

The logo for Pierce, featuring a red roof-like shape above the word "Pierce" in a bold, red, sans-serif font, with a horizontal red bar below it.

Pierce – The American College of Greece

School Profile 2018-2019

The School

The American College of Greece (ACG) is a non-profit three-unit educational institution consisting of Pierce (1,400 middle and secondary school students), Deree (3,500 university undergraduates and graduates), and Alba (700 graduate business school students). Pierce is a Greek, selective, private, co-educational day school, accredited and regulated by the Ministry of Education, with a Gymnasium (grades 7-9) and Lyceum (grades 10-12). It is only one of the three private schools granted the equivalence status to Greek public schools. Instruction is in Greek and English, but all students are Greek or Greek dual-nationals and culminate their secondary education by sitting for the PanHellenic university entrance exams and if in the International Baccalaureate, the Diploma exams and PanHellenic equivalency exams.

Founded in 1875 as a school for girls and young women in Smyrna (Izmir), Turkey, ACG was a pioneer for women's education in the geographic region. After the troubles following World War I, it was relocated to Athens in 1923. In the 1960s, ACG transitioned to its present 64-acre wooded, mountainside campus overlooking the city and became coeducational in 1984.

Statement of Purpose

The Pierce mission is to provide a holistic education to shape and support the growth of intellectually independent, morally responsible, socially engaged, bilingual and globally minded citizens. Of the Class of 2018, 45% applied to colleges and universities abroad. There exists a strong tradition and ethos to contribute locally, nationally and internationally with 52,000 alumni around the world working in virtually every field of human endeavor. The school's motto '*Non ministrari, sed ministrare*' ('Not to be served, but to serve') defines Pierce's institutional character and our aspiration for our students.

Students

Admission to Pierce, based on school records and a written examination in English, is highly selective with an acceptance rate of 25%. The Class of 2019 has 213 students (40 of whom are pursuing the IB diploma). Pierce believes in a socio-economically diverse student community and provides financial support to 33% of its students. Pierce offers this aid based on documented financial need as well as scholarships: academic, music,

and athletic (in tennis, basketball, track and field, and swimming). In addition, Pierce selects and supports students for international experiences: five students attend annually the Phillips Exeter Academy Summer Program on full scholarships as do several Lyceum students who participate in the Edge Summer School at the University of Delaware.

Co-Curricular and Athletic Programs

Pierce provides a diverse co-curricular program of clubs and activities for all students to further both their educational and leadership skills. These include the arts, theater, creativity, culture, sports, academics, and service learning. With outstanding athletes attending the school on scholarship, ACG competes at the highest national level in several sports. Sharing a campus with a renowned university, allows the school to share a remarkable range of top quality facilities, such as the Olympic pool and concert theatre hall.

Faculty

Of the 125 full-time faculty, 66% hold advanced degrees.

Greek Academic Program

Pierce comprises a middle school (Gymnasium) with 731 students in grades 7-9 and a high school (Lyceum) with 617 students in grades 10-12. The program of study fulfills the requirements as set by the Greek Ministry of Education and it is of note that course loads in Greek secondary education, and therefore at Pierce, are greater than is typical in many countries: students must take and pass 14 to 17 two-semester courses a year to fulfill the Greek General Education requirements. While much of the Pierce curriculum is mandated, the Greek ministry permits Pierce to deviate in some respects, allowing more instruction in English, for example, than any other Greek-curriculum school.

In the Gymnasium, core subjects are taught in Greek, while English is the language of instruction for all elective courses. As in the high school, students are placed in small class sections according to their ability, study English as the mandatory 1st foreign language for six hours per week and can select as their required third foreign language - French, German, Spanish, or Italian. After Gymnasium, students enter the three-year high school (Lyceum).

In the high school/Lyceum, Greek is the main language of instruction, however, English receives continued special emphasis with 6 to 7 hours of instruction per week in grades 10-11 and 5 hours in grade 12. For IB Diploma students instruction is in English, except for the Modern Greek course. The English curriculum presents the English language in context, so that, by the time students graduate, all have studied American and British literature. Pierce also supports students who wish to prepare for certification exams, such as IELTS and the PanHellenics English Test.

From their second year in the Lyceum (grade 11), students must choose an area of concentration in one of the two broad fields: Humanities or Sciences. In the third year, students may choose or add an Economics/Computer Sciences concentration as well. Pierce students also take elective courses during the first and the third year of the high school, often to support learning within

the area of concentration. Students wishing to attend university in Greece must take a barrage of exams in order to receive a national diploma. The last two years of study are markedly different for those pursuing the IB Diploma.

The IB Diploma Program at Pierce

Pierce offers the 2-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) to students entering 11th grade. Students take their IB Exams in May of 12th grade. Pierce follows the standards and expectations of the IB Diploma Program. Students select a course from each group listed below, with three as 'Higher Level', (with approximately 240 hours of instruction over two years) and three as 'Standard Level' (150 hours over two years). Students complete the additional requirements of the IBDP: The Theory of Knowledge class, a CAS program (Creativity, Activity and Service), and the Extended Essay.

