

PROFILE FOR COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES 2021-2022

INTRODUCTION TO CSW

A leader among America's progressive independent schools, The Cambridge School of Weston (CSW) has been at the forefront of educational innovation since 1886. At CSW, creative, motivated students embrace challenging work and address complex questions — with curiosity and courage. Inspired by the diverse perspectives and high expectations of our justice-minded community, they find and develop what is extraordinary in themselves and in the world around them.

Our pedagogy is built upon the student-centered philosophy of John Dewey. In his eyes — and ours — the purpose of education goes beyond the acquisition of content and skills to the realization of one's full potential and the ability to use those skills for the greater good. With teachers as guides, students take ownership of their learning and their lives, preparing them to become informed, engaged, and effective participants in a democratic society.

Our courses incorporate primary resources and multiple perspectives and emphasize our commitment to human rights and social justice. Creativity is intrinsically infused into every corner of our curriculum and teachers challenge students to push beyond perceived limitations and to make all of their work personally meaningful. All courses are highly interdisciplinary, teaching students to consider important issues through multiple lenses and perspectives, making connections and solving problems in new and creative ways.

CSW's approach to college counseling and the college search process reflects the school's progressive, student-centered mission. We value fit for the student, mindfulness, and quality of educational experience over rankings, perceived prestige, and raw selectivity.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

CSW has returned to its normal academic program for the 2021-22 school year, with students attending classes in-person and adhering to our pre-pandemic schedule, grading structure, and academic requirements. In their junior year (2020-21), members of the Class of 2022 operated on a modified schedule with a hybrid learning structure in which some students engaged in person and others attended classes remotely. The final third of the sophomore year (Mods 5-6, 2020) was completely virtual for all students. Students were graded on a pass/fail basis during this period. Although CSW did not participate in interscholastic sports in the spring of 2020 or any season during the 2020-21 school year, the school continued to offer modified sports programs and D Block courses.

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THE MOD SYSTEM

The Mod System has been a cornerstone of our academic approach since 1973. Offering an innovative structure for our academic schedule, the Mod System allows for both focus and breadth in a responsive and inclusive curriculum. Here are some important things to know about the Mod System:

- Most courses are taught in a single block, but a few are taught in double, back-to-back blocks.
- Some courses, particularly those in Math and Languages, span consecutive Mods.
- For each block of instruction, students are awarded one credit.**
- Athletics, other school activities, and certain arts courses happen during a fourth block known as **D Block**. D Block generally runs from 2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.
- With roughly 250 courses to choose from, no two student schedules are alike.
- Beginning in the Fall of 2019, all **language courses** above level three are taught as electives. Courses focus on culture and literature in an immersion-based setting, where students develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills.
- The completion of Elementary Functions and Trigonometry equals a full year of Pre-Calculus.
- Course descriptions are available at www.csw.org/courses

Beginning in 2019, the academic school year has consisted of six modules. This was a change from seven modules in prior years. The results of this change are reflected below.

Prior to September 2019 (Grade 9 for the Class of 2022)

- The school year is divided **into seven, five-week** modules.
- Each school day consists of three 75- or 90-minute blocks for a total of **21** blocks per year for academic and arts courses.
- Three to four** blocks of credit generally equal a full-year course in a traditional semester system.

Beginning September 2019 (Grades 10 – 12 for the Class of 2022)

- The school year is divided into **six, six-week** modules.
- Each school day consists of three 75- or 90-minute blocks for a total of **18** blocks per year for academic and arts courses.
- Two to three** blocks of credit generally equal a full-year course in a traditional semester system.



9TH GRADE SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Students from the Class of 2022 adhered to the schedule pictured for their 9th grade year at CSW.

	SEPTEMBER			JANUARY			JUNE	
	Mod 1	Mod 2	Mod 3	Mod 4	Mod 5	Mod 6	Mod 7	
A Block	Food and Culture	Introduction to Sculpture	Spanish 2	Spanish 2	Spanish 2	Spanish 2	Health Education	
ADVISOR BLOCK								
B Block	BioChemistry: Foundations of Life	Writing Foundations Workshop	Writing Foundations Workshop	Facing History & Ourselves	The Odyssey	Digital Animation	Global Dissent	
LUNCH								
C Block	Geometry	Geometry	Geometry	BioConnections: Cells, Organisms, and Society	BioConnections: Cells, Organisms, and Society	World Religions	Dante's Inferno	
OPEN BLOCK								
D Block	Strength & Conditioning	Strength & Conditioning	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball	Spring Musical Production	Spring Musical Production	

■ Arts
 ■ Athletics
 ■ English
 ■ Languages
 ■ History
 ■ Math
 ■ Science
 ■ Other



12TH GRADE SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Students from the Class of 2022 will have adhered to the schedule pictured for their 10th, 11th, and 12th grade years.

