



THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SOFIA

Profile: School-Year 2021-2022



STUDENTS: ACS's student population of 917 is 97% Bulgarian (with 12% of students coming from outside Sofia), and 3% international students who represent 10 countries. There are 155 students in the Class of 2022. Admission to ACS for Bulgarians is based on an entrance examination taken in the spring of 7th grade in Bulgarian language, mathematics and analytical skills. Knowledge of English is not required. Students must have at least a 5.00 GPA to register for the entrance exam. In spring of 2021, 181 students out of the 705 who sat the entrance exam were offered admission to the College, an acceptance rate of 26%; 69% of them enrolled. Admitted students then spend a full "prep" year (8th grade) studying English. The 3% international students are admitted on the basis of an entrance exam, English proficiency and a strong academic record. Annual tuition is 7,200 Euros for the Bulgarian Diploma Program (for Bulgarian students) and 18,800 Euros for the international and IB Diploma Programs (for international students). ACS offers full scholarships to five Bulgarian students in each class, renewed annually, as well as tuition reduction for others; for the class of 2026, 87% of financial aid applications were approved. Out of 917 students, 26% currently receive tuition reduction.

STRUCTURE AND CURRICULUM:

All ACS courses are advanced college/university-preparatory, as the pace and depth is necessary in order for them to achieve two diplomas, and 100% go on to college/university. (In addition, classes within a Profile are considered honors level.) All students earn the American High School Diploma. In addition, Bulgarians earn the national Bulgarian Diploma, and international students earn the IB Diploma. ACS has five academic grades: 8th or "prep" grade (emphasizing intensive English training) and 9th-12th grades. All courses are taught in English except Bulgarian language and literature, foreign languages, Bulgarian geography and Bulgarian history. Bulgarian students choose a "profile", an area of concentration, within the Bulgarian Diploma Program (11th and 12th grades), in which students go into more depth. All ACS students follow an English profile and choose one other profile from the following: Humanities, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences (biology and chemistry), Mathematics & Physics, Entrepreneurship, Software & Hardware. All ACS students take extra mathematics every year beyond the requirements of the Bulgarian curriculum.

GRADES AND RANKING-RATING POLICIES:

As a matter of policy, ACS does not rank or rate students. All academic courses receive grades of 2.00-6.00 according to the standards noted in the chart below. A 6.00 is the highest possible GPA. All academic courses are taught at an advanced college/university-preparatory, honors level and students are required to maintain a 4.50 average or above. Students who earn a semester GPA of 5.50-5.89 are placed on the Honor Roll. Students with a GPA of 5.90-6.00 are placed on the President's List. In the event of a tie for highest GPA, the student with the most electives/credits is named Class Valedictorian at the end of the 12th grade year.



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COURSES REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED FOR THE ACS BULGARIAN AND AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

CURRICULUM & Periods per Week	8th grade (Prep):	9th grade:	10th grade:	11th grade:	12th grade:
English	20	6	5	5.5	6
Bulgarian	4	3	3	3	5
Mathematics	3	4	4	4	5
Biology		2	2	2	
Chemistry		2	2	2	
Physics		2.5	2	2	1
Foreign Language		3	3	2	3
History		2	2	2	2
Geography		2	1.5	1.5	1
Philosophy		1.5	1.5	1.5	2
Physical Science	1				
Computers	1	2	2	1.5	2
Physical Education	3	3	3	3	3
Art	1	1			
Music	1	1			
Electives		2	4	4	4
Student Selected Profile			2	2	3
Total Hours Per Week:	34	37	37	36	37

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) PROGRAM: At ACS, the IB program is available to only international students. In the class of 2021, all four international seniors earned the full IB diploma with an average score of 36, the highest score being 41 and the lowest 32.

GRADING SYSTEM		SAT Class of 2022 Scores from Aug. 2020 - July 2021	Average # of students testing	Mean Score
6 (A)	Excellent (91.5-100%)	Total	80	1323
5 (B)	Very Good (80.5-91.4%)	ERW (Evidence-based Reading & Writing)	80	644
4 (C)	Satisfactory (70.5-80.4%)	Mathematics	80	679
3 (D)	Needs Improvement (59.5-70.4%)			
2 (F)	Unsatisfactory (0-59.4%)			
Class of 2022	MEAN GPA	SAT Class of 2022 Scores from Aug. 2021 - Oct. 2021	Average # of students testing	Mean Score
Prep Year	5.44	Total	40	1370
9th Grade	5.60	ERW (Evidence-based Reading & Writing)	40	659
10th Grade	5.67	Mathematics	40	711
11th Grade	5.63			



