



# CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## 2024-2025 Academic Profile

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### HEADMASTER

Fr. Paul McCormick, O. Cist.  
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### HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

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### FAST FACTS

- Private Catholic school for boys grade 5-12, run by Cistercian monks
- All-advanced honors, single-track academic curriculum
- 100% 4-year college going
- Form Master System

### ENROLLMENT

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Total Students               | 357 |
| Ethnic Diversity             | 48% |
| Receive financial assistance | 18% |
| Zip codes represented        | 67  |
| Middle School, Forms I-IV    | 178 |
| Upper School, Forms V-VIII   | 179 |
| Class of 2025                | 43  |

### FACULTY

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Faculty members             | 53       |
| Master's degrees            | 87%      |
| Doctorates                  | 15%      |
| Cistercian monks            | 38%      |
| Student to Faculty ratio    | 7:1      |
| Average teaching experience | 20 years |
| Average Cistercian tenure   | 16 years |

### 2024 OUTCOMES

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Out-of-state colleges        | 46%   |
| In-state colleges            | 54%   |
| Catholic Colleges            | 23%   |
| Private colleges             | 50%   |
| Public colleges              | 50%   |
| Service hours required       | 0     |
| Avg. service hours per class | 5,500 |

Winner: 2024 SPC 3A  
Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field

Winner: 2022 FIRST Robotics  
World Championship

Winner: 2022 Texas  
Stock Market Game

### ORIGINS AND MISSION

Founded in 1962 by Hungarian monks seeking asylum from religious and political persecution, currently twenty-five monks of Our Lady of Dallas Cistercian Abbey and Monastery guide Cistercian Preparatory School, an independent, Catholic, college preparatory school for boys from grades 5-12, situated ten miles northwest of Dallas on 82 wooded acres in Irving, Texas.

Cistercian Preparatory School is rooted in the life and spirit of Catholic monasticism. It offers talented and motivated young men challenging programs within a supportive community, allowing them to develop their strengths and face their weaknesses in preparation for college and life beyond, all for the good of the whole person in service to God and neighbor.

### MONASTIC FORMATION PHILOSOPHY

Monks live, work, and pray in community over a lifetime, as a pathway to holiness. As a monastic school, Cistercian values striving for academic and extracurricular excellence as pathways towards personal transformation within community life.

A typical class (Form) of forty-four young men, under the guidance of a dedicated Form Master, journeys together from fifth grade (Form I) through senior graduation (Form VIII). Both the academic and extracurricular facets of their shared experience, serve the School's mission by offering challenges within a supportive environment intended less for personal accomplishment than for growth in self-knowledge.

### SHARED ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Cistercian provides a competitive advanced-honors academic curriculum that typically meets or exceeds advanced placement (AP) standards and fosters the highest level of critical thinking, collaborative problem-solving, and intellectual curiosity. The School has developed and refined this independent program to be both demanding and shared; students must take advanced-honors courses in each discipline. Our unique approach does not include AP courses.

The demanding and shared nature of the program emanates from the monastic tradition that expects the holistic growth of each individual within and for the sake of a larger community. The intense communal nature of the pace, depth, and breadth of the academic program challenges each person to understand that he must grow beyond his native strengths and asserts that the highest nature of individual success is found in developing talents alongside of and for the sake of others.

### CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

Whether in the classroom or in the robotics lab, in math club or a drama production, whether painting acrylics in an art elective or transforming the gym into a themed venue for Homecoming, whether performing in coffeehouse or delivering a Senior Seminar presentation, Cistercian students are surrounded by a community that rejoices in using and growing their talents.

This approach to education cultivates a sense of community and collaborative purpose as classmates both challenge and support each other as they develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally. Cistercian graduates are thus well-rounded and community-focused individuals.

Articulate, resilient, analytical, and virtue-driven, Cistercian graduates will be tremendous room-mates, teammates, classmates, and peers in any college environment and are prepared to thrive and to serve within their communities in college and beyond.

# ADVANCED HONORS CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS AND SEQUENCE

- Cistercian requires a four-year core curriculum in English, Mathematics, Laboratory Science, History, and three years of Modern Language (Spanish or French)
- All core classes are the same for each student without an option to choose alternatives; all are taught at the “Advanced Honors” level\*
- Students in Forms V-VII must choose one elective course each semester intended to explore and develop areas of special interest. Elective courses meet twice a week and do not receive Advanced Honors designation
- In senior year, students must choose one science (Biology II, Physics II, Chemistry II), one second-semester math (Applied Calculus in Finance, Applied Calculus for STEM fields, Linear Algebra), and one Senior Seminar (topics vary - see below)
- Dallas College awards college credit to Cistercian’s senior English, Science, Government, and Integral Calculus classes for those who elect to receive it

\* In 2023, Cistercian renamed its honors courses to “Advanced Honors” to better communicate the material taught and the rigor of the work required from our students.

