

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 2023-2024 – CEEB code 052000



1000 Coffee Rd. Modesto, CA
95355

<https://downey.mcs4kids.com/>

David Sanchez
Principal

Marilen DeLaCruz
Assistant Principal

Jennifer Adolfsen
Assistant Principal

Patrick Rodden
Assistant Principal

Fayiz Sulieman
Student Support Administrator

Emilie Delorimier
Activities Director

Stephen Garrett
Athletic Director

Michelle Luz
College Counselor

College Counselor caseload: 2145:1

Counselors:

Tiffany Aguilar | Leila Martinez |
Stacey Medina | Marysa Recinos |
Renee Vega | Sofia Zaragoza

School Counselor Caseload: 450:1

COVID-19 Updates

In March of 2020 our school shut down and students' classes were held virtually until March of 2021. Due to state bill AB 104, students had the option to take P/NP grades for the 20-21 school year. This school year (2022-23), due to more government legislation, our school day start time is one half hour later. Our high school district was also forced to extend the school day by one hour. This has affected our students' participation in community activities after school and many athletes must take an athletic PE class in order to practice.

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 70th anniversary September of 2021. 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 increased to 218,771; according to the 2021 Census data.

A comprehensive, public high school, Downey is located in the heart of Modesto and has had an important place in the local landscape of Modesto over the last 70 years. Some of our notable Downey graduates include: 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; former US Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman and filmmaker, George Lucas. In fact, the movie American Graffiti, was written and directed by 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 15,000 students in grades 9-12. Downey has a current enrollment of over 2000 students. 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.

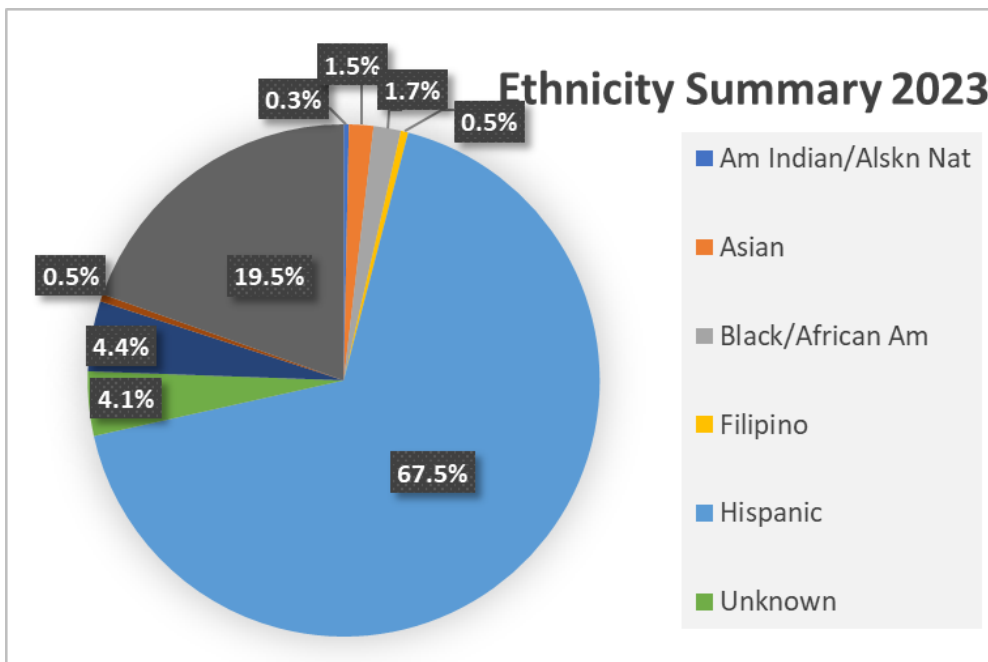
With the vast majority of the student population being first generation and low income, many of Downey's students have significant responsibilities outside of school that limit their ability to participate in extra-curricular activities or even enroll in Advance Placement courses that require extra hours of homework. In fact, many work to financially help their families. In addition, many of our students become care-givers to their younger siblings since most of their parents work full-time jobs. With these kind of responsibilities, most students don't have extra time to join clubs or become involved in sports or other extra-curricular activities offered on campus. Furthermore, a large majority of our students do NOT have reliable modes of transportation to get to local test sites in order to take test prep courses or a standardized test.