AP Exams (9th-12th graders) 2021 Exams with 9 or more students	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Total Exams
Biology	12	4	1	22
Calculus AB	2	2	1	13
Calculus BC	5	4	7	26
Chemistry	4	0	1	12
Computer Science A	3	3	5	12
Macroeconomics	3	5	4	20
Microeconomics	3	13	5	26
Physics 1	5	1	2	18
Physics C: Mechanics	2	4	3	9
Psychology	1	4	1	17

CREATIVITY-ACTION-SERVICE (CAS) PROGRAM and SENIOR INDEPENDENT HONORS PROJECTS (SIHP):

Following the IB CAS model, all ACS students are required to complete 75 hours of extracurricular involvement each year within the areas of creativity (planning and organization of projects), action (active involvement), and service-related activities. As seniors, students may choose to complete CAS and/or an SIHP (Senior Independent Honors Project) which requires a professional and a teacher sponsor, a research essay, and a presentation of the project's outcomes. Students who elect to complete a SIHP do work above and beyond ACS's graduation requirements.



HISTORY: The American College of Sofia (ACS) is one of the oldest American educational institutions outside the United States, tracing its roots to a boys' school founded in 1860 at Plovdiv and a girls' school founded in 1863 at Stara Zagora. The school was shut down in 1942 by the Bulgarian government and reopened its doors to a preparatory class of 100 students in September 1992. ACS is among the top private college preparatory schools in the Balkans. Admission is highly selective. Integrating the values and best practices of American pedagogy with the rich educational traditions of Europe, we seek to develop critical thinking, lifelong intellectual curiosity, leadership, and collaboration among multi-talented students of various social, cultural, economic, and geographic backgrounds. ACS graduates are accepted into some of the most prestigious universities in the U.S. and Europe and are valued critical thinkers and problem solvers able to set clear goals and achieve them. They are engaged in social issues and are able to compete with outstanding students world-wide. We provide a rigorous university preparatory education to motivated young people and are fully accredited by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, as well as the International Baccalaureate. Currently the IB Diploma Program is only available to non-Bulgarian international students. The majority of students receive both a Bulgarian diploma and an American diploma. The ACS curriculum is rigorous and all courses are taught in English at an advanced college/university preparatory, honors level.

ACCREDITATION: ACS is an approved secondary school under the auspices of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education, and all graduates receive Bulgarian diplomas, whether or not they have met ACS's criteria for the American diploma. ACS is fully accredited with the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the International Baccalaureate.



COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCE: On average, 98% of ACS seniors apply to non-Bulgarian colleges and universities each year. ACS students from the classes of 2020 and 2021 were accepted at the following colleges and universities, oftentimes having been awarded significant scholarship or financial aid from US institutions:

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN

Aberdeen U.
Abertay U.
Anglia Ruskin U.
Arts U. Bournemouth
Aston U.
Bath U.
Bath Spa U.
Bedfordshire U.
Birmingham U.
Birmingham City U.
Bournemouth U.
Brighton U.
Bristol U.
Bristol, U. of the West of England
Brunel U. London
Buckingham U.
Buckinghamshire New U.
Cambridge U.
Cardiff Met. U.
Cardiff U.
Central Lancashire U.
City, U. of London
Coventry U.
Dundee U.
Durham U.
Dyson Inst. of Engin. & Tech.
East Anglia U.
Edinburgh U.
Edinburgh Napier U.
Essex U.
Exeter U.
Falmouth U.
Glasgow U.
Glasgow Caled. U.
Glasgow Schl. of Art
Goldsmiths, U. of London
Greenwich U.
Harper Adams U.
Hertfordshire U.
Huddersfield U.
Keele U.
Kent U.
King's College London
Kingston U.
Lancaster U.
Leeds U.
Leeds Arts U.
Leeds Beckett U.
Leicester U.
Lincoln U.
Liverpool U.
Liverpool Hope U.
London Met. U.
LSE (London Schl. of Econ. & Pol. Sci.)
London Sth. Bank U.
Loughborough U.
Manchester U.
Manchester Met. U.
Middlesex U.
Newcastle U.
Northumbria U.
Nottingham U.
Nottingham Trent U.
Queen Mary U. of London
Reading U.
Roehampton U.
Royal Central Schl. of Speech & Drama

Royal Holloway, U. of London
Salford U.
Sheffield U.
Solent U.
Southampton U.
SRUC (Scotland's Rural College)
St Andrews U.
St Mary's U. , Twickenham
Stirling U.
Strathclyde U.
Surrey U.
Sussex U.
Swansea U.
U. for Creative Arts
U. of the Arts, London
U. of the West of Scotland
UCL (University College London)
Warwick U.
West London U.
Westminster U.
U. York

THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam U.
Amsterdam U. College
Amsterdam U. Appl. Sci.
Avans U. Appl. Sci.
Delft Tech.
U. Eindhoven Tech. U.
Erasmus U.
Erasmus U. College
Fontys U. Appl. Sci.
Groningen U.
Hanze U. Appl. Sci.
HZ U. Appl. Sci.
Leiden U.
Leiden U. College, the Hague
Leiden U. Appl. Sci.
Maastricht U.
Radboud U.
Rotterdam U. Appl. Sci.
Saxion U. Appl. Sci.
The Hague U. Appl. Sci.
Tilburg U.
Twente U.
Utrecht U.
Utrecht U. College
Utrecht U. Appl. Sci.
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Wageningen U.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

U. Akron
Albany College
Averett U.
Baylor U.
Bentley U.
Binghamton U.
Boston U.
Brandeis U.
Brown U.
Bryant U.
Bucknell U.
U. California: Berkeley
Davis
Irvine

Los Angeles
Merced
Riverside
San Diego
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz
Calif. State U. LA
Carnegie Mellon U.
Case Western Res. U.
Chapman U.
Chicago State U.
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia U.
Connecticut College
Cornell U.
Dartmouth College
Dickinson College
Drake U.
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical U.
Evansville U.
Fordham U.
Franklin and Marshall College
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Hamilton College
Hawaii U. At Manoa
Hofstra U.
U. Illinois at Urbana - Champaign
Illinois Inst. of Tech.
Illinois State U.
Indiana U. Bloomington
Loyola U. Chicago
MCPHS (Mass. Coll. of Pharmacy & Health Sciences)
Mercyhurst U.
U. Miami
Middlebury MCPHS
Minerva Schools
NY Film Academy
NY Inst. of Tech.
NYU (New York U.)
Northeastern U.
Oberlin College
Ohio Wesleyan U.
U. Pennsylvania
U. Pittsburgh
Pomona College
Pratt Institute
Princeton U.
Providence College
Purdue U.
Quinnipiac U.
Rensselaer Polytech. Institute
Rhode Island U.
Rocky Mtn. College
Rogers State U.
Salve Regina U.
U. of San Diego
San Diego State U.
U. of San Francisco
SCAD (Savannah C. of Art & Design)
Simmons U.
USC (U. Southern California)

Southern New Hampshire U.
St Thomas U.
St. John's College
Stevens Inst. of Tech.
Temple U.
The New School
Trinity College
Villanova U.
Virginia Polytech. I.
Wellesley College
Yale U.

USA ABROAD

Am. Coll. of Greece
AU Bulgaria
AU Cairo
AU Rome
AU Paris
Berlin Intl. U. Appl. Sci.
Duke Kunshan U.
John Cabot U.
NYU Shanghai
Webster U. Vienna
Yale-NUS

CANADA

U. British Columbia
Calgary U.
McGill U.
McMaster U.
Queen's U.
U. Saskatchewan
U. Toronto
Western U.
York U.

EUROPE

Austria:
Modul U.
Sigmund Freud U. Vienna
Vienna U. of Econ. & Business
Belgium:
Katholieke U. Leuven
Bulgaria:
Sofia U.
Architecture, Civil Engineering & Geodesy U.
Medical U. Sofia
New Bulgarian U.
Technical U. Sofia
Cyprus:
Nicosia U.
Czech Republic:
Czech Technical U. In Prague
Finland:
Aalto U.
France:
Sciences Po (Inst. of Political Studies)
EDHEC Business School
ESMOD France (Fashion School)
IFA Paris (Fashion School)
Paris College of Art
Germany:
Bard College Berlin
Frankfurt School of Finance & Mgmt.
Jacobs U.

Italy:

Bocconi U.
U. Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Humanitas U.
IULM Lang. & Com. U.
John Cabot U.
LUISS (Lib. U. Intl.)
NABA (Art. Acad.)
Polimoda Fashion S.
Monaco:
Intl. U. Monaco
Spain:
ie university
Ramon Llull U.
Saint Louis U. - Madrid
Toulouse Business School
Barcelona Universitat Intl. de Catalunya
Switzerland:
Geneva U.
Zurich Federal Inst. of Tech.

AUSTRALIA

Griffith U.
Monash U.
U. Queensland
ANU (Aust.Natl. U.)

ASIA

Hong Kong Polytech. U.
HKUST (Hong Kong U. of Sci. & Tech.)

