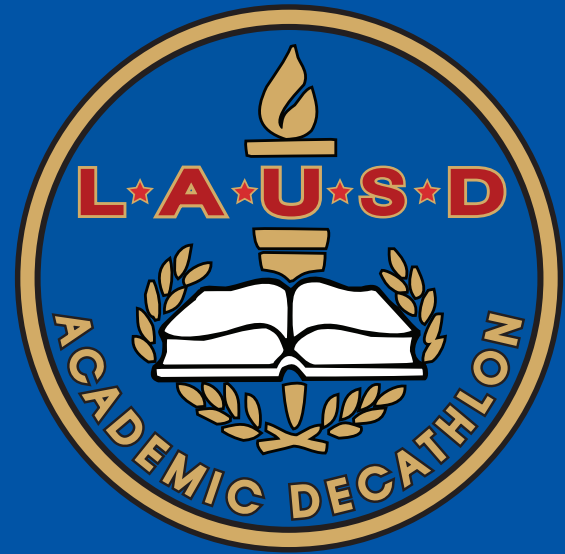




*El Camino Real
2007 Decathlon Winners*



*Taft
2006 Decathlon Winners*



*El Camino Real
2005 Decathlon Winners*

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Instructional Support Services

Preliminary Guidelines for Participation in the 2008-2009
LAUSD Academic Decathlon Program

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT VERY CAREFULLY. *THERE ARE TWO FORMS CONTAINED IN IT THAT NEED TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED.*

PURPOSES OF THE ACADEMIC DECATHLON

- To encourage students to develop a greater respect for knowledge
- To promote wholesome inter-school competition in academic areas of study and interest
- To stimulate intellectual growth and achievement
- To encourage public interest and awareness of outstanding programs in American schools

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Selection of the team is the responsibility of the local school. The principal and his/her designee(s) are to establish procedures for selecting the team. Every effort is to be made to guarantee that the school's team reflects the gender and ethnicity of the total school population. **See Attachment 1, Criteria of Reasonableness in Implementing the Guidelines for Participation**, to assist in reaching this goal.

In selecting the team, school personnel should keep in mind the commitment students must make to additional study and preparation.

Students should show balance in achievement in the subject areas of the competition events. Other considerations for selection may include a student's unique ability or insight in one or more of the competition event areas; poise, maturity, and dependability; competitive spirit; and satisfactory citizenship.

THE TEAM

Each school is to have a team consisting of nine members, all of whom are to be full-time students (four or more classes) from the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and/or twelfth grades. The members are to include three students from each of the categories listed below.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Grade Point Average</u>
Honor	3.75 - 4.00
Scholastic	3.00 - 3.74
Varsity	2.99 or below

See **Attachment 2** for more detailed information concerning team selection and computation of GPA.

Should a school not be able to identify a full nine-member team, a minimum of two students in each academic category will still allow a school to have a competitive team. A team's score for the competition will be based on the top two students' scores in each of the three categories.

Each school will begin with a practice team, composed of all students interested in participating in the Academic Decathlon. From this team, the nine competitive team members will be selected. After the team competition roster has been submitted, no changes or substitutions will be allowed. Competing students must be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities as determined by current District standards.

PREPARATION

Schools may offer an Academic Decathlon course for elective credit that will meet daily for instruction. The course number for the 5 credit Academic Decathlon class is 46-07-01.

A school's method of preparation and study is not to deny the participation of any member of the student body interested in participating in the Academic Decathlon. **Attachment 3** lists the authorized study locations for schools.

Students **are not** to be taken out of other classes to prepare for the Decathlon.

COMPETITION EVENTS

The nine team members will compete in all of the following academic events:

- Art
- Music
- Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Economics
- Social Science
- Essay
- Speech (Prepared and Impromptu)
- Interview
- Super Quiz (Written and Oral)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

An Awards Ceremony will be held after the competition to announce all awards and honors achieved by the competitors.

Each school is encouraged to provide recognition activities at the school site for the Academic Decathlon team.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Complete **Attachment 4** and return to Cliff Ker, Academic Decathlon, Beaudry Building, 18th Floor, by **October 16, 2008**, to register for participation in the 2008-2009 Academic Decathlon Program.

