Sequoyah School is an independent, co-educational, non-sectarian K-12 day school in Pasadena, CA. Founded in 1958 as a K-8 school, Sequoyah opened its neighboring high school campus in 2016 and graduated its inaugural Senior class in 2019.

Distinctive Programs

Social Innovation Program (SIP)
Students are required to complete a four-year Social Innovation Program (SIP) focused on addressing complex social and environmental challenges. Designed to cultivate the foundational skills of social entrepreneurship, students apply a systems approach to problem solving, ethical decision making, and ethnographic and statistical research. Throughout their SIP experience, students maintain professional relationships with stakeholders while reflecting on their unique positions to affect change.

Talking Leaves
Named after a Cherokee expression for written language, Talking Leaves honors our namesake, Sequoyah. Twice a year, every student presents a culminating essay and public talk, modeled after a thesis defense, to their peers, a faculty committee, parents, and other invited guests. Students demonstrate ownership of their learning by deeply exploring and analyzing a chosen topic based on a meaningful intellectual experience and reflecting on its role in their growth as scholars. The standard for passing is demanding – students must pass 6 of 8 Talking Leaves rounds in order to graduate. A mark of Exemplary distinction is given to students who display sophistication, persuasion, depth of analysis, mastery and conviction of ideas in their Talking Leaves.

Field Studies
Expanding the traditional classroom to encompass the surrounding community and natural world, the Field Studies program brings curriculum to life. Participation in these field studies experiences is a graduation requirement:

- **9th Grade** - Sierra Nevada Mountains or Sequoia National Forest (4 days); Zion National Park, Kodachrome Basin State Park, and Escalante National Monument (9 days)
- **10th Grade** - Kings Canyon National Park (4 days); Cedral, Costa Rica (10 days)
- **11th Grade** - Joshua Tree National Park (4 days)
- **12th Grade** - Black Canyon of the Colorado (4 days); Big Sur (8 days) or student-led leadership trip (5 days)

STEM Institute
Sequoyah’s STEM Institute allows students to become members of a larger scientific community and participate in authentic research experiences and field work. Throughout the year, students visit research labs and talk to experts to develop research projects. Research initiatives have included the study of black holes with Caltech and JPL scientists and a collaborative project with the stem cell research laboratory at USC. Institute members recently developed an affinity group for girls in STEM, which extends beyond the Institute and engages other members of the scientific and research community.
Evaluation & Grading Policy
Sequoyah’s high school program uses a competency-based assessment system to help students focus on the specific Learning Objectives (LOs) for each course. Throughout a course, students receive feedback on each LO and receive an overall grade at the end of the course. For more information about our approach to assessment, please see our Curriculum Guide.

Grade Point Average (GPA) Scale
Transcripts list GPAs, along with letter grades per course, in accordance with this scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.0 – 3.7</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6 – 3.3</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 – 3.1</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 – 2.7</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 – 2.3</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 – 2.1</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 – 1.7</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 – 1.3</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 – 1.1</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 – 0</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test Scores – Class of 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT Scores</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Highest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT Scores</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>1140</td>
<td>1520</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Merit Recognition
In the Class of 2020, two students have received a Letter of Commendation.

Graduation Requirements
Students earn a minimum of 24 course credits to graduate, with 6 credits in elective courses, plus credits in SIP, Field Studies and Talking Leaves:

- 3 years of history
- 4 years of English
- 3 years of mathematics
- 3 years of laboratory science
- 3 years of world language
- 1 year of art
- 7 Field Studies trips
- 4 years of the Social Innovation Program

- 4 seasons (2 years) of PE
- 6 credits of other electives (including Z Block mini-courses)
- 6 successfully completed Talking Leaves presentations – must include June of 12th grade

GPA & Grade Distribution
GPA Distribution – Class of 2020: 42 Seniors
We do not rank our students.

Grade Distribution by Department & Courses (%) - Class of 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Grade:</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Languages</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual/Performing Arts</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
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Grade Distribution by Department & Courses (%) - Class of 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Grade:</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
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<tr>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</table>

Grades 9-12

<table>
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<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>Science</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Languages</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual/Performing Arts</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Offerings

HUMANITIES
   Humanities 1
   Humanities 2

ENGLISH
   Brave New World*
   Contemporary US Drama
   Ekphrastic: Poetry and the Other Arts*
   Monsters & Madness**
   Nature & Transcendence
   The Color Curtain: Race in American Literature*
   Shakespeare
   SAS Allegory & The Novella*
   SAS Making Ends Meet: Women and Capitalism**
   SAS The Undiscovered Country*
   SAS The Emerging Voice: Creative Writing Workshop**

MATHEMATICS
   Foundations 1 (Algebra 1)
   Foundations 2 (Geometry)
   Foundations 3 (Algebra 2)
   Precalculus
   Statistics
   SAS Calculus
   SAS Higher Mathematics

HISTORY
   American History
   Middle East A & B*
   SAS American History
   SAS Autocracy & Totalitarianism**

WORLD LANGUAGES
   Spanish 1
   Spanish 2
   Spanish 3
   Spanish 4
   SAS Spanish 4

SCIENCE
   Conceptual Physics
   Chemistry
   Biology
   Biology of Disease*
   Brain & Cognitive Sciences
   Grand Challenges of Ecology*
   SAS Chemistry
   SAS Biology
   SAS Physics
   SAS Biology of Disease*
   SAS Grand Challenges of Ecology**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
   Each student must participate in at least 4 seasons on a sports team or in a P.E. activity.

