

## SCHOOL PROFILE 2019-2020

St. Paul Academy and Summit School is a K-12 independent day school with two campuses located in the heart of Saint Paul, Minnesota. Our 925 students reflect the broader diversity of the Twin Cities, with 33 percent identifying as students of color and 24 percent drawing from a pool of nearly \$3.6 million of financial aid. The class of 2019 has 90 students.

As members of an intellectual community, SPA students thrive in what we call the accountable classroom: a place where students from a broad range of backgrounds understand that they have a responsibility to challenge themselves while engaging and contributing to the collective learning experience. Our small classes (average size is 14) emphasize thoughtful participation and clear expression of ideas.

- **Students are comfortable consulting teachers with questions and building rapport with faculty.** In college they readily seek out professors to foster strong intellectual and community connections.
- **Students learn discipline-specific modes of thinking and writing.** After building a thorough foundation in grades 9 and 10, students in upper-level courses learn and practice the types of investigation and analysis distinct to each academic discipline.
- **Accountability extends to student engagement in a wide range of athletic, artistic, and community activities.** Among more than 400 Upper School students, nearly 80% compete in athletics, 60% perform in music ensembles, and more than 20% participate in our nationally-ranked debate program.

SPA graduates arrive at college accustomed to working independently and eager to enlist the support and mentorship of their college professors. They bring skills, habits and attitudes that enable them to thrive from the start, excelling and leading throughout college.

**In their own words, see what our recent graduates value about their SPA education:**

- *“SPA instilled a **systemic curiosity** which sets me apart from my peers.”*
- *“I value that SPA didn’t teach to a test. I think SPA definitely gave me the tools to **answer difficult/unanswerable/interesting questions** and to use resources to figure out an answer.”*
- *“SPA gave me the **comfort to speak up** in classes. It trained me well to maneuver in discussions: listening, building on the ideas put forth by others, and injecting new ideas into the discussion.”*
- *“My ability to **write clearly and think critically** has been extremely valuable to me in college and in my life beyond college as well.”*
- *“Undoubtedly those aspects relating to **self-assuredness**. I’ve made a lot of wonderful connections to professors, had a lot of fabulous discussions in class—and enjoyed the heck out of a lot of public presentations—and I think a considerable part of all of that comes of my preparation at SPA.”*

### New Upper School Math and Science Building

In Fall 2018 SPA opened the **Hugh K. Schilling Math and Science Center**, with nearly **40,000 square feet of classroom, laboratory, and collaborative space, including six large classrooms for mathematics; six hybrid classroom/lab spaces for physics, biology, chemistry, and independent research courses; three design laboratories, including a wood shop; dedicated classrooms for robotics and computer science; and multiple common areas and study spaces.**

**94% of recent SPA graduates report feeling better prepared for college work than their college classmates.**

## Shaping the minds and the hearts of the people who will change the world

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**242315**

## RIGOROUS STANDARDS FOR ALL STUDENTS

SPA prepares all of its students for demanding college-level academics. The main course of study in most departments is taught at an advanced level; all students take very challenging college-preparatory courses. In math and science, limited sections of honors coursework provide an even higher level of challenge; placement is determined by faculty.

SPA chooses not to teach the AP curriculum. Instead, faculty design SPA classes to go well beyond the prescribed AP curriculum in depth and complexity.

All students enter college with multiple years' experience in the following:

- discussion-based seminar classes
- independent research papers in history
- use of sophisticated lab equipment and practice in scientific writing
- focus on logic, critical thinking and clear communication in math
- oral proficiency and cultural competence in world language
- creative expression in music, theater, visual art, and design

## UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND REQUIREMENTS\*

### ENGLISH

**4-year requirement: Journeys in Literature (9), American Literature (10), and semester electives (11, 12). Junior/senior electives may support preparation for AP exams.**

#### 2019-20 Junior/Senior English

##### Fall semester

Classics in Society  
Creative Writing: Playwriting  
Literature of Migration  
Poetry: Connection and Community  
Speculative Fiction  
Writing Seminar: Critical Contexts