	SEPTEMBER			JANUARY			JUNE	
	Mod 1	Mod 2	Mod 3	Mod 4	Mod 5	Mod 6		
A Block	Current Events in the Spanish Speaking World	Current Events in the Spanish Speaking World	Totalitarianism	Modern China	Physics: Harmonics in Motion	Art & Idea		
ADVISOR BLOCK								
B Block	Shakespeare: The Tragedies	Calculus AB	Calculus AB	Calculus AB	Animated Film	Virginia Woolf		
LUNCH								
C Block	Advanced Drawing Studio	All that Jazz	Writing Short Stories	Physics: Electricity	Computer Science 2	US Women's Movements		
OPEN BLOCK								
D Block	Soccer	Soccer	Empty Bowls	Intensive Theatre Production	Tennis	Tennis		
Alternate Wednesdays	PACE: Senior Seminar & Service Learning Practicum							

■ Arts
 ■ Athletics
 ■ English
 ■ Languages
 ■ History
 ■ Math
 ■ Science
 ■ Other

DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND FEATURES

PACE: PROMOTING AWARENESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Through the PACE program, we dedicate time during the mod and the year for experiential classes, events, and activities that will prepare our students to meet the demands of an increasingly complex and diverse world. A four-year co-curriculum, PACE has been designed to ensure that all CSW students develop self-awareness, social consciousness, healthy living habits, life skills, and equity literacy that will serve them into adulthood.

THE CAPSTONE PROJECT

As the 12th grade portion of PACE, seniors are required to complete a substantial project that demonstrates the culmination of their learning at CSW. Students examine a topic of their choosing from different perspectives and present their understanding to others in a number of ways. The project invites students to venture beyond textbooks and classroom curricula to something new and imaginative and compels them to reflect upon their intellectual and personal growth.

SOCIAL JUSTICE REQUIREMENT

Social justice and diversity are essential and integral to the mission and values of CSW. This requirement spans all departments and allows students to explore various perspectives, look at models of social change, and learn how to engage in meaningful and purposeful action. Students must take a minimum of 10 designated equity courses from various disciplines over four years.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CSW is one of few independent schools in America to have students represented on its Board of Trustees with full voting privileges. Two students (one day and one boarding) are elected to this position each year by the school community.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

The flexibility of our Mod System allows for students to spend a mod off campus through one of the school's highly immersive, interdisciplinary courses. Recently offered courses include a marine biology course to Maine's Hurricane Island; a language and science field research trip to the Neotropics of Latin America; and language and cultural immersion courses in France and China/Taiwan. These courses are generally offered every other year. Due to the coronavirus, these trips were suspended for the 2020-21 school year.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Students receive grades and narrative comments six times per year. Grades are as follows:

A (90 – 100) **C** (70 – 79) **F** (Below 60)
B (80 – 89) **D** (60 – 69)

All letter grades are designated with a plus/minus. Our minimum passing grade is a D-, and an A+ grade is not given. **An exception was made in Mods 5 and 6 of Spring 2020, when CSW transitioned to online learning in response to the coronavirus crisis. Students were assessed on a Pass/Fail basis for this period.** We returned to an A – F letter grade structure beginning in September 2020.

CSW emphasizes individual excellence and intellectual and creative risk-taking, and encourages students to develop goals and internal measures of achievement; the school does not award honors or prizes, compute GPA, assign class rank, or conduct tracked, honors, or AP courses.

In fall 2019, CSW shifted its academic schedule from seven to six modules of programming. This reconfiguration has improved upon the delivery of CSW's mission by providing additional teaching time, bringing greater depth and focus to each course, and creating dedicated, consistent space throughout the year for **PACE: Promoting Awareness and Community Engagement.**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2022

ARTS	8 Electives in 3 of 4 disciplines
ENGLISH	Writing Foundations Workshop + Writing About Reading (1 & 2) + Advanced Writing Portfolio + 7 Electives
HISTORY	Food and Culture + Facing History + U.S. Overview + 7 Electives
LANGUAGE	Through Language Level 3 <i>(unless student has a waiver)</i>
MATHEMATICS	Geometry + Algebra 2 + 1 block beyond Algebra 2
SCIENCE	Biology + STEAM + 3 blocks beyond STEAM

FIVE-YEAR STANDARDIZED TESTING INFORMATION (Classes of 2017-2021)

(For students who elected to pursue standardized testing).

SAT:	
Mean EBR:	662
Mean Math:	644
ACT:	
Mean Composite:	28

OUR STUDENTS AND SCHOOL

- 310 students enrolled.
- About 75-100 students in each senior class.
- 29% are U.S. citizens of color.
- 13% are international students.
- 30% receive financial aid.
- 30% are boarding students from 12 states and 7 foreign countries.
- 70% are day students from 54 communities in the Boston metropolitan area.
- Grades 9-12 and PG
- All genders

OUR FACULTY

The Cambridge School of Weston attracts faculty who prize a richly interactive classroom environment. CSW is a community built on meaningful relationships between teachers and students. Our teachers seek ways to instill habits of mind that help students emerge as more confident, discerning, resilient individuals, as well as more skillful, imaginative, self-directed learners.

