

Wildwood School

Profile for College and University

Admissions 2023-2024

For over 50 years, Wildwood School has been committed to a progressive approach defined by research-driven educational practices. We combine academic excellence with innovation to nurture high achieving, emotionally intelligent students who are inspired to transform their world. A Wildwood education is a dynamic experience, which prepares students for a future defined by change.

Wildwood's learning environment reflects the way the world is changing. Students are challenged every day to ask questions, take risks, get in over their heads, and then creatively find their way out. More than being college ready, Wildwood students graduate as confident, empathetic, and resourceful thinkers with the ability to make an impact.

Wildwood's elementary school was founded in 1971, and the middle and upper school was established in 2000. There are 50 middle and upper school teachers: 31 women and 19 men. Thirty have advanced degrees. The upper school includes 218 students from 9th through 12th grade. There are 53 students in the class of 2024. Since its first graduating class, 100 percent of Wildwood's seniors that applied to college have been admitted to colleges and universities around the world. School-wide, 42% of students and 43% percent of our faculty/staff identify as members of the BIPOC community, which includes Black, Indigenous, Asian, Latinx, Middle Eastern, Multiracial, and other Persons of Color.

Habits of Mind and Heart

At the core of Wildwood's middle and upper school program are the Habits of Mind and Heart, a set of values and skills that can serve students throughout their lives.

Habits of Mind

Perspective

Addressing questions from multiple viewpoints and using a variety of ways to solve problems

Evidence

Bringing together relevant information, judging the credibility of sources, finding out for one's self

Connection

Looking for patterns and for ways in which things fit together in order to bring together diverse material and form solutions

Convention

Meeting accepted standards in any academic area in order to be understood and to understand others

Habits of Heart

Collaboration

Making appropriate provisions for accepting and giving assistance

Ethical Behavior

Demonstrating how personal values influence behavior and a set of principles by which to guide one's life

Service to the Common Good

Demonstrating an awareness of the effects of one's actions upon others and a desire to make the community a better place for all

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Curriculum

Wildwood students are given the confidence to be intellectually and creatively fearless. To prepare students for success, Wildwood emphasizes project-based learning, which allows students to delve deeply into course material and merge it with their own interests. Through projects, students acquire additional insights, connecting new knowledge to what they already know. Students practice and demonstrate thoughtful learning through exhibitions and portfolios. Community involvement is woven into the curriculum, and students are assessed on their community work. Wildwood's internship program allows students to investigate career options in fields of personal interest. Our unique program integrates the internship experience into the school-day schedule for all juniors and seniors, providing students with a consistent opportunity to gain professional experience for academic credit.

Graduation Requirements

Upper school students are required to take a rigorous core curriculum of academic courses in Humanities, literature, history, mathematics, science, world languages, electives, and Institutes to meet the requirements for graduation.

Humanities (English and History)	2 years
Literature	2 years
History	2 years
Mathematics	3 years (including Geometry and Algebra II)
Science	3 years (including Conceptual Physics and Biology)
World Languages	3 years (at least 2 years of the same language through Level 2)
Physical Education	1 year
Electives and Institutes	4 years (1 year must be a UC-approved Visual or Performing Arts class)
Community Involvement	3 years
Advisory	4 years

At the end of 12th grade, students must present a graduation exhibition, an oral defense of their academic and personal evolution that is presented to faculty, administration, family, and friends. As both an evaluation and a salute to student achievement, exhibitions reinforce the discipline and self-reflection that make for a successful college career.

GPA and Grading System

Wildwood School is on the semester system. The cumulative GPA is based on all course work completed between the 9th through 12th grades. One additional point is awarded to classes designated as honors courses. Students are not ranked.

Wildwood School uses a standards-based approach to narrative assessments. Standards help provide students and teachers with clarity around course or grade-level expectations. Each middle and upper school course at Wildwood has six clearly defined standards, which are assessed throughout the year and then reported on in the mid-year and year-end narratives. Assessments are converted to grade point averages for the purpose of applying to colleges and universities.

The goal of Wildwood's assessment process is to give detailed feedback for students to reflect upon their work and their learning. Narrative assessments list the standards of a course and provide a summary of patterns in a student's strengths and stretches to help inform goals for the student's ongoing learning. The narrative conversion system is as follows:

A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0
A- = 3.66	B- = 2.66	C- = 1.66
B+ = 3.33	C+ = 2.33	D = 1.00
Below D = No Credit		

Awards

Due to Wildwood's small size, we do not bestow any academic awards. We have had 3 National Merit Scholars and 16 National Merit Commended Students, and 6 National Hispanic Scholars.

Test Scores

In light of the increasing shift toward test-blind admissions, we support student choice regarding score submissions. As such, the test scores for the Class of 2024 will not be shared on this profile.

Discipline

At Wildwood, our community values the Habits of Mind and Heart, and we promote a culture of decency and trust. We report major disciplinary incidents to colleges such as academic dishonesty, theft, physical threats or violence, and the use and distribution of alcohol and drugs. While we do not report incidents occurring outside of school, we would not recommend a student to a college or university about whom we had a serious reservation. In cases that reflect a student's inability to participate in our program, the student will not remain at Wildwood. We instruct students who have had a disciplinary violation to answer questions honestly regarding their disciplinary history to the colleges to which they are applying.

Accreditations and Affiliations

- California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS)
- College Board
- Mastery Transcript Consortium (MTC)
- National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
- Western Association for College Admission Counseling (WACAC)
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools (ACCIS)

Uniquely Wildwood Programs

Senior Exhibitions

With their advisors and teachers as coaches, students reflect on their experiences and present a culminating self-assessment of their time at Wildwood.

Wildwood Institute Model

The Institutes are set in real-world, authentic contexts where participants navigate best practices to create meaning and add value to the local community and to the world.

Senior Seminar

Seminar students examine contemporary global issues while engaging in critical reading and writing, Socratic discussions, independent research, and oral and multimedia presentation.

Internships

Students go beyond Wildwood to explore careers of their own interests, develop social skills for a professional setting, and build their college résumés.

Upper School Curriculum

Wildwood's upper school curriculum engages maturing intellects with core courses and electives. While individual student schedules can vary, the scope and sequence of required courses is mapped here for easy reference, and to illustrate the foundational curriculum.

Wildwood offers honors courses. Students also may pursue college-level work at local colleges and universities. Wildwood does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes.

[H] Honors course: The honors program challenges students with passion in a subject to go deeper with their work and their thinking. Honors work is added on to core courses rather than offered as separate honors classes. Honors is not simply about doing more work but about doing more sophisticated, challenging work. Students work independently—with teacher guidance—on more complex assignments.

* Although not designated as an Honors course, this class represents the highest level available in its discipline. Similarly, Senior Seminar is a capstone Humanities class with no Honors designation.

Humanities (English and History)

Western Heritage [H]
American Experience [H]

Literature

Modern American
Literature [H]
World Literature [H]

History

Modern U.S. History [H]

Senior Seminar*

Global Environmental
Change and Policy
Media, Culture, and Society
Politics and Government
Philosophy, Ethics, and Law

Science

Conceptual Physics [H]
Biology [H]
Chemistry [H]
Advanced Physics [H]
Advanced Biology and
Biotechnology [H]
Environmental Science [H]

Mathematics

Algebra I
Geometry [H]
Algebra II [H]
Math Analysis
Pre-Calculus [H]
Statistics [H]
Calculus*
Calculus 2*
Calculus 3*

World Languages

Mandarin 1
Mandarin 2 [H]
Mandarin 3 [H]
Mandarin 4 [H]
Mandarin 5*
Spanish 1
Spanish 2 [H]
Spanish 3 [H]
Spanish 4 [H]
Spanish 5*

Electives

The Actor and the Stage 1
and 2
Advanced Drawing
Advanced Digital

Photography
Advanced Painting
Advanced Topics in STEM
Advanced Topics in
Technical Theater
Cinema
Creative Writing
Digital Photography 1 and 2
Digital Skills for
Entrepreneurs
Drawing
Foundations in Digital and
Studio Arts
Graphic Design
Introduction to Band
Introduction to Jazz
Ensemble
Intro to Motion Picture
Studies
Introduction to Music
Composition and
Performance
Jazz Ensemble
Law, Individuals, and
Societies
Music Production Lab 1, 2,
and 3
Musicianship for Singers
and Songwriters 1, 2, and 3
Neuroscience
Painting

Photography and Graphic
Design
Script, Pitch, and Produce
Stagecraft 1 and 2
Theatre and Performance
Theatre and Advanced
Performance
Yearbook

The Institutes at Wildwood

Institute for
Entrepreneurship
Institute for Social
Leadership
Institute for STEM Research
and Development

Athletics and Physical Education

9th Grade Physical
Education/Health
Competitive Junior Varsity
and Varsity Athletic Teams:
Compete in the California
Interscholastic Federation
(CIF)

College Acceptances

The Wildwood graduating classes of 2015–2023 were accepted into the following colleges and universities; (*) indicates at least one student enrolled.

Agnes Scott College*	Earlham College	Pratt Institute*	University of Miami*
American University*	Eckerd College	Providence College*	University of Michigan*
American University of Paris*	Emerson College*	Purdue University	University of New Hampshire
Arizona State University*	Emory University	Quinnipiac University	University of North Carolina Greensboro
Art Center College of Design*	Eugene Lang College The New School for Liberal Arts*	Reed College*	University of Oregon*
Bard College*	Fairfield University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Pennsylvania*
Barnard College*	Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising	Rhode Island School of Design*	University of Pittsburgh*
Bates College*	Fashion Institute of Technology*	Rice University*	University of Puget Sound*
Belmont University*	Fisk University	Rochester Institute of Technology*	University of Redlands*
Beloit College	Fordham University	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology*	University of Rhode Island
Bennington College*	Franklin & Marshall College	Rutgers University	University of Richmond*
Bentley University*	George Washington University*	San Francisco Conservatory of Music	University of San Diego*
Berklee College of Music*	Grinnell College*	Santa Clara University	University of San Francisco*
Boston College*	Hamilton College*	Santa Monica College*	University of South Carolina
Boston University*	Hampden-Sydney College	Sarah Lawrence College*	University of Southern California*
Bowdoin College*	Hampton University*	Savannah College of Art and Design*	University of Texas at Austin *
Bradley University	Hawaii Pacific University*	School of the Art Institute of Chicago*	University of Vermont
Brown University*	Hofstra University	School of the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston)	University of Virginia*
Bucknell University*	Howard University*	School of Visual Arts*	University of Washington
California State University: Channel Islands*	Indiana University*	Scripps College*	University of Wisconsin-Madison*
Cal Poly Pomona*	Ithaca College*	Simmons College	Vassar College*
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo*	Kalamazoo College	Skidmore College*	Virginia Tech
Long Beach	Kenyon College*	Smith College*	Wake Forest University*
Los Angeles*	LA Film School*	Southern Methodist University	Warren Wilson College
Monterey Bay	Lafayette College*	Southern Oregon University	Washington University in St. Louis*
Northridge*	Lake Forest College*	Spelman College*	Wellesley College*
San Diego*	Lawrence University*	St. John's College	Wesleyan University*
San Francisco*	Lehigh University*	Stanford University*	Wheaton College
Sonoma*	Lewis & Clark College*	Swarthmore College	Whitman College*
California Institute of the Arts*	Loyola Marymount University*	Syracuse University*	Whittier College*
California Institute of Technology*	Loyola University New Orleans	Trinity College	Willamette University
Carleton College*	Lynn University	Tufts University*	Williams College*
Carnegie Mellon University*	Macalester College*	Tulane University*	Worcester Polytechnic Institute*
Centre College*	Manhattanville College	University of Arizona*	Yale University*
Chapman University*	Marist College*	University of California: Berkeley*	International Schools:
Claremont McKenna College	Maryland Institute College of Art	Davis*	American International University (London)
Clark Atlanta University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology*	Irvine*	The American University of Paris*
Clark University	Miami University (Ohio)	Los Angeles*	Bard College Berlin*
Colby College*	Michigan State University*	Riverside	Dalhousie University (Canada)
Colgate University*	Middlebury College*	San Diego*	Franklin College (Switzerland)*
College of Wooster	Mills College*	Santa Cruz*	Goldsmiths, University of London
Colorado College*	Montana State University	Santa Barbara*	University of British Columbia (Canada)
Colorado School of Mines	Morehouse College	University of Chicago*	University of Queensland (Australia)*
Colorado State University*	Muhlenberg College*	University of Connecticut*	University of St. Andrews*
Columbia College Chicago*	New College of Florida	University of Colorado Boulder*	University of Victoria
Columbia College Hollywood*	New York University*	University of Colorado Denver	
Columbia University*	Northeastern University*	University of Denver*	
Connecticut College	Northwestern University*	University of Florida	
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art*	Oberlin College*	University of Hartford	
Cornell University*	Occidental College*	University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign*	
Cornish College of the Arts*	Otis College of Art and Design	University of Maryland*	
Culinary Institute of America*	Pace University*	University of Massachusetts Amherst*	
Deep Springs College*	Parsons School of Design*		
DePaul University*	Pennsylvania State University		
DigiPen Institute of Technology*	Pepperdine University*		
Drew University	Pitzer College*		
Drexel University	Pomona College*		
Duke University*			