



Thomas Downey High School

*Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, six years granted 2019-2024
Downey initiated an AVID program in 2003-04 to foster a wider college-going presence on campus.*

School Profile 2019-2020 CEEB Code 052000

Richard Baum: Principal
Nicole Burrows: Associate Principal, Curriculum and Instruction
Sam DeLaRosa: Assistant Principal, Pupil Services
Nancy Moradi: Assistant Principal, Student Supervision
Debbie Garrett: School Registrar (209) 574-1697

Counselors

Guidance Counselors: Michelle Luz, Jana Osgood, Tish Nuno-Traverso, Leah Verderame, Genine Meraz 20%
College Counselor, Christine Hammell serves grades 9-12
Student/Counselor Ratio: 600/1

Campus Visits

Private or Public Colleges and Universities are welcome to visit our campus. Visits and presentations may be arranged by calling or emailing the college counselor.

Community and School

Thomas Downey High School is the second oldest high school in the city of Modesto. Downey opened its doors to students on September 1951 and celebrated its 60th anniversary September of 2011. Its mascot is the Knight. Modesto is in the center of one of the greatest agricultural areas in the nation; the fertile Stanislaus County Valley. Dairy products, nuts, fruits, wine, grapes and poultry are some of the top commodities. The population of Modesto has already doubled in recent years to over 210,000.

A comprehensive, public high school, Downey is located in the heart of Modesto and as had an important place in the local landscape of Modesto over the last 60+ years. Some of our notable graduates include...George Lucas, filmmaker; Joe Rudi, major league baseball player; Tony Graziani, NFL football player; Olympian American Discus Record Holder, Suzy Powell; 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics silver medal winner in water polo, Doug Burke and former US Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman.

The movie American Graffiti, was written and directed by Downey graduate George Lucas. The school that students in the film attend is called "Dewey High" (a reference to Downey) but filmed at Petaluma High School, the architectural twin to Downey High. The Block "D" athletic jackets and school colors in the movie are royal blue and white, identical to Downey's school colors.

Downey is one of seven high schools in the Modesto City Schools system, serving over 14,000 students in grades 9-12. Downey has a current enrollment of over 2000 students and its student body comes from a wide range of backgrounds and neighborhoods. Light industry, farms, businesses, construction and professional offices anchor the residential areas that comprise our attendance area. Downey also has a number of students whose parents commute to the Bay Area while appreciating the quality of life in Modesto. We continue to possess a heterogeneous school population that mirrors the ethnic make-up of our town.

The Downey campus encompasses 94 classrooms, two gymnasiums, an auditorium and a library. It also includes a complete complex of athletic fields, stadium and a swimming pool. In 2007, state of the art synthetic turf was installed in Chuck Hughes Stadium. Full renovation of the Downey swimming pool and modernization of its classroom and other facilities has been completed.

Technology is a major focus at Downey. Teachers are encouraged to infuse technology into the curriculum and use it to strengthen the integrated instruction that occurs across disciplines. Every faculty member has access to computerized resources and has a detachable hybrid computer laptop called a surface pro connected to internet in each classroom. Staff on campus can correspond with each other directly by email. For the last two years, "one to one" computer devices have been provided to every student at Downey so integration of technology can be introduced into the curriculum. Two hardware computer room labs are equipped with computers for use by the business department & ROP class.

Downey is considered a Renaissance school by which student achievement and good attendance is acknowledged through Renaissance recognition programs and activities. Downey has a career and college counseling center on site that is available to students and also offers an after school tutoring program with additional transportation services.

Curriculum

In 2001 Thomas Downey High School was named California Distinguished School and it is the first high school in the district to achieve this coveted recognition. In 2019, Downey was granted a six-year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Downey operates on a seven period (49 minutes) day, with two overlapping lunch periods. Students may opt to enroll in a zero or an eighth period class from limited offerings including choir, jazz band, orchestra, photography, work experience, P.E., school service, drivers' education or leadership. Downey provides a comprehensive curriculum providing classes for students of all abilities and interests including Advanced Placement (AP), Pre-AP and college preparatory (CP) courses. Some of our student population is also served by Math & English support classes and a diverse set of special education programs. Rich vocational education programs articulated with ROP courses and Modesto Junior College prepare students to enter the world of work. Downey initiated an AVID program in 2003-04 to foster a wider college-going presence on campus. AVID is currently offered in multiple sections to include ninth through twelfth graders.

