

SENIOR YEAR PROGRAM

Seniors enroll as full-time students at WPI and take their classes on the WPI campus, located at 100 Institute Road, Worcester, Mass. Their school year begins the fourth week of August and concludes with graduation from Mass Academy in May. They follow a college schedule, meeting regularly with Mass Academy's school counselor and their individual faculty advisors, who monitor their academic progress and assist with their college application process. Mass Academy seniors must successfully complete three WPI courses in each of four seven-week terms, for a total of 12 courses. In every term, students are required to take one course in each of three major academic areas. They also must fulfill requirements for Physical Education and complete a Senior Independent Study Project (SISP).

Mathematics: Students typically take the four-term Calculus sequence. More advanced students often take the Introduction to Analysis sequence.

Science: Seniors have the opportunity to choose among single and/or sequential courses in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, and Engineering.

Humanities: Students are required to take four Humanities courses. Two must be in English (i.e., Literature) or Writing. The others may be in the Social Sciences, History, Philosophy, Foreign Languages, or the Arts.

Physical Education: Seniors must enroll in either two one-term Physical Education courses at WPI, two independent classes in an area of physical activity (e.g., dance, gymnastics, karate), or participate in an organized sports program for two of the four terms.

Senior Independent Study Project (SISP): Each senior must complete an Independent Study Project that involves approximately 100 hours pursuing a subject or area of interest that results in new learning beyond the traditional academic experience. Past SISP projects have included quilt-making, cooking, woodcarving, EMT training, learning a new language, learning to play a musical instrument, and publishing a book.



Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science

A Public High School at a Prestigious University



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

As an Academy student, you are eligible to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities and events, including ...

- Biotechnology
- CAD
- Creative Engineering and Design
- CyberPatriot
- FIRST Robotics
- Math Team
- Programming Team
- School Newspaper
- Slam Poetry
- Student Government
- WPI Concert Band
- Yearbook

Athletics: Students may be eligible to participate on high school sports teams by applying for MIAA Rule 52 waivers with their sending schools.

Community Service: Each student gives back to the community by completing 50 hours of community service each year. Many students fulfill their community service during the summer.

#1

Public School
in Massachusetts
ranked by Niche.com
2018, 2019, 2020,
2021, 2022, 2023



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NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

It is the policy of the Massachusetts Academy of Mathematics and Science that each qualified individual, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, religion, genetic identity, disability, gender identity or expression, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, transgender status, veteran status, or any other legally protected status, shall have equal opportunity in education and services of the Massachusetts Academy of Mathematics and Science.

High expectations · Bright futures · Small classes · Active engagement

massacademy.org



A Public High School at a Prestigious University



The Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science was founded by the Massachusetts state legislature in 1992 as a public school of excellence for 100 academically accelerated 11th and 12th graders. It is a tuition-free, collaborative effort among the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, WPI, and state school districts. While it emphasizes math and science, its balanced curriculum offers equally rigorous preparation in the humanities and world languages. Juniors take a special program of challenging, interactive courses. Seniors attend classes at WPI, a premier technological university—making the Academy the only public school in the state at which all students attend a private university full-time as high school seniors.

THE RIGHT TIME AND PLACE TO PROPEL YOUR FUTURE

At the Academy, you'll find an active learning community that is serious yet informal, and demanding while supportive. It offers great opportunities for extraordinary students.

Small Classes: Receive personalized attention in a collaborative environment where class sizes rarely exceed 18 students.

Challenging Curriculum: Challenge yourself with demanding courses that exceed high school AP courses and extended school days adding up to 1,100 hours of expert instruction.

Active Engagement: Become an active participant in learning through hands-on experimentation, open-ended problem solving, discussions, and group projects.

Unique Opportunities: Explore a range of career-building—and fun—opportunities, such as participating on the FIRST Robotics team; competing at State and International Science Fairs, Computer Science and Math Competitions, and Slam Poetry; performing with WPI musical ensembles as well as engaging in local internships and community service projects.

