

Peter Becker '95
Head of School

Jillian Danaher
Shannon Guidotti
Interim Co-Deans of Faculty

Lisa Parente
Interim Dean of
Academic Affairs

Jackie Maloney
Registrar

Michael McAloon
Senior Class Dean

Pilar Santos
Senior Class Dean

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Lydia Mann
Director

Carla Ambrosini
Testing Coordinator

Steffon Gales
Associate Director

Catherine Ganung
Senior Associate Director

Cheryl Gatling-Galloway
Administrative Assistant

Jon Gottsegen
Associate Director

Max Rosner
Associate Director

SAT/ACT School Code:
070880

2024-25 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, 585 students (490 boarding) from 54 countries and 30 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 or visit <https://bit.ly/TaftPortrait24> 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 shown below):

Arts

History of Western Art, Studio Art Portfolio, Music Theory

English

Senior English, Humanities, Comparative Literature

Global Studies

Psychology, Economics, Philosophy

History

U. S. History; Topics in US History: 1960s; Topics in US History: 1974-2016; American Government; Comparative Government; History of Modern China; History of the Soviet Union; Politics of Race, Gender, and Society; Topics in Caribbean History

Languages

Chinese Culture and Contemporary China, Latin Literature, Honors Hispanic Studies; Special Topics in French

Mathematics and Computer Science

Multivariable Calculus, Topology, Complex Analysis, Differential Equations, Honors Applications of Computer Science, Theory of Computer Science, Computer Science in Java, Programming

Science

Ethnobotany; Inquiry in Applied Biology; Chemistry 2: Organic Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, or Thermodynamics; Calculus Based Physics; Environmental Science: Anthropocene or Climate Injustice

200
Courses

11
Average
Class Size



College Matriculation Record

Over the past five years (2020-2024) Taft students have enrolled in 191 different colleges and universities in 39 states, the District of Columbia, and six foreign countries. During the same period, five or more students have enrolled at the following:

Amherst College, 10
Babson College, 8
Barnard College, 6
Bates College, 8
Boston College, 14
Boston University, 9
Bowdoin College, 6
Brown University, 19
Bucknell University, 18
Carnegie Mellon University, 5
Colby College, 8
Colgate University, 8
College of the Holy Cross, 7
Colorado College, 9
Columbia University, 6
Cornell University, 22
Dartmouth College, 9
Duke University, 10
Emory University, 5
Georgetown University, 34
Gettysburg College, 7
Hamilton College, 9
Harvard University, 11
Hobart William Smith Colleges, 5
Indiana University-Bloomington, 5
Johns Hopkins University, 6
McGill University, 6
Middlebury College, 11
New York University, 17

Northeastern University, 13
Pennsylvania State University, 5
Princeton University, 6
Santa Clara University, 6
Southern Methodist University, 21
The George Washington University, 5
Trinity College, 16
Tufts University, 8
Tulane University, 15
University of California-Berkeley, 9
University of California-Los Angeles, 5
University of Chicago, 6
University of Colorado Boulder, 9
University of Connecticut, 8
University of Miami, 17
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, 13
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 9
University of Notre Dame, 8
University of Pennsylvania, 17
University of Richmond, 18
University of Rochester, 5
University of San Diego, 5
University of Southern California, 9
University of St. Andrews, 11
University of Texas at Austin, 7
University of Virginia, 14
University of Wisconsin-Madison, 11

Villanova University, 6
Wake Forest University, 14
Washington and Lee University, 10
Washington University in St. Louis, 5
Wesleyan University, 13
Yale University, 16

585

Students

130

Faculty

42

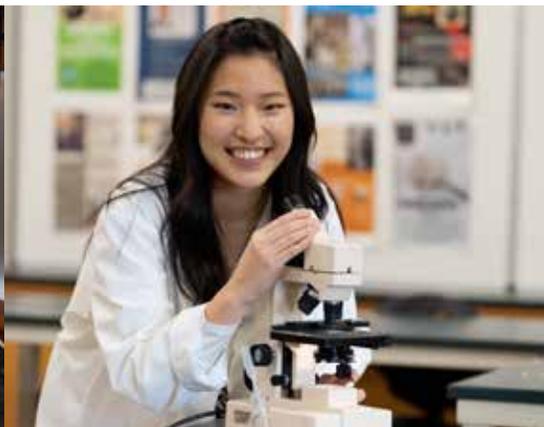
% Students
of color

35

% Receiving
Financial
Assistance

5:1

Students/
Faculty



Taft Policies and Requirements

Academic Requirements

Taft students may choose from more than 200, one-unit courses offered in each of our two academic-year semesters to fulfill our 36-unit/18-credit graduation requirement. Students in grades 9 and 10 must carry a minimum of five academic courses each term, while students in grades 11 and 12 must carry a minimum of four academic courses.

Minimum Course Requirements by Discipline

1 unit of English every semester
4 units of History (1 full year of US History and 2 semesters of non-US)
4 units of laboratory science
Level III of Chinese, French, Latin, or Spanish
Algebra II and Trigonometry
One semester of Arts each year

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.

Discipline

If asked, the Taft School will report to colleges when a student is suspended through our disciplinary process.



The Taft School | 110 Woodbury Road | Watertown, CT | 06795
860-945-7777 | Fax: 860-945-7704 | www.taftschool.org
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