



Blanco River Academy Hybrid High School Profile

2025-2026 Blanco River Academy

CB School Code: 196286

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Community

Established in 2015, Blanco River Academy (BRAC) is an independent, 501(c)3 environmental stewardship school nestled in the heart of Wimberley, Texas - a small town (pop. 2,889) centrally located in the Texas Hill Country and adjacent to the beloved Blue Hole Park. BRAC offers a unique learning experience surrounded by the natural beauty of the Cypress Creek and Blanco River. BRAC is comprised of Upper Elementary (3-5), Middle School (6-8), and High School (9-12).

Program Overview

Blanco River Academy Hybrid High School is a full-time, college-preparatory program (Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM–3:30 PM) designed to blend the flexibility of online learning with the structure and community of in-person instruction. Students complete most of their coursework online while also participating in in-person classes, collaborative projects, and experiential learning opportunities.

Hybrid Learning Model

- Online Coursework: Primarily through Acellus Academy, with additional options via University of Texas High School Online and Austin Community College (including dual credit).*
- In-Person Classes: English, College Readiness, and Environmental Research courses taught by in-person faculty.
- Rigor: Acellus Academy offers 17 AP level courses (12 of them core curriculum) and additional classes at the Honors level. Additional courses may be taken through Austin Community College, including dual credit courses.
- “Start-Up” Environment: Student course progress is represented by a SCRUM board to visually track progress; students begin the day with daily “stand-up” meeting during which students reflect on prior work, set daily goals, and address challenges; students end the week with “retrospective” meetings, reflecting on the overall classroom experience and create action items for needed changes.
- Executive Functioning: Students collaborate with the high school coordinator to set their own academic and personal goals for the semester. Taking ownership of their own goals allows students to learn how to best manage their own time and workflow.

Academic Enrichment

- Weekly Presentations: Students present their learning to peers, building deeper content knowledge, public speaking, and presentation skills.
- Collaborative Learning: Students enrolled in the same courses have opportunities to support each other through discussion and shared problem-solving.
- College (Future) Readiness Support: In addition to college readiness class, a professional college readiness counselor meets with students at least once per semester to provide guidance on postsecondary planning.

- College-bound students are encouraged to begin taking PSAT in sophomore year; Students are encouraged to begin taking SAT late in junior year; Students are encouraged to sit for AP exams at nearby testing sites where applicable.
- Environmental Research: Involves student learning centered around watersheds, waterway journeys to the sea, healthy/unhealthy riparian zones. Students receive training regarding Watershed Stewardship, Riparian Zone Evaluation, and Water Quality Monitoring, among others, with local organizations such as Texas Agricultural Extension Agency, Texas Stream Team, and San Marcos River Foundation.

Experiential & Wraparound Learning

- Environmental Studies Project: Students engage in multi-year field research, including kayak trips to collect water and soil samples, monitoring and video documenting the health of the local Cypress Creek Watershed on its journey to the Gulf of Mexico, connecting classroom learning with hands-on science.
- Internship Opportunities: For 11th and 12th graders, small practicums are arranged to provide career exploration/professional exposure, real-world experience, and skill development.
- College Readiness: Students visit college campus(es) to see campus life firsthand, gain inspiration and insight, and begin to get a sense of what they will look for in a college.
- Other: Multiple off-campus field trips to places like the Canyon River Gorge, Texas Parks and Wildlife Fish Hatchery, San Marcos Aquatic Resources Center, Meadows Center for the Environment and Water, and NASA Johnson Space Center. Annual class trip usually centered around marine science.

Graduation Pathway

Students select courses in alignment with Texas state graduation requirements (TEA requires 24-26 credits to graduate)**, guided by faculty and counselors. The program emphasizes academic mastery, critical thinking, collaboration, and real-world application to prepare students for both college and life beyond the classroom.

BRAC Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Standard GPA	Honors GPA	AP/DC GPA
A+	97-100	4.0	4.5	5.0
A	93-96	4.0	4.5	5.0
A-	90-92	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	87-89	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	83-86	3.0	3.5	4.0
B-	80-82	2.7	3.2	3.7
C+	77-79	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	73-76	2.0	2.5	3.0
C-	70-72	1.7	2.2	2.7
D+	67-69	1.3	1.8	2.3
D	65-66	1.0	1.5	2.0
F	Below 65	0.0	0.0	0.0

GPA is weighted according to above scale. Only Core Content courses (Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts). BRAC does not rank students.

* Student transcripts are disseminated through the Blanco River Academy (BRAC), reflecting grades/credits from all curriculum entities (Acellus Academy, UT High School online, Austin Community College, BRAC, etc.). BRAC does not provide a class rank. Supporting documentation from Acellus Academy, UT, and ACC is included for verification.

** BRAC students complete a 26 credit graduation plan: Math (4), English (4), Science (4), Social Studies (4), Language Other than English credits (2), Fine Arts (1), PE credit (1), Health (.5-1), Speech/Public Speaking (.5), Electives (5 – 5.5). College-bound students are urged to take AP/Honors courses where applicable.