##### Spring semester

Creative Writing: Poetry and Poetics  
Gender in Literature  
Literature of Love and Marriage  
Literature of the Asian Diaspora  
Topics in Literary Analysis  
Writing Seminar: Public Discourse

#### 2018-19 Junior/Senior English

##### Fall semester

History of the Novel  
Literature of Monstrosity  
Reading and Writing Memoir  
The Bible and Literature  
Writing Seminar: Non-Fiction

##### Spring semester

Creative Writing  
Literature of Resistance  
New Global Voices  
Shakespeare  
The Contemporary Novel

**Debate, Journalism and Yearbook: Academic, credit-bearing elective courses with competition or production component beyond class time. Courses do not fulfill English requirement.**

Beginning Debate (Fall)  
Advanced Debate (Fall)  
Writing for Publication (Fall/Spring)  
Journalism (Print or Multimedia)  
Editorial Leadership (Print or Multimedia)  
Yearbook (Fall/Spring)  
Editorial Leadership: Yearbook

### WORLD LANGUAGE

**3-level requirement including two years' study in Upper School or, by permission, the second level of two languages. Level V or Advanced courses may support preparation for AP exams.**

#### Upper Level Electives

Chinese, French, German through Level V or Advanced  
Spanish through Level VI Senior Seminar

### SCIENCE

**3-year lab science requirement: Physics 9, Biology, Chemistry. Honors placement (in Biology and Chemistry only) by faculty recommendation. Honors and advanced electives may support preparation for AP exams. Seniors and accelerated science students choose semester electives.**

#### Electives

##### Fall semester

Environmental Science  
Forensic Science  
Genetics  
Advanced Mechanics  
Advanced Mechanics with Calculus  
Space Science  
Advanced Scientific Research

##### Spring semester

Forensic Science  
Human Physiology  
Organic Chemistry  
Honors Biology II  
Honors Chemistry II  
Electricity and Magnetism with Calculus  
Relativity and Quantum Physics  
Waves, Optics and Acoustics  
Advanced Scientific Research

**Computer Science and Engineering: Students taking CS Principles or Advanced Programming may take the corresponding AP Exams.**

##### Fall semester

Programming and Problem Solving  
Robotics  
Principles of Engineering  
Advanced Projects: CSCI and Engineering

##### Spring semester

Programming and Problem Solving  
Robotics  
Physical Computing  
Advanced Topics in Engineering: Aerospace  
**Full year (alternate years)**  
Advanced Programming I, II  
Computer Science Principles I, II

### MATHEMATICS

**3-level requirement through Precalculus or Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry. Honors placement by faculty recommendation. Both Calculus courses and Advanced Probability/Statistics may support preparation for AP exams.**

#### Electives

Probability and Statistics (Fall)  
Topics in Data Science (Spring)  
Advanced Probability and Statistics I, II  
Differential and Integral Calculus  
Honors Differential and Integral Calculus  
Honors Advanced Topics (Sem. 1 and 2)

### HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

**3-year requirement: World History I and II (9-10), U.S. History (11). World and U.S. History courses may support preparation for AP exams. Seniors may take semester electives.**

#### Electives

##### Fall semester

Gender in the Americas  
Government and Citizenship  
History of Refugee Communities  
History of Thought  
Honors U.S. History Seminar I  
U.S. Foreign Policy Since World War II

##### Spring semester

Economics  
Global Issues  
History of Race  
Honors U.S. History Seminar II  
The History of Law  
U.S. Foreign Policy Since World War II  
World Religions

### FINE ARTS

**Required: .75 credit, typically three semesters of art, music or theater. Most fine arts courses earn .25 credit/semester. Honors Seminars earn .5/semester.**

#### Semester Electives

**Music ensembles:** Academy Chorale, Summit Singers (treble voices), Academy Symphony, Honors Sinfonia, US Jazz Band

**Studio Art:** Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Extended Image, Video Arts, Video Storytelling

**Theater:** Theatrical Arts; Advanced Theater (alternate years): Acting; Design; Directing; Production and Performance

**Honors Seminars:** Art I, II and Music I, II

### WELLNESS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Required: Fitness for Life (9), Wellness (10)**

\*Courses are year long unless otherwise noted.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Most students take five core academic courses plus at least one elective; maximum load is seven classes. Academic courses earn .5 credit/semester. Minimum 4.5 credits per year, 18 total required.

