

## SCHOOL PROFILE 2020-2021

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 928 students reflect the broader diversity of the Twin Cities, with 34 percent identifying as students of color and 25 percent drawing from a pool of nearly \$3.6 million of financial aid. The Class of 2021 has 112 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.

### COVID-19 AND DISTANCE LEARNING

Since March 2020, SPA's Distance Learning goal has been to deliver the learning objectives and standards essential to our curriculum and necessary for each student to succeed in the next level of coursework. A modified schedule balanced synchronous class time with asynchronous learning requirements. We continued to assign letters grades based on the essential skills and concepts of each course. Capstone assessments and projects replaced final exams to evaluate quarter 4 or semester 2 material (the latter was more common for year-long and sequential classes). In September 2020 we opened in Distance Learning mode, and will shift to a hybrid modality with Upper School students on campus 3 days per week when local metrics permit. As a 1:1 laptop school, every student has a device equipped to support Distance Learning. Classes are held via Google Meet and incorporate innovative tools such as Parlay Ideas, FlipGrid and Kami to sustain the interactive approach to instruction and learning for which SPA is known.

The Randolph Campus features a renovated Humanities Wing (2019), the Hugh K. Schilling Math and Science Center (2018) and the Huss Center for the Performing Arts (2015).

**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."*

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

Mary F. Hill  
Director of  
College Counseling and  
Academic Planning  
651-696-1419  
mhill@spa.edu

Karna Ivory  
Assistant Director  
of College Counseling  
651-696-1312  
kivory@spa.edu

Evan Hancock  
Assistant Director  
of College Counseling  
651-696-1347  
ehancock@spa.edu

Carey Otto  
College Counseling  
Assistant  
651-696-1417  
cotto@spa.edu

**School Code**  
**242315**

# 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

### 2020-21 Junior/Senior English Fall semester

Creative Nonfiction  
Fiction and Consciousness  
Literature of Comedy and Satire  
Transnational Literature  
Writing Seminar: Contemporary Culture

### Spring semester

Fiction Seminar: Story Mechanics  
Literature and the Environment  
Literature of Monstrosity  
Literature of Resistance  
Time and Memory in Literature  
Writing Seminar: The Art of the Review

### 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)  
Adv. Debate (Fall)  
Writing for Publication (Fall/Spring)  
Journalism (Print or Multimedia)  
Editorial Leadership (Print or Multimedia)  
Yearbook (Fall/Spring)  
Editorial Leadership: Yearbook

## MATHEMATICS

### 3-course sequence required through Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry or Precalculus.

Honors placement by faculty recommendation.  
Both Calculus courses and Advanced Probability/  
Statistics may support preparation for AP exams.

**Sequence I:** Algebra II Fundamentals, Geometry Fundamentals, Adv. Algebra and Trigonometry  
**Sequence II:** Algebra II, Geometry, Precalculus  
**Sequence III:** H Algebra II, H Geometry, H Precalculus

## Electives

Probability and Statistics (Fall)  
Topics in Data Science (Spring)  
Adv. Probability and Statistics I, II  
Differential and Integral Calculus  
Honors Differential and Integral Calculus  
H Topics: Linear Algebra (Fall 2020)  
H Topics: Combinatorics (Spring 2021)  
H Topics: Discrete Dynamical Systems (Fall 2021)  
H Topics: Multivariable Calculus (Spring 2022)

## COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

**No requirement.** Programming and Problem Solving and CS Principles are first-level courses. Students taking CS Principles or Advanced Programming may take the corresponding AP Exams.

### Computer Science

Programming and Problem Solving (Fall)  
Computer Science Principles I, II (Full year)  
Applied Programming (Spring)  
Physical Computing (Spring)  
Robotics (Fall/Spring)  
Adv. Programming I, II (Full year)

### Engineering

Principles of Engineering (Fall/Spring)  
Adv. Topics in Engineering: Aerospace (Spring)  
Adv. Projects: CSCI and Engineering (Fall/Spring)

## SCIENCE

**3-year lab science requirement: Physics 9, Biology, Chemistry.** Honors placement (in Biology and Chemistry only) by faculty recommendation. All semester electives are lab-based, second-level college-prep courses. Pertinent courses may support preparation for AP exams.