Pierce course offerings in the IBDP are as follows and available as either HL or SL .

| | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|--|
| Group 1 | Studies in Language and Literature | English Language A or Modern Greek Language A |
| Group 2 | Language Acquisition | English Language B |
| Group 3 | Individuals and Societies | History, Economics, Psychology, Business Management |
| Group 4 | Sciences | Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics |
| Group 5 | Mathematics | Mathematics, Math Studies |
| Group 6 | The Arts or additional elective | Visual Arts, Theatre or another group 3 or group 4 choice |
| | Required of all IBDP students | Theory of Knowledge course (100 hours) CAS – Creativity, Activity, Service Extended Essay (4000 words) |

Students in the Pierce IBDP must also qualify for the Greek National High School Diploma in order to graduate and must take five hours per week during grade 12 year of Greek Literature, Greek History, and Greek Composition. These additional courses, combined with the regular IB diploma coursework, allow for the equivalency of the Greek Diploma to be recognized and awarded in July. The IBDP Curriculum functions as a parallel program fully integrated into school life and ensures that students in the program are active members of the Pierce community. IB exam results are published in early July by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).

Academic Policy

Students are not officially ranked at Pierce. The grading system mandated by the Ministry of Education is set to a 20-point scale.

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 9.5 | passing | 9.5-13.0 | considered low |
| 13.1-16.0 | average | 16.1-18.0 | very good |
| 18.1-20.0 | excellent | | |

Internally, we recognize the 20-point scale as equivalent to the following:

| | | | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------------|
| 20 = A+ | 19 = A | 18 = A- | 17 = B+ | 16 = B | 15 = B- |
| 14 = C+ | 13 = C | 12 = C- | 11 = D+ | 10 = D | 9 or less = F |

Certificates are awarded by the Ministry of Education

A Certificate of Distinction to students with an overall average of 16.1 - 18.0

A Certificate of Excellence to students with an overall grade average of 18.1 - 20

The school recognizes excellence in selected graduating seniors with specialized awards in the arts, music, athletics, success in national academic competitions and overall outstanding contributions to the school community.

100% of Pierce students attend four-year colleges and universities. The following universities and colleges accepted and awarded over 2.5 million dollars in scholarships to graduates from the classes of 2015-18. Institutions with matriculated students from 2018 are shown in bold.

UNITED STATES:

American University
 Bentley University
 Boston University (4)
 Brandeis University
 Bryn Mawr University
 California Institute of the Arts
 Clark University
 Dickinson College
 Drexel University (2)
 Emerson University
 Emory University
 University of Evansville
 Fordham University
 George Washington University
 Grinnell College
 Hobart and William Smith Colleges
 Hofstra University
 University of Houston
 Illinois Institute of Technology
 Illinois Wesleyan University
 Lehigh University
 The Ohio State University
 Penn State University
 Princeton University
 Pratt Institute
 Roger Williams University
 Providence College
 Manhattan College (3)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Merrimack University
 Miami University, Ohio
New York University-Abu Dhabi (5)
 Northeastern University (4)
 Quinnipiac University
 Rice University
 School of Visual Arts - NYC
 Smith College
St. Mary's College of California
 Suffolk University
 SUNY-Stone Brook (2)
 SUNY-Buffalo
 Syracuse University (4)
 University of California, Santa Cruz
 The New School, New York City
University of Chicago

University of Cincinnati
 University of Connecticut (2)
 University of Illinois, Chicago (2)
 University of Massachusetts
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst
 University of Massachusetts, Lowell
 University of Miami (2)
 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
 University of New Hampshire
 New Jersey Institute of Technology
University of Redlands
 University of Rhode Island
 University of Richmond (2)
 University of Rochester (3)
 Vanderbilt University
 Vassar College
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute

CANADA

University of British Columbia
Simon Fraser University (3)
University of Toronto (2)

UK

University of Aberdeen (2)
 Aberystwyth University
 Anglia Ruskin University
Architectural Association School of Architecture
 Bangor University
University College London
 University of Bath (3)
 University of Birmingham (4)
 Bournemouth University (2)
University of Bristol (9)
 University of Brighton (5)
 Brunel University (3)
 Cardiff University (3)
 City University of London (2)
 Coventry University
 Durham University
 University of Essex (4)
 University of Exeter (3)
Heriot-Watt University (2)
 University of Hertfordshire

University of Huddersfield
 Imperial College London (2)
University of Kent (8)
University of Lancaster (7)
 University of Leicester
University of Leeds (2)
 Liverpool John Moores University
 Loughborough University (2)
University of Manchester (10)
 Middlesex University, London (3)
 Newcastle University
University of Nottingham (11)
 Oxford Brookes University
 University of Plymouth (2)
 University of Portsmouth
 Queen Mary University of London
 University of Reading (7)
University of Sheffield (6)
University of Southampton (9)
 Southampton Solent University
 University of Sunderland
 University of Strathclyde
 University of Stirling (2)
 University of Surrey (16)
University of Sussex (13)
University of Warwick (3)
 University of York (4)

NETHERLANDS

University of Amsterdam, Business School
 Webster University USA, Leiden
 Amsterdam University College
 Delft University of Technology
 Erasmus University
 University of Groningen
 Leiden University
 Maastricht University

CZECH REPUBLIC

Charles University

CYPRUS

Frederick University
University of Nicosia

FRANCE

SciencesPo



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