

Rachel E. Skiffer

Head of School

Richard Lapidus

Upper School Head

Courtney Duke

Assistant Upper School Head

Tania Castro Bradt

Director of College Counseling

tcbradt@headroyce.org

510.531.1300 x 2476

Hayley Shapland

Associate Director of College Counseling

hshapland@headroyce.org

510.531.1300 x 2519

Kora Shin

Associate Director of College Counseling

kshin@headroyce.org

510.531.1300 x 2508

Brittany Pruim

Upper School Registrar

College Counseling Associate

bpruim@headroyce.org

510.531.1300 x 2325

2023-2024 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROFILE

Head-Royce is a nonsectarian college preparatory day school with co-educational classes from kindergarten through 12th grade. Founded in 1887 in Berkeley, California as the Anna Head School for Girls, it was relocated in 1964 and now occupies a 22-acre campus in a residential area of Oakland. The school has been fully co-educational since 1979. The Head-Royce curriculum reflects the diversity, globalism, environmental awareness, and innovation of Oakland and the Bay Area. Through its rigorous and challenging courses, the school seeks to inspire in students a lifelong love of learning and commitment to academic excellence, a respect for the diversity that makes our society strong, a passion for constructive and responsible global citizenship, and a facility for creative, collaborative critical thinking.

Head-Royce by the Numbers



400

students in the
Upper School



70%

students of color
in our community



\$7.1m

tuition assistance
awarded



60%

of faculty have
advanced degrees



57

league
championships
in 10 years



49

D1/D3 athletes
in past 5 years



26

interscholastic
teams



18

years average
tenure of faculty

Our Academic Program

At Head-Royce, our courses and programs are designed to provide learning opportunities for students to become citizens who are:

- Confident, passionate, and joyously engaged in the pursuit of lifelong learning.
- Inquisitive, understanding, and able to embrace their own identity as a part of the greater whole.
- Understanding of their self worth, and able to practice self care and celebrate those around them.
- Intrinsically motivated to follow their own curiosity, problem solve, and advocate for community change.

Students typically take five to six academic subjects each semester in addition to an elective. **Head-Royce no longer offers AP courses reflecting a strategic decision made in 2019.** Instead, Head-Royce developed a rigorous advanced curriculum that culminates in a student-directed capstone which invites students to cultivate academic agility through voice, choice, and variety. The following courses are considered Honors and are as rigorous, if not more so, than AP courses: Neurobiology, Molecular Genetics, Economics, Data Structures, Engineering, French Cinema, and Literature, Latin 5 and all senior English and History courses.

Integrated Math 1 and Integrated Math 2 were introduced this academic year as bridge courses to Precalculus. The courses were designed to provide students, who come into Head-Royce with a variety of math backgrounds, with a strong foundation in the essentials of Algebra 1 and Geometry.

In all classes, Head-Royce students transform information into understanding, allowing them to live our mission of scholarship, diversity, and citizenship.

Program Highlights

The I-Search and Senior Project: In the 9th and 12th grades, all students complete an extensive research project; in the 9th grade, they investigate a contemporary topic through personal interviews and research, and in 12th grade, they pursue an experiential project or internship.

Junior Honors Humanities Curriculum: Together, English 11 and History 11 explore the canonical literature and history of the West. Students analyze primary sources and explore themes through seminar-style discussions and frequent analytical writing. They also consider more contemporary responses to and critiques of the canon, as they seek to understand the present world.

Senior Year Curriculum: Seniors craft an academically rigorous fourth-year curriculum that encourages deep connections to topics that inspire them. This includes selecting seminars in English, History, and Science that are more focused in their content; and taking courses in World Language, Visual and Performing Arts, and Math and Computer Science, where they hone their skills for part of the year, and then use those skills to create something that is personally meaningful to local and global communities.

When scheduling allows, many choose to double up in language, math, science or history. In May, all seniors participate in structured internships or experiences to explore an area of personal, academic or professional interest.

Global Online Academy (GOA): Students may take courses through the Global Online Academy, a consortium of leading independent schools from around the world whose mission is to translate into online classrooms the intellectually rigorous programs and excellent teaching that are hallmarks of its member schools.