TIMELINE FOR 2008-2009

September 22, 2008	Coaches' Meeting
October 16	Submit Academic Decathlon Participation Form, scrimmage commitment form and team scoring report (roster)
November 15	Scrimmage: six (6) selected sites
December 17 (Wednesday)	Submit the official Academic Decathlon team roster and supporting materials
January 12, 2009	Coaches' Meeting
January 31	Academic Decathlon Competition--Day 1 (Speech, Interview, Essay) Site: Bravo Medical Magnet High School
February 7	Academic Decathlon Competition--Day 2 (Seven objective exams + Oral Super Quiz) Site: UCLA (Ackerman Union and John Wooden Center)
February 12	Awards Ceremony—L. A. Convention Center, Concourse Hall, 6:30-8:30 PM
March 13-16	California Academic Decathlon Competition- Sacramento
April 22- 25	United States Academic Decathlon Competition—Memphis, Tennessee
May 18	Coaches' Meeting

Attachment 1

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Instructional Support Services

ACADEMIC DECATHLON QUALIFICATION PROCESS

CRITERIA OF REASONABLENESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

The Guidelines for Participation in the 2008-2009 Los Angeles Unified School District's Academic Decathlon program emphasize the importance of the District's goal that:

"...the school's team reflects the gender and ethnicity of the total school population." (page 1)

District staff has the responsibility to review the procedures used in the selection process for Academic Decathlon teams. Also, the staff must make every effort to ensure that the team is representative of the gender and ethnicity of the school and that the procedures followed in preparation for competition are within the parameters of equal opportunity for all students.

The District will not impose any specific quota or percentage as a basis for the criteria of reasonableness.

The following criteria of reasonableness will be used to determine that a school has made a concerted effort to adhere to the guidelines.

1. Every reasonable effort will be made to advertise the event, the qualifications, and the benefits to the students participating and to the students supporting such an event.
2. All students will have the opportunity to be considered for participation.
3. Interview times, application periods, classroom period times, practice or training times, and locations for the event will not be scheduled so as to limit participation or disqualify eligible students.
4. Practice teams will be approved by the principal and shall not interfere with team members' attendance in their other regularly assigned classes.
5. Team meetings in private homes are prohibited. Meetings will be held in District facilities whenever possible. A list of selected approved locations other than District facilities is attached. Team meetings must occur either at District facilities or at sites on the list of practice locations.
6. In making the selection for the most qualified, every reasonable effort shall be made to provide access for all students to try-out and to select a student team that is representative of the student population.
7. Each coach will endeavor to develop and recommend a team representative of the ethnic and gender composition of the student population.
8. Each principal will review these procedures and will make every reasonable and diligent effort to select a team representative of the ethnic and gender composition of the student population.
9. At any time designated by the District, but no later than approximately one month before the actual competition day, the principal and coach(es) shall submit the Progress Report on Selection of Participants for the Academic Decathlon indicating their efforts to meet the District's goal concerning ethnicity and gender.

The criteria of reasonableness includes appropriate responses to issues regarding the following:

- the efforts made to address the goal presently and in the past
- the process used to select members of the academic team

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Instructional Support Services

DUE DATE: December 17, 2008

TO: Cliff Ker
Coordinator, Academic Decathlon
c/o Local District 1

FROM: _____, Principal
_____ School

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT ON SELECTION OF TEAM MEMBERS FOR THE
ACADEMIC DECATHLON COMPETITION

The attached sheets explain the procedures used to attain the goal of selecting a team that is representative of the gender and ethnicity of the total school population.

Verified by _____ Signature of Principal

Verified by _____ Signature of Administrator-in-Charge
of Academic Decathlon

Verified by _____ Signature of Coach

_____ This form has been reviewed and the efforts to select a representative nine-member team for competition are approved.

_____ This form has been reviewed and the Director, High School Programs requests the opportunity to meet with you to discuss your responses.

