

Contact Information

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Who are we?

Let's start with the basics.

Yes, we are co-educational. Yes, we are an independent day school. And yes, we offer a college preparatory curriculum. Already, we sound like a typical private high school.

But that's not all we are.

With only eighty students in each graduating class, we are small. We know that. In fact, we are really small, "small and mighty" according to our Head of School. Here at Branson, we believe our students are renaissance people by demand.

How do students become renaissance people?

First, there's the **curriculum**. You will notice that we do not offer many Advanced Placement courses, eleven to be exact. This is by design. We do not offer an AP driven curriculum. In fact, we offer only those AP courses that our faculty members determine make sense for our students. But that does not mean our students take a less challenging course load. We offer a wide variety of courses taught at an advanced level that helps foster those very things we consider important, including critical inquiry, independent thinking, clear and effective writing, and imagination.

Second, there is the **culture**. The essence of Branson is a commitment to excellence that is palpable; similarly, there is a deep respect for every individual, regardless of cultural, racial, and philosophical differences. Students leave Branson—and arrive at your campus—strong in character, well prepared for further education, determined to pursue their personal interests, and ready to take responsibility for and give back to the wider community.

Third, there is the **community**. Branson inspires personal and academic excellence in a nurturing, vibrant educational community based on personal and intellectual integrity. At the heart of Branson is the trusting, dynamic relationship between dedicated teachers and students. Through the vitality, breadth, and rigor of its programs, Branson encourages students to think critically, communicate clearly, develop their individual talents and interests, and pursue a lifelong passion for learning.

Graduation Requirements

English: 4
History: 3
Language: 3 of the same language or 2 years each
of two different languages
Mathematics: 3
Performing and Visual Arts: 2
Science: 3

Physical Education: 1 trimester per year
Community Service: 25 hours per year
(On average, our students complete 75 hours of
community service per year)

Senior Internship

The final part of our graduation requirement is the Senior Internship, which takes place in the last four weeks of the senior year. Each senior, under the guidance of a faculty mentor, formulates a project that the student must pursue four hours a day and present to the community before graduating. Projects range from working with a fine printer on a hand press edition of *Moby Dick* to writing, designing and producing a CD of original work. The intent of the program is to allow students to pursue independently a particular interest or question in a way that the daily rigors of a Branson curriculum does not always allow.

The Class of 2011

Average GPA 3.62

SAT Reasoning Test (Mean Scores)

Critical Reading 655
Math 663
Writing 670
Cumulative 1988

ACT (Mean Scores)

English 30
Math 30
Reading 30
Science Reasoning 28
Composite 29

College Matriculation

Four-year colleges 100%
Two-year colleges 0%

SAT Subject Test (Mean Scores)

Biology-Ecology 620
Biology-Molecular 615
Chemistry 629
Chinese with Listening 700
English Literature 635
French 665
French with Listening 740
Math Level I 600
Math Level II 681
Physics 698
Spanish 596
US History 622
World History 611

Branson reports all disciplinary actions resulting in a suspension or expulsion and violations of academic integrity occurring during a student's junior or senior year.

Transcript Information

Branson's academic year is divided into trimesters with official grades reported either at the end of a 12-week course or yearlong course. Official transcripts are released directly to an accredited institution only. Official test scores will be sent directly from the testing agency.

The Branson transcript reports a cumulative GPA that is **unweighted** and calculated on a 4.0 scale. All classes, including Fine Arts, are included in the GPA. No additional credit is awarded to a grade of an A+. GPAs include only coursework completed at Branson. Coursework completed at another institution will appear on a separate transcript.

As a matter of policy, Branson **does not rank** its students.

Branson does not grant academic awards to students. The pool is simply too small.

