

# MERCERSBURG

Profile 2014-2015

## MISSION STATEMENT

Mercersburg Academy prepares young men and women from diverse backgrounds for college and for life in a global community. Students at Mercersburg pursue a rigorous and dynamic curriculum while learning to live together harmoniously in a supportive residential environment. Mercersburg's talented faculty instill in students the value of hard work and the importance of character and community as they teach students to think for themselves, to approach life thoughtfully and creatively, to thrive physically, to act morally, to value the spiritual dimension of human existence, and to serve others.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Mercersburg students in the ninth and 10th grades will focus on immersion in all disciplines and in skills development that will carry them through their academic career by taking English, history, a foreign language, math, science, religion, and fine arts. In the 11th and 12th grades, students will delve deeply into academic pursuits of interest to them. Students will be able to customize their academic experience from a wide variety of innovative offerings in each department. Students will also gain new options for independent and in-depth study through two new capstone academic experiences that build on the strong foundation in each of the disciplines gained during the ninth and 10th grades – MAPS (Mercersburg's Advanced Program for Global Studies) and SpringBoard. Successful completion of one of these programs will be a graduation requirement for all seniors beginning with the class of 2016.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY SENIOR PROGRAMS



### SPRINGBOARD

A Capstone Experience for Mercersburg's Seniors

Springboard is a rigorous, interdisciplinary course in the senior year. It requires that students produce a project based on their concentrated area of study and exploration. This culminating project is based around the principles of Challenge Based Learning and involves a written component and a presentation, with the goal of the project being published, permanent, or viewed by the public.



### MAPS

Mercersburg's Advanced Program for Global Studies

MAPS is a two-year program that begins with a competitive application process. In 11th grade MAPS students take the course Thought, Knowledge and Belief. The capstone experience embedded in MAPS is a senior research project entitled SEARCH: Study-Engage-Apply-Research-Create-Help. Each student is paired with at least one professional mentor outside of the Mercersburg community. Using the principles of Challenge Based Learning, a student's SEARCH project culminates in the successful completion and defense of a 40-50 page analytic research paper. The MAPS program also requires a four-week international travel experience with a homestay component and an independent academic component, language study through level IV or beyond, advanced coursework in at least four different core disciplines, and 150 hours of community service.

## CONTACTS

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## STATEMENT ON GPA AND RANK

Mercersburg Academy does not calculate GPA or class rank. We strongly believe in multiple entry points for students and intentionally grow the class each year; therefore, any cumulative GPA would not accurately reflect the Mercersburg experience as it would include grades from many different institutions.

## STATEMENT ON DISCIPLINE

While seeking to develop self-discipline and responsibility in every student, Mercersburg recognizes the importance of clear boundaries and resulting consequences for overstepping those boundaries in a successful community. If schools ask about discipline issues, students are expected to self-report; counselors confirm the accuracy of details and outcome.

## STATEMENT ON STUDENT DIVERSITY

Mercersburg places value on the diverse background of our students and the impact such diversity has in our community and intellectual life. Mercersburg students hail from 30 US states and 40 different nations. In the student body, 18% of domestic students identify as students of color. In keeping with our mission to prepare students for life in a global community, 44% of the Class of 2014 participated in an international travel program sponsored by the school prior to graduation. In addition, 49% of students receive financial aid.

## STATEMENT ON STANDARDIZED TESTING

In the summaries of SAT and ACT scores, each member of the graduating class is represented in *either* the SAT results or the ACT results, not both. These summaries do not include one-year seniors or postgraduate students.

## SAT Scores

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

	2014	2013	2012
CR	555-670	560-690	550-660
M	570-675	560-700	575-715
Wr	560-675	540-700	560-680

From 2012 to 2014, numerous Mercersburg Academy students have achieved recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program, including 15 Commended Scholars, 3 Semifinalists, and 3 Finalists.

## ACT Scores

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

	2014	2013	2012
Composite	26-32	26-30	25-32

## AP Exams

### AP Exam Results by Academic Year

	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012
3 or better	75%	79%	83%
4 or 5	45%	51%	59%
Total Tests Taken	435	467	452
Number Students	192	201	196

In 2014, 192 students sat for 435 exams in 24 subjects, most commonly in English Lang & Comp (52), U.S. History (38), English Lit & Comp (37), Calculus AB (34), Chemistry (31), Economics (30), World History (25), Statistics (22), Environmental Science (21)

## Subject Tests

### Middle 50th Percentile Subject Test Ranges for Graduates (2012–2014)

Test	Middle 50th percentile	Numbers of test-takers
Math 1C	570-660	113
Math 2C	650-800	84
Chemistry	570-680	81
Literature	620-760	73
U.S. History	615-733	56
World History	590-690	41
Physics	625-765	35

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

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## Requirements for current seniors

