



Peter Becker '95
Head of School

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Senior Class Dean

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Alison Almasian '87
Director

Catherine Ganung
Senior Associate Director

Jon Gottsegen
Associate Director

Max Rosner
Associate Director

Cheryl Gatling-Galloway
Administrative Assistant

Carla Ambrosini
Testing Coordinator

SAT/ACT School Code:
070880

2023-24 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, 580 students (476 boarding) from 58 countries and 31 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.



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.*

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

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, Environmental Science 2: Anthropocene or Climate Injustice, Field Ecology



College Matriculation Record

Over the past five years (2019-2023) Taft students have enrolled in 198 different colleges and universities in 38 states, the District of Columbia, and six foreign countries. During the same period, five or more students have enrolled at the following:

Amherst College, 6
Babson College, 7
Barnard College, 5
Bates College, 6
Boston College, 13
Boston University, 7
Bowdoin College, 6
Brown University, 18
Bucknell University, 21
Carnegie Mellon University, 7
Colby College, 6
Colgate University, 13
College of the Holy Cross, 7
Colorado College, 7
Columbia University, 11
Cornell University, 18
Dartmouth College, 6
Dickinson College, 5
Duke University, 12
Emory University, 5
Fordham University, 5
George Washington University, 9
Georgetown University, 29
Hamilton College, 8
Harvard University, 8

Hobart & William Smith Colleges, 7
Johns Hopkins University, 6
Lafayette College, 6
McGill University, 5
Middlebury College, 14
New York University, 17
Northeastern University, 14
Princeton University, 8
Scripps College, 5
Southern Methodist University, 18
Trinity College, 14
Tufts University, 12
Tulane University, 17
University of California, Berkeley, 6
University of California, Los Angeles, 7
University of Colorado, Boulder, 11
University of Connecticut, 7
University of Miami, 15
University of Michigan, 10
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 9

University of Notre Dame, 9
University of Pennsylvania, 21
University of Richmond, 20
University of Rochester, 5
University of Southern California, 9
University of St. Andrews, 7
University of Texas at Austin, 8
University of Vermont, 5
University of Virginia, 11
University of Wisconsin, Madison, 10
Villanova University, 5
Wake Forest University, 18
Washington & Lee University, 10
Wesleyan University, 12
Yale University, 18

580

Students

131

Faculty

5:1

*Students/
Faculty*

45

*% Students
of color*

35

*% Receiving
Financial
Assistance*



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 when a student is suspended through our disciplinary process.