## GRADING AND CLASS RANK

Letter grades shown on the student transcript are unweighted and assigned a point value on the 4.0 scale below. An A+ may be given to indicate outstanding excellence, but its point value is 4.00. In computing a student’s GPA, Cistercian awards an additional 1.0 point to advanced honors courses. This weight was adjusted in fall 2023 to be commensurate with our peers.

The top cumulative weighted academic GPA for the class of 2024 is 4.92

|         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| A+ 4.00 | B+ 3.25 | C+ 2.25 | D+ 1.25 |
| A 4.00  | B 3.00  | C 2.00  | D 1.00  |
| A– 3.75 | B– 2.75 | C– 1.75 | D– 0.75 |

Due to its small size, selective admission, and intense rigor, Cistercian does not rank its students.

## ADVANCED HONORS SENIOR SEMINAR

Every Cistercian senior selects a topical area in which to participate in a small-group, year-long seminar that:

- Encourages inquiry, reflection, and discussion
- Provides an opportunity to engage in independent research in a given field
- Offers an experience of academic mentorship
- Culminates in a research paper (12-25 pages) as well as a public presentation

Available seminar options for 2024-2025 include: French, Spanish, Data Science & Machine Learning, Genetics, Renaissance, Political Theory, Faith & Reason, the American Musical, Research, and U.S. Foreign Policy

## SEMINAR TOPIC EXAMPLES

- The Fight for Biodiversity (*en français*)
- Planes, Parachutes, and Pistols: the Painterly Polymath, Leonardo da Vinci
- Construction and programming of a Robotic Arm
- Sephardi Song: The Effects of Ladino Music (*en español*)
- Kierkegaard and Pieper: Infinity and Incommensurability
- Lgals2: The Key to Treating Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

## STANDARDIZED TESTING SUMMARY: CLASS OF 2025

### SAT SCORES

30 students tested

|          | Middle 50% | Mean |
|----------|------------|------|
| EBRW     | 680-770    | 728  |
| Math     | 680-780    | 715  |
| Combined | 1370-1530  | 1443 |

### ACT SCORES

24 students tested

|          | Middle 50% | Mean |
|----------|------------|------|
| English  | 32-35      | 33   |
| Math     | 29-34      | 31   |
| Reading  | 33-35      | 34   |
| Science  | 30-35      | 32   |
| Combined | 31-34      | 32   |

## NATIONAL MERIT

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Commended     | 42% of class |
| Semifinalists | 23% of class |

## ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletics are considered an important part of the student’s development. In Forms V-VII, all students are required to play on interscholastic teams or take physical education classes. Varsity teams compete in the Southwest Preparatory Conference (SPC) for 12-week seasons in football & cross-country (fall), soccer, basketball, & swimming (winter), and baseball, track, golf, & tennis (spring). The last period of each school day is given to PE & sports practices (three days a week) or for extracurricular clubs to meet (two days a week). Additional time outside of school hours is often required for full participation.

## CLASS OF 2025 ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATION RESULTS

Cistercian places no expectation on students to take AP exams and considers them an extracurricular endeavor for which students choose to study on their own to demonstrate the level of their knowledge and potentially receive college credit for their scores. The school administers the exams to accommodate students who may wish to take one or more tests by their own choice. Below are the statistics for the 43 students in the Class of 2025, including the national percentages of students that year who presumably took the AP courses they tested for:

| Class of 2025 | AP Exam Subjects      | Percent of Cistercian testers scoring ≥ 3 vs. National testers scoring ≥ 3 |     | # of CPS Testers |
|---------------|-----------------------|--|-----|------------------|
| As Freshmen   | AP Biology            | 100%   | 68% | 25               |
| As Sophomores | AP World History      | 100%   | 65% | 12               |
|               | AP Physics I          | 74%  | 46% | 23               |
|               | AP English Language   | 96%  | 56% | 27               |
| As Juniors    | AP US History         | 91%  | 72% | 22               |
|               | AP English Language   | 90%  | 53% | 10               |
|               | AP English Literature | 96%  | 72% | 26               |
|               | AP Chemistry          | 100%   | 75% | 14               |



# COLLEGES OFFERING ADMISSION TO CISTERCIAN STUDENTS FROM 2020-2024

We share this diverse list in order to celebrate the excellence of every college to which our students are admitted and choose to attend. The decision of where to enroll is a very personal one made for any number of reasons by each student and family. All 39 members of the Class of 2024 had wonderful college choices and will follow in the footsteps of Cistercian's previous classes to extraordinary educational experiences. We celebrate each senior's college choice and recognize that where a student enrolls is far less important than how they engage with their college experience.