Technology is a major focus at Downey. Teachers are encouraged to impart technology into the curriculum to strengthen instruction that occurs across all disciplines. Every teacher has access to computerized resources and has a computer laptop that can be connected to internet in each classroom. For the last five 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 hardwire computer room labs are equipped with computers for students use by our CTE digital/graphic courses.

There are three student recognition/honors on our campus: the Knight Achievement Award, California Scholarship Federation (CSF), and Academic Block D. Each teacher may select only one student per year to receive the Knight Achievement Award and students may not receive more than one. Teachers recognize a student who exemplifies effort, integrity, positive attitude, good study habits, or other important attributes. Students must qualify for CSF Honors as established by the state organization’s academic requirements. Academic Block D is awarded to students who have competed in an academic competition, is a Life Member of CSF, or have a 4.0 academic GPA and no disciplinary record.

In 2022, a full time Student Support Administrator was hired to oversee the counseling department and supports administration in overseeing the Special Education department at Downey. The Student Support Administrator supports the counseling department in a variety of areas ranging from classroom lessons and class registration, to playing a strong and supportive role in increasing our graduation and A-G completion rates. Our SSA assists in holding IEP meetings for initial eligibility, annual reviews, and transition plans. Our SSA also conducts 504 eligibility and annual updated 504 plan meetings to support students with unique challenges who could benefit from specific educational accommodations.

To prepare students to enter the world of work, Modesto City Schools hired full time Career Navigators at each high school site three years ago. Their primary responsibility is to support dual enrollment and vocational education programs articulated with CTE courses and Modesto Junior College. In addition, Downey initiated an AVID program in 2003-04 to foster a wider college-going presence on campus and employs an AVID Site Coordinator who works as a member of the instructional leadership team. AVID is currently offered in multiple sections to include ninth through twelfth graders.



- * 2145 students enrolled
- * 20% are designated English Learners
- * 15.5% are designated Students with Disabilities
- * 79.1% are Socio-Economically Disadvantaged

(Title 1 Achievement School– 100% of students receive free or reduced lunch)

Testing Data

**SAT/ACT-most of our students apply to colleges/universities that are Test Free. We have had 18 students take standardized tests between 2020-2022.*

SAT 2022-2023		
	ERW	Math
Mean	451	489
National Mean	551	546
# of students tested (12th)	9	

PSAT Recognition 2023	
National Merit Semi-Finalists	1
Commended Students	0
National Hispanic Recognition	2

Class of 2023		484 Students
Highest Weighted GPA		4.75
Top 5%		4.36
Top 10%		4.20

AP Course Availability

Our AP offerings vary each year based on student enrollment and requests.

- English Language
- US History
- Spanish Language
- English Literature
- Government and Politics US
- Spanish Literature
- Human Geography
- Biology
- Calculus AB
- European History
- Calculus BC
- Statistics

Graduation Requirements

Required Courses	Semesters	Credits
English	8	40
Social Science	7	35
Mathematics (Must Pass Algebra)	6	30
Science	4	20
Visual/Performing Art or Foreign Language	2	10
Physical Education	4	20
Practical Art	1	5
Health	1	5
Total Credits Needed to Graduate:		230

Grading System

The grading system for all classes is based on a five-step, 4-point scale: A-Outstanding, B-Above Average, C-Average, D-Below Average, F-Failing. The lowest passing mark for graduation is a D-. Grades are determined by student achievement relative to the objectives of the designated instructional level and the teacher.

GPA and Class Rank

Un-weighted Senior Rank is determined by the **cumulative un-weighted GPA** from **ALL** classes (including PE) 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 and AP courses in which the student earned grades of A, B, or C. **CAL Grant GPA** on the transcript refers to the college GPA for grades 10 and 11 with no weighting. Students in special education and placement at alternative education sites are not ranked.

