



SAN LUIS OBISPO

# Classical Academy High School

## School Profile

**SLO Classical Academy High School (SLOCA)** is a classical, four-year, independent private school with 52 students in grades 9-12. Founded to accommodate students promoted from SLOCA Grammar School, SLOCA High School opened its doors in 2009 and matriculated its first graduating class in 2013. SLOCA is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and offers a full suite of A-G Certified Courses.

### General Information

Although young, SLOCA High School has developed a rich, challenging classical program that attracts passionate, committed students from around California's Central Coast. Often referred to as the most rigorous high school program in San Luis Obispo County, SLOCA High School emphasizes historical literacy, writing, research, scientific and mathematical thinking, Socratic seminar-style learning, great books, logic, and rhetoric across grade levels and academic subjects. Students meet with world-class faculty in classes of up to 16 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Tuesdays and Thursdays are reserved for reading, group learning on our open campus, and independent study. This "university model" schedule and our year-long academic courses allow us to meet all admissions requirements for high school course work while giving students a chance to read broadly and think deeply in a supportive learning community. Given our unique classical approach, we do not offer AP courses or Honors Courses. All of our students are held to honors-level expectations, and we use a standard 4.0 GPA point system without grade inflation. Due to small class sizes, we do not rank our students.

### Academics

All academic courses are taught over a full year at the 100 or 200 college levels. History and literature courses make up our core liberal arts program and occur concurrently on a four-year, chronological rotation (Ancient World, Medieval World, The U.S. and the Age of Enlightenment, and The Modern World). Four years of history are required for SLOCA graduates. Laboratory science courses emphasize in-depth, conceptual understanding and include Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Anatomy and Physiology. Math courses include Algebra I and II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, Data Science, and Mathematical thinking. Our mathematics program emphasizes historical context, visualization, and verbalization. Latin and Spanish are offered up to the advanced literature level. All graduates are required to complete a senior project, a year-long independent capstone project and presentation reflective of their academic interests and career aspirations.

**The following electives are available on rotation:** Art I, Art II, and Advanced Art; Current Events; Speech and Debate; Government; The Art, Science, and History of Food; Inner and Outer Nature; Woodworking; Music Appreciation; Fundamentals of Drama; Creative Writing Fiction Workshop; Advanced Creative Writing; Printmaking; and Film Studies. If a course is not offered through our program, students may enroll in courses at Cuesta Community College, Hancock Community College, and/or California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo.

### Faculty

SLOCA faculty in English, History, Science, Mathematics, and Latin all possess either academic Master's degrees or PhDs. Arts faculty in Theatre, Music, Visual Arts, and Creative Writing work in their respective industries at the professional level.

### EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Hanging Lantern Review** is a student-curated literary magazine and writers' workshop.
- CIF Athletics teams include volleyball, basketball, soccer, cross country, and swimming.
- Student Government offers leadership training and participation in campus life.
- Additional clubs include Yearbook, History Day Team, Prom Committee, and Music Club.
- Students compete in Poetry Out Loud and Science Bowl.
- A school internship program provides students with work experience in areas such as library science, marketing, athletics, admissions, recreation, and teaching assistance.

### Highlights

- Accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Non-Sectarian
- A-G Certified
- Classical, Independent, Nonprofit
- Max class sizes of 16
- Rigorous, college level academics
- "University model" schedule (3 days/wk)
- 100% of graduates attend college
- SAT DATA – 50% of full-time graduates in 95th-99th percentile
- ACT DATA – 25% of full-time graduates in 99th percentile
- Awards: 20% of full-time graduates National Merit Scholarship Commended
- Governance: 501(c)(3) under an 8 member Board of Directors
- Web address: [www.sloclassical.org/high-school/](http://www.sloclassical.org/high-school/)
- Contact: Kateri Rein, [krein@sloclassical.org](mailto:krein@sloclassical.org)



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## Reading List

**NOTE: This is a representative sampling of the literature read by SLOCA High School graduates. This book list may change slightly from year to year and includes books read in full. Additional poetry, short stories, philosophy writings, works of theater, and historical documents are regularly included as well.**

### *Ancient World History and Literature*

- *Gilgamesh*
- *Till We Have Faces*, C.S. Lewis
- *Lavinia*, Ursula K. Guin
- *Tales from Ovid*, Ted Hughes
- *The Progymnasmata*
- *The Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides
- *The Iliad*, Homer
- *The Odyssey*, Homer
- *Antigone*, Sophocles
- *Tao Te Ching*, Laozi
- *Meditations of Marcus Aurelius*
- *The Republic*, Plato
- *Poetics*, Aristotle
- *Julius Caesar*, William Shakespeare
- *The Book of Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, Job, I Samuel, Psalms, Proverbs*
- *Gospel of Matthew, Acts, Romans*

### *Medieval World History and Literature*

- *The Once and Future King*, T.H. White
- *Confessions*, Augustine of Hippo
- *The Prose Edda*, Snorri Sturluson
- *The History of the Anglo Saxons*
- *Beowulf*
- *La Morte D'Arthur*
- *St. Thomas Aquinas*, G.K. Chesterton
- *1001 Nights* (Arabian Folktales)
- *The Travels of Marco Polo*
- *Inferno*, Dante Alighieri
- *Utopia*, Thomas More
- *The Prince*, Machiavelli
- *Hamlet*, Shakespeare
- *Macbeth*, Shakespeare
- *The Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer

### *The US and the Age of Enlightenment*

- *The Tempest*, William Shakespeare
- *Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe
- *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens
- *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*
- *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, John Locke
- *Candide*, Voltaire
- *Emma*, Jane Austen
- *The United States Constitution*
- *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville
- *Poems by Emily Dickinson*
- *First We Read, Then We Write*, Emerson
- *Leaves of Grass*, Walt Whitman
- *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau

### *Modern World History and Literature*

- *Les Miserables*, Victor Hugo
- *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley
- *My Antonia*, Willa Cather
- *The Communist Manifesto*, Marx
- *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens
- *Anna Karenina*, Tolstoy
- *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *Cannery Row*, John Steinbeck
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neal Hurston
- *Survival in Auschwitz*, Primo Levi
- *Silence*, Shusaku Endo
- *Hiroshima*, John Hersey
- *Housekeeping*, Marilynne Robinson