

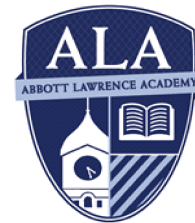
Abbott Lawrence Academy School Profile

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<https://www.lawrence.k12.ma.us/index.php/ala-about>



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School (Abbott Lawrence Academy)

Abbott Lawrence Academy (ALA) is a small, accelerated 9-12th grade honors high school within the larger Lawrence High School campus. Founded in 2015 with an inaugural 9th grade class, ALA was created to retain the best and brightest students of the city. ALA is the district's first exam high school, admitting students each year through a rigorous application and entrance exam process, enrolling only up to 100 students per year. ALA offers students in Lawrence an opportunity previously unavailable to most: the chance to experience a rich and rewarding honors education in the tradition of the most prestigious independent schools in the country, free of charge. We currently have 90 seniors, 82 juniors, 82 sophomores, and 70 freshmen, and **graduated our first class in the spring of 2019**. Our current school demographic breakdown is: *84% Hispanic, 8% Asian, 6% White, 1% African-American, and 1% Multi-Race*. As part of the Lawrence High School campus, ALA is accredited by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Community (Lawrence, Massachusetts)

Located twenty-five miles north of Boston, Lawrence, Massachusetts is known both for its industrial history and as a multiethnic gateway city for newly arrived immigrants. The Lawrence Public Schools district serves roughly 13,900 students and families. The demographic breakdown is: 92.2% Hispanic, 4.5% White, 1.4% African-American, 1.4% Asian, and 0.5% Multi-Race/Non-Hispanic. 71% of students in the district have a first language that is not English and 65% of all students are low-income.

Admissions Process

Abbott Lawrence Academy prospective students undergo a rigorous vetting process in the spirit of private school and college/university applications. Our admissions process considers the following aspects within the context of our holistic review and selection:

- Scores on the *Independent Schools Entrance Exam (ISEE)*
- Short Answer and Essay Questions
- Transcript Review from Grades 6-8
- STEM and Humanities Teacher Recommendations

Curriculum

The ALA school calendar year is on a two-semester system, and grades are annualized. **A minimum of 110 credits is required for graduation** (2.5 credits = semester course, 5.0 credits = yearlong course). Requirements include:

- 4 years of English (grades 9-12)
- 4 years of Mathematics (beginning with Algebra I or II)
- 3 years of a Laboratory Science
- 1 year of Speech and Composition
- 1 year of AP Seminar
- 4 years of a Foreign Language
- 3 years of History including United States and World
- 2 semesters of Physical Education
- 2 semesters of Art

Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are criterion-based and ALA currently offers: *U.S. History, Art History, English Language & Composition, English Literature & Composition, Spanish Language & Culture, Spanish Literature & Culture, Computer Science A, Chemistry, Physics, Calculus AB, and Capstone/Seminar.*

Early College Courses

In partnership with Merrimack College (North Andover, MA), our Early College program allows students to take courses on the Merrimack campus beginning their junior year. Juniors who meet the criteria take two undergraduate courses - BIO 1025: Intro to Biological Science and POL 1100: Politics of the US. Seniors will take two undergraduate courses which may include the following: Intro to Engineering, Psychology, Calculus I, and Statistics. ALA students have the opportunity to graduate high school with four college courses completed on their Merrimack College transcript.

ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – ALA students must:

- Pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exams in English, Math, and Science.
- Complete a Capstone Interdisciplinary Research Project each year which includes the College Board AP Seminar course in their Senior Year.
- Be involved in at least one sport, club, or extracurricular activity each academic year.
- Complete a minimum of 25 hours of Community Service per year, totaling at least 100 hours by graduation.

Course Levels

Based on rigor, courses in the subject areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Spanish are designated as follows:

- **Early College** – Courses taken at Merrimack College through our partnership program.
- **Advanced Placement (AP)** - This is a program of college-level courses and exams for 10 - 12th grade students sponsored by the College Board.
- **Pre-Advanced Placement (AP)** – Aligned with College Board, these courses serve as pre-requisites to prepare students for the demands of AP courses.
- **Advanced Honors** – Given the highly selective admissions process and rigorous academic program, this is our base level for courses.

Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Avg.	Electives GPA	Advanced Honors/Pre-AP GPA	AP/Early College GPA
A+	97 - 100	4.3	4.8	5.3
A	94 - 96	4.0	4.5	5
A-	90 - 93	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	87 - 89	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	84 - 86	3.0	3.5	4
B-	80 - 83	2.7	3.2	3.7
C+	77 - 79	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	74 - 76	2.0	2.5	3
C-	70 - 73	1.7	2.2	2.7
D+	67 - 69	1.3	1.8	2.3
D	65 - 66	1.0	1.5	2
F	Below 65	0	0	0

**Student GPA's are based on the work completed at Abbott Lawrence Academy. Summer school and transfer courses do not count towards GPA.*

College Matriculation of the Inaugural Class of 2019

Our first graduating class of 76 students had overwhelming success with the college admissions process. Below is the list of schools that students will be matriculating to (**Bold** indicates multiple students).

Babson College Bennington College Bentley University Boston College Boston University Brown University Bunker Hill Community College - 2+2 Program Carleton College College of the Holy Cross Fitchburg State University Florida Southwestern State Georgetown University Harvard University	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Merrimack College Middlesex Community College - 2+2 Program Northeastern University Northern Essex Community College - 2+2 Program Salem State University Tufts University UMass Amherst UMass Boston UMass Dartmouth UMass Lowell Wheaton College
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In addition to the above, students received acceptances to the following select schools:

American Musical and Dramatic Academy, Bates College, Brandeis University, Clark University, Dartmouth College, Emmanuel College, Emory University, George Washington University, Ithaca College, Mt. Holyoke College, Penn State University, Providence College, Quinnipiac University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Smith College, Stonehill College, Trinity College, Univ. of Connecticut, Univ. of New Hampshire, Univ. of Notre Dame, Villanova University, Wesleyan University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Yale University.