Beginning with 2018-2019 school year, our district changed from exact ranking to decile ranking. The belief in educating the entire student extends beyond academics, which is why students are encouraged to broaden their experience with electives. Students who choose to participate in non-honors elective courses such as Band, Drama, Leadership, Athletics, and Journalism often have a lower exact ranking than those who do not participate. It is because of this, the district decided decile ranking was far more fair and appropriate for students than exact ranking. The top 5% until the top 50% are identified on the transcript. Students in the bottom 50% are not given an official decile rank on their transcript.

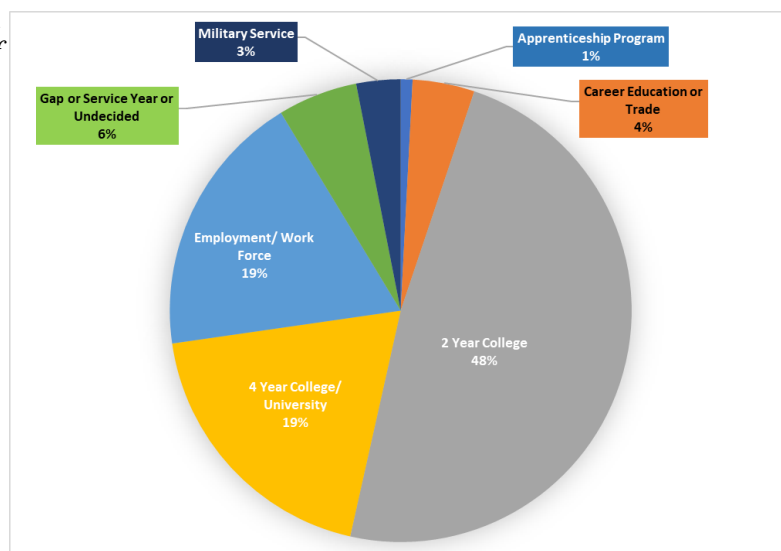
Curriculum & Scheduling

In 2019, Downey was granted a six-year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Downey operates on a seven period (58 minutes) day, with one lunch period. Students may opt to enroll in a zero period class. Offerings include, Jazz Band, Leadership, Culinary Arts, Health, Social Science courses, and Advanced Weight Training. Downey provides a comprehensive curriculum providing classes for students of all abilities and interests including Advanced Placement (AP), Pre-AP/Honors and college preparatory (CP) courses. Some of our English Learner (EL) student population is also served by ALD classes for English support. A diverse set of special education programs are also offered to special ed students. Rich, vocational CTE education programs articulated with Modesto Junior College, prepare students to enter the world of work.

College Acceptances and Matriculation Class of 2023

84% of our Class of 2023 completed the graduation senior survey. 67% percent of the class of 2023 pursued post-secondary training at higher education institutions 19% percent attend four-year universities, 48% percent attend two-year colleges (most attending Modesto Junior College), 3% Military, 1% pursued an apprenticeship program, 4% pursued a career technical education or trade field, and 6% undecided and employment).

NOTE: 35% of the class of 2023 met the minimum admissions requirements of the University of California and California State University.



Downey graduates from the class of 2023 were accepted to the following campuses:

- * Arizona State University-Tempe
- * Cal Poly Humboldt
- * California State Polytechnic University-Pomona
- * California State University- Chico
- * California State University- Fresno
- * California State University- Fullerton
- * California State University- Monterrey Bay
- * California State University-Northridge
- * California State University- Sacramento
- * California State University- San Marcos
- * California State University- San Marcos
- * California State University- Stanislaus
- * Clemson University
- * Dartmouth College
- * Grand Canyon University- Traditional Campus
- * Louisiana State University
- * Marymount Manhattan College
- * Northern Arizona University
- * San Jose State University
- * University of California- Berkeley
- * University of California- Davis
- * University of California- Los Angeles
- * University of California- UC Merced
- * University of California- Santa Barbara
- * University of California- Santa Cruz
- * University of Georgia
- * University of Oregon
- * University of Southern California
- * William Jessup University

Colleges are welcome and encouraged to schedule campus visits. Please call Michelle Luz, College Counselor, at 209-492-3279 or email at luz.m@monet.k12.ca.us to arrange a visit.