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 160: 140 day and 20 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.

100% of graduates are accepted to four-year colleges. 35% of the students receive need-based financial aid.

HONOR CODE: Buffalo Seminary is dedicated to being a school where both Academic Honor and Social Honor guide 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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE: Pre-Covid, tech was integrated into SEM's teaching and learning. We have been open and in-person since September 2020. Plans and procedures for both online and on-campus learning included reconfigured spaces, reimagined teaching and learning combinations of synchronous and asynchronous remote learning, and in-person classes for our day and boarding students. 80% of our students were on campus for the 2020-2021 school year. Grading and assessment measures returned to our pre-pandemic standards. 100% of our students will be in-person for the 2021-2022 academic year.

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).

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 New England-style Harkness table. A Harkness discussion is a seminar-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.
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 2021, 71 students sat for 140 total exams.

CLASS OF 2021: 47 students
6 AP Scholars, 3 AP Scholars with Honors, 2 AP Scholars 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 - College Preparatory course

VARSITY SPORTS
Basketball
Bowling
Crew
Cross Country
Fencing
Field Hockey
Golf
Lacrosse
Sailing
Soccer
Squash
Swimming
Tennis

SCHOOL CLUBS
School Government Association
Art Club
Audio-Visual (AV)
Black Student Union
Book
Chinese
Connect Life
Community Service Board
Computer Programming
Dance
Dungeons & Dragons
Drama (2 annual productions)
E-Sports
EnSEMble
French
Gender-Sexuality Alliance
Glee
Harry Potter
Hornet/Jacket Board
Jewish Cultural
Journalism
Math
Mock Trial

model UN
Music Collective
National Honor Society
Outdoors
Science
SEMachords (a capella)
SEMinaria (yearbook)
SEM Music Collective
Ski
Spanish
Tea
Volleyball

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
English - 4 years
History - 3 years
Foreign Language - 3 years through advanced level
This requirement does not apply to students for whom English is a second language.
Mathematics - 3 years
Science - 3 years
A 4th year of either Math or Science
Fine Arts - 5 classes

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 all seniors.
Students are required to volunteer 10 hours of community service per trimester.

COURSE OFFERINGS FOR SENIORS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

ENGLISH
AP Literature
AP Language
Autobiography
Femininity & Literature
Creative Non-Fiction
Shakespeare & History
Ghosts in Literature
Harlem Renaissance
Existentialism in Literature
New Weird Literature
Modern Drama
Poetry
Science Fiction & Society
Short Story

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: I'Actualidad
Spanish: Latin American Short Stories
Spanish: Latin American Stereotypes
French: Bon Appétit!
French: Francophone
Culture in Film
French: L'Acu
talite

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

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

ONE SCHOOLHOUSE
(ENROLEES 2021-22)
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
Over the five-year period from 2017-2021, students of Buffalo Seminary have matriculated at the following colleges:

- Allegheny College
- American University
- American University of Paris
- Assumption College
- Bates College
- Belmont University
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brown University
- Bryn Mawr College
- California Institute of Technology
- Canisius College
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Clarkson University
- College of Charleston
- College of Wooster
- Cornell University
- CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College
- Daemen College
- Davidson College
- Denison University
- DePaul University
- Drexel University
- Duquesne University
- Durham University
- D’Youville College
- Eckerd College
- Elon University
- Emerson College
- Emory University
- Fairfield University
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Fordham University
- Gannon University
- George Washington University
- Goucher College
- Hampshire College
- Harvard University
- Hilbert College
- Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- Houghton College
- Howard University
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Indiana University
- Bloomington
- Ithaca College
- Jacksonville University
- John Carroll University
- Kent State University
- Kenyon College
- LIU College
- Loyola University
- Chicago
- New Orleans
- Maryland Institute of Art
- Medaille College
- Mercyhurst University
- Michigan State University
- Missouri University
- Science and Technology
- Mount Holyoke College
- Muhlenberg College
- Nazareth College
- New York University
- Niagara University
- Northeastern University
- Nova Southeastern University
- Oberlin College
- Ohio University
- Ohio State University
- Pace University
- Pratt Institute
- Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- Quinnipiac University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- St. John Fisher College
- St. Lawrence University
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Skidmore College
- Southern Methodist University
- State University of New York at Alfred
- at Binghamton
- at Buffalo
- Buffalo State College
- Canton
- College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- Erie Community College
- Fredonia
- Geneseo
- New Paltz
- Niagara Community College
- Oneonta
- Oswego
- Potsdam
- Purchase
- Stony Brook
- Suffolk University
- Syracuse University
- University of Alabama
- University of the Arts
- University of California
- Davis
- San Diego
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz
- University of Dayton
- University of Denver
- University of Findlay
- University of Illinois
- Urbana-Champaign
- University of Maine
- University of Michigan
- Ann Arbor
- University of Missouri
- Columbia
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of St. Andrews (UK)
- University of Southern California
- University of Toronto (CAN)
- University of Vermont
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington, Seattle
- University of Western Ontario
- University of Wisconsin
- Madison
- Utica College
- Wesleyan University
- Western New England University
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Xavier University (OH)
- Yale University

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. By policy, SEM students are not ranked.