### Electives (listed by field)

#### Fall semester

Environmental Science  
Genetics  
Neuroscience  
Organic Chemistry  
Space Science  
Adv. Mechanics  
Adv. Mechanics with Calculus  
Adv. Scientific Research

#### Spring semester

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

## WORLD LANGUAGE

**3-level requirement including two years' study in Upper School or, by permission, the second level of two languages.** After completing Level 4 of Chinese, French or German, or Level 5 for Spanish, an Advanced Language course may be taken for a full year, then for two additional semesters.

### Electives

Adv. Chinese: Classic Literature; Modern Literature  
Adv. French: French Identity; Identity in the Arts  
Adv. German: introduced in 2021-22  
Adv. Spanish: Mexico and Identity; Andean Identity

## 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, Video Arts.  
2020-21: Ceramic Fabrication, Alternative Process Photography.  
2021-22: Extended Image, Video Storytelling  
**Theater:** Theatrical Arts; Advanced Theater: 2020-21: Production and Performance, Design. 2021-22: Acting, Directing  
**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.

### Please note:

- The transcript lists all courses attempted. If a course must be retaken, both enrollments 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.

## RIGOROUS STANDARDS FOR ALL STUDENTS

SPA prepares all of its students for demanding college-level academics. The main course of study 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

## 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." Grading and GPA are unweighted. We do not report class rank.

## CLASS OF 2021 THROUGH JUNIOR YEAR

	Mean	Middle 50%
Cumulative GPA (unweighted)	3.68	3.55-3.92
ACT Composite (77% of class took ACT)	30	28-33
SAT Total (54% of class took SAT)	1375	1280-1470
SAT EBRW	690	630-740
SAT Math	685	640-750

### National Merit recognition for Class of 2021 (112 students):

12 Semi-Finalists, 16 Commended students, 25% of class recognized.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM RESULTS

SPA chooses not to teach AP classes. Students in most upper-level courses may choose to take a corresponding AP exam. In 2020, 91 students took 158 exams in 18 subjects. 87% of exam scores were 3 or above, and 63% of exams were 4 or 5.

## TEST SCORES THROUGH SENIOR YEAR

ACT	2020	2019	2018
Percent of class taking ACT	84%	89%	97%
ACT Composite	30	31	31
Mid-50% Composite	28-33	28-34	27-34
SAT	2020	2019	2018
Percent of class taking SAT	75%	71%	79%
SAT Total	1374	1379	1404
Mid-50% SAT	1265-1495	1295-1500	1290-1495

## STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- Regeneron Science Talent Search Semifinalist and Top 300 Scholar 2020; 5 national qualifiers in two years; third place international award winner, 2019. 10 MN State Science Fair qualifiers 2020.
- Junior Science and Humanities Symposium: 1 national winner, 2 state qualifiers 2020.
- 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 23 of past 24 years. Highest per capita NSDA individual awards in state.
- National recognition for *The Rubicon*: NSPA Pacemaker Award (5th in a row); CSPA Gold Crown Award (3rd in a row); Distinguished Site by School Newspapers Online (5th in a row).
- Minnesota Varsity Classical Music competition: 4 finalists 2019, 2020.
- Minnesota Scholastic Art Competition 2020: 20 students had art/writing/portfolios honored at state level in 25 categories.
- Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society Essay Contest, 3 winners 2018, 2019, and 2 of 3 top finishers 2020.
- *Iris* Art & Literature Magazine NSPA All-American, CSPA Gold Award; NCTE Realm Award 2020.
- *Ibid* Yearbook NSPA First Class Award 2019, 2020. Jostens National Program of Excellence 2020.
- Quiz Bowl national qualifier 2020 (fifth time in seven years).
- Math Team tied for 2nd in state in second year competing among largest schools in the state. First in state among small schools 2017 (30+ year state qualifier).
- Minnesota Bilingual Certificate of Proficiency earned by 120 students based on world language STAMP test 2019.
- Science Olympiad Team first in state among small schools 2017, 2018; qualifier 2019, 2020.
- Robotics Team state qualifier 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.
- Poetry Out Loud Competition: Spoken word state finalist 2019, two Top 10 finishers 2020.
- National Junior Olympic fencing: 2 qualifiers 2020.
- State level athletic achievements:
  - **Titles:** Boys fencing team (7th year in a row) and individual 2020; Football team 2018 (#2 in 2019); Boys tennis doubles 2019; Boys Nordic individual 2019.
  - **Team qualifiers:** Girls cross-country team 2020; Girls fencing 3rd in state 2019; Girls hockey 4 of past 5 years; Boys tennis 2nd in state 2019, 3rd in 2017, 2018.
  - **Individual qualifiers:** Boys cross country 2020, Girls and Boys Alpine 2020, Girls Nordic 2020, Boys tennis 2019, Boys track 2019.
- NCAA Division I athletes: 15 from 2015-20.

