



ACADEMIC PROFILE 2020-2021

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CEEB Code 330990



#1
Best College Prep
Private High Schools
in Buffalo Area



#1
Best All-Girls
High Schools
in Buffalo Area

Head of School: **HELEN L. MARLETTE**

Acting Director of College Counseling: **KANIKA N. DURLAND** College Counseling Associate: **ANN LESLIE**

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 173: 146 day and 27 residential students.

Our international boarding students come from several countries, including the Bahamas, Canada, China, Kenya, Mexico, South Korea, and Vietnam. 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.

98% of graduates enroll in four-year colleges. 52% of the students receive need-based financial aid.

HONOR CODE: Buffalo Seminary is dedicated to being a school where integrity, honesty, and empathy guide our thoughts and deeds. Academic Honor requires respect for the intellectual and artistic property of others. Social Honor requires treating ourselves and the other members of our community with respect, communicating honestly with one another, valuing our differences, and representing our school in a positive way. The Honor Pledge is written on all tests, papers, examinations, and designated homework assignments: "I pledge on my honor that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance." Faculty and students sign the Academic & Social Honor Code poster in an annual fall ceremony.

COVID-19 RESPONSE / REMOTE LEARNING: In March of 2020, in response to the global pandemic, we transitioned to remote learning. For the remainder of the school year classes were held through Zoom. While our schedule and delivery method changed, on the whole, our academic program remained intact. Students, much to their credit, were engaged in their coursework and capitalized on the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to truly test their resilience, flexibility, and self-reliance. **Grading and assessment measures were mostly unchanged**, and students earned letter grades for their work rather than a pass/fail designation. Merit roll was determined by where a students' grade stood at the end of the second trimester. We did not administer final exams, but many classes still assigned final papers and/or projects. Fall of 2020 we opened with 16% of our students as remote learners comprising students from both abroad and from the region. Students may opt to attend remotely by trimester.

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).



COMMITTED STEINWAY SELECT SCHOOL

As part of SEM's commitment to the arts, in 2019 the school undertook the process to be certified by the venerable piano manufacturer Steinway & Sons as a Steinway Select School. In 2020 there are only 16 Steinway Select K-12 schools in the world; we are on track to join them.

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 2020, 72 students sat for 137 total exams. Students earned a score of 3 or higher on 77% of those exams.

CLASS OF 2021: 49 students

8 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 (Standard) - 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 - 2 years and 2 trimesters

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 juniors and seniors.

Students are encouraged to volunteer 10 hours of community service per trimester.

VARSITY SPORTS

Basketball	Soccer
Bowling	Squash
Crew	Swimming
Cross Country	Tennis
Fencing	<i>5 NCAA</i>
Field Hockey	<i>Signings in the</i>
Golf	<i>Class of 2020:</i>
Indoor Track	<i>LAX, Soccer,</i>
Lacrosse	<i>Squash,</i>
Sailing	<i>Swimming (2)</i>

SCHOOL CLUBS

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

COURSE OFFERINGS FOR SENIORS FOR THE 2020-21 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
Young Adult Literature
Science Fiction & Society
Utopian & Dystopian Literature
Female Friendship
Short Story

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 **
Comparative Religion
The World Today
The World Wars
America in the 60s

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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

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
Technology & Entrepreneurship
Video Game Design
Python II
Artificial Intelligence
Virtual Reality Lab

FINE ARTS

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

ONLINE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (ENROLEES 2020-21)

AP French Language & Culture
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.

FINAL JUNIOR YEAR GRADE DISTRIBUTION ACADEMIC COURSES FOR CLASS OF 2020 (*UNWEIGHTED*)

	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D or below
English*	42	49	27	7	11	5	1	3	1	0
Math	7	12	7	6	8	1	3	4	0	1
History	3	12	11	9	3	1	1	0	0	0
Science	18	13	9	4	7	2	1	1	0	0
Fine Arts*	26	18	6	6	5	5	2	3	1	0
Foreign Language	4	12	9	15	10	12	4	5	3	2
Computer Science	5	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

*final trimester grades, not final year grades

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Over the five-year period from 2016-2020, students of Buffalo Seminary have matriculated at the following colleges:

Alfred University
Allegheny College
American University
Assumption College
Babson College
Bates College
Belmont University
Boston University
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
California Institute of Technology
Canisius College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Clarkson University
Colgate University
College of Charleston
Cornell University
City University of New York
Baruch
Daemen College
Davidson University
Denison University
DePaul University
Drexel University
Duquesne University
D'Youville College
Eckerd College
Elon University
Emerson College
Emory University
Fairfield University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
Gannon University

Georgetown University
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Hampshire College
Hampton University
Hawaii Pacific University
Hilbert College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Houghton College
Howard University
Indiana University
Bloomington
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
John Carroll University
Kent State University
Kenyon College
LIM College
Lincoln University
Long Island University
Loyola University Chicago
Maryland Institute College of Art
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Medaille College
Mercyhurst University
Michigan State University
Mount Holyoke College
Nazareth College
New York University
Niagara County Community College
Niagara University
Northeastern University
Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences
Ohio State University

Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University
Pratt Institute
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
Sarah Lawrence
Savannah College of Art and Design
Skidmore College
Southern Methodist University
St. Edward's University
St. John Fisher College
St. Lawrence University
Suffolk University
State University of New York (SUNY)
Alfred State
at Binghamton
at Buffalo
Buffalo State
Canton
Fredonia
Geneseo
New Paltz
Oneonta
Oswego
Potsdam
Purchase
Syracuse University
The American University of Paris
The College of Wooster
The George Washington University
The University of the Arts

The University of Findlay
University of Alabama
University of California
Davis
San Diego
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz
University of Connecticut
University of Dayton
University of Denver
University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign
University of Maine
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Missouri
University of New Hampshire
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of St. Andrews (UK)
University of Toronto (CAN)
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin
Madison
Utica College
Washington College
Wesleyan University
Western University (CAN)
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University (OH)
Yale University