Student Activities

A variety of visual art, performing art, foreign language, industrial technology, agricultural and ROP courses enhance our core academic programs at Downey. Downey also provides an extensive extra-curricular program which involve academic competitions, athletics, community activities, clubs, student government, vocational and performing arts experiences. Such programs offer both students and staff the opportunity to understand and appreciate the full high school experience.

Graduation Requirements

Required Courses	Semester/Credits
English	8/40
Social Science	7/35
Mathematics	6/30
(Must pass Algebra)	
Science	4/20
Visual Performing Arts or Foreign Language	2/10
Physical Education	4/20
Practical Art	1/5
Health	1/5
230 credits required for graduation.	

Grading System and Scheduling

The grading system for all classes is based on a five-step scale: A-Outstanding, B-Above Average, C-Average, D-Below Average, F-Failing. Grades are determined by student achievement relative to the objectives of the designated instructional level and the teacher.

Senior Rank in Decile

Senior Rank is determined by the **cumulative GPA** from **ALL** classes taken in grades 9-11 and does not include additional points for honors courses. Weighted Senior Rank is determined by the **weighted GPA** from **ALL** classes in grades 9-11, including the extra point for honors courses in which the student earned grades of A, B, or C. Beginning 2018-2019 school year, our students are now ranked by decile. Additionally, the top 5% of students are identified on the transcript. Students in special education and placement at alternative education sites are not ranked. CAL Grant GPA on the transcript refers to the college GPA for grades 10 and 11 with no weighting.

SAT/ACT Data

SAT			ACT	
Class of 2019			Class of 2019	
	ERW	Math		
Downey Mean	517	509	Downey Composite	21
CA Mean	534	531	CA Composite	23
National Mean	531	528	National Composite	21

Advanced Placement

11 Advanced Placement Offerings

AP English Language/Composition	AP Statistics
AP English Literature/Composition	AP European History
AP Spanish Language	AP U.S. History
AP Spanish Literature	AP Government
AP Physics	AP Human Geography
AP Studio Art	

Ethnicity

American Indian/Alaska Native	.5%
Asian	1.9%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%
Filipino	.2%
Hispanic or Latino	54.4%
Black or African American	5.1%
White	29.4%
Other	7.5%

College Acceptance Matriculation: Class of 2019

The following information is based on students who have confirmed their intent to enroll as of May 1st. Seventy-eight percent of the class of 2019 intends to pursue post-secondary education at four-year colleges/universities or two-year community colleges and vocational/trade schools. Twenty-seven percent plan to attend four-year universities; fifty-one percent plan to attend two-year colleges and trade schools. Downey graduates from the class of 2019 were accepted to the following campuses:

Adrian's Beauty College	Menlo College
Association Free Lutheran Bible School	Modesto Junior College
Benedict College	Napa Valley College
Brigham Young University, Utah & Idaho	Orange County Community College
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	Oregon State University
California State University Maritime Academy	Ottawa University
California State University, Chico	Paul Mitchell The School
California State University, East Bay	Saint Mary's College of California
California State University, Fresno	San Francisco State University
California State University, Fullerton	San Joaquin Delta College
California State University, Sacramento	San Jose City University
California State University, Stanislaus	San Jose State University
College of Southern Nevada	Santa Barbara City College
Columbia College	Sonoma State University
Emerson College	University of California, Berkeley
Institute of Technology Modesto	University of California, Davis
Irvine Valley College	University of California, Merced
Johnson & Wales University	University of California, Santa Barbara
Linfield College	University of California, Irvine
	University of Nevada, Reno
	University of Oregon

