Willamette University\*

## SNAPSHOT OF THE CLASS OF 2022

### 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 2022 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 2022.

#### UNDERSTANDING WILDFIRES: YOSEMITE

The history of social and physical impacts of wildfire and wildland firefighting.

#### SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY: PORTLAND

Identifying the elements of sports psychology can be applied to the general population in order to cope with stress, anxiety and pressure.

#### RISING SEA LEVELS: BARBADOS

Calculating the historical rate of sea level rise through geological information recorded by the fossil coral reefs.

#### LET FOOD BE THY MEDICINE: HAWAII

Positive and negative impacts of bioengineered foods vs. organically grown foods.