

SCHOOL PROFILE 2015-2016

St. Paul Academy and Summit School is a K-12 independent day school with two campuses located in the heart of Saint Paul, Minnesota. More than 900 students reflect the broader diversity of the Twin Cities, with 28 percent identifying as students of color and 23 percent drawing from a pool of nearly \$3.2 million of financial aid.

As members of an intellectual community, SPA students thrive in what we call the accountable classroom: a place where students from a broad range of backgrounds understand that they have a responsibility to challenge themselves while engaging and contributing to the collective learning experience. Our small classes (average size is 14) emphasize thoughtful participation and clear expression of ideas.

- **Students are comfortable consulting teachers with questions and building rapport with faculty.** In college they readily seek out professors to foster strong intellectual and community connections.
- **Students learn discipline-specific modes of thinking and writing.** After building a thorough foundation in grades nine and ten, students in upper-division courses learn and practice the types of investigation and analysis distinct to each academic discipline.
- **Accountability extends to student engagement in a wide range of athletic, artistic, and community activities.** Among more than 400 Upper School students, nearly 75% compete in athletics, 60% perform in music ensembles, and nearly 30% participate in our nationally-ranked debate program.

SPA graduates arrive at college accustomed to working independently and eager to enlist the support and mentorship of their college professors. They bring skills, habits and attitudes that enable them to thrive from the start, excelling and leading throughout college.

In their own words, see what our recent graduates value about their SPA education:

- *“SPA instilled a **systemic curiosity** which sets me apart from my peers.”*
- *“I value that SPA didn’t teach to a test. I think SPA definitely gave me the tools to **answer difficult/unanswerable/interesting questions** and to use resources to figure out an answer.”*
- *“SPA gave me the **comfort to speak up** in classes. It trained me well to maneuver in discussions: listening, building on the ideas put forth by others, and injecting new ideas into the discussion.”*
- *“My ability to **write clearly and think critically** has been extremely valuable to me in college and in my life beyond college as well.”*
- *“Undoubtedly those aspects relating to **self-assuredness**. I’ve made a lot of wonderful connections to professors, had a lot of fabulous discussions in class—and enjoyed the heck out of a lot of public presentations—and I think a considerable part of all of that comes of my preparation at SPA.”*

Shaping the minds and the hearts of the people who will change the world

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School Code
242315

94% of recent SPA graduates report feeling better prepared for college work than their college classmates.

In 2015, 90% of AP exam scores were 3 or above, and 55% of scores were 4 or 5.

Students from 8 athletic teams represented SPA in state competition in 2014-15.

Last year SPA students earned national recognition in the Broadcom MASTERS science competition, Columbia Scholastic Press Association and National Scholastic Art Awards, They competed internationally in Public Forum Debate, and nationally in Quiz Bowl and Academic World Quest.

ABOUT THE SPA CURRICULUM

Rigorous standards for all students.

While faculty determine placement in limited sections of honors math and science, the entire SPA curriculum prepares students for demanding college-level academics.

Most students take 5 core academic courses plus at least one elective that meet in 75-minute periods. Maximum course load is 7 classes. Minimum 4.5 credits per year, 18 total.

Grades are not inflated.

- Highest grade awarded is an “A”
- GPA is unweighted
- We do not report class rank
- Final grades in year-long courses reflect 45% Semester 1 and 55% Semester 2

SPA chooses not to teach the AP curriculum. Instead, faculty design SPA classes to go well beyond the prescribed AP curriculum in depth and complexity.

Therefore all students enter college with multiple years’ experience in the following:

- discussion-based seminar classes
- independent research papers in history
- use of sophisticated lab equipment and practice in scientific writing
- focus on logic, critical thinking and clear communication in math
- oral proficiency and cultural competence in world language
- creative expression in music, theater, visual art and design

UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND REQUIREMENTS

Full curriculum description found at www.spa.edu. Senior Course Descriptions submitted with transcript

ENGLISH

Requirements: Journeys in Literature (9), American Literature (10). semester electives (11, 12). Junior/senior electives may be used in preparation for the AP English Language and Composition exam.

2014-15 Junior/Senior English

The Bible and Literature
British Literature II
Creative Writing
History of the Novel
Identity in American Literature
Literature of Resistance
New Global Voices
Reading and Writing Memoir
Shakespeare
Writing Seminar II: Non-Fiction

2015-16 Junior/Senior English

Classics in Society
Classical Dramatic Literature
Contemporary Dramatic Literature
Contemporary MN Immigrant Literature
Gender in Literature
Poetry: Craft and Criticism
Short-form Literature
Speculative Fiction
Seminar in Visual Narrative
Writing Seminar I: Critical Contexts

WORLD LANGUAGE

Requirements: Level III with two years’ study in Upper School or, by permission, the second level of two languages. Level V courses may be used in preparation for AP language exams.

