Alsion Early College High School

750 Witherly Lane, Fremont, CA 94539 • Tel. 510.445.1127 • Fax: 510.226.1248 • **alsionschool.org**

Early College Program Director, Counselor, AP English Instructor
John Lubushkin
mrjohn@alsionschool.org
949-391-0294

Head of School, Director of Mathematics Education
Bradley Buchanan
mrbrad@alsionschool.org
707-478-3919

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROSPECTIVE

Of graduating survey respondents since 2019:

29%
attended their **#1 ranked** choice

62%
attended a school in their **top 3**

88%
attended a school in their **top 10**

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

2019-2025

UC Berkeley (13)
UC Davis (7)
UCLA (6)
UC San Diego (4)
UC Santa Cruz (3)
Purdue (2)
Reed College (2)
UC Merced (2)
Santa Clara U (2)
UC Irvine (1)
UCSB (1)
Bryn Mawr (1)
Cal Poly SLO (1)
Cornell (1)
Northeastern (1)
RISD (1)
Rochester IT (1)
Stanford (1)
USC (1)
U Michigan (1)
U Penn (1)
. . . and more!

ABOUT US

Alsion Early College (EC) High School, a division of **Alsion Montessori Middle/High School**, is a co-educational, independent, non-profit, Montessori-inspired day school located in Fremont, California. Founded in 2005, Alsion EC enrolls 24 students in grades 10-12, with 10 students in the class of 2025.

OUR MISSION

To guide students to cultivate **a love of learning** through creative self-expression, honest self-awareness, and meaningful work in a cooperative community.

THE EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

As the Bay Area's premier independent early college program, Alsion EC guides students to thoughtfully design their unique high school and college pathways to explore their interests, specialize in academic disciplines, and earn an eclectic liberal arts education.

We are committed to **Montessori learning** in which students practice enlightened independence through choice, contribute meaningful work to the school and local community, and work in harmony with the surrounding natural and human environment.

Students in grade 10 take a blend of on-campus high school courses at Alsion and a handful of college courses. Upon completion of the California Proficiency Program (CPP), students enroll in grades 11-12 at neighboring Ohlone College as full-time students while taking fewer courses on-campus at Alsion. Students earn **dual credit** for all college coursework while working toward a high school diploma.

ADMISSION

We welcome students of all backgrounds beginning in grade 10, although students who attended Alsion Middle School (grades 7-9) receive first priority. Alsion Early College is **an accelerated program**; success requires dedication to academic work, a strong foundation in English, social and intellectual maturity, and the will to act on one's own behalf in a small, unique program. Students are admitted on the basis of previous academic work, recommendations, interviews, and a reading & writing readiness assessment.

APPROACH TO COLLEGE COUNSELING

Students meet regularly with the Program Director to plan their academic pathways. In grade 10, students take courses together to build a strong Alsion-centered **support network**. In grades 11-12, they design their own full-time college schedule according to requirements and interests.

Students learn first-hand how to search and register for courses, prepare for specific college majors, and build positive relationships with faculty—what we call **the logistics of college**. Thus students graduate with seasoned skills to navigate the college landscape, a clear vision of their goals for undergraduate work, and effective habits for achieving them.

The Program Director organizes **planning sessions** for all EC students each semester, a College Tour trip each January for grade 11, and a summer College Seminar for incoming seniors. Our goal is to empower students to achieve preparedness and autonomy to choose their future at a college that's the right fit.

CORE MONTESSORI VALUES

Absorbent Adolescent Mind



Curiosity, choice, & learning from diverse perspectives

Enlightened Independence



Honest self-awareness and command of expression

Harmony with the Environment



Meaningful work in the community

MEMBERSHIPS & CREDENTIALS

Alsion Montessori Middle/High is fully accredited by WASC (01 90548 999) and a member of the CollegeBoard (CEEB: 053989). All high school courses offered on-campus are approved for transfer by the University of California. The Alsion Montessori Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit education organization.

ALSION LEARNING PATHWAYS

ON-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION

Grade 9 at Alsion is grouped with Alsion Middle School per its Montessori Adolescent program. Students take core subjects, choose electives, and organize clubs. Grade 10 takes a handful of on-campus, year-long courses, while grades 11-12 take just one or two. Students use the campus Study Center (adjacent to Alsion Middle and Ohlone College) to collaborate, socialize, and learn in a familiar, supportive space supervised by the Program Director.

AP® ENGLISH IN GRADE 10

Alsion's unique Advanced Placement English program is the foundation of the Early College experience. Students are enrolled in both AP® English Language & Composition and AP® English Literature & Composition, and take both exams in May. Students read at least 8 full-length novels or plays and a wide range of historically and culturally significant speeches, letters, and essays. The courses constitute a broad survey of the liberal arts and humanities, integrating classic, modern, and contemporary works to gain a global perspective and begin 4-year undergraduate study as prolific readers, articulate writers, and critical thinkers.

REQUIREMENTS AND CHOICES

All grade 9 Core Courses and Alsion EC courses are required; additional requirements are met through college coursework. Graduation requirements **meet or exceed those set by UC A-G admissions** across all subjects. Grade 9 students choose 1-3 electives within the Middle School. Grade 10 revolves around AP English and a small number of college classes. Grades 11-12 select from the full range of courses on offer at Ohlone College. Instead of GPA, **course selection**—in depth, breadth, and challenge—is the core differentiator among Alsion Early College graduates. Every student's journey through the program is unique and self-determined.

