



# ACADEMIC PROFILE 2024-2025

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



Head of School: **Blair Parker**  
College Counselor: **Ann Leslie**  
Dean of Teaching & Learning: **Amanda Melsby**

## 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.

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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. 98% of graduates are accepted to four-year colleges. 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, Lithuania, 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.

SAT/ACT Scores: In light of the test optional policy adopted by the majority of colleges and universities, Buffalo Seminary is not reporting aggregate student scores.

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## 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.