St. Cecilia Academy was founded in 1860 by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation and is the oldest private high school in Nashville. The all-girls, college-preparatory Catholic school provides a rigorous academic program in a faith-filled environment. SCA is located on 83 acres in the heart of west Nashville alongside Aquinas College. The school has been recognized seven times by the Acton Institute as one of the Top 50 Catholic high schools in the nation and most recently as a School of Excellence by the Cardinal Newman Society.

St. Cecilia Academy uses as its guiding principle the infinite value and dignity of each person. That difference creates a distinctive school which:

- Provides a teaching approach that is rooted in faith and rich in excellence.
- Teaches young women to seek truth with a passion, a path that leads to thinking critically and ethically.
- Runs an athletic program that models an integrity of being.
- Nurtures the feminine genius by encouraging young women to reach their potential as scholars and leaders.
- Provides a fine arts program that seeks to develop a love of beauty.
- Fosters the cultivation of joy as girls create lifelong friendships.

**ACCREDITATION**

St. Cecilia Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and holds memberships in The College Board, Independent Schools of the Nashville Area, National Catholic Education Association, Tennessee Association of Independent Schools and the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association. St. Cecilia is also a member of the National Association of College Admission Counseling.

**ADMISSION**

Acceptance is based on a combination of previous school performance, entrance examination scores, interview, and personal characteristics and qualities of the applicant.

**CREDITS FOR GRADUATION**

- 4 credits of religion
- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of math
- 3 credits of science
- 3 credits of social science
- 3 credits of world language
- 1 credit of fine arts (2 credits beginning with Class of 2018)
- 1 credit of physical education/wellness
- 0.5 credit of computer technology
- 28 credits required for graduation*
  *remaining credits to be satisfied with electives

**2014-15 ENROLLMENT**

- Class of 2015: 61
- Class of 2016: 56
- Class of 2017: 73
- Class of 2018: 61
- Total Students: 251

St. Cecilia Academy is proud of the diversity of its students, both socioeconomically and culturally. Approximately 45 percent of the student body receives need-based financial aid. U.S. ethnic minorities comprise 21% of the school population, including 12% Black/African-American. Traditionally 100 percent of our graduates enroll in four-year colleges or universities immediately after high school.

**FACULTY**

Sixty-five percent of the faculty have earned an advanced degree; 17 percent have earned a doctoral degree.

**ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

Students are required to carry a minimum of 7 courses within an 8-course schedule. Block scheduling is not used. Average class size is 16; student to teacher ratio is 8:1.

All academic classes are considered rigorous college-preparatory courses. SCA also offers Advanced Placement and honors classes, as well as classes through approved online programs including the Online School for Girls. AP Biology students can receive 8 college credits through dual-enrollment with Aquinas College.
CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY SERVICE
Students are required to volunteer 60 hours of service, 20 hours each year beginning in the sophomore year. Service work ranges from tutoring children and working at homeless shelters to field work on various service trips.

FINE ARTS
St. Cecilia is the patron saint of the arts, and SCA takes pride in its extensive offerings. All freshmen are required to take a full-year introductory survey course, Visual and Performing Arts (VAP), which includes dance, theater, speech and visual arts. Advanced classes in speech and theater, art including digital and 35mm photography, dance and music performance are all available for interested students. The highly regarded music program includes both beginning and advanced chorus and chamber ensemble, with private music lessons available in piano, clarinet, violin, voice and guitar. SCA’s very competitive drama and forensics program consistently brings home honors in regional, state and national competitions.

ATHLETICS
Approximately 60 percent of the student body participates in at least one sport. Sports include rowing, volleyball, cross-country, soccer, basketball, swimming, track & field, softball, golf, lacrosse, bowling and tennis.

WINTER INTERIM
Each January, all SCA students participate in an Interim program offering non-traditional learning through travel, internships or special on-campus classes. Students who remain on campus can explore a variety of subjects — recent choices have included creative writing, opera, public speaking and Peruvian cooking. Those who intern shadow community leaders and professionals with the goal of experiencing various career options. In recent years, students also have had the opportunity to intern on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Travel destinations have included Great Britain, Ireland, Paris, Italy and Costa Rica.

SCA COURSE OFFERINGS
(Honors and AP courses are marked in bold-face type; classes not available during the 2014-15 school year are italicized.)

English
English 9
English Language & Composition
English Literature & Composition
English 10
American Literature
American Literature Honors
English 11
English Rhetoric & Composition
AP English Language & Composition
English 12
British Literature
AP English Literature & Composition
Journalism 1 & 2 (semester classes)
Yearbook 1 & 2

Mathematics
Algebra 1
Algebra 1 Honors
Geometry
Geometry Honors
Algebra 2
Algebra 2 Honors
College Algebra (semester class)
Trigonometry (semester class)
Pre-Calculus
Pre-Calculus Honors
Introduction to Calculus (semester class)
Statistics (semester class)
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Statistics (online)
Multivariable Calculus (online)
Differential Equations (online)

World Languages
French 1, 2, 3
French Pre-AP (Honors-level course)
French Culture & Conversation
AP French Language
Spanish 1, 2, 3
Spanish Pre-AP (Honors-level course)
Spanish Culture & Conversation
AP Spanish Language
Latin 1, 2, 3, 4

Religion
Religion 9 (Christ & Scripture)
Religion 10 (Redemption & the Sacraments)
Religion 11 (Encountering Christ in the Church)
Religion 12 (Moral & Spiritual Theology)
Philosophical Questions
Faith & Culture Seminar

Science
Physics
Physics Honors
Chemistry
Chemistry Honors
Biology
Biology Honors
Environmental Science 1 & 2 (semester classes)
Anatomy & Physiology 1 & 2 (semester classes)
AP Physics
AP Chemistry
AP Biology
Scientific Research (Honors-level course)