The Center for Community Engagement: The CCE provides students with opportunities to explore civic engagement on a personal level with internships and summer opportunities. The center helps students form authentic partnerships with organizations that promote social change and encourage leadership training.

Other opportunities: Students also take advantage of a **four-year computer science curriculum, competitive debate program, robust Engineering and Robotics programs and study abroad program with global partner schools.**

Class of 2024



4.62
High GPA



94
Class size



6
National Merit
Semifinalists
(five-year average)



56
Honors
classes

Subject Requirements	Required Courses <i>Grades 9-11</i>	Upper Division Courses	
English <i>Four years required</i>	English 9 English 10 English 11 (H)	Senior Seminars⁺ Asian American Literature ⁺⁺ Detective and Crime Fiction ⁺⁺ Literature and Film ⁺⁺ Memoir and Creative Nonfiction ⁺⁺ Modern Drama ⁺⁺ Poetry ⁺⁺ Popular Music Studies: Lyrical Resistance ⁺⁺ Postcolonial Literature, Thought and Theory ⁺⁺ Queer Literature ⁺⁺ Shakespeare ⁺⁺ Short Story ⁺⁺ The Black Body, Voice, and Identity ⁺⁺	
History <i>Three years required</i>	History 9 U.S. History (H) History 11 (H)	Civil Society and American Democracy ⁺⁺ History of the Holocaust ⁺⁺ Intro to Asian American Studies ⁺⁺ Oakland Through Many Lenses ⁺⁺ Asia Rising ⁺⁺ Economics ⁺⁺	Living History, Empowering Voices ⁺⁺ The Bay Area ⁺⁺ The Civil Rights Movement ⁺⁺ Women in Modern America ⁺⁺
Science <i>Three years required</i>	Physics 9 Chemistry (H) Biology Biology (H)	Physics (H) ⁺ Environmental Science (H) ⁺ Principles of Engineering ⁺ Principles of Organic Chemistry ⁺⁺	Advanced Chemistry: Qualitative Analysis ⁺⁺ Astronomy [*] Molecular Genetics ⁺⁺ Neurobiology ⁺⁺ Robotics [*]
Mathematics <i>Three years required</i>	Integrated Math 1 Integrated Math 2 Geometry Geometry (H) Algebra 2 Algebra 2 (H) Precalculus Precalculus (H)	Calculus Calculus (H) Data Sciences (H) Multivariable Calculus (H)	

World Languages				
World Languages <i>Three years required; Students must complete Level 3 of one language</i>	French 1	Latin 1	Mandarin 1	Spanish 1
	French 2	Latin 2	Mandarin 2	Spanish 2
	French 3	Latin 3	Mandarin 3	Spanish 3
	French 4 (H)	Latin 4 (H)	Mandarin 4 (H)	Spanish 4 (H)
	French 5 (H)	Latin 5 (H)	Mandarin 5 (H)	Spanish 5 (H)
French Language and Culture (H) ⁺	Latin Seminar A (H) ⁺	Mandarin Language and Chinese Culture (H)	Spanish Language and Culture (H)	
French Literature and Cinema (H) ⁺	Latin Seminar B (H) ⁺	Mandarin: Chinese Literature and Cinema (H)	Spanish Seminar (H)	

Arts Electives			
Visual and Performing Arts <i>One year of Advanced Art required</i>	Introductory Courses		Advanced Courses
	2D Art	Advanced 2D Art	Graphic Design
	3D Art	Advanced 3D Art	Jazz Band 1
	Dance 1	Studio Art Portfolio (H)	Jazz Band 2
	Drama 1	Dance 2	Orchestra
	Theater Production	Dance 3	Photography 2
	Photography 1	Dance Production (H)	Photography 3
Technical Theater 1	Chorus	Photography Portfolio (H)	
	Colla Voce	Filmaking	
	Drama 2	Filmaking: Advanced Projects	
	Drama 3		

Other Electives		
Computer Science	Intro to Computer Science and Engineering Algorithms and the Internet Mobile and Object-Oriented Design (H)	Data Structures (H) ⁺
		Advanced Topics in Computer Science (H) ⁺
Humanities	Expository Writing Speech and Debate 1 Speech and Debate 2	
Global Online Academy (GOA)	Head-Royce is a founding member of GOA, a consortium of leading independent schools from around the world whose mission is to translate into online classrooms the intellectually rigorous programs and excellent teaching that are hallmarks of its member schools.	