Class of 2012

78 students

National Merit Scholarships

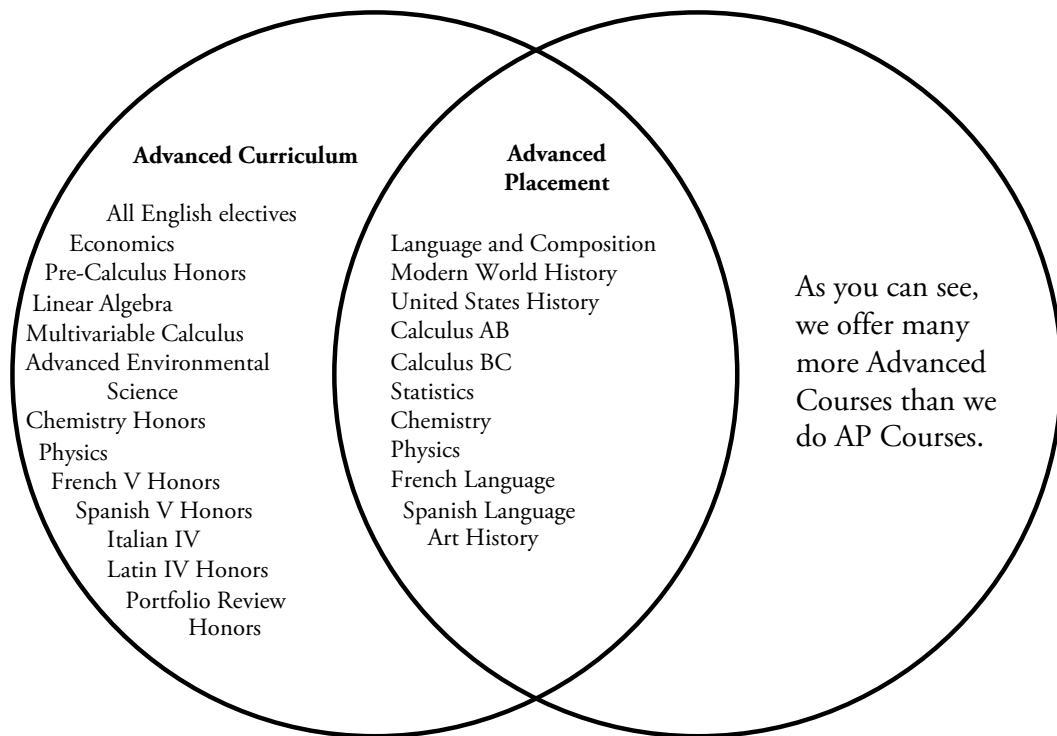
National Merit Semi-Finalists 7
National Achievement Scholarship Program 1

An Advanced Curriculum

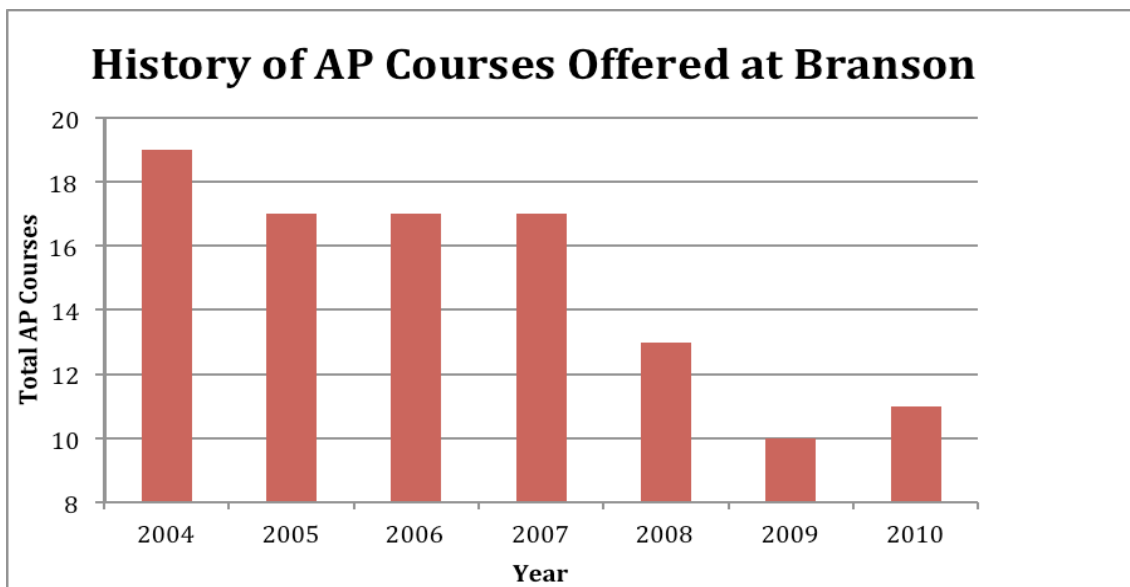
Branson students carry a minimum of five courses in every trimester of attendance. However, students typically carry six courses.

