



CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

2025-2026 Academic Profile

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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	363
Ethnic Diversity	46%
Receive financial assistance	17%
Zip codes represented	67
Middle School, Forms I-IV	180
Upper School, Forms V-VIII	183
Class of 2026	44

FACULTY

Faculty members	54
Master's degrees	80%
Doctorates	11%
Cistercian monks	39%
Student to Faculty ratio	7:1
Average teaching experience	19 years
Average Cistercian tenure	16 years

2025 OUTCOMES

Out-of-state colleges	53%
In-state colleges	47%
Catholic Colleges	21%
Private colleges	49%
Public colleges	51%
Service hours required	0
Approx. # of service hours	10,000

Winner: 2024 SPC 3A
Tennis, Track & Field

SPC 3A Soccer Champions:
2023, 2024, 2025

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, Environmental Science), 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 2026 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 2025-2026 include: French, Spanish, Data Science & Machine Learning, Genetics, Renaissance, Political Theory, Research, the Cold War, American Intellectual Conservatism, Virtuous Leadership, and U.S. Foreign Policy

SEMINAR PRESENTATION EXAMPLES

- Developments in Mathematical Theory (*en français*)
- Social Media’s Effects on Minority Adolescent Mental Health
- US Intervention in Nicaragua since WWII
- Spain’s Immigration Economy (*en español*)
- St. Augustine and Catholic Existentialism
- Machine Learning for Dermatology Diagnostics
- Existential Abandonment and the Dark Night
- Synthesis and characterization of siloxane-based polymers

STANDARDIZED TESTING SUMMARY: CLASS OF 2026

SAT SCORES

40 students tested

	Middle 50%	Mean
EBRW	680-750	717
Math	670-750	706
Combined	1330-1480	1422

ACT SCORES

26 students tested

	Middle 50%	Mean
Math	30-35	32
Science	29-34	32
English	29-35	32
Reading	31-36	33
Combined	30-34	32

NATIONAL MERIT

Commended	39% of class
Semifinalists	7% 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 2026 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 44 students in the Class of 2026, including the national percentages of students that year who presumably took the AP courses they tested for:

Class of 2026	AP Exam Subjects	Percent of Cistercian testers scoring ≥ 3 vs. National testers scoring ≥ 3		# of CPS Testers
As Freshmen	AP Biology	91%	64%	33
As Sophomores	AP World History	100%	64%	15
	AP European History	100%	72%	13
	AP English Language	87%	55%	23
As Juniors	AP US History	100%	73%	27
	AP English Language	100%	74%	7
	AP English Literature	100%	74%	25

COLLEGES OFFERING ADMISSION TO CISTERCIAN STUDENTS FROM 2021-2025

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 43 members of the Class of 2025 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 218 students who have graduated over the past five years have been accepted to the following 200 colleges and matriculated to 85 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
Belmont University
Benedictine College
Berry College
Binghamton University
Boston College
Boston University
Bucknell University
California Poly - SLO
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University of America
Christendom College
Citadel Military College (SC)
Clarkson University
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 Kunshan University
Duke University
Duquesne University
East Texas A&M University
Elon University
Emory University
Oxford College of Emory University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida State University
Fordham University
Franciscan University of Steubenville
Furman University
Georgetown University
Gettysburg College
Gonzaga University
Hampden-Sydney College
Harvard University
Hendrix College
Hillsdale College
Hofstra University
Holy Cross College
Howard University
Indiana University
Iowa State University
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Kansas State University
Kenyon College
King's College London
Lafayette College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Lewis University
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University

Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Magdalen College of the Liberal Arts
Marquette University
Miami University (OH)
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Mississippi State University
New York University
Newman University
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Oklahoma State University
Penn State University
Pepperdine University
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Rutgers University
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 Christian University
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
The Ohio State University
The University of Texas at Arlington
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas at San Antonio
Thomas Aquinas College
Trinity University
Tufts University
Tulane University of Louisiana
United States Air Force Academy
United States Military Academy at West Point
United States Naval Academy
Universidad de Navarra (ES)
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of British Columbia (CAN)
University of California (Berkeley)
University of California (Irvine)
University of California (Los Angeles)

University of California (San Diego)
University of Cambridge (UK)
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Dallas
University of Denver
University of Edinburgh (UK)
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 Montana
University of Nebraska
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Texas
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
University of Puget Sound
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of St Thomas
University of Tennessee
University of the Incarnate Word
University of the Pacific
University of Tulsa
University of Utah
University of Virginia
University of Warwick (UK)
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
Willamette University
William & Mary
Wofford College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Wyoming Catholic College
Xavier University
Yale University