### English

(for grade entered)	Available courses
9th: 4 years	World Lit, World Lit H
10th: 3 years	Power/Justice, Power/Justice H
11th: 2 years	American Land and its Literature, Voices of America Literature, Engl Lang AP
12th: 1 year	Senior Elective Term Courses (Journalism, Zen & Beat Gen, American Plays, Pursuit of Essay, Graphic Novels, Existentialism, Fiction, Film Studies, Beyond Borders, Poetry, Lit of Amer Sports, Post-Apocalyptic), English Lit AP

### History

9th: 3 years (including a course in US History)	Ancient Mediterranean World
10th: 2 years (including a course in US History)	World His, Human Geo, World His AP
11th: 1 year (including a course in US History)	Amer Studies, US History, US History AP
12th: 1 year (unless US History was already successfully completed)	20th-Century Term Courses (War in the 20th Century, Totalitarian Regimes, The Cold War), Middle East term courses (Arab-Israeli Conflict, Origins of Islamic Fundamentalism, US and the Islamic World), Music History, Topics in History term courses (Constitution-Rights, Constitution-Due Process, Civil War), Q-F Seminar H, Art History AP, European AP, Economics AP, Comp G&P AP

### Mathematics

All students: through Algebra II	These courses are available to any qualified student at any grade level: Algebra I, Algebra I ac, Geometry, Geometry H, Algebra II, Algebra II ac, Algebra II H, Precalculus, Precalculus ac, Precalculus H, Robotics, Economics AP, Statistics, Statistics AP, Calculus, Calculus AB AP, Calculus BC AP, Multivariable Calculus (pAP), Linear Algebra (pAP)
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### Science

9th: 3 years (includes bio and chem or physics)	These courses are available to any qualified student at any grade level: Biology Eco, Biology Mol, Biology Term Courses (Field Biology, Vert. Evolution, Mammalogy, Human Genetics, Botany), Anatomy & Phys, Biology AP
10th: 2 years (includes bio and chem or physics)	AP Environmental Science, Robotics, Astronomy Chemistry, Chemistry H, Chemistry AP
11th: 1 year	Physics, Physics H, AP Physics 1, Physics C: M AP, Physics C:EM & M AP
12th: 1 year (unless two equivalent courses were already successfully completed)	

### Modern & Classical Languages

9th or 10th or 11th: through the third year of a language or until graduation	These courses are available to any qualified student at any grade level: Chinese I, Chinese II, Chinese III, Chinese IV, Chinese AP French I, French II, French II H, French III, French III H, French IV, French Lang AP, French Lit pAP, French Wld pAP German I, German II, German III, German IV, German AP Latin I, Latin II, Latin II H, Latin III, Latin III H, Latin Vergil AP, Latin Lit pAP Spanish I, Spanish I ac, Spanish II, Spanish II H, Spanish III, Spanish III H, Spanish IV, Spanish Lang AP
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### Religion

Religion 9th or 10th: 1 term (taken in 10th grade)	Buddhism, Old Testament, New Testament, World Religions, Nature & Meaning of the Universe, Existentialism
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### Fine Arts

9th or 10th: 2 terms (taken in 10th grade in two different areas of Fine Arts)	These courses are available to any qualified student at any grade level: Dance Intro, Dance Comp I, Dance Comp II, Dance Comp III Acting I, Speech, Tech I (Stagecraft), Acting II, Acting III Band, Chorale, Strings, Guitar & Drums, Writing Music, Music Theory Ceramics I, Computer Art, Digital Video, Drawing I, Painting I, Sculpture I Drawing II, Painting II, Ceramics II, Ceramics III, Studio Art
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### Interdisciplinary

Not required	SpringBoard: 3D Design, Entrepreneurship, Global Food Chain MAPS: Thought, Knowledge and Belief; SEARCH
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Key:  
ac = accelerated; H = honors; AP = Advanced Placement; pAP = post-AP

For in-depth description of individual courses, please use the following link:

[www.mercersburg.edu/courses](http://www.mercersburg.edu/courses)

## 2011-2014 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Mercersburg has a long tradition of sending its graduates on to a wide variety of colleges and universities both domestically and internationally. Over the past four years, Mercersburg students were accepted at over 400 colleges and universities. Multiple Mercersburg students were accepted at an additional 65 state universities and colleges across the country in addition to the following schools:

Adelphi University - 3	Emory University - 16	New York University - 24	Trinity University - 6
Albright College - 2	Fairfield University - 6	Northeastern University - 16	Tufts University - 9
Allegheny College - 5	Florida Southern College - 5	Northwestern University - 5	Tulane University - 3
American University - 22	Fordham University - 6	Oberlin College	Union College - 7
Amherst College	Franklin and Marshall College - 14	Occidental College - 2	United States Military Academy - 10
Arcadia University - 2	Franklin College Switzerland - 2	Ohio Wesleyan University - 4	United States Naval Academy - 23
Assumption College - 2	Furman University - 13	Pace University - 5	University of California, Berkeley - 11
Babson College - 6	Gannon University - 2	Parsons The New School for Design - 2	University of California, Los Angeles - 14
Barnard College	George Mason University - 10	Pennsylvania State University - 34	University of Cambridge - 2
Bates College - 3	George Washington University - 24	Pepperdine University - 2	University of Chicago - 2
Bentley University	Georgetown University - 13	Pitzer College - 3	University of Denver - 6
Binghamton University - 2	Gettysburg College - 13	Pomona College	University of Edinburgh - 3
Bloomsburg University - 4	Goucher College - 6	Pratt Institute - 2	University of Hartford - 2
Boston College - 18	Grove City College - 2	Providence College	University of Mary Washington - 11
Boston University - 36	Guilford College - 7	Purdue University - 5	University of Miami - 8
Bowdoin College - 3	Hamilton College (NY) - 4	Queen's University - 2	University of Michigan - 13
Brandeis University - 3	Hampden-Sydney College - 2	Quinnipiac University - 2	Univerisity of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - 5
Brown University	Hartwick College - 4	Radford University - 5	University of Notre Dame - 3
Bryant University - 2	Harvard University - 3	Randolph-Macon College - 2	University of Pennsylvania - 7
Bucknell University - 16	Haverford College - 3	Reed College - 2	University of Redlands - 5
Butler University - 3	Harvey Mudd College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute - 8	University of Richmond - 19
Cal Poly - 2	Hendrix College - 2	Rhodes College - 11	University of Rochester - 9
Carnegie Mellon University - 14	High Point University - 9	Rice University - 5	University of San Diego - 5
Case Western Reserve University - 16	Hobart and William Smith Colleges - 13	Roanoke College - 7	University of San Francisco - 5
Catholic University of America - 8	Hofstra University - 3	Rochester Institute of Technology - 9	University of Scranton - 3
Centre College - 2	Hood College - 2	Rollins College - 9	University of Southern California - 15
Chapman University - 14	Ithaca College - 9	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology - 2	University of St. Andrews - 3
Claremont McKenna College - 3	Johns Hopkins University - 21	Saint Francis University - 2	University of Tampa - 8
Clark University - 4	Juniata College - 4	Saint Joseph's University - 8	University of the Pacific - 5
Clarkson University - 3	Kalamazoo College - 2	Saint Leo University - 2	University of Virginia - 15
Clemson University - 8	Kenyon College - 2	Saint Michael's College - 3	Ursinus College - 11
Colby College	La Salle University - 2	Santa Clara University - 2	Vanderbilt University - 2
Colgate University - 3	Lafayette College - 13	School of the Art Institute of Chicago - 4	Vassar College - 2
College of Charleston - 18	Lehigh University - 22	School of Visual Arts - 2	Villanova University - 5
College of the Holy Cross - 2	Lewis & Clark College - 3	Scripps College	Virginia Commonwealth University - 5
College of William and Mary - 8	London School of Economics	Sewanee: The University of the South - 7	Virginia Polytechnic Institute - 10
College of Wooster - 10	Loyola Marymount University - 6	Shenandoah University - 3	Wake Forest University - 4
Colorado School of Mines - 2	Loyola University Maryland - 4	Siena College - 4	Warren Wilson College - 2
Columbia College Chicago - 2	Loyola University New Orleans - 3	Southern Methodist University - 9	Washington and Jefferson College - 8
Columbia University - 6	Manhattan College - 2	St. John's University, Queens Campus - 4	Washington and Lee University - 4
Connecticut College - 4	Manhattanville College - 2	St. Lawrence University - 2	Washington College - 6
Cornell University - 5	Marquette University - 5	St. Mary's College of Maryland - 2	Washington University in St. Louis - 5
Dartmouth College - 2	Maryland Institute College of Art - 4	Stanford University - 2	Wellesley College - 4
Davidson College - 2	Marymount Manhattan College - 3	Stetson University - 7	Wesleyan University - 7
Denison University - 11	Marymount University - 2	Stevens Institute of Technology - 3	Westminster College - 4
DePaul University - 4	McDaniel College - 3	Susquehanna University - 9	Wheaton College (MA) - 5
Dickinson College - 26	McGill University - 4	Swarthmore College - 4	Willamette University - 2
Drew University - 6	Merrimack College - 3	Syracuse University - 10	Williams College - 3
Drexel University - 25	Messiah College - 2	Texas Christian University - 2	Wofford College - 2
Duke University - 2	Miami University, Oxford - 8	Texas Tech University - 4	Worcester Polytechnic Institute - 3
Duquesne University - 6	Middlebury College - 2	Trinity College - 6	Yale University - 2
Eckerd College - 8	Mount Saint Mary's University - 3		
Elizabethtown College - 6	Muhlenberg College - 13		
Elon University - 18			
Emerson College - 2			