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Head of School

Edie Traina
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COLLEGE COUNSELING

Alison Almasian '87
Director

Nicolas Bell
Associate Director

Catherine Ganung
Senior Associate Director

Max Rosner
Associate Director

Cheryl Gatling-Galloway
Administrative Assistant

Carla Ambrosini
Testing Coordinator

SAT/ACT School Code:
070880

2022-23 School Profile

The Taft School

110 Woodbury Road, Watertown, CT 06795

The Taft School Mission

To educate the whole student; to demand excellence in all walks of life, including moral responsibility as reflected in part in our school motto, *Non ut sibi ministretur sed ut ministret*, Not to be served, but to serve.

The School

Founded in 1890, the Taft School is a co-educational school for students in grades 9 to 12 and post-graduate. This year, 609 students (504 boarding) from 51 countries and 34 states gather on the 226-acre Connecticut campus, located 95 miles from New York City, and 125 miles from Boston, MA. Taft is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is a member of National Association of Independent Schools, National and New England Associations of College Admission Counseling, Global Online Academy, Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools, and the College Entrance Examination Board.

An Innovative and Rigorous Curriculum: Moving Beyond the AP

More than 20 years ago, Taft leaders met to explore the academic life of the school. By asking, "What do we want Taft graduates to know and to be able to do?", they examined what we teach, why we teach it, how and why delivery matters. The result of their multi-year effort is the Taft School Portrait of a Graduate. The Portrait helps shape curriculum and define creative opportunities for deep, rigorous, contemporary, relevant, and reflective learning. It is a living document that changes and evolves to keep pace with innovation and advancement in both pedagogy and content.

In moving away from Advanced Placement courses, Taft has strengthened its already rigorous curriculum driven by objectives defined by the Portrait of a Graduate.

It is a uniquely broad and customizable curriculum built on innovation and inquiry, depth in concept and content, and which draws on the experience and expertise of our exceptional faculty. AP (and post-AP) course equivalents are offered at the honors level across disciplines; opportunities for independent study are also available to Taft students within and across disciplines.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about Taft's Portrait of a Graduate.



Highest-Level Courses Available

The most advanced courses available in each discipline are honors-level courses, listed below. (In the formal course listings, the word “Honors” is included in each title):

Arts

History of Western Art, Studio Art Portfolio, Music Theory

English

Senior English, Humanities

Global Studies

Introduction to Psychology, Psychology, Human Geography, Economics, Philosophy

History

United States History, American Government and Politics, Comparative Government and Global Politics, The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union, Caribbean History, Modern Chinese History, Politics of Race, Gender, and Sexuality

Languages

Chinese Culture and Contemporary China, Seminar in Latin, Seminar in Spanish, Seminar in French

Mathematics and Computer Science

Multivariable Calculus, Linear Algebra, Differential Equations, Modern Algebra, Computer Science in Java, Discrete Math, Programming

Science

Ethnobotany, Inquiry in Applied Biology, Chemistry 2: Organic Chemistry or Thermodynamics, Calculus Based Physics, Ecology, Environmental Science: Anthropogenic Impact or Climate and Justice

Signature Programs and Off-Campus Study

- Taft’s **Global Studies and Service Department (GSS)** prepares students for active global citizenship through course work, co-curricular programs, and service to communities both local and global. By crafting an individualized academic pathway with a more global emphasis for their studies, students may qualify for a GSS Diploma at commencement.
- In partnership with Waterbury (CT) Public Schools, the 18-month **Global Leadership Institute Scholar** program prepares students to become actively engaged and globally aware citizens and leaders.
- The first of its kind in the nation more than 50 years ago, Taft’s **Independent Study Program** continues to allow students to pursue their passions through high-level, inquiry-based, self-directed courses of study.
- Taft students may take advantage of **off-campus study** opportunities through The Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki; The Mountain School; High Mountain Institute; The Island School; King’s Academy (Jordan); and to China, France, Italy, and Spain with School Year Abroad. *Grades from these programs are not used in our GPA calculations.*

College Matriculation Record

Over the past five years (2018-2022) Taft students have enrolled in 199 different colleges and universities in 36 states, the District of Columbia, and six foreign countries. During the same period, five or more students have enrolled at the following:

Amherst College, 7	Scripps College, 5
Babson College, 5	Southern Methodist University, 17
Barnard College, 5	Trinity College, 10
Boston College, 11	Tufts University, 16
Boston University, 9	Tulane University, 15
Bowdoin College, 6	Union College, 6
Brown University, 19	University of California, Berkeley, 5
Bucknell University, 19	University of California, Los Angeles, 7
Colby College, 7	University of Chicago, 5
Colgate University, 17	University of Colorado, Boulder, 8
College of the Holy Cross, 7	University of Connecticut, 6
Colorado College, 8	University of Miami, 12
Columbia University, 10	University of Michigan, 7
Connecticut College, 5	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 6
Cornell University, 17	University of Notre Dame, 11
Dartmouth College, 6	University of Pennsylvania, 23
Dickinson College, 5	University of Richmond, 18
Duke University, 11	University of Rochester, 6
George Washington University, 9	University of Southern California, 8
Georgetown University, 29	University of St. Andrews, 12
Hamilton College, 7	University of Texas at Austin, 7
Harvard University, 10	University of Vermont, 6
Hobart & William Smith Colleges, 5	University of Virginia, 12
Johns Hopkins University, 5	University of Wisconsin, Madison, 7
Lafayette College, 6	Villanova University, 6
McGill University, 5	Wake Forest University, 17
Middlebury College, 15	Washington & Lee University, 9
New York University, 20	Wesleyan University, 11
Northeastern University, 16	Yale University, 16
Princeton University, 8	

609

Students

5:1

*Students/
Faculty*

200

Courses

34

*% Receiving
Financial
Assistance*

138

Faculty

11

*Average
Class Size*

41

*% Students
of color*

Taft Policies and Requirements

Diploma Requirements: 18 Credits

English (4)
Mathematics (3)
Laboratory Science (2)
History (2) including American History
World Language (3)
Fine and Performing Arts (1.5)

Academic Policy and Grading Scale

The standard academic load is five academic courses per semester in grades 9 and 10; 11th- and 12th-grade students may choose to take either four or five. Taft will report weighted grades on its official transcript (5 points are added to each grade earned in Honors and Honors Seminar level courses taken at Taft). The transcript includes a yearly GPA and a cumulative GPA for courses completed at Taft. Grades from courses taken away from Taft are not included in the GPA calculation. By policy, Taft students are not ranked.

COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Taft transitioned to a remote learning model during Spring 2020. Because of the swift change and a desire to be as equitable as possible, Taft conducted the spring semester on a Pass/Fail grading scale. With a mix of synchronous and asynchronous learning, students were still held to typical Taft standards.

Our 2020-2021 academic year was conducted as a hybrid model, with a full return to on-campus classes in the fall of 2021.

Discipline

If asked, the Taft School will report to colleges if a student is suspended and/or placed on probation through our disciplinary process.



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