- Highest grade awarded is an "A."
- GPA is unweighted.
- We do not report class rank.

## CLASS OF 2020 THROUGH JUNIOR YEAR

	Mean	Middle 50%
Cumulative GPA (unweighted)	3.65	3.33-3.91
ACT Composite (80% of class took ACT)	30	27-32
SAT Total (61% of class took SAT)	1367	1280-1500
SAT EBRW	681	640-740
SAT Math	686	630-760

GPA Distribution	Percent of class
3.90 - 4.00	27%
3.80 - 3.89	13%
3.70 - 3.79	7%
3.50 - 3.69	17%
3.30 - 3.49	15%
3.00 - 3.29	10%
Below 3.00	11%

### National Merit recognition for Class of 2020 (90 students):

13 Semi-Finalists, 3 Commended students, 18% of class recognized.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM RESULTS

SPA chooses not to teach AP classes. Instead our faculty design classes to go well beyond the prescribed curriculum in depth and complexity. Students in most upper-level courses may choose to take a corresponding AP exam.

- In 2019, 107 students took 184 AP exams in 22 subjects.
- 92% of exam scores were 3 or above; 66% of exams were 4 or 5.

## TEST SCORES THROUGH SENIOR YEAR

### ACT - MEAN SCORES

	2019	2018	2017
Percent of class taking ACT	89%	97%	98%
ACT Composite	31	31	30
Mid-50% Composite	28-34	27-34	27-33

### SAT - MEAN SCORES

	2019	2018	2017
Percent of class taking SAT	71%	79%	79%
SAT Total	1379	1405	1360
Mid-50% SAT	1295-1500	1290-1495	1230-1440

### Please note:

- The transcript lists all courses attempted. If a course must be retaken, both enrollments in the course are listed but only the second will earn credit and count in GPA.
- When colleges ask about a student's disciplinary record, SPA will comply with the request by reporting infractions resulting in suspension during grades 9-12.

## STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- ISEF: International Science and Engineering Fair - 3 national qualifiers (and 2 alternates), including a third place award winner (internationally) 2019. 15 state science fair qualifiers.
- Public Forum Debate: top team placed top 5% at nationals 2019; 3 teams qualified 2017, 2018. 2 teams qualified for Tournament of Champions; one placed top 10%. Overall state title 4 of past 7 years; qualified for state 22 of past 23 years.
- National recognition for *The Rubicon*: NSPA Pacemaker Award (4th in a row); CSPA Gold Crown Award (Silver 2017); Distinguished Site by School Newspapers Online (2nd in a row); Runner-up National Journalist of the Year.
- Minnesota Varsity classical music competition: 3 finalists 2019.
- Scholastic Art Competition 2019: 32 students had 43 pieces/portfolios honored at state level including 11 Gold Awards eligible for national competition. 2 national medalists in 2017.
- Three winners of Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society Essay Contest 2018, 2019.
- *Iris Art & Literature Magazine* CSPA Crown Award; Gold Award. NCTE Realm Award 2019.
- *Ibid* Yearbook NSPA First Class Award 2017, 2019. MSPA Gold Award 2019.
- Math Team tied for 2nd in state, as only small school in top division. First in state among small schools 2017 (30+ year state qualifier).
- Quiz Bowl national qualifying team in 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018.
- Minnesota Bilingual Certificate of Proficiency earned by 120 students based on world language STAMP test.
- Science Olympiad Team first in state among small schools 2017, 2018; 2019 qualifier.
- Robotics Team state qualifier 2017, 2018, 2019.
- Poetry Out-Loud competition: poetry recitation state finalist.
- Hennepin Theater Trust: 14 Spotlight Awards for Upper School musical production.
- One-Act Play Festival: top award at State 2017, 2018.
- State level athletic achievements:
  - Titles: Football team 2018; boys Nordic individual 2019; boys fencing team (6th year in a row); boys tennis doubles 2019.
  - Team qualifiers: Girls fencing 3rd in state 2019; girls hockey 2nd in state 2016, 2017, 2018 and 4th straight year qualifying; girls Alpine 2019; boys tennis 2nd in state 2019, 3rd in 2017, 2018.
  - Individual qualifiers in 2019: girls diving, boys swimming, boys Alpine, boys tennis, boys track.
  - NCAA Division I athletes: 14 from 2014-19.

