



# ACADEMICS AT A GLANCE 2024-2025

*Independent day & boarding  
school for college-bound girls*

205 Bidwell Parkway, Buffalo, New York 14222  
buffaloseminary.org - 716.885.6780  
Fax: 716.885.6785



Head of School: **Blair Parker**  
Director of Enrollment: **Carrie Auwarter '96**  
Dean of Students: **Eva Cunningham**

## MISSION STATEMENT

Buffalo Seminary prepares a diverse group of young women to be engaged scholars and citizens, proud to shape society rather than be controlled by it, and ready to live and lead with honor, courage, and confidence.

---

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 157: 139 day and 18 residential students. 52% of the students receive need-based financial aid. 77% of faculty hold advanced degrees.

Our international boarding students come from several countries, including Afghanistan, China, Germany, Kenya, France, Lithuania, Nigeria, and Taiwan.

---

## SEM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**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.

**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.

**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 Harkness table to facilitate a true discussion: a seminary-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.

**SEMFlex:** Stemming from the varied interests and wide talents of SEM students, our vision is focused on reimagining when, where and how learning happens in order to design a personalized, challenging and transformational learning environment. From the arts to athletics to specialized internships, students competing at a high level in their chosen field need the flexibility to access their academics in an alternative way. SEMFlex meets that need by a unique program that affords our students the most flexibility in their schedule while continuing to provide rigorous academic instruction that allows them to graduate with a SEM diploma.



Independent day & boarding school for college-bound girls



## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- English - 4 years
- History - 3 years
- Foreign Language - 3 years through advanced level
- Mathematics - 3 years
- Science - 3 years of lab science
- A 4th year of either Math or Science
- Fine Arts - 5 classes

## SEQUENTIAL COURSE OFFERINGS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

### GRADE 9

English I: Community & Self  
 History I: Western New York History  
 Geometry (\*H)  
 Physics (\*H)  
 Intro/Intermediate French  
 Intro/Intermediate Spanish  
 Fine Arts: Freshman Arts Eye  
 Health & Leadership  
 U GO SEM Fitness

### GRADE 10

English II: American Literary Expressions (\*H)  
 History II: United States History (\*AP)  
 Intermediate Algebra (\*H)  
 Biology (\*H)  
 Intermediate/Advanced French  
 Intermediate/Advanced Spanish  
 Fine Arts Electives  
 Computer Science Electives  
 Health & Leadership  
 U GO SEM Fitness

### GRADE 11

English III: Exploring the Literary World  
 AP English Lit  
 History III: The World-Patterns of Change  
 AP World History  
 AP Human Geography  
 Pre-Calculus (\*H)  
 Chemistry (\*H)  
 Advanced French/French Electives  
 AP French  
 Advanced Spanish/ Spanish Electives  
 AP Spanish  
 Junior Capstone  
 Fine Arts Electives  
 Computer Science Electives  
 Health & Leadership  
 U GO SEM Fitness

### GRADE 12

English IV: Electives  
 History IV: Electives  
 AP Government  
 AP African American Studies  
 Introduction to Calculus  
 AP Calculus AB  
 Science Electives  
 AP Chemistry  
 AP Biology  
 AP Physics  
 Foreign Language Electives  
 AP French  
 AP Spanish  
 Senior Capstone  
 Fine Arts Electives  
 Computer Science Electives  
 Health & Leadership  
 U GO SEM Fitness

(\*H) Course is also offered at the Honors level

Students have the opportunity to take additional courses through One Schoolhouse at any grade level.

## ELECTIVE COURSES 2024-2025

**English:** Science Fiction and Society, Femininity in Literature, Autobiography, Harlem Renaissance Literature, Ghosts in Literature, Existential Literature, Short Story, Modern & Contemporary Poetry, Creative Nonfiction

**Science:** Astronomy: Solar System, Astronomy: Space Missions & Aliens, Women in Science & Math Who Changed History

**Foreign Language:** L'Actualité- Current Events, The Francophone World: Québec, La Culture Francophone au Cinéma- French Culture in Movies, CinemaLatinoAmericano- Latin American Culture in Movies, Latin American Dance, La Actualidad- Current Events

**Visual Arts:** Intro to Drawing, Basic Painting, Advance Drawing, Print Making, Mixed Media Mash-Up, Intro to Photography, Art & Social Activism, Photography Mixed Media, Graphic Print & Design, Foundations in Abstraction, Foundations: Women in Art

**Computer Science:** Computer Science: App & Game Design, Computer Science: Web Design, Cybersecurity, Python Programming

**Performing Arts:** Dead Playwrights, Living Playwrights, Absurdist Drama, Intro to Acting, Intro to Acting Shakespeare, Advanced Acting Shakespeare, Theatrical Production, Intro to Puppetry, Playin' with a Playwright, Elements of Music, Foundations in Film Music, Music Theory, Composing/Song Writing, Intro to Ukelele, Women in Music