District Staff Representative

DISTRIBUTION: Original to Instructional Support Services
Copy for school file

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Instructional Support Services

2008-2009 Academic Decathlon Selection Process

THE TEAM

A team consists of nine members, all full-time (four or more classes) students from the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and/or twelfth grades. The team is to include three students from each of the following academic categories:

Honor	3.75 - 4.00 GPA
Scholastic	3.00 - 3.74 GPA
Varsity	2.99 or below GPA

A contestant may compete in a higher division than his/her own grade point average, but not in a lower division (i.e., a Scholastic student can compete as an Honor student, but NOT as a Varsity student).

Students must also meet the District's requirement for participation in extra/co-curricular activities. The "C" average evaluation for participation in the Decathlon will be as follows: Single Track Calendar schools - **November 14, 2008?; Concept 6, Track A - December 24, 2008?; Concept 6, Track B - December 24, 2008?; Concept 6, Track C - October 29, 2008?.**

COMPUTATION OF GPA - ACADEMIC COURSES ONLY

Marks from the following time periods are to be used in computing the GPA for the Academic Decathlon:

Twelfth Graders:	All of tenth grade, all of eleventh grade, plus summer sessions between tenth and eleventh and between eleventh and twelfth
Eleventh Graders:	All of ninth grade, all of tenth grade, plus summer sessions between ninth and tenth and between tenth and eleventh
Tenth Graders:	All of eighth grade, all of ninth grade, plus summer sessions between eighth and ninth and between ninth and tenth
Ninth Graders:	All of seventh grade, all of eighth grade, plus summer sessions between seventh and eighth and between eighth and ninth

NOTE: All courses taken for high school credit in the two-year time period must appear on the transcript.

It is strongly advised that each school carefully check each student's G.P.A. as early as possible in the selection process to determine his/her competition category.

NOTES FOR GPA COMPUTATION

- Only marks earned in the following academic courses and areas (Grades 7 - 11) are to be used in computing the GPA:
 - Art: Art appreciation, art history (LAUSD Courses: Art Hist. and Analysis, World of Art, Amer. Images Sr. High, Museum Studies Sr. High, AP Art Hist., AP Studio Art)
 - Business: Business English & Communication, Business Law, and Accounting
 - Computer Science: Most 20- and 40-week courses
 - English: Language, literature, composition, mass media, drama, play production, speech, humanities, journalism, power reading, College Prep Seminar, English 7AB, English 8AB, English 9AB, English 10AB, ESL 3 and 4, Advanced ESL AB and all other academic electives
 - Social Science: Economics, government, history (U.S. History and World History), geography, humanities, and electives
 - Foreign Language: All high school courses
 - Math: Math 7AB, 8AB, 9AB, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, math analysis, calculus, integrated math
 - Music: Theory, history, harmony, appreciation
 - Science: All physical and biological science courses (including integrated science)
 - Other: World of Education

The following courses are not to be included when calculating the GPA:

Academic Decathlon

Health

Physical education or authorized substitute class (Marching Band, ROTC, etc.)

Life Skills

All Required Options (10-week) classes (Driver Ed.; Intro. to Computers; etc.)

SAT Preparation

Leadership

Yearbook

Service, Tutoring, and Peer Counseling

Reading (except as noted under English)

Typing/Word Processing

Skill classes in business

All homemaking classes

All industrial education classes

All music performance classes

All art production and crafts classes

Homeroom

For additional clarification on the academic status of an individual course for eligibility for Academic Decathlon, check the United States Academic Decathlon Eligibility Guidelines or with the Coordinator, Academic Decathlon for LAUSD.

(NOTE: ALL classes are included in the District's eligibility GPA for participation in extra/co-curricular activities.)

- For repeated courses, both marks, if they both occur during the focus semesters, are to be used in computing the GPA. If the original mark appears prior to the focus semesters, only the repeated mark is counted.

2008-2009 Academic Decathlon Selection Process (continued)

- A "Fail" mark received in a course that is not repeated is to be included in the GPA.
- "Incomplete" or Pass/Fail marks are not counted in computing the GPA. (Once a mark is given to remove an "Incomplete," that mark is to be used in the student's GPA.)
- College courses (academic subjects only) are included in the GPA only if high school credit is given and the marks are recorded on a student's cumulative record.
- Marks are not weighted for honors or advanced placement courses. The scale is as follows:
A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, Fail = 0.
- If a school or individual teacher has a policy of changing marks subsequent to receipt of advanced placement test scores, the new mark must be used in computing the GPA for Academic Decathlon.

VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

To verify eligibility of team members, each school will be required to submit **official** transcripts, principal's or designee's signature required, along with all other registration material. Please double check to make sure that all courses for the past two years are included. **Middle school marks must appear for current ninth and tenth graders.**

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Instructional Support Services

AUTHORIZED STUDY AND PRACTICE LOCATIONS FOR ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAMS

I. Criteria

The following criteria were used to evaluate the appropriateness of authorized study and practice locations:

- relevant to topics identified in the Academic Decathlon Study Guide for 2008-2009
- related to the educational growth of students
- supportive in its effect on the students' other courses of study
- supervised by certificated employees
- free of cost to any student
- reasonable in number and nondiscriminatory

II. Locations

The following locations are acceptable locations to use by teams:

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

California State Universities
(various campuses)
El Camino College
Hebrew Union University
Los Angeles Community Colleges
Loyola Marymount University
Mt. St. Mary's College
Pepperdine University
Santa Monica College
UCLA (campus)
USC (campus)

LIBRARIES

Huntington Library & Art Gallery
(San Marino)
Los Angeles Public Libraries
UCLA Library and Wight Gallery
(Westwood)
USC Library (Los Angeles)

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Art Museum (Los Angeles County)
Gene Autry Museum
Banning Museum Residence
Barnsdall Park Municipal Art Gallery
Cabrillo Beach Marine Museum
California Oil Museum
Getty Center
Armand Hammer Museum
Holocaust Memorial Museum
Los Angeles Maritime Museum
Museum of Natural History
Norton Simon Museum
Otis Art Institute
Pacific-Asia Museum (Pasadena)
Page Museum-LaBrea Discoveries
(Tar Pits) (Los Angeles)
Pasadena Art Museum
Skirball Museum (Hebrew Union College)
Southwest Museum (Los Angeles)
Sproul, Gilbert Museum (Norwalk)
State Museum of Science & Industry

OTHER LOCATIONS

Animal Shelters
Arboretum (Arcadia)
California Plaza
Cultural Arts Center (Sylmar)
East L.A. Planetarium
Huntington Hartford Theater
Japanese American Cultural Center
Los Angeles World Trade Center
Malibu Tidepools
Muckenthaler Cultural Center
Music Center (Los Angeles)

Shubert Theater
Simon Wisenthal Center for Holocaust
Studies (Los Angeles)
South Coast Botanic Gardens
(Palos Verdes)
Southern California Symphony
Hollywood Bowl Association

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Instructional Support Services

TO: Principals
Academic Decathlon Coaches
Administrators-in-Charge

May 2008

FROM: Cliff Ker

SUBJECT: 2008-2009 LOS ANGELES ACADEMIC DECATHLON PARTICIPATION

The Los Angeles Unified School District will conduct the Twenty-seventh Annual Academic Decathlon as a two-day event on Saturday, January 31, and Saturday, February 7, 2009. Also, a practice scrimmage will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2008, which is optional for schools. Each high school is eligible to sponsor a nine-member team of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students to compete in the Decathlon. Please complete and return the tear-off below by **October 16, 2008**, to register for the competition.

If you have any questions regarding the program, contact Cliff Ker at 818.654.3714 or cliff.ker@lausd.net.

-----TEAR-OFF-----

TO: Cliff Ker
Academic Decathlon
c/o Local District 1

DUE DATE: October 16, 2008

FROM: _____, Principal
_____ School

SUBJECT: 2008-2009 LOS ANGELES ACADEMIC DECATHLON PARTICIPATION FORM

Please list my school as a participant in the 2008-2009 Academic Decathlon on January 31/February 7, 2009. The following personnel will be working directly with the program:

The teacher/coach(es) who will be responsible for the team:

The administrator-in-charge of the Academic Decathlon program:

Also, the team will compete in the practice scrimmage on November 15, 2008.

_____ YES _____ NO

We are offering a special Academic Decathlon class during the Fall Semester 2008.

_____ YES _____ NO

Team preparation will be entirely by independent study.

_____ YES _____ NO

COMMENTS: _____

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Instructional Support Services

ACADEMIC DECATHLON
September 2008

The Academic Decathlon Program began in Orange County, California, in 1968 under the direction of the late Dr. Robert Peterson, former Orange County Superintendent of Schools. The competition went statewide in 1979, and has been a national event since 1982. The Los Angeles Unified School District became an active participant in the Academic Decathlon program in 1981. The program has grown over the years to where it is now the premier academic competition in the District, and it is one of the activities that allows us to showcase outstanding student achievement.

The Academic Decathlon is a scholastic competition for ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students. Nine-member teams from sixty-seven Los Angeles Unified School District schools compete as individuals and team members in a series of ten academic events. These events include examinations in: art, music, language and literature, mathematics, economics, and social science; a written essay; an interview; presentation of a prepared speech and an impromptu speech; and participation in the Super Quiz, a public event which requires each nine-member team to perform as a unit before a large, enthusiastic audience. The theme for 2008-2009 is Latin America. The teams are comprised of "A," "B," and "C," students.

The purposes of the Academic Decathlon are to:

- Encourage students to develop a greater respect for knowledge.
- Promote wholesome inter-school competition in academic areas of study and interest.
- Stimulate public interest and awareness of outstanding programs in American schools.
- Give recognition to academic achievement among high school students.

The culminating event for the District's Academic Decathlon program is an Awards Ceremony where the results of the competition are announced. At this event, over 300 individual medals, approximately 90 trophies and plaques, and over 400 certificates are awarded to individual students and teams. Monetary scholarships are also awarded to top-scoring students. The top-scoring team announced at the banquet advances to the California Academic Decathlon competition. In addition, the second through fifteenth place teams in the LAUSD competition are considered for at-large positions in the State competition. In 2008, six of those teams claimed at-large positions. LAUSD had a total of seven teams competing in the 2008 California Academic Decathlon State Finals, six placing in the top ten.

Historically, the District's teams have done exceptionally well in the State and National Finals. In the last twenty two years, fifteen of the District's teams have won the State competition and represented California in the United States Academic Decathlon competition. Ten of those teams won the National competition, Marshall High in 1987 and 1995, Taft High in 1989, 1994, and 2006, and El Camino Real High in 1998, 2001, 2004, 2005, and 2007. Four teams have placed second and one has placed fourth.

2008 LAUSD ACADEMIC DECATHLON RESULTS

Palisades High School

- First Place in LAUSD Competition
- Second Place in California Academic Decathlon

El Camino Real High School

- Second Place in the LAUSD Competition
- Third Place in California Academic Decathlon

North Hollywood High School

- Third Place in LAUSD Competition
- Fifth Place in California Academic Decathlon

Taft High School

- Fourth Place in LAUSD competition
- Eighth Place in California Academic Decathlon

Marshall High School

- Fifth Place in the LAUSD Competition
- Ninth Place in California Academic Decathlon

Granada Hills High School

- Sixth Place in LAUSD competition
- Sixth Place in California Academic Decathlon

Garfield High School

- Seventh Place in LAUSD Competition
- Seventeenth Place in California Academic Decathlon

2008-2009 LAUSD ACADEMIC DECATHLON CALENDAR

The topic for all competitions under U. S. Academic Decathlon is Latin America with a focus on Mexico

January 31, 2009	Competition Day 1 – Bravo Medical Magnet HS Speech/Interview/Essay competitions
February 7, 2009	Competition Day 2 – UCLA Objective examinations (7) – Ackerman Union Super Quiz – John Wooden Center, Collins Court (only public event of Decathlon)
February 12, 2009	Awards Ceremony– Los Angeles Convention Center

2009 CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON STATE COMPETITION

March 13-16, 2009 Sacramento, California

2009 UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON COMPETITION

April 22- 25, 2009 Memphis, Tennessee

United States Academic Decathlon web site is www.usad.org
California Academic Decathlon web site is www.academicdecathlon.org
LAUSD Academic Decathlon web site is www.acadecala.net