# 2015-2019 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION

SPA students were admitted to the following colleges, and enrolled in colleges marked in bold. Numbers indicate more than one student enrolled.

- In 2019, the average number of applications filed was 7.
- 41% applied via Early Decision; 27% enrolled through ED.

- 107 graduates enrolled at 66 different colleges.
- 5 will take a gap year to pursue cultural study, work, sports, service.

Alabama State University  
American University  
**American University of Paris**  
**Amherst College**  
**Arizona State University** - 3  
**Augsburg University** - 3  
Augustana University  
Babson College  
**Bard College**  
**Barnard College** - 4  
**Barrett Honors College (AZ State)**  
**Bates College** - 2  
Belmont University  
**Beloit College**  
**Bennington College**  
Bentley University  
Bethel University  
Bloomsburg University  
**Boston College** - 6  
**Boston University**  
**Bowdoin College** - 4  
Bradley University  
**Brandeis University** - 2  
**Brown University** - 4  
**Bryn Mawr College** - 2  
Bucknell University  
**Butler University** - 2  
**California Lutheran University**  
California Polytechnic State University,  
San Luis Obispo  
**Carleton College** - 10  
**Carnegie Mellon University** - 3  
Case Western Reserve University  
Champlain College  
Chapman University  
Christopher Newport University  
**Claremont McKenna College** - 4  
Clark Atlanta University  
Clark University  
**Coastal Carolina University** - 2  
**Coe College**  
**Colby College** - 3  
**Colgate University** - 5  
**College of Saint Benedict**  
**College of St. Scholastica**  
College of the Holy Cross  
**College of Wooster** - 3  
**Colorado College** - 5  
**Colorado State University** - 2  
Columbia College Chicago  
**Columbia University** - 3  
Concordia College - Moorhead  
Concordia University at St. Paul  
Connecticut College  
**Cooper Union for the Advancement  
of Science & Art**  
**Cornell College**  
**Cornell University** - 4  
Creighton University  
Daemen College  
**Dartmouth College** - 3  
**Davidson College** - 3  
**Denison University**  
**DePaul University** - 2  
**Dickinson College**  
**Drake University**  
Drew University  
Drexel University  
**Duke University** - 2  
Durham University  
**Earlham College**  
Eastman School of Music  
Edinburgh Napier University  
**Elon University** - 2

**Emerson College**  
**Emory University** - 2  
Evergreen State College  
**Fordham University** - 2  
**Franklin & Marshall College**  
Franklin University Switzerland  
Furman University  
**George Washington University** - 10  
**Georgetown University** - 3  
Gettysburg College  
**Goucher College** - 3  
Grand Canyon University  
**Grinnell College** - 8  
**Gustavus Adolphus College** - 8  
**Hamilton College**  
**Hamline University** - 4  
Hampshire College  
**Harvard College** - 3  
Harvey Mudd College  
**Haverford College** - 3  
Hendrix College  
High Point University  
Hillsdale College  
**Hobart and William Smith Colleges** - 2  
Hofstra University  
Howard University  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
**Indiana University at Bloomington** - 2  
Inver Hills Community College  
**Iowa State University** - 2  
**Ithaca College** - 3  
Jacobs University  
James Madison University  
**Johns Hopkins University** - 2  
Kalamazoo College  
Kenyon College  
King's College London  
Knox College  
**Lake Forest College** - 4  
**Lawrence University** - 4  
Lehigh University  
**Lewis & Clark College**  
Loyola Marymount University  
**Loyola University Chicago** - 3  
Loyola University New Orleans  
**Luther College** - 2  
**Macalester College** - 10  
Marist College  
**Marquette University** - 2  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
McDaniel College  
**McGill University** - 2  
Metropolitan State University  
**Miami University (OH)** - 4  
Michigan Technological University  
**Middlebury College** - 6  
**Milwaukee School of Engineering**  
Minneapolis Community and Technical  
College  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
**Montana State University, Bozeman** - 2  
**Morehouse College**  
**Mount Holyoke College**  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
**New York University** - 3  
**Northeastern University** - 7  
Northland College  
**Northwestern University** - 6  
Nova Southeastern University  
**Oberlin College** - 2  
Oberlin Conservatory of Music  
**Occidental College** - 3  
Ohio State University