# 2016–2020 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 2020, the average number of applications filed was 6.5.
- 33% applied via Early Decision; 22% enrolled through ED.

**Abertay University**  
Alabama State University  
American University  
**American University of Paris**  
**Amherst College**  
**Arizona State University - 2**  
**Augsburg University**  
Augustana University  
**Babson College - 2**  
Bard College  
**Barnard College - 4**  
**Barrett Honors College (AZ State)**  
**Bates College - 3**  
Belmont University  
**Beloit College - 2**  
**Bemidji State University**  
Bennington College  
**Bentley University**  
Bethel University  
Bloomsburg University  
**Boston College - 5**  
**Boston University - 2**  
**Bowdoin College - 4**  
Bradley University  
**Brandeis University - 2**  
**Brown University - 4**  
Bryant University  
**Bryn Mawr College - 2**  
Bucknell University  
**Butler University**  
California Institute of Technology  
**California Lutheran University**  
California Polytechnic State University,  
San Luis Obispo  
**Carleton College - 10**  
**Carnegie Mellon University - 6**  
Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar  
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 - 2**  
**Colorado College - 5**  
**Colorado State University - 2**  
Columbia College Chicago  
**Columbia University - 2**  
Concordia College, Moorhead  
Connecticut College  
**Cooper Union for the Advancement  
of Science and Art**  
**Cornell College**  
**Cornell University - 5**  
Creighton University  
Daemen College  
**Dartmouth College - 2**  
**Davidson College**  
**Denison University**  
**DePaul University**  
**Dickinson College**  
**Drake University - 2**  
Drew University  
Drexel University  
**Duke University**  
Durham University  
**Earlham College**  
Eastman School of Music

Eckerd College  
Edinburgh Napier University  
**Elon University - 5**  
**Emerson College**  
Emory University  
Florida Southern College  
**Fordham University - 3**  
**Franklin and Marshall College**  
**George Washington University - 8**  
**Georgetown University - 2**  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Gettysburg College  
**Goucher College - 3**  
Grand Canyon University  
**Grinnell College - 7**  
**Gustavus Adolphus College - 7**  
**Hamilton College**  
Hamline University  
Hampshire College  
**Harvard College - 3**  
Harvey Mudd College  
**Haverford College - 3**  
Hawaii Pacific University  
Hendrix College  
High Point University  
Hillsdale College  
**Hobart William Smith Colleges - 2**  
Hofstra University  
Howard University  
Hult International Business School  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
**Indiana University**  
Inver Hills Community College  
**Iowa State University - 2**  
**Ithaca College - 3**  
Jacobs University  
James Madison University  
**Johns Hopkins University**  
Kalamazoo College  
Kenyon College  
King's College London  
**Knox College**  
**Lake Forest College - 3**  
**Lawrence University - 5**  
Lehigh University  
Lewis & Clark College  
Loyola Marymount University  
**Loyola University Chicago - 4**  
Loyola University Maryland  
Loyola University New Orleans  
**Luther College**  
**Macalester College - 6**  
**Marquette University - 2**  
**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
McDaniel College  
**McGill University**  
Merrimack College  
Metropolitan State University  
**Miami University (OH) - 4**  
Michigan Technological University  
**Middlebury College - 6**  
**Montana State University - 2**  
**Morehouse College**  
Mount Holyoke College  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
**New York University - 3**  
**North Carolina A & T State University**  
North Dakota State University  
**Northeastern University - 6**  
Northland College  
**Northwestern University - 4**  
Nova Southeastern University  
**Oberlin College - 3**  
Oberlin Conservatory of Music  
**Occidental College - 3**