Hard Work That Pays Off: Prepare for your future by taking college courses and studying real-world applications. Each year Mass Academy graduates are accepted at such prestigious schools as WPI, Tufts, Boston University, MIT, Yale, Cornell, Brown, and Johns Hopkins University.



ADMISSIONS PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Current high school sophomores who are residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are welcome to apply for admission to the Academy's junior class. Deadlines and application information can be found at massacademy.org.

The Academy accepts approximately 50 new students to the junior class each year, and admission is highly selective. Candidates are high honors students in their home schools, and many are in the top percentages of their classes. Applicants also have impressive lists of extracurricular activities and high standardized test scores. Interested students are encouraged to attend an information session and to schedule a shadow day. Each year Mass Academy graduates are accepted at such prestigious schools as WPI, Tufts, Boston University, MIT, Yale, Cornell, Brown, and Johns Hopkins University.



CLASS OF 2022 PROFILE

3.98

WPI GPA
A-Term 2021

80%

Qualified For
National Merit
Recognition

>4,500

Hours of
Community
Service

>4,000

Hours Dedicated to
Senior Independent
Study Projects

17

Mass State Science Fair
Award Winners, including
three ISEF Representatives

>50

Team-Based
Projects with
Real-World Application



JUNIOR YEAR PROGRAM

As a junior, you will follow a rigorous and well-rounded course of study, guided by expert faculty and grounded in active engagement and exploration.

Computer Science: This course begins with web design techniques and implementation. Students are responsible for designing, developing, and maintaining their own personal and professional electronic portfolio in the form of a website. The fundamental concepts of object-oriented programming and methodologies are explored. Students develop computational thinking and problem-solving skills through programming practices and learn how to write and analyze software programs. Mobile application technologies are encountered. Students apply the software engineering lifecycle model to help develop applications that benefit the community.

Foreign Language (Immersion French or Spanish):

These collaborative immersion courses focus on acquiring language proficiency through the use of authentic materials, including literature, music, film, discussions, and games. Students understand grammar in meaningful contexts and engage in project-based learning as they produce podcasts, make movies, and engage in small group projects. Students are assessed on their individual progress via video, audio, and written portfolios.

Humanities: This course uses a variety of literary, historical, and cultural readings in combination with essay writing, group projects, and class discussions to answer the essential question: "What does it mean to be human?" Students will examine how the definitions and understandings of "humanity" have changed over time.

Mathematical Modeling: This course goes beyond the traditional high school mathematics curriculum by engaging students in open-ended problem solving, computer simulations, and collaborative work. Students use a mathematical approach to model real-world situations through the application of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and statistics.

Physics: This course takes an algebra and calculus-based approach to investigate and model connections between concepts, equations, and graphs. Through classroom discussions and collaborative work, students learn about

mechanics, gravitation, electricity, magnetism, waves, and harmonic oscillations. They design, build, and debug their own experiments, and analyze their data using statistical methods.



STEM with Scientific and

Technical Writing: This course focuses on scientific research and engineering. During the first part of the year, students conduct independent research projects that incorporate reviewing literature, making conjectures, developing methodology, designing experiments, and communicating findings. Their final projects are presented at a school-wide science fair, with the possibility for advancement to regional, state, and international fairs. During the second part of the year, students work in small teams in order to engineer new products—usually assistive technology devices. They meet with clients, conduct patent searches, design and build prototypes, demonstrate their products to expert judges, and deliver the products to their clients. Throughout the course, students practice incorporating purpose, clarity, organization, mechanics, and audience appeal as they communicate about topics in science and technology. Assignments consist of research papers, short essays, technical reports, and presentations. Students participate actively, as both writers and self-editors, and their works are consistently revised and often submitted for publication in online and print journals.

Physical Education: In fulfillment of state-mandated requirements, students participate in Physical Education classes taught by WPI staff.

Extracurricular Activities: Juniors are expected to take part in extracurricular activities at either Mass Academy or their sending schools during at least two of the four academic terms. Mass Academy extracurricular offerings usually include Cooking, Biotechnology, CyberPatriot, Math team, CAD, Arduinos, and FIRST Robotics. In addition, students may participate in WPI's music program and play on their sending school's athletic teams with approval from the sending district.