VISUAL ARTS
   Animation & Film**
   Graphic Novel
   Drawing 1
   Drawing**
   Illustration*
   Installation
   Painting**
   Printmaking*
   Sculpture**
   Visual Communication*
   Studio Art
   SAS Visual Arts Seminar**

PERFORMING ARTS
   Music
   Choir
   Contemporary Issues in Music**
   Gryphon Ensemble**
   Guitar
   Performance*
   SAS Music Production**

Theater
   Acting**
   Art of Storytelling**
   Improvisation*
   Fall Show
   Spring Show
   SAS Playwriting, Acting & Directing**
   SAS Shakespeare**

Honors Program

Sequoyah Advanced Studies (SAS)
SAS courses comprise our honors curriculum available to students in grades 11 and 12. Students receive faculty recommendations in order to pursue these more rigorous, sophisticated, and challenging courses.

- SAS Allegory & The Novella
- SAS Making Ends Meet: Women and Capitalism
- SAS The Undiscovered Country
- SAS Calculus
- SAS Higher Mathematics
- SAS American History
- SAS Autocracy & Totalitarianism
- SAS Spanish 4 & 5
- SAS Chemistry
- SAS Biology
- SAS Physics
- SAS Biology of Disease
- SAS Grand Challenges of Ecology
- SAS Visual Arts Seminar
- SAS Playwriting, Acting & Directing
- SAS The Emerging Voice

Z-BLOCK ELECTIVES
Focused 45-minute mini-courses that allow students and faculty opportunities to explore a wide range of interests. New courses are offered frequently.

- Animation
- Astrobiology
- Astronomy
- Chicano Art + Culture
- Computer Architecture
- Design Thinking
- Filmmaking
- Grand Challenges of STEM
- Gryphon Media Company
- Introduction to Brain Science
- Introduction to Jazz
- Java Script Animation
- Jazz Combo
- Lab Methods in Science
- Las Matematicas
- Machine Learning
- Mathematicians
- Music Technology
- Mythology
- Personal Finance
- Photography
- Pythagorean Philosophy
- Python Programming
- Robotics
- Science of Sci-Fi
- Songwriting

* 1/3 credit
** 2/3 credit
† 1/2 credit

Modular Schedule & Course Load

Sequoyah's modular schedule (Mods) provides ample time for a rich and focused learning experience. Designed to support student engagement and individual attention, Mods allow for more detailed and frequent feedback with increased options for exploring and advancing individual interests and courses.

There are 7 modules (Mods) per school year, approximately 5 weeks each. Mod 7 is dedicated to camping trips, international expeditions, social innovation projects, and internships. The year also includes a 5-day Exhibition Week at mid-year and at year’s end. The following chart represents a typical course load, with 3 required courses per day, plus 1 elective mini-course, during each Mod.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9th Grade</th>
<th>10th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6 CURRICULAR COURSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>5-6 CURRICULAR COURSES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations Mathematics (1, 2 or 3)</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conceptual Physics</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities 1 (English &amp; History)</td>
<td>Humanities 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish (1, 2 or 3)</td>
<td>Spanish (2, 3 or 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual or Performing Arts electives (3 blocks)</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice</td>
<td>Advisory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Innovation Program (SIP)</td>
<td>SIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport or PE option</td>
<td>Sport or PE option</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11th Grade</th>
<th>12th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>5-6 CURRICULAR COURSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>4-6 CURRICULAR COURSES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>English elective or SAS English 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bio or SAS Bio</td>
<td>Electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English elective</td>
<td>Advisory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History elective (11th or 12th grade)</td>
<td>SIP Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish (unless level 3 completed)</td>
<td>Sport or PE option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIP Impact Project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport or PE option</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sequoyah Sports

**FALL**
- Volleyball (Girls)
- Cross Country (Co-ed)
- Soccer (Co-ed)

**WINTER**
- Basketball (Girls)
- Basketball (Boys)
- Squash (Co-ed)
- West African Dance (Co-ed)

**SPRING**
- Archery (Co-ed)
- Mountain Biking (Co-ed)
- Volleyball (Boys)
- Swimming & Diving (Co-ed)
- Tennis (Co-ed)
Discipline Reporting Policy

If a college or university asks Sequoyah School about disciplinary action for a student, it is the school's obligation to respond to the question. Consistent with the school's reporting policy, major academic and behavioral transgressions will be shared as part of the student’s application. Students should also self-report and authorize Sequoyah School to provide information about disciplinary actions, including probation, suspension, or expulsion, as part of their application to a college or university.

Memberships / Associations

National Association of Independent Schools
California Association of Independent Schools
Ashoka Changemaker School
Mastery Transcript Consortium
National Capstone Consortium
Equity Dashboard Consortium
Independent Curriculum Group (ICG)
Progressive Education Network (PEN)
EdLeader21
National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
Western Association for College Admission Counseling
Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools

Global Online Academy

The Global Online Academy (GOA) imagines a future where all students acquire and practice modern learning skills to be global citizens. As a member school, Sequoyah joins over 85 independent schools from around the world in preparing students for a global future by providing new, modern ways for students to learn and teachers to teach. Through meaningful and rigorous online courses, students at Sequoyah connect in real time with students from different geographic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds and perspectives. All GOA courses are taken for credit and taught by faculty at member schools.

Class of 2019 List of Acceptances

Bard College
Bennington College
Brown University
CSU East Bay
CSU Maritime Academy
CSU Northridge
Cinema Makeup School
Clark Atlanta University
Cornell University
Creighton University
Curry College
Eastern Oregon University
Emerson College
Goucher College
Grinnell College
Humboldt State University
Loyola Marymount University
Marist College
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Pace University
Pasadena City College
Santa Clara University
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
The New School
UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC San Diego
UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz
UC Los Angeles
University of Chicago
University of Pennsylvania
University of Puget Sound
USC
University of Utah - Honors College
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Washington University in St. Louis
Wesleyan University
Xavier University Louisiana

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