

Marymount High School

Los Angeles, United States



On Sunset Boulevard facing UCLA, a century-old Sacred Heart sisterhood anchors Bel Air's all-girls college-prep tradition.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	63/100
Academic outcomes	74/100
University placement	72/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	0/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	70/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Marymount High School occupies a narrow but powerful niche in Los Angeles: an independent Catholic day school for girls that combines Sacred Heart values, serious college preparation and a prime Bel Air address on Sunset Boulevard opposite UCLA. Founded in 1923, it has institutional age without the museum-piece stiffness that can afflict old schools. The setting matters. A school across from a major university, in one of the city’s most affluent districts, attracts ambitious families and lives under the scrutiny that comes with that. Marymount’s public case rests on three planks: an all-girls model, explicit ethical formation, and a well-resourced academic programme. The school backs that with a ****1:8**** student-teacher ratio, a four-year Theology requirement, and membership of a ****20****-school global

RSHM network. For parents who want **moral seriousness**, **female-centred academic life** and a strong college-prep framework in one place, Marymount earns a place on the shortlist.

What sets it apart is the combination of confidence and containment. This is not a sprawling co-ed campus where girls fight for airtime. Leadership, performance, service and classroom discussion sit squarely with young women. The school pushes that advantage hard, and in this market it has substance behind it. Marymount also has a clearer religious identity than many nominally Catholic independents: liturgies, Masses, retreats and theology are built into school life, not tacked on for branding. At the same time, it is not socially or religiously monolithic. The school states that ****59%**** of families self-identify as Catholic, with ****18**** faiths represented and more than 30 languages spoken by students and faculty. That mix gives Marymount a broader social and cultural range than outsiders might expect, though the Bel Air location and independent-school fee structure still place it firmly in the premium end of the market.

Parents should shortlist Marymount if they want a school with **high adult attention**, **structured ambition** and **a strong moral spine**. The arts and athletics both receive prominent billing, and the historic main building, chapel and auditorium add a sense of place that many newer schools lack. The caution lies in the same features that define its appeal. Girls who want a secular environment, a fully open-ended sixth-form culture, or the social dynamics of a co-ed school will find Marymount too bounded. Its Catholic framework is integral, not decorative. The student who thrives here is bright, organised, community-minded and comfortable in an environment that expects discipline, service and visible participation. A girl who wants **purpose with polish**, **close guidance** and **a sheltered but ambitious runway** into university life will fit well.

STRENGTHS

- Small, close-knit all-girls Catholic college-preparatory school with a low student-teacher ratio, reported as 8:1 to 9:1 depending on source.
- Historic Bel Air campus on Sunset Boulevard directly across from UCLA, designated a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument, founded in 1923.
- Strong college placement record: the Class of 2024's 83 graduates were admitted to 135 colleges and universities, with a 100% acceptance rate to four-year programs and offers from all nine University of California campuses.
- Broad AP offering (19 courses) and a highly credentialed faculty, with 88% holding master's degrees or higher.
- Established extracurricular strengths, including a nationally competitive volleyball program, Model United Nations, and a dedicated Conservatory Arts Program.

TRADE - OFFS

- Single-sex, all-girls institution, which will not suit families seeking a co-educational environment.
- Tuition runs high for the Los Angeles private-school market, with figures cited between roughly \$42,700 and \$46,750 depending on year and source, plus separate books, uniform, and technology fees.
- Small total enrollment of around 310 to 330 students across four grades limits the breadth of elective and club offerings compared with larger day schools.
- Catholic religious affiliation, including a four-year theology curriculum and regular Masses and retreats, is a structural feature families should weigh even though the school welcomes multiple faiths.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is primarily at grade 9, with applications submitted online or via the Standard Application Online (SAO) used by many independent schools. Marymount does not require ISEE or HSPT scores; requirements typically include transcripts, recommendation letters, an essay, and a recommended (though sometimes optional) interview. Decision letters for the following school year are mailed in early March, with rolling admissions thereafter depending on space. Need-based financial aid is available through the School and Student Service (SSS) financial aid system, though admission is not contingent on aid approval.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_f799acaab9.