**The 212 students who have graduated over the past five years have been accepted to the following 183 colleges and matriculated to 87 of them. Colleges in bold type indicate schools where students enrolled after graduation or are currently studying.**

Abilene Christian University  
American University  
**Arizona State University**  
**Auburn University**  
**Austin College**  
**Bates College**  
**Baylor University**  
**Benedictine College**  
Berry College  
**Boston College**  
**Boston University**  
**Bucknell University**  
Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo  
Case Western Reserve University  
Catholic University of America  
**Christendom College**  
Citadel Military College of South Carolina  
**Clemson University**  
**Colgate University**  
College of the Holy Cross  
Colorado Mesa University  
Colorado School of Mines  
**Columbia University**  
**Cornell University**  
**Creighton University**  
Denison University  
**DePaul University**  
Drake University  
**Duke University**  
Duquesne University  
El Centro College  
Elon University  
**Emory University**  
Florida Institute of Technology  
Florida State University  
**Fordham University**  
Franciscan University of Steubenville  
**Furman University**  
**Georgetown University**  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Gettysburg College  
Hampden-Sydney College  
**Harvard University**  
**Hendrix College**  
**Hillsdale College**  
Hofstra University  
**Holy Cross College**  
**Indiana University**  
**Iowa State University**  
**Ithaca College**  
James Madison University  
**Johns Hopkins University**  
Kansas State University  
Kenyon College  
**Lafayette College**  
**Lehigh University**  
Lewis University  
**Louisiana State University**  
**Loyola Marymount University**  
**Loyola University Chicago**  
Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts

**Marion Military Institute**  
Marquette University  
Miami University  
Michigan State University  
Middlebury College  
Mississippi State University  
**New York University**  
Newman University  
Northeastern University  
**Northwestern University**  
Oberlin College  
The Ohio State University  
**Oklahoma State University**  
Oxford College of Emory University  
Penn State University  
Pepperdine University  
**Pomona College**  
**Princeton University**  
**Purdue University**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
**Rhodes College**  
**Rice University**  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
**Rollins College**  
Saint Anselm College  
**Saint Louis University**  
Saint Mary's College of California  
Sam Houston State University  
**San Diego State University**  
Santa Clara University  
Seton Hall University  
**Sewanee: The University of the South**  
**Southern Methodist University**  
**Southwestern University**  
**St. Edward's University**  
**Stanford University**  
**Stephen F Austin State University**  
**Stevens Institute of Technology**  
**Syracuse University**  
Tarleton State University  
**Texas A&M University**  
Texas A&M University (Commerce)  
**Texas Christian University**  
Texas State University  
**Texas Tech University**  
**University of Alabama**  
University of Montana  
University of Tennessee Knoxville  
University of Texas at Arlington  
**University of Texas at Austin**  
**University of Texas at Dallas**  
**Thomas Aquinas College**  
**Trinity University**  
Tufts University  
**Tulane University of Louisiana**  
US Air Force Academy  
**US Military Academy at West Point**  
**US Naval Academy**  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
**University of Arizona**  
University of Arkansas

University of California (Berkeley)  
University of California (Irvine)  
University of California (Los Angeles)  
University of California (San Diego)  
University of Central Florida  
**University of Chicago**  
University of Colorado Boulder  
**University of Dallas**  
University of Dayton  
University of Denver  
University of Evansville  
**University of Florida**  
University of Georgia  
University of Houston  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**University of Iowa**  
University of Kansas  
University of Mary Hardin Baylor  
University of Maryland  
University of Miami  
**University of Michigan**  
University of Minnesota  
University of Mississippi  
**University of Missouri**  
University of Nebraska  
University of Nevada (Las Vegas)  
**University of North Carolina**  
**University of North Texas**  
**University of Notre Dame**  
**University of Oklahoma**  
University of Oregon  
University of Pittsburgh  
**University of San Diego**  
**University of South Carolina**  
**University of Southern California**  
University of St Thomas  
University of the Incarnate Word  
University of the Pacific  
**University of Tulsa**  
University of Utah  
**University of Virginia**  
University of Washington  
**University of Wisconsin**  
University of Wyoming  
**Vanderbilt University**  
**Villanova University**  
Virginia Military Institute  
Virginia Tech  
Wabash College  
**Wake Forest University**  
Washington and Lee University  
**Washington University in St. Louis**  
West Virginia University  
Western Colorado University  
Wichita State University  
William & Mary  
Wofford College  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Wyoming Catholic College  
Xavier University  
**Yale University**