Social Sciences
World History
European History
AP European History
U.S. History
AP U.S. History
Government (semester class)
AP Psychology
Asian Studies (semester class)
Current Global Issues (semester class)

Fine Arts
VAP (Visual and Performing Arts)
Visual Arts (Intermediate, Adv. & Masters)
Design Portfolio
Portfolio Studio Arts
35mm Photography (semester class)
Digital Photography (semester class)
AP Art History
AP Studio Art: Drawing
AP Studio Art: 2D Design
Speech & Drama (Int., Adv. & Masters)
Intermediate Dance A & B (semester classes) *
Intermediate Tap A & B (semester classes) *
Introduction to Choral Music
Advanced Chorus
Chamber Ensemble
AP Music Theory

Computer Technology
(all semester classes)
Academic Applications (may be taken in summer)
Layout & Design

Physical Education*
(all semester classes)
Wellness
Weight Training/Conditioning
*Dance and Tap can be used for PE or Fine Arts credit.

*All courses are offered for credit, except for Yearbook 1 & 2, Journalism 1 & 2, and Sports (except Fall & Winter Interim).
National Merit Scholars
Classes of 2011-2014

- U.S. Presidential Scholar Candidate: 1
- National Merit Scholar Finalists: 6
- National Merit Commended Students: 13
- National Hispanic Scholar: 1

College Entrance Exams
Test results are for the class of 2014, current as of July 2014.

SAT Results
- SAT Critical Reading: Mid-50% Range 550-680, Mean 613
- SAT Math: Mid-50% Range 530-670, Mean 580
- SAT Writing: Mid-50% Range 560-650, Mean 605

ACT Results
- ACT Composite: Mid-50% Range 25-30, Mean 27.2
- ACT English: Mid-50% Range 26-34, Mean 30.0
- ACT Math: Mid-50% Range 22-28, Mean 25.3
- ACT Reading: Mid-50% Range 25-32, Mean 28.8
- ACT Science: Mid-50% Range 23-28, Mean 25.8

Members of the Class of 2014
The 56 members of the class of 2014 are attending 43 different colleges in 20 states and were offered more than $12.5 million in scholarships. Nearly 100 percent of the class members are attending four-year institutions immediately after graduation. One student has taken a gap year for medical reasons.

Grading Scale
SCA does not use letter grades. Instead, exact number grades are used throughout. The school’s passing mark is 70. SCA does not rank.

92 – 100 A
84 – 91 B
75 – 83 C
70 – 74 D

Weighting of Grades
Semester grades that appear on the official school transcript are not weighted. Weighted grades are used only when determining the cumulative weighted GPA. An additional 2 points are added to each AP semester grade; honors classes are given 1 additional point each semester. All coursework taken at SCA is included in the GPA computation; grades in online classes are not included in the GPA at this time.

Advanced Placement
Seventeen (17) AP courses and 11 honors-level courses are available, with additional advanced online courses offered according to student interest. All students enrolled in an AP course must sit for the exam. Students are limited in the number of AP courses permitted; each student’s schedule is evaluated individually by the school’s Academic Committee. The maximum number of AP courses permitted per year is four.

In 2014, 103 SCA students took 204 AP examinations in 15 different subjects, with an overall pass rate of 85%. Sixty-two percent of those who passed received a superlative score of 4 or 5. All AP students are required to take the AP exam.

Disclosure Policy
School policy prevents the computing of class rank. Disciplinary actions reported on the Common Application Secondary School Report and other school report forms are limited to out-of-school suspensions and expulsion. If further disciplinary disclosure is mandatory for consideration, please contact our college counselor.
SCA graduates 2011-2014 enrolled in the following colleges; college decisions for the class of 2014 are indicated in **bold-face.**

**Andrew College**  
Appalachian State University  
Baylor University  
Bellarmine University  
Belmont Abbey College  
Belmont University  
Beloit College  
Berry College  
Birmingham-Southern College  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brooklyn College of the CUNY  
Bryn Mawr College  
Butler University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Christendom College  
Clemson University  
College of Charleston  
College of the Holy Cross  
College of William and Mary  
Dartmouth College  
Denison University  
DePaul University  
Drake University  
East Tennessee State University  
Elon University  
Emory University  
Florida Southern College  
Furman University  
George Mason University  
Georgetown University  
Guilford College  
High Point University  
Hillsdale College  
Howard University  
Lehigh University  
Lipscomb University  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola University Chicago  
Loyola University New Orleans  
Macalester College  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Maryville College  
Miami University, Oxford  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Middlebury College  
Mississippi State University  
Murray State University  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Pepperdine University  
Princeton University  
Purdue University  
Rhodes College  
Saint Anselm College  
Saint Louis University  
Saint Mary's College  
Samford University  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
Sewanee: University of the South  
Skidmore College  
Southern Methodist University  
Spelman College  
Spring Hill College  
St. Olaf College  
Tennessee Technological University  
Texas Christian University  
The Catholic University of America  
The University of Alabama  
The University of Georgia  
Tulane University  
United States Air Force Academy  
United States Coast Guard Academy  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
University of Dayton  
University of Kentucky  
University of Mississippi  
University of New Mexico  
University of North Carolina at Asheville  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Richmond  
University of San Diego  
University of South Alabama  
University of Southern California  
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
University of Washington  
Vanderbilt University  
Villanova University  
Volunteer State Community College  
Wake Forest University  
Warren Wilson College  
Washington and Lee University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Wellesley College  
Western Kentucky University  
Wofford College  
Wyoming Catholic College  
Xavier University