Ohio State University  
**Oklahoma State University**  
**Olin College of Engineering**  
Oregon State University  
Pace University  
Pacific Lutheran University  
Pennsylvania State University  
**Pitzer College**  
**Pomona College - 3**  
**Pratt Institute**  
**Princeton University - 2**  
Providence College  
**Purdue University - 3**  
Queen's University  
**Quinnipiac University**  
**Reed College**  
Regis University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
**Rhodes College**  
**Rice University - 2**  
**Rochester Institute of Technology**  
**Roger Williams University**  
**Rose Hulman Institute of Technology - 3**  
Saint Cloud State University  
Saint Edward's University  
**Saint John's University (MN) - 4**  
**Saint Louis University**  
Saint Mary's College of California  
Saint Michael's College  
San Diego State University  
**Santa Clara University - 3**  
**Sarah Lawrence College - 5**  
**Savannah College of Art and Design**  
**Scripps College - 7**  
**Seattle University**  
Sewanee: The University of the South  
**Simmons University**  
**Skidmore College - 5**  
**Smith College - 4**  
**Southern Methodist University - 3**  
Southwestern University  
**St Catherine University**  
St Lawrence University  
**St Olaf College - 25**  
St. John's College  
St. Norbert College  
**Stanford University**  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
**Swarthmore College - 2**  
Syracuse University - 3  
Tennessee State University  
**Texas Christian University - 2**  
**The New School**  
**Trinity College - 2**  
Trinity University  
**Tufts University - 5**  
**Tulane University of Louisiana - 3**  
**Union College - 2**  
**University College London**  
University of Akron  
University of Alabama  
University of Arizona  
**University of British Columbia**  
**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 Cincinnati  
**University of Colorado Boulder - 2**  
University of Connecticut  
**University of Dayton**  
**University of Denver - 4**

**University of Edinburgh**  
**University of Guelph**  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign  
**University of Iowa - 2**  
University of Jamestown  
University of Kansas  
University of Louisville  
University of Manitoba  
University of Maryland, College Park  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
**University of Miami**  
**University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**  
University of Milano, Bicocca  
**University of Minnesota, Duluth - 3**  
University of Minnesota, Morris  
University of Minnesota, Rochester  
**University of Minnesota, Twin Cities - 39**  
University of Missouri  
University of Montana  
**University of New Hampshire - 2**  
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 - 5**  
University of Pittsburgh  
**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 - 6**  
**University of St Andrews**  
**University of St. Thomas - 5**  
University of Tampa  
University of Texas at Austin  
**University of Toronto - 2**  
University of Utah  
**University of Vermont - 5**  
**University of Virginia - 2**  
**University of Washington - 3**  
**University of Winnipeg**  
**University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire**  
**University of Wisconsin, Madison - 15**  
University of Wisconsin, Parkside  
**University of Wisconsin, Platteville**  
University of Wisconsin, River Falls  
**University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point**  
University of Wisconsin, Stout  
Valparaiso University  
**Vanderbilt University**  
Vassar College  
Vermilion Community College  
**Villanova University - 2**  
Virginia Tech  
Wagner College  
**Wake Forest University**  
Wartburg College  
**Washington University in St Louis - 10**  
**Webster University**  
**Wellesley College**  
**Wesleyan University**  
Western Washington University  
Wheaton College  
**Whittman College - 3**  
Whittier College  
**Willamette University**  
**Williams College - 5**  
**Winona State University**  
**Worcester Polytechnic Institute - 3**  
Xavier University of Louisiana  
**Yale University - 9**

- 89 graduates enrolled at 59 different colleges.
- 10 will take a gap year to pursue cultural study, work, sports, service.