Electives

Level IV, V in Chinese, French, German and Spanish
Level VI Senior Seminar in Spanish

SCIENCE

Requirements through Class of 2018: Earth Science (9), Biology (10) and Chemistry (11).

For Class of 2019 and beyond: Physics 9, incorporating principles of physics, design thinking and engineering, followed by Biology and Chemistry in sequence or concurrently (with permission). Seniors and accelerated science students choose among research classes, several levels of advanced physics and other science topics. Honors-level courses may be used in preparation for AP exams.

Electives

Advanced Scientific Research I, II
Environmental Science (Fall)
Space Science (Spring)
Physics
Honors Physics
Honors Physics with Calculus

MATHEMATICS

Requirements: Math through Precalculus or Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry

Both Calculus courses may be used in preparation for the AP Calculus exams. Advanced Probability/Statistics may be used to prepare for the AP Statistics exam.

Electives

Finite Mathematics (Fall)
Introduction to Probability and Statistics (Spring)
Advanced Probability and Statistics I, II
Differential and Integral Calculus
Honors Differential and Integral Calculus
Honors Advanced Topics I, II

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

Required: Fitness for Life (9), Wellness (10)

Elective

Designing Change (10 and 11)

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Requirements: World History I and II (9-10), U.S. History (11). World and U.S. History courses may be used in preparation for AP exams.

Electives

Ancient World
Economics
Global Issues
History of Law
History of Thought
History of Women in the World
Honors U.S. History Seminar I, II
Israel and Palestine
MN Postwar Global Migrations
Psychology Seminar
U.S. Foreign Policy Since World War II
World Religions

FINE ARTS

Requirements: 3/4 credit, typically three semesters of art, music, or theater.

Electives

Theater: Introduction to Theatrical Arts
Studio courses: Ceramics, Drawing, Graphic Design, Painting, Photography, Printmaking and Sculpture
Music ensembles: Academy Chorale, Summit Singers (female), Academy Symphony, Honors Sinfonia, Intermediate and Advanced Jazz Ensemble, Academy Wind Ensemble.
Honors Seminars: Art I, II and Music I, II

CLASS OF 2016 THROUGH JUNIOR YEAR

	Average	Middle 50%
Cumulative GPA (unweighted)	3.35	3.12-3.74
ACT Composite	29	27-32
SAT (2400 scale)	1915	1740-2140
Critical Reading	634	540-710
Math	645	590-710
Writing	637	560-700

COMPARATIVE GPA DISTRIBUTION THROUGH JUNIOR YEAR

	2016	2015	2014
3.75 - 4.00	24%	17%	23%
3.50 - 3.74	29%	19%	17%
3.25 - 3.49	18%	25%	20%
3.00 - 3.24	11%	15%	16%
2.75 - 2.99	5%	8%	12%
2.50 - 2.74	4%	10%	9%
2.00 - 2.49	6%	7%	2%
below 2.00	2%	0%	1%

ADDITIONAL EXAMS AND HONORS

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM RESULTS

In 2015, 92 students took 144 AP exams in 17 different subjects. 90% of exam scores were 3 or above and 55% of exams were 4 or 5.

NATIONAL MERIT, ACHIEVEMENT AND HISPANIC SCHOLAR COMPETITIONS

	2016	2015	2014
Class Size	96	89	91
Semi-Finalists and Scholars	7	9	6
Commended	9	6	14
Percent of Class Recognized	17%	17%	22%

TEST SCORES THROUGH SENIOR YEAR

DISTRIBUTION OF ACT SCORES

	2015	2014	2013
Average ACT Composite	29	30	30
Mid-50% Composite	27-32	28-33	27-33

DISTRIBUTION OF SAT SCORES

	2015	2014	2013
Mid-50% SAT (2400 scale)	1720-2080	1770-2080	1740-2010
Critical Reading	570-690	570-680	580-690
Math	570-720	610-700	560-710
Writing	560-680	570-710	580-710

SUBJECT TEST AVERAGES (MOST FREQUENTLY TAKEN SUBJECTS)

	2015	2014	2013
US History	713	641	684
Math Level 2	700	718	700
Biology (M)	670	683	653
Chemistry	651	662	632

STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- 15 Presidential Scholar Candidates and Semi-Finalists in 10 years (2 winners)
- 2013 and 2014 Cum Laude Society Paper Award, one of 6 nationally, for superior scholarship and original thought
- Math Team State Champion 2015 (sixth time in past decade; 30-year state qualifier)
- Public Forum Debate top-ranked program among all Minnesota schools public or private. Won State (2014, 2015