Alsion Middle School

9

CORE COURSES

- Algebra, Geometry, or Algebra II
- AP Environmental Science
- Biome Project
- Creative Arts
- English 9
- Health
- Physical Education
- Spanish 9
- World History

ELECTIVES & CLUBS

- Advanced Science
- Advanced Art
- Cooking Club
- Video & Graphic Design
- Yearbook

On campus @ Alsion

10

- Algebra, Geometry, or Algebra II
- AP English Language & Composition
- AP English Literature & Composition
- Physical Education
- Physics

Ohlone College (3-11 units/sem.)

REQUIRED COURSES

- U.S. History to 1877
- World History since 1500
- World Regional Geography
- General Psychology

Alsion

11

- Great Books
- Film Studies I: History of Film
- Film Studies II: Literature in Film

12

Ohlone College (12-18 units/semester)

REQUIRED COURSES

- Preparation for General Chemistry
- Essential Biology
- Macro- or Micro-economics
- Elementary Spanish I
- Elementary Spanish II
- Intro to American Politics

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES

- General Chemistry
- Chemistry for Health & Biotech
- Cell & Molecular Biology
- Intro to Physics I
- Mechanics
- Intro to Programming with C++
- Intro to Programming with Python
- Intro to Statistics
- Precalculus II
- Calculus I
- Calculus II
- Intro to Linear Algebra
- Intro to Web Design
- Painting I
- Digital Photography
- Intro to Game Design
- Intro to Public Speaking
- International Relations
- Constitutional Law & the US
- World History since 1500
- Intro to Philosophy
- Magic, Witchcraft, & Religion
- Human Development
- Principles of ASL I

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING at ALSION MONTESSORI

Ex Term

The Ex Term is a collaborative project for Alsion grades 9-12 that culminates in a weeklong field trip at the close of each school year, visiting one of four rotating destinations. Graduates must attend **at least 3** Ex Terms.

1
All the World's a Stage
Ashland, Oregon

Visit Oregon Shakespeare Festival and attend 2-3 plays. Research and document local businesses and economy, flora and fauna, the history of OSF, and Southern Oregon University where students dorm and attend acting workshops. Create a video documentary.

2
Urban Planning & Design
New York, NY

Explore city development and key features of urban planning while dorming at Hostelling International NYC, including landmarks, Central Park, Broadway, the subway system, arts district, skyscrapers, and museums. Create an informational guide for print.

3
Earth, Humans, & the Biosphere
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Examine the island's natural and human elements: geological history and features; biodiversity in isolation; human history before, during, and after European colonization; and the impacts of climate change. Create a large poster for display.

4
American Monuments
Washington, D.C.

Visit our nation's capital, learn its history, stand in the shadows of its monuments, and explore the halls of its museums. Inquire: what deserves memorializing? What is the role of memory in our national consciousness? Write a speech and deliver it near a monument.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Witherly Heights • Our school community's online journal, witherlyheights.org, is entirely student run, including editing, writing, web design, and social media engagement. At the start of each year, students can choose to take on roles in the organization such as editors and contributors to columns in sports, media, features, politics, and more. Leadership roles are earned through multiple years of service.

Internship Week • Grade 9 organizes their own week-long internship at an organization of their choice, then they present their experience and reflections to the school community.

Biome Project • Grade 9 undertakes a large-scale, interdisciplinary project that culminates in a week-long field trip to one of 3 biomes: desert, coastal, or mountain. Students build a portfolio of preparatory, observational, and reflective work throughout the process.

Café & Grill • Grade 10 manages our Café & Grill that serves hot lunch, snacks, and drinks to our community during lunchtime. They track costs, revenues, and profit to inform decisions about what to offer, and decide how to spend the profits as a group at the end of the year.

College Tour • Each January, grade 11 takes a road trip down the California coast, visiting Cal Poly, UCSB, UCLA, USC, UCI, and the Claremont Colleges.

The Garden • Our chicken coop produces farm-fresh eggs, and the garden grows a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables that are planted, tended, harvested, and enjoyed by students.

Service Learning • Students complete 40 documented hours of service learning/volunteer work in grades 10-12 to graduate.





Frequently Asked Questions

What's the difference between high school and college credit?
Alsion counts both high school and college credit toward earning a high school diploma. UC and CSU colleges accept all credit earned at Ohlone College, while private and out-of-state public universities have unique policies for transferring college credit.

What are the advantages of an Early College education?
Learn more. Because Ohlone is on a semester system, students take on average 10 college courses per year. **Pay less.** Our tuition is about half that of other Bay Area private schools, and students complete college courses now, which can mean lower costs for college tuition after high school. **Get real college experience.** Learn how to navigate the complex offerings of a college curriculum with confidence.

Are high school students ready for a college environment?
Ohlone College enrolls many high school students, not just from Alsion. Additionally, our program coaches students on appropriate behavior in the college classroom and effective work habits. Because they have a strong support network here at Alsion, students learn to enjoy the freedom and responsibility that collegiate study requires.

Why don't you offer more AP courses?
AP is designed to be college-level. Our students take **actual college courses**. We also teach three AP courses: English Literature, English Language, and Environmental Science. Colleges recognize the unique, advanced nature of our program, and they do not compare our graduates to students at other schools who feel pressured to collect as many APs as possible to pad their resume.

Small School, Big Difference.
750 Witherly Lane, Fremont, CA 94539 • 510.445.1127 • alsionschool.org