



VERITAS ACADEMY OF TUCSON

2019-2020
SCHOOL PROFILE

2151 North Palo Verde Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona 85716 | (520) 576-0427 | www.vatucson.com

Our Community

Veritas Academy of Tucson is a Christian, classical, liberal arts, college-preparatory program. It cultivates wisdom and virtue through rigorous curricula, character/leadership education, fine arts, competitive athletics and an array of other extra-curricular activities.

Veritas utilizes a classical curriculum modeled after the trivium. Students learn in three stages, Grammar (K-6), Logic (7-8) and Rhetoric (9-12). The subjects of math, science, history, and languages are prioritized throughout their education. Content is organized around the chronological study of historical time periods, while emphasizing the use of authentic literature throughout all three stages of the trivium.

Veritas opened in 2010 with grades K-5 and 24 students. Now, in our tenth year, we have grown to 149 students at an average growth rate of 20% per year. One grade has been added each year, with the School of Logic opening in 2012, and the School of Rhetoric opening in 2014. In 2019 we graduated our first two students. This year we will graduate two more students, one of whom is our first National Merit Semi-finalist.

ACCREDITATION/CERTIFICATION

In 2018, Veritas applied for and received certification through University Model™ Schools International, and, in 2019, received candidacy status for accreditation with Christian Schools International (CSI) and AdvancED. A site visit is scheduled for September 2020.

GPA

A student's GPA will begin to accumulate on the official transcript in 9th grade and will include only year-end grades for Veritas coursework taken in grades 9-12. The GPA will not include grades for credits earned before 9th grade, for outside coursework approved for credit, or for approved transfer coursework. The official Veritas transcript will only show the Veritas GPA.

MEMBERS

- Association of Christian Schools International
- Association of Classical Christian Schools
- Christian Schools International
- University Model Schools International
- Tucson Independent Athletic League
- Southern Arizona Athletic Association

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

1 National Merit Finalist/
Semifinalist (Since first graduating class 2019)

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

SAT – class of 2020 average
(2 students): 1325
ACT – class of 2020
(1 student): 28
CLT – class of 2020 average
(2 students): 95.5

STUDENT BODY

Enrollment (K-12)149
School of Rhetoric (9-12).....14

GRADING SCALE

A (4.0) = 90 - 100%
B (3.0) = 80 - 89%
C (2.0) = 70 - 79%
D (1.0) = 60 - 69%*

*Course credit is awarded only for courses passed with a grade of 70% (C) or higher.

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

All students seeking a Veritas diploma must complete a Senior Thesis, a yearlong, independent research project culminating in a written report, with delivery and defense of the thesis before a panel of faculty judges at the end of the school year. Students are required to earn 26 course credits and fulfill 70 hours of community service prior to graduation. To receive a Veritas diploma students must fulfill the following:

- Literature – 4 credits
- History – 4 credits
- Doctrine & Theology – 1 credit
- Math – 4 credits
- Science – 4 credits
- Foreign Language – 2 credits
- Rhetoric – 2 credits
- Fine Arts – 2 credits
- Christian Leadership – 1 credit
- Logic – 1 credit
- Government & Economics – 1 credit

Veritas utilizes a university-type schedule where students attend a mix of one, two and three-day-a-week classes; 1 credit is equal to a year-long course meeting 2.5 hours per week.

GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION

To graduate with distinction, students must have:

Minimum GPA of 3.5

12 Honors/Advanced credits

Minimum 30 credits

(includes additional credit requirements for doctrine & theology, foreign language, rhetoric and Christian leadership)

HONORS/AP COURSES

Honors Literature (9-12)

Honors History (9-12)

Honors Doctrine & Theology (9-12)

Honors Mathematics (9-12)

Honors Science (9-12)

Honors Latin (9-10)

Honors French (10-11)

AP Latin (11)

Honors Rhetoric (10-12)

Honors/AP courses are weighted at +1 (A=5.0).

CLASS RANKING

Veritas does not rank students

CLASSICAL CURRICULUM

The School of Rhetoric (grades 9-12) is the culmination of the trivium. In the rhetoric stage, students take all they have studied in the grammar and logic stages and then learn how to present themselves in a wise and winsome manner. The emphasis of all classes in the rhetoric stage are writing and speaking well.