Our AP policy is simple: students who take an AP course are required to take the exam.

In 2007, the faculty reviewed the AP program to evaluate how well its philosophy aligned with Branson's goals and mission. At the end of the process, we decided to eliminate several AP courses and to enhance several of our own advanced courses to be consistent with our educational goals. This year, we will revisit the topic, again assessing the value of AP-designated curriculum for our students.



curriculum



Graduates from the classes of 2008 – 2011 have enrolled at the following colleges and universities:

Amherst College (2)	Howard University (1)	UC Santa Cruz (2)
Arizona State University (1)	Illinois Wesleyan University (1)	University of Arizona (1)
Bard College (2)	Johns Hopkins University (1)	University of Chicago (1)
Barnard College (3)	Kalamazoo College (1)	Univ. of Colorado: Boulder (6)
Bates College (1)	Kenyon College (3)	University of Connecticut (1)
Boston College (3)	Lawrence University (1)	University of Denver (1)
Boston University (2)	Lewis and Clark College (1)	Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa (1)
Brown University (4)	Loyola Marymount University (1)	University of Miami (2)
Bucknell University (1)	Macalester College (3)	University of Michigan (2)
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (2)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2)	University of North Carolina (1)
Calif. Institute of Technology (1)	Middlebury College (2)	University of Notre Dame (2)
Carleton College (1)	Mills College (1)	University of Oregon (3)
Chapman University (4)	New York University (7)	University of Pennsylvania (8)
Claremont McKenna College (2)	Northwestern University (6)	University of Puget Sound (2)
Clark Atlanta University (1)	Oberlin College (3)	University of Richmond (VA) (2)
Clark University (1)	Pepperdine University (1)	University of San Diego (3)
Colburn School of Music (1)	Pomona College (2)	University of San Francisco (1)
Colby College (1)	Princeton University (8)	Univ. of St. Andrews (UK) (4)
Colgate University (3)	Saint Mary's College (1)	University of Southern Calif. (18)
College of Charleston (1)	Santa Clara University (2)	University of Vermont (1)
Colorado College (7)	Sarah Lawrence College (3)	University of Virginia (3)
Columbia University (5)	Scripps College (3)	University of Washington (3)
Cornell University (5)	Southern Methodist Univ. (4)	Vanderbilt University (3)
Dartmouth College (7)	Stanford University (19)	Vassar College (1)
Davidson College (1)	Swarthmore College (1)	Washington and Lee Univ. (1)
Duke University (7)	Trinity College (CT) (7)	Washington Univ., St. Louis (8)
Emory University (3)	Tufts University (3)	Wellesley College (1)
Georgetown University (11)	UC Berkeley (12)	Wesleyan University (2)
George Washington Univ. (1)	UC Davis (6)	Whitman College (3)
Hamilton College (2)	UC Los Angeles (5)	Williams College (1)
Harvard University (9)	UC Riverside (4)	Yale University (4)
Harvey Mudd College (1)	UC Santa Barbara (4)	
Hobart & William Smith Colleges (1)		