SAMUELI ACADEMY

2026-2027 School Profile

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ADMINISTRATION

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RECOGNITIONS

- Top 5% of Public Schools in the Nation, 2021, *U.S. News and World Report*
- Top 6% of Schools in California, 2021, *U.S. News and World Report*
- California Gold Ribbon School, *California Department of Education*
- California Distinguished School, 2025

ACCREDITATION

- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

FACULTY

- All 40 academic faculty are fully credentialed. CTE Faculty are industry veterans.

MISSION

Samueli Academy is committed to igniting the passion within all students to reach their greatest potential through a nurturing and innovative learning environment.

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Samueli Academy is a public charter school founded in 2013, located in Santa Ana, Orange County, California. Students are admitted into two distinctive hands-on learning programs: Project-Based Learning (PBL) and Work-Based Learning (WBL), through a randomized lottery acceptance system, creating a school with a continuously diverse student population from the surrounding area. The school has an on-site residence for foster youth to provide a stable living environment for them to excel academically.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Project-Based Learning (PBL) is at the heart of Samueli Academy's college and career instructional approach with teachers guiding students to master both content and 21st-century skills. Students collaborate on meaningful projects that require critical thinking, creativity, and communication to solve complex problems and answer challenging real-life questions. All project work is assessed using detailed New Tech Network Agency rubrics (Collaboration, Written Communication, Oral Communication, Agency, Content Knowledge and Thinking). Students partner with and receive feedback on projects from experts in the field.

WORK-BASED LEARNING (WBL) CURRICULUM

Samueli Academy offers a WBL Curriculum to connect academics with real-world experience through career exploration tours, job shadowing, portfolio creation, and mock interviews.

Highlights of WBL:

- *CTE Pathways*: 9th graders take Introduction to Engineering, and Introduction to Environmental Science & Design. Beginning in 10th grade, students are required to choose an Engineering or Design pathway. The classes are taught by veterans in both fields in an Engineering Fabrication and CAD Lab.
- *Internship:* Students are required to complete a 45-hour internship with professional mentors in a field of interest between junior and senior years. Alongside their matched companies and organizations, each student contributes to a project which supports their academic work.
- *Senior Capstone:* 12th-grade students reflect on their 4-year experience and growth, presenting artifacts of the learning experience to a panel of staff and community partners.
- *Virtual Enterprise/Entrepreneurship:* 12th-grade students run virtual businesses to develop entrepreneurship, global business acumen, problem-solving and communication skills, and personal finance and technology experience.
- *Career Ignition Conf*erence: Students attend a biannual networking event for exposure to diverse companies, organizations, careers, and public agencies.
- *Advisory:* Students are guided by an advisory staff member who actively supports the students' personal and academic development through their four years in a weekly class focused on social-emotional skill development and ongoing guidance.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

220 Credits are required for the Samueli Academy Diploma. One semester is equivalent to 5 credits.

English	40	P.E. with Health	20
Social	30	Engineering/Design	30
Math	30	Virtual Enterprise	10
Science	30	Electives	20
Fine Arts/Foreign Lang	10		

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system for college preparatory classes and other courses is based on a 4.0 scale. (A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, F = 1.0) The grading system for Honors, Advanced Placement, and Dual Enrollment classes are based on a 5.0 scale (+ precedes course title on transcript).

HONORS CURRICULUM

The Honors Curriculum is available to all students enrolled in College Preparatory Classes (non AP and Dual Enrollment) who have a strong desire to strengthen their depth of knowledge and development of academic skills. Students pursue additional writing, discussion, and critical reading skills through individual projects and teacher-selected books.

7 ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Calculus AB, English Language and Composition, Government, Spanish, US History, Computer Science, and Psychology

COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSES

Community college courses are available to all students through dual enrollment partnerships on campus and concurrent enrollment partnerships off campus.

EXTRACURRICULARS

ASB (Leadership)	Robotics
E-sports	Key Club
Helping Hands	Book Club
Red Cross	Pre-Medicine and Health Society
College Tours	Band
Choir	CSF
Ballet Folklorico	Coding Club

ATHLETICS

Volleyball	Basketball
Cross Country	Soccer
Golf	Track/Field
Softball	Cheer
Wrestling	

ENROLLMENT

Grade 12	148
Grade 11	141
Grade 10	150
Grade 9	162
Grade 8	135
Grade 7	134
Total	870

ETHNICITY

Hispanic/Latinx	83%
White	5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%
Multi-Ethnic	4%
African American	1%
Other	1%

POST GRADUATION PLANS

4-year College/University	43%
2-year Community College	47%
Trade/Vocational School	1%
Military	1%
Workforce	3%
Gap/Undecided	5%

2026 STATISTICS

100% 1-to-1 Laptop Ratio
100% Graduation Rate
82% First year college persistence rates
33% of college alumni in STEM Majors
94% Average Daily Attendance

Samueli Academy has students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, with 65% of the student body qualifying for the Federal Free/Reduced Lunch Program.

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