



ACADEMIC PROFILE 2023-2024

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CEEB Code 330990

Head of School: **HELEN L. MARLETTE** College Counselor: **ANN LESLIE**



#1
Best All-Girls
High Schools
in Buffalo Area

Buffalo Seminary is a selective, nonsectarian, independent day and boarding school for college-bound girls. Founded in 1851, it is a school steeped in traditions and simultaneously forward-thinking.

Enrollment in grades 9 through 12 is 155: 136 day and 19 residential students.

Our international boarding students come from several countries, including Afghanistan, Bahamas, China, Kenya, Nigeria and South Korea. International students are fully immersed in our academic and extracurricular program; therefore, we do not require students to enroll in an ENL program, though we do provide academic and social support. Although most of our international students are multilingual, they are not exempt from our foreign language requirements; students are required to take either French, Spanish, or Mandarin.

100% of graduates are accepted to four-year colleges. 52% of the students receive need-based financial aid.

HONOR CODE: Buffalo Seminary is dedicated to being a school where both Academic Honor and Social Honor guides our thoughts and actions. Academic Honor requires respect for the intellectual and artistic property of others. Social Honor requires treating ourselves and all members of our community with respect. Faculty and students sign the Academic & Social Honor Code poster in an annual fall ceremony.

COVID-19 RESPONSE: Pre-Covid, tech was integrated into SEM's teaching and learning. We have been open and in-person since September 2020. Plans and procedures for both online and on-campus learning included reconfigured spaces, reimagined teaching and learning combinations of synchronous and asynchronous remote learning, in-person classes for our day and boarding students. 80% of our students were on campus for the 2020-2021 school year. **Grading and assessment measures returned to our pre-pandemic standards.** 100% of our students have been in-person since the 2022-2023 academic year. All activities have fully resumed since fall 2022.

CAPSTONE PROGRAM: Before she graduates, each SEM student devotes herself to a self-directed project of her own design. With a foundation of research skills under her belt, each SEM junior spends a trimester reflecting on her passions and talents, narrowing down her research question and planning the details of her Capstone project, all under the guidance of a multidisciplinary team of faculty. As a senior, guided by a faculty mentor, she will complete and share her project, which includes an academic piece of writing and an artifact to be presented in an academic symposium (SEMposium).

HARKNESS LEARNING: As a college preparatory program, Harkness discussions are a vital part of our teaching and learning. Each of our humanities classrooms contains a classic New England-style Harkness table. A Harkness discussion is a seminar-style, student-led exploration of ideas through open-ended questions and multiple perspectives. Seated at a Harkness table, no girl is unheard and a lifetime of civil discourse is nurtured.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT POLICY & SCORES:

Students who are enrolled in an AP class are required to sit for the AP exam. Students must receive either teacher or department chair approval to enroll in an AP and/or honors course. We cap the number of AP courses a student can take at 3 per year unless the student has received special permission from the Dean of Students. In May 2022, 70 students sat for 108 total exams.

CLASS OF 2023: 49 students

13 AP Scholars, 5 AP Scholars with Honors, 1 AP Scholar with Distinction

COURSE DESIGNATIONS: AP (Advanced Placement);

H (Honors) - Courses designed to provide more intensive study for students of superior ability and interest; No Letter Designation - College Preparatory course

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English - 4 years

History - 3 years

Foreign Language - 3 years through advanced level

Mathematics - 3 years

Science - 3 years

+ A 4th year of either **Math or Science**

Fine Arts - 5 classes

We are on a trimester system.

All attempted courses appear on a student's transcript.

English electives, with the exception of AP English Language & Composition and Foundational Junior English are open to all juniors and seniors.

Students are required to volunteer 10 hours of community service per year.

VARSITY SPORTS

Basketball	Squash
Bowling	Swimming
Crew	Tennis
Cross Country	<i>1 NCAA Signings in the Class of 2023: Women's Rowing</i>
Fencing	
Field Hockey	
Golf	
Lacrosse	
Sailing	
Soccer	

SCHOOL CLUBS

School Government Association	Drama (2 annual productions)	Model UN
Audio-Visual (AV)	E-Sports	Music Collective
Black Student Union	EnSEMBle	National Honor Society
Book	French	Outdoors
Chinese	Gay-Straight Alliance	Science
Connect Life	Glee	SEMachords (a capella)
Community Service Board	Harry Potter	SEMinaria (yearbook)
Computer Programming	Hornet/Jacket Board	SEM Music Collective
Dance	Jewish Cultural	Ski
Dungeons & Dragons	Journalism	Spanish
	Math	Tea
	Mock Trial	Volleyball

COURSE OFFERINGS FOR SENIORS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

ENGLISH

Autobiography
Femininity & Literature
Nature in Literature
Shakespeare & History
Ghosts in Literature
Harlem Renaissance
Existentialism in Literature
New Weird Literature
Queer Theory
Poetry
Science Fiction & Society
Short Story
Intro to Moral Philosophy
The Brontes
West African Literature
Greek Drama
Reel Narrative I & II
Historical Perspectives in Journalistic Writing

MATH

AP Calculus AB, BC **
AP Statistics **
Introduction to Calculus **
PreCalculus **
Financial Algebra ABC

HISTORY

AP U.S. Government & Politics (two trimesters)
AP Human Geography **
The World Today
America in the 60s
Contemporary Middle East
History
Urban Studies
Mongol Empire
History of Pop Culture
HERstory
Marginalized Identities

