



ACADEMICS AT A GLANCE 2025-2026

*Independent day & boarding
school for college-bound girls*

205 Bidwell Parkway, Buffalo, New York 14222

buffaloseminary.org - 716.885.6780

Fax: 716.885.6785



#1 Best Private
High School in the
Buffalo area

Head of School: Blair Parker

Director of Admissions: Anne Uba Timms

Dean of Students: Eva Cunningham

MISSION STATEMENT

Buffalo Seminary prepares a diverse group of young women to be engaged scholars and citizens, proud to shape society rather than be controlled by it, and ready to live and lead with honor, courage, and confidence.

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 148: 136 day and 12 residential students. 100% of graduates are accepted to four-year colleges. 58% of the students receive need-based financial aid. 77% of faculty hold advanced degrees.

Our vibrant international community includes students from Afghanistan, Australia, China, France, Germany, Kenya, and Lithuania.

SEM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

New Science Curricular Sequence: Beginning in fall 2025, SEM is launching a new high school science pathway designed to give students a strong foundation across all major scientific disciplines—biology, chemistry, and physics—by graduation. Central to this program is a new, interdisciplinary 9th grade course, Integrated Biology/Chemistry, which will be required for all incoming students. This innovative course sets the stage for advanced science opportunities at SEM and beyond. In 10th and 11th grade, students will choose from a range of intermediate or AP-level science courses, including electives. The pathway reflects SEM's commitment to academic rigor and science literacy, with a graduation requirement of three years of lab science plus three additional trimesters of math or science. *Rising sophomores in the 2025-2026 school year will also take this course.

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, 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 a research-based piece of academic writing, community involvement, and an artifact to be presented in an academic symposium.

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 Harkness table to facilitate a true discussion: a seminary-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.

SEMflex: Stemming from the varied interests and wide talents of SEM students, our vision is focused on reimagining when, where, and how learning happens in order to design a personalized, challenging, and transformational learning environment. From the arts to athletics to specialized internships, students competing at a high level in their chosen field need the flexibility to access their academics in an alternative way. SEMflex meets that need by a unique program that affords our students the most flexibility in their schedule while continuing to provide rigorous academic instruction that allows them to graduate with a SEM diploma.



*Independent day & boarding
school for college-bound girls*



#1 Best Private
High School in the
Buffalo area

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English - 4 years
History - 3 years (must include U.S. History)
Foreign Language - 3 years (through advanced level)
Mathematics - Students must complete three consecutive year-long mathematics courses in high school.
Science - 3 years of lab sciences, including Integrated Biology/Chemistry and either Intermediate or AP Physics
+ An additional 3 trimesters of either math or science; does not have to be a lab science
Fine Arts - 5 classes

SEQUENTIAL COURSE OFFERINGS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

GRADE 9

English I: Community & Self
History I: Civilizations & Civics
Geometry (*H)
Integrated Biology/Chemistry (*H)
Intro/Intermediate French
Intro/Intermediate Spanish
Fine Arts: Freshman Arts Eye
Health & Leadership
U GO SEM Fitness

GRADE 10

English II: American Literary Expressions (*H)
History II: United States History (*AP)
Intermediate Algebra (*H)
Biology
*Integrated Biology/Chemistry (*H)
Intermediate/Advanced French
Intermediate/Advanced Spanish
Fine Arts Electives
Computer Science Electives
Health & Leadership
U GO SEM Fitness

GRADE 11

English III: Exploring the Literary World
AP English Lit
History III: The World-Patterns of Change
AP World History
AP Human Geography
Pre-Calculus (*H)
Intermediate/AP Biology
Intermediate/AP Chemistry
Intermediate/AP Physics
Advanced French/French Electives
AP French
Advanced Spanish/ Spanish Electives
AP Spanish
Junior Capstone
Fine Arts Electives
Computer Science Electives
Health & Leadership
U GO SEM Fitness

GRADE 12

English IV: Electives
History IV: Electives
AP Government
AP African American Studies
Introduction to Calculus
AP Calculus AB
Science Electives
AP Chemistry
AP Biology
AP Physics
Foreign Language Electives
AP French
AP Spanish
Senior Capstone
Fine Arts Electives
Computer Science Electives
Health & Leadership
U GO SEM Fitness

*For the class of 2028 only

(*H) Course is also offered at the Honors level
Students have the opportunity to take additional courses through One Schoolhouse at any grade level.

ELECTIVE COURSES 2025-2026

English: Science Fiction and Society, Femininity in Literature, Autobiography, Harlem Renaissance Literature, Ghosts in Literature, Existential Literature, Short Story, Modern & Contemporary Poetry, Creative Nonfiction, Reel Narrative, Greek Drama, The Brontes, Graphic Novel, Modern Drama

History: Mapping the World, Mongol Empire, African American Studies

Foreign Language: L'Actualité- Current Events, The Francophone World: Québec, La Culture Francophone au Québec, La Culture Francophone au Québec, Cinéma- French Culture in Movies, CinemaLatinoAmericano- Latin American Culture in Movies, La Actualidad-Current Events, Buen Provencho, Bon Appetit

Science: Astronomy: Solar System, Astronomy: Space Missions & Aliens, Women in Science & Math Who Changed History

Visual Arts: Intro to Drawing, Basic Painting, Advance Drawing, Print Making, Mixed Media Mash-Up, Intro to Photography, Art & Social Activism, Graphic Print & Design, Foundations in Abstraction, Foundations: Women in Art, Illustration, Foundations in Public Art

Computer Science: Computer Science, Computer Science: Web Design, Cybersecurity, Python Programming

Performing Arts: Dead Playwrights, Living Playwrights, Absurdist Drama, Intro to Acting, Intro to Acting Shakespeare, Advanced Acting Shakespeare, Theatrical Production, Intro to Puppetry, Playin' with a Playwright, Elements of Music, Foundations in Film Music, Music Theory, Composing/Song Writing, Intro to Ukelele, Women in Music