LEGEND

(H) Indicates honors curriculum, which is a rigorous, AP-equivalent curriculum or college-level curriculum

* Semester-long senior elective.

+ Designates courses considered Honors/AP-equivalents, including all senior English and History courses.

Head-Royce College Admission: 2019–2023

The following is a partial list of colleges and universities that have offered admission to graduates of Head-Royce, followed by the number of students enrolling in those colleges over the past five years. Members of the Class of 2023 will attend the colleges in **bold type**.

American University (1)
Amherst College (2)
Babson College (1)
Barnard College (2)
Boston College (2)
Boston University (3)
Bowdoin College (2)
Brandeis University (1)
Brown University (13)
Bryn Mawr College (2)
Bucknell University (1)
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (3)
Cal State, Northridge (1)
Carleton College (6)
Carnegie Mellon University (2)
Case Western Reserve University (2)
Chapman University (2)
Claremont McKenna College (9)
Colby College (4)
Colgate University (9)
College of William and Mary (1)
Colorado College (5)
Columbia College (Chicago) (1)
Columbia University (4)
Cornell University (7)
Dartmouth College (3)
Drexel University (2)
Duke Kunshan University (2)
Duke University (5)
Elon University (1)
Emory University (7)

Fashion Institute of Technology (1)
George Washington University (2)
Georgetown University (2)
Georgia Institute of Technology (1)
Hamilton College (1)
Harvey Mudd College (3)
Haverford College (5)
Howard University (7)
Indiana University–Bloomington (1)
Johns Hopkins University (1)
Kenyon College (1)
Lehigh University (2)
Lewis & Clark College (1)
Loyola Marymount University (3)
Macalester College (1)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (3)
Middlebury College (6)
Mount Holyoke College (1)
New College of Florida (1)
New York University (12)
Northeastern University (11)
Northwestern University (7)
NYU Shanghai (1)
Oberlin College (2)
Occidental College (5)
Pacific Lutheran University (1)
Pitzer College (5)
Pomona College (5)
Princeton University (5)
Purdue University (5)

Rice University (3)
Santa Clara University (3)
Scripps College (2)
Seton Hall University (1)
Skidmore College (2)
Smith College (1)
Southern Methodist University (2)
Spelman College (2)
Stanford University (7)
Swarthmore College (1)
Syracuse University (1)
Texas Christian University (1)
Trinity Christian University (1)
Trinity College Dublin (1)
Tufts University (11)
Tulane University (13)
United States Military Academy at West Point (1)
University of British Columbia (2)
University of California, Berkeley (19)
University of California, Davis (5)
University of California, Los Angeles (16)
University of California, Riverside (1)
University of California, San Diego (4)
University of California, Santa Barbara (2)
University of California, Santa Cruz (10)
University of Chicago (13)
University of Colorado at Boulder (2)
University of Denver (1)
University of Illinois (2)

University of Massachusetts (1)
University of Miami (2)
University of Michigan (8)
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (1)
University of Notre Dame (2)
University of Oregon (4)
University of Pennsylvania (9)
University of Puget Sound (1)
University of Richmond (2)
University of Rochester (2)
University of Southern California (11)
University of St. Andrews (1)
University of Toronto (1)
University of Utah (1)
University of Victoria (4)
University of Virginia (5)
University of Washington (6)
University of Wisconsin, Madison (2)
Vanderbilt University (2)
Vassar College (5)
Villanova (1)
Wake Forest University (3)
Washington University in St. Louis (10)
Wellesley College (4)
Wesleyan University (8)
Whitman College (2)
Willamette University (1)
Williams College (5)
Yale University (2)