- 85% hold advanced degrees.
- Student-faculty ratio is 6 to 1.
- Among 50 faculty include published writers, poets and mathematicians; prominent dancers and musicians; exhibiting artists; and scientists active in research.

SCHOOL MEMBERSHIPS

NACAC, NEACAC, The College Board, SSATB, AISNE, NAIS, The Association of Boarding Schools, The School and Student Service for Financial Aid, A Better Chance, ACCIS (Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools).

ACCREDITATION

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

TRANSCRIPTS

Mid-year reports are sent by early February with grades for Modules 1 – 3 (Sept. – Jan.). Final transcripts are mailed upon graduation.

FULL FIVE-YEAR MATRICULATION LIST, Classes of 2017 to 2021

Each year, approximately 99 percent of our graduates attend four-year colleges or universities, including 7-10 percent who attend four-year degree programs in the arts. One percent defer admission to college to pursue other interests.

Aberystwyth University	1	Eckerd College	2	New York University	9	University of Connecticut	1
American University	9	Emerson College	7	Northeastern University	6	University of Delaware	1
American University of Rome	1	Emory University	4	Northwestern University	3	University of Denver	1
Amherst College	2	Endicott College	1	Oberlin College	8	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	2
Bard College	4	George Washington University	7	Oberlin Conservatory of Music	1	University of King's College	1
Bard College Berlin	1	Georgetown University	1	Occidental College	1	University of Maine	1
Barnard College	2	Goucher College	2	Olin College of Engineering	1	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	8
Bates College	2	Grinnell College	3	Pace University	3	University of Massachusetts-Lowell	1
Bennington College	6	Guilford College	1	Pitzer College	2	University of Miami	4
Bentley University	1	Hampshire College	3	Pratt Institute	2	University of Michigan	3
Berklee College of Music	2	Harvard University	1	Purdue University	2	University of New Haven	1
Boston College	5	Haverford College	2	Reed College	4	University of North Carolina, Asheville	1
Boston University	12	Hobart William Smith Colleges	1	Rhode Island School of Design	4	University of Oregon	1
Bowdoin College	1	Hofstra University	2	Rice University	1	University of Puget Sound	2
Brandeis University	3	Howard University	3	Rochester Institute of Technology	2	University of Redlands	2
Brown University	1	Indiana University-Bloomington	1	Roger Williams University	1	University of Richmond	2
Bryn Mawr College	3	Ithaca College	2	Saint Edward's University	1	University of Rochester	6
California College of the Arts	1	Jacobs University Bremen	1	Salem State University	1	University of San Francisco	3
California Institute of the Arts	1	Johns Hopkins University	2	San Diego State University	1	University of Southern California	1
Carleton College	3	Johnson & Wales University	1	Sarah Lawrence College	3	University of St. Andrews	1
Carnegie Mellon University	4	Kent State University	1	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	7	University of Tampa	1
Case Western Reserve University	3	Kenyon College	2	Scripps College	3	University of the Arts	2
Champlain College	6	Lawrence University	1	Skidmore College	13	University of the South	1
Chapman University	1	Le Moyne College	1	Smith College	11	University of Vermont	13
Clark University	8	Lesley University	1	Spelman College	1	University of Virginia	5
Colby College	1	Lewis & Clark College	3	St. Lawrence University	2	University of Wisconsin-Madison	2
College for Creative Studies	1	LIM College	1	Suffolk University	2	Ursinus College	1
College of Charleston	1	Loyola Marymount University	2	SUNY - University at Buffalo	2	US Military Academy - West Point	1
College of William and Mary	1	Macalester College	3	Swarthmore College	1	Vanderbilt University	2
Colorado College	2	Maryland Institute College of Art	1	Syracuse University	7	Vassar College	6
Columbia College Chicago	1	Massachusetts College of Art and Design	4	Temple University	1	Washington University in St. Louis	3
Columbia University	1	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy	1	Temple University Japan	1	Wellesley College	1
Cooper Union	2	Massachusetts Maritime Academy	1	Tufts University	7	Wesleyan University	7
Cornell University	7	McGill University	1	Tulane University	4	Wheaton College	1
CUNY John Jay	1	Middlebury College	1	University College London	1	Whitman College	1
Denison University	1	Monmouth University	1	University of Arizona	1	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	6
Drew University	1	Mount Holyoke College	5	University of British Columbia	1	Yale University	1
Drexel University	1	Muhlenberg College	3	University of California-Berkeley	1		
Duke University	1	New England Conservatory of Music	1	University of Chicago	1		
Eastman School of Music	1	New School	6	University of Colorado Boulder	2		