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Introduction, Intermediate, or Advanced Spanish/French **
Intermediate or Advanced Mandarin **
Spanish: ¡Actualidad
Spanish: Latin American Short Stories
Spanish: Latin American Culture
French: Bon Appetit!
French: Francophone Culture in Film
French: L'Actualite

Latin American Cinema
Latin American Traditional Dances & Gastronomy
Exploring the Hispanic Community
French: Les Femmes de Versailles

SCIENCE

AP Biology **
AP Chemistry **
AP Physics **
Meteorology
Women in Science & Math
Who Changed History
Oceanography
Astronomy: Search for Alien Life; Solar System; Stars & Galaxies

COMPUTER SCIENCE

AP Computer Science A **
AP Computer Science Principles **
Introduction to Computer Science
Video Game Design
Python II
Artificial Intelligence

Virtual Reality Lab
Cybersecurity

FINE ARTS

Art & Social Activism
Digital Art
Introduction to Photography
Introduction to Acting
Advanced Acting
Basic Painting
Introduction to Drawing
Foundations in Abstraction
Representation
Narrative Art
Public Art
Printmaking
Introduction to Shakespeare
Advanced Shakespeare
Searching for Shakespeare
Playin' with a Playwright
Foundations of Music
Elements in Music
Music in Film
Photography & Mixed Media
Women in Photography
Graphic Design
Dead Playwrights

Alive: Living Playwrights
Absurdist Drama
Theatrical Production
Advanced Film Photography
Voice Class
Composing & Songwriting

ONE SCHOOLHOUSE (ENROLLEES 2020-21)

AP French Language & Culture
AP Spanish Language
AP Microeconomics
AP Psychology
Computer Science by Design: Mobile App Development
Neuroscience
Happiness!
The Psychology of What Makes Life Worth Living

* Classes are one trimester in length unless otherwise noted

** Classes are full year

EXPLANATION OF GRADES

A+ 100-97	B+ 89-87	C+ 79-77	D 65-69
A 96-93	B 86-83	C 73-76	F 64+
A- 92-90	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	

Merit Roll:

Earned by students averaging 3.33 (B+) or greater (with no grade lower than C+)

Honor Roll:

Earned by students averaging 3.67 (A-) or greater (with no grade lower than B)

High Honor Roll:

Earned by students averaging 4.33 (with no grade lower than A-)

Students are only awarded these honors at the end of the year based on their final grades. For this purpose alone, grade point averages are calculated on a 4-point scale, with added weight given to Honors and Advanced Placement courses. We do not provide a GPA to colleges.

By policy, SEM students are not ranked.

COLLEGE PLACEMENTS CLASS OF

2023

46 STUDENTS

	Number	Percentage
Private	35	76%
Public	9	24%
Gap Year	2	2%
4-Year	44	98%
Out of State	18	40%
In State	26	60%

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Over the five-year period from 2019-2023, students of Buffalo Seminary have matriculated at the following

colleges:

Allegheny College:	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of California, San Diego
American University	Howard University	Saint John Fisher College	University of California, Santa Barbara
Amherst College	Indiana University of Pennsylvania	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	University of Dayton
Bard College	Ithaca College	Skidmore College	University of Denver
Bates College	Jacksonville University	Southern Methodist University	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Belmont University	John Carroll University	SUNY College of Technology at Alfred	University of Maine
Bennington College	Johnson & Wales University	SUNY Albany	University of Michigan - Ann Arbor: 2020
Boston College:	Kenyon College	SUNY Binghamton	University of Missouri, Columbia
Boston University	Keuka College	SUNY Buffalo	University of New Hampshire
Brown University	LIM College	SUNY Buffalo State College	University of Pittsburgh
Bryn Mawr College	Loyola University, Chicago	SUNY Canton	University of Rochester
Canisius University	Loyola University, New Orleans	SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry	University of St. Andrew's (UK)
Carnegie Mellon University	Maryland Institute of Art	SUNY Erie Community College:	University of Southern California:
Chapman University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	SUNY Fredonia	University of Toronto (CAN)
Cleveland Institute of Art	Mercyhurst University	SUNY Geneseo	University of Vermont
Colgate University	Michigan State University	SUNY New Paltz	University of Virginia
College of Charleston	Missouri University of Science and Technology	SUNY Oneonta	University of Washington, Seattle
College of Wooster	Mercyhurst University	SUNY Oswego	University of Western Ontario
Cornell University	Michigan State University	SUNY Plattsburgh	Utica College
Columbia University	Missouri University of Science and Technology	SUNY Potsdam	Wesleyan University
Daemen University	Mount Holyoke College	SUNY Purchase	Wellesley College
Denison University	Muhlenberg College	SUNY Stony Brook	Western New England University
Duquesne University	Nazareth College	Suffolk University	Williams College
Durham University	New York University	Syracuse University	Wittenberg University
D'Youville University	Niagara University	Temple University	Wofford University
Eckerd College	Northeastern University	Trinity College Dublin	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Elon University	Norwich University	UCSI University, Malaysia	Xavier University
Emerson College	Nova Southeastern University	University of Alabama	
Emory University	Ohio University	University of California, Irvine	
Florida Gulf Coast University	Ohio State University	University of California, Riverside	
Fordham University	University of Ottawa		
Franklin & Marshall College	Pace University		
Gannon University	Pratt Institute		
George Washington University	Pennsylvania State University		
University of Guelph	Purdue University		
Hamilton College	Quinnipiac University		
Hampshire College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute		
Harvard University			
Hilbert College			