CURRICULUM

WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Modern European History, Literature, Doctrine & Theology (9)
Classical World History, Literature, Doctrine & Theology (10)
Medieval History, Literature, Doctrine & Theology (11)
U.S. History, Literature, Doctrine & Theology (12)

SCIENCE

Physical Science
Biology
Chemistry
Physics

RHETORIC

Rhetoric 1 (Classical)
Rhetoric II (Modern, Speech & Debate)
Rhetoric III (Senior Thesis)

LANGUAGES

Latin I, II, III, IV, AP Latin
French I, II

MATH

Algebra 1
Advanced Algebra I
Geometry
Algebra II & Trigonometry
Pre-Calculus
Calculus
Statistics

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Art I (Drawing), Art II (Watercolor),
Drama I (Intro), Drama II (Performance),
Yearbook, Choir, Strings Ensemble

OTHER REQUIRED COURSES

Logic I & II
U.S. Government & Economics
Christian Leadership Courses (Apologetics,
Christian Foundations, Biblical Exegesis,
Worldviews)

OTHER ELECTIVES

Computer Science, Mock Trial

WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Western Civilization courses are Great Books courses, a historically effective way to educate and create thinkers. Combining history, theology, and literature, these courses help students grow in their appreciation of the unity of all knowledge. Students move sequentially through historical time periods, repeating each period twice in grades 7-12. They study Modern European History & Literature (9th), Classical World History & Literature (10th), Medieval History & Literature (11th), and U.S. History & Literature (12th), reading over 100 of the Great Books of Western Civilization by graduation.

LOGIC

Veritas students take two years of formal logic, learning both deductive and inductive reasoning skills. As a science, logic identifies the rules that govern reason; and as an art it teaches us how we are to follow those rules. The Veritas student of logic will explore an expression of God's unchanging, orderly, truthful character. Students will improve reasoning skills and wield the very tools of learning. Students take Introductory Logic (8th) and Intermediate Logic (9th).

RHETORIC

Much of the classical tradition intended to speak and write what was true, good, and beautiful. Rhetoric students review sound reasoning skills and learn about clear communication from ancient masters of rhetoric (i.e. Aristotle, Cicero, Quintilian and Augustine) in Classical Rhetoric (10th). Then students focus on application in Rhetoric in the Modern World (11th). The capstone course, Senior Thesis (12th), is a culmination of all their learning. Students prepare an extensive paper on a topic carefully selected by them and agreed on with the instructor. They defend their positions orally before a panel of faculty judges at the end of the year.

LATIN

Veritas students begin learning Latin vocabulary in 1st grade, and continue for nine years, through the completion of at least two credits toward their Veritas diploma (Latin II & III) and the completion of their study of Latin grammar. The study of Latin provides students a basis for study of primary sources and classical works, in addition to preparing them for further study in the romantic languages. Some students choose to continue the study of Latin, either taking Advanced Latin Translation or AP Latin.

MATH

The study of mathematics lends itself well to the trivium model. Students in The School of Grammar focus on learning and memorizing math facts. In the School of Logic, students explore mathematical equations and situations as statements of logic. Students in the School of Rhetoric use their understanding of mathematical concepts to explore how numerical, algebraic and graphical models relate. At Veritas, our focus is on the wonder of math and exploring God's ordered world. The program of study is as follows: ninth grade students study Geometry, tenth grade students study Algebra 2 and Trigonometry, and eleventh grade students study Precalculus. Seniors may take either Calculus or Statistics.