**Oklahoma State University**  
Oregon State University  
Pace University  
Pacific Lutheran University  
Pennsylvania State University  
**Pepperdine University**  
**Pitzer College**  
**Pomona College** - 2  
**Pratt Institute**  
Providence College  
**Purdue University** - 3  
Queen's University  
Reed College  
Regent's University London  
**Regis University**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rhodes College  
**Rice University** - 2  
Ripon College  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
**Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology** - 3  
**Rutgers University-New Brunswick**  
**Saint John's University (MN)** - 3  
**Saint Louis University**  
Saint Mary's College of California  
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota  
Saint Michael's College  
San Diego State University  
**Santa Clara University** - 3  
**Sarah Lawrence College** - 6  
**Savannah College of Art and Design**  
**Scripps College** - 6  
Seattle University  
Sewanee: The University of the South  
Simmons University  
**Skidmore College** - 5  
**Smith College** - 3  
**Southern Methodist University** - 2  
**St. Catherine University**  
St. Cloud State University  
St. Edward's University  
St. John's College  
St. Lawrence University  
St. Norbert College  
**St. Olaf College** - 23  
**Stanford University**  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
**Suffolk University**  
**Swarthmore College** - 2  
**Syracuse University** - 4  
Tennessee State University  
**Texas Christian University** - 2  
**New School**  
**Trinity College** - 2  
**Trinity University**  
**Tufts University** - 5  
**Tulane University** - 2  
**Union College**  
**University College London**  
University of Alabama  
**University of Arizona**  
University of British Columbia - Okanagan  
**University of British Columbia  
Vancouver**  
**University of California, Berkeley** - 6  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Irvine  
**University of California, Los Angeles** - 2  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
**University of California, Santa Cruz** - 2  
**University of Chicago** - 3  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
University of Connecticut

**University of Dayton**  
**University of Denver** - 5  
**University of Edinburgh**  
**University of Guelph**  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**University of Iowa** - 3  
University of Kansas  
University of Manitoba  
University of Maryland, College Park  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
**University of Miami**  
University of Michigan  
**University of Minnesota, Duluth** - 3  
University of Minnesota, Morris  
University of Minnesota, Rochester  
**University of Minnesota, Twin Cities** - 44  
University of Missouri Columbia  
University of Montana, Missoula  
**University of New Hampshire** - 3  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**University of North Dakota**  
University of North Texas  
**University of Notre Dame** - 4  
University of Oklahoma  
**University of Oregon** - 2  
University of Oxford  
**University of Pennsylvania** - 3  
University of Portland  
**University of Puget Sound** - 4  
**University of Redlands**  
**University of Richmond**  
University of Rochester  
University of San Diego  
University of San Francisco  
**University of Southern California** - 2  
**University of St Andrews**  
**University of St. Thomas** - 5  
University of Tampa  
University of Texas, Austin  
**University of Toronto**  
University of Utah  
**University of Vermont** - 5  
**University of Virginia** - 2  
**University of Washington** - 3  
**University of Winnipeg**  
**University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire** - 2  
**University of Wisconsin, Madison** - 11  
University of Wisconsin, Parkside  
**University of Wisconsin, Platteville**  
University of Wisconsin, River Falls  
**University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point**  
University of Wisconsin, Stout  
**Vanderbilt University**  
Vassar College  
**Villanova University** - 2  
Wagner College  
**Wake Forest University**  
Wartburg College  
**Washington University in St. Louis** - 12  
**Wellesley College** - 3  
**Wesleyan University**  
Western Washington University  
Wheaton College (IL)  
**Whitman College** - 3  
Whittier College  
Willamette University  
**Williams College** - 5  
**Winona State University**  
**Worcester Polytechnic Institute** - 2  
Xavier University of Louisiana  
**Yale University** - 8