SCIENCE

The goal of science at Veritas is to learn more about God by observing His created natural and physical world, and to understand this world through research and experimentation. Science courses have labs woven throughout the coursework. In the School of Rhetoric, students will study Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

LITERARY WORKS

The Holy Bible

Homer.....	<i>Odyssey, Iliad</i>
Plato.....	<i>The Last Days of Socrates, The Republic</i>
Aristotle.....	<i>Nicomachean Ethics, Politics, Poetics</i>
Euclid.....	<i>Elements, books 1 & 3</i>
Aeschylus.....	<i>Orestia</i>
Herodotus.....	<i>Histories</i>
Thucydides.....	<i>The Peloponnesian War</i>
Livy.....	<i>The Early History of Rome</i>
Lucretius.....	<i>On the Nature of Things</i>
Virgil.....	<i>Aeneid, Eclogues and Georgics</i>
Tacitus.....	<i>Annals of Imperial Rome</i>
Aurelius.....	<i>Meditations</i>
Eusebius.....	<i>The Church History</i>
Athanasius.....	<i>On the Incarnation</i>
Boethius.....	<i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i>
Augustine.....	<i>City of God, Confessions</i>
Einhard & Notker.....	<i>Two Lives of Charlemagne</i>
Geoffrey of Monmouth.....	<i>The History of the Kings of Britain</i>
Aquinas.....	<i>Summa Theologica</i>
Dante.....	<i>The Divine Comedy: Inferno, Purgatory, Paradise</i>
Chaucer.....	<i>The Canterbury Tales</i>
Luther.....	<i>On Vocation</i>
Calvin.....	<i>The Institutes of Christian Religion</i>
Foxe.....	<i>Foxe's Book of Martyrs</i>
Machiavelli.....	<i>The Prince</i>
Shakespeare.....	<i>Macbeth, Julius Caesar, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet, Troilus Cressida, Anthony and Cleopatra, King Richard the III</i>
Milton.....	<i>Paradise Lost</i>
Bunyan.....	<i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>
Austen.....	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
Swift.....	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
Pyle.....	<i>The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood</i>
Rousseau.....	<i>The Social Contract</i>
Franklin.....	<i>Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>
Burke.....	<i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i>
Dickens.....	<i>Tale of Two Cities, Hard Times</i>
Poe.....	<i>The Pit and the Pendulum</i>
Verne.....	<i>Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea</i>
Twain.....	<i>The Adventure of Tom Sawyer, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court</i>
Doyle.....	<i>The Lost World</i>
Machen.....	<i>Christianity and Liberalism</i>
Hemingway.....	<i>Old Man and the Sea</i>

Conrad.....	<i>Heart of Darkness</i>
Stowe.....	<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
Lincoln.....	<i>Lincoln's Speeches</i>
Marx.....	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i>
Ten Boom.....	<i>The Hiding Place</i>
Lewis.....	<i>The Magician's Nephew, The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe, The Horse & His Boy, Prince Caspian, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, The Silver Chair, The Last Battle, The Screwtape Letters, The Great Divorce, Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, That Hideous Strength</i>
Tolkien.....	<i>The Hobbit, The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, The Return of the King</i>
Christie.....	<i>Death on the Nile</i>
Shaara.....	<i>The Killer Angels</i>
Henty.....	<i>The Dragon and the Raven</i>
Forbes.....	<i>Johnny Tremain</i>
Foster.....	<i>Augustus Caesar's World</i>
Schaeffer.....	<i>Art and the Bible</i>
Eco.....	<i>The Name of the Rose</i>
Sproul.....	<i>Chosen by God</i>
Packer.....	<i>Knowing God</i>
Keller.....	<i>King's Cross</i>
Melville.....	<i>Moby Dick</i>
de Tocqueville.....	<i>Democracy in America</i>
Twain.....	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>
Steinbeck.....	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>
Ambrose.....	<i>Citizen Soldiers</i>
King.....	<i>Letter from a Birmingham Jail</i>
Paine.....	<i>Common Sense</i>
Irving.....	<i>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</i>
McCullough.....	<i>John Adams</i>
Thoreau.....	<i>Civil Disobedience</i>
Sinclair.....	<i>The Jungle</i>
Bradbury.....	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
Other.....	<i>Apocrypha, Epic of Gilgamesh, Code of Hammurabi, Aesop's Fables, The Saga of the Volsungs, Beowulf, The Apostolic Fathers, The Creeds, The Koran, The Song of Roland, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, The Westminster Confession of Faith, Declaration of Independence, The United States Constitution, Articles of Confederation, The Federalist & Anti-Federalists Papers, Slave Narratives</i>
Poetry of Whitman, Dickinson, Frost & Eliot	

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Dr. Tom Askew Scripture Memory Scholarship

A \$1000 scholarship is awarded to Seniors who are able to recite from memory all 16 chapters of Scripture learned in grades K-12 as follows: Psalm 23, Luke 2:1-19 (Christmas story), Matthew 28:1-9 (Easter story), Matthew 5, 6 & 7 (Sermon on the Mount), Romans 8, John 15, The book of James (5 chapters), Isaiah 40, Hebrews 11, and Hebrews 12.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Student Senate
 Valor Honor Society
 Mock Trial Team
 Robotics Club
 Latin Club
 Drama
 Yearbook
 Skiing trip in Colorado

ATHLETICS

Girls' Volleyball
 Boys' Basketball



GRADUATION FROM VERITAS ACADEMY OF TUCSON

- CLASS OF 2024 FORWARD -

DIPLOMA PLANS

VERITAS DIPLOMA

Meets all Graduation Requirements:

- Senior Thesis - successful completion, delivery and defense evidenced by a passing course grade
- Minimum of 70 service hours completed and submitted before May of Senior year
- 26 credits (see specific course requirements document)

VERITAS DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMA

Meets all Graduation Requirements plus all of the following criteria:

- GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Minimum of 12 Honors or AP courses throughout the 4 years of SOR
- Additional 4 credits of coursework including 1 credit of theology, foreign language, rhetoric and leadership

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

(This section is not complete as our philosophy and policies for each recognition are still under construction.)

In addition to earning a diploma from Veritas Academy of Tucson, students may earn special recognition from the faculty and administration. Students will be given cords or other regalia to wear during the Commencement Ceremony to recognize these honors:

VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIAN
LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION
HUMANITIES RECOGNITION
MATH RECOGNITION
SCIENCE RECOGNITION
FOREIGN LANGUAGE RECOGNITION
FINE ARTS RECOGNITION

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

Because the Bible calls us to use our gifts "to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace" (1 Peter 4:10) and to "do good to all people, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10), Veritas Academy of Tucson encourages ongoing service throughout a student's time at the school and beyond.

As such, Veritas requires a minimum of seventy (70) hours of service, to be completed and submitted before May of the Senior year. Service may be completed within the school, outside of the school, or on various mission trips. Students may begin accumulating and recording hours in the summer prior to ninth grade.

Students are encouraged to complete their service hours cheerfully and to the glory of God. 1 Timothy 4:12 provides guidance as to the kind of attitude with which students ought to proceed with this requirement, "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."

GRADE POINT AVERAGES (GPA)

A student's GPA will begin to accumulate on the official transcript in 9th grade and will include only year-end grades for Veritas coursework taken in grades 9-12. The GPA will not include grades for credits earned before 9th grade, for outside coursework approved for credit, or for approved transfer coursework. The official Veritas transcript will only record the Veritas GPA.

GRADING SCALE:

LETTER GRADE	COURSE GRADE	POINTS FOR GPA
A +	97% - 100%	4.0
A	94% - 96%	4.0
A-	90% - 93%	4.0
B+	87% - 89%	3.0
B	84% - 86%	3.0
B-	80% - 83%	3.0
C+	77% - 79%	2.0
C	74% - 76%	2.0
C-	70% - 73%	2.0
Students will not earn course credit for any grades below 70%; however, they will earn some GPA points for course grades between 60% and 70%.		
D+	67% - 69%	1.0
D	64% - 66%	1.0
D-	60% - 63%	1.0
F	0% - 59%	0.0

WEIGHTED GPA

Veritas will show both weighted and unweighted GPAs on the official transcript. Honors and AP classes are weighted at +1 (A=5.0). The weighted GPA will be calculated using year-end grades from specified courses within the core curricular areas taken during 9th-12th grade. Courses earning a weighted GPA include:

Honors History III, IV, V, VI	Honors Pre-Calculus
Honors Literature III, IV, V, VI	Honors Calculus
Honors Doctrine & Theology III, IV, V, VI	Honors Statistics
Honors Rhetoric I, II, III	Honors Biology
Honors Latin III, IV	Honors Chemistry
Honors French I, II	Honors Physics
Honors Geometry	*Any AP course
Honors Algebra II	

GRADE DISPUTES

Grades will be made available on RenWeb shortly after the end of each quarter. Students have two weeks after grades are posted at the end of each quarter to initiate a grade dispute with their teachers. Grade disputes must be made in writing via email directly to the teacher and must be drafted within the deadline given above. Grades from past quarters are not open to dispute.

WITHDRAWING FROM COURSES MID-YEAR

Students may withdraw from a course during the drop-add period. The last day to *drop* a class without penalty is on the last day of the second quarter for yearlong courses, *or* on the last day of the first quarter for semester long courses. The last day to *add* a new course is two weeks after the course begins.

When a student withdraws from a course *by the deadline*, the dropped course does not appear on the transcript.

Courses dropped *after the deadline* will be indicated on the transcript with a WP (Withdraw Passing) or WF (Withdraw Failing), based on the student's academic standing at the time of the drop.

CREDIT RECOVERY

If a student fails a course and goes on to retake and pass the course at Veritas, or if a student chooses to retake a course they have passed in order to improve their grade, the old grade will be removed from the transcript and replaced with the new grade. Grades earned in Veritas courses may not be replaced on the transcript by courses taken outside of Veritas.

OUTSIDE CREDIT FOR ACADEMIC COURSEWORK

While enrolled full-time at Veritas Academy of Tucson, a student may take no more than five outside academic courses to be considered for credit towards meeting graduation requirements. Veritas reserves the right to make exceptions and substitutions at its own discretion.

The outside course must be equivalent in rigor, content, and/or worldview to a Veritas course, as determined solely by a Veritas administrator.

If a student plans to take a course at any school or college other than Veritas Academy of Tucson and wishes to inquire about having it meet a diploma/graduation requirement, the student must obtain the prior permission of a Veritas administrator. If such a request is approved, the department reserves the right to administer its own examination or other assessment to determine whether or not the student will be granted credit for the course. No course taken at another school or college will factor into the Veritas calculated GPA. An official transcript from the external institution will be attached to the Veritas transcript for the purposes of college application.

CREDITS FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Courses taken by a student transferring to Veritas will be considered for Veritas credit once the student has passed an entrance examination or, once the student has passed the next course within the sequence for that subject. An official transcript from the previous school is required to award any credit. Veritas reserves the right to make exceptions and substitutions at its own discretion. The GPA of the transferred credits will not be included in the Veritas GPA. To earn a Veritas Standard Diploma, a transfer student must complete at Veritas at least 14 of the 26 required credits.

TRANSFER DIPLOMA

In the instances when a student transfers into Veritas Academy of Tucson and is unable to meet all of the Veritas diploma requirements (usually after grade 10), then a transfer diploma may be conferred. The transfer diploma certifies completion of the minimum number of credits required by the state of Arizona for graduation (22 credits). See Transfer Diploma document for further details.

STUDENTS NOT ON A VERITAS DIPLOMA PLAN (ALA CARTE STUDENTS)

Veritas allows home schooled students to enroll in Veritas classes on an ala carte basis who may not be Veritas diploma-seeking students. Students may enroll in up to 4 credits of ala carte classes per year. These students are not considered full-time Veritas students and are not eligible to receive tax credits for tuition. While it is possible for part-time (ala carte) students, to earn a Veritas diploma with a combination of Veritas credits and transfer credits, such instances are rare, and a diploma plan should be carefully managed by the family. Students who are not on a Veritas diploma plan may accumulate course credit at Veritas and by other means toward a self-managed high school plan that, hopefully, meets or exceeds the Arizona state graduation requirements.

COMMENCEMENT

To participate in the annual commencement ceremony in May, a currently enrolled and attending Senior must have (1) met the requirements for earning a Veritas Diploma or Distinguished Diploma, or (2) met all of the following conditions: completed all Arizona state graduation requirements, earned at least 4 Veritas credits in the student's Senior year, and earned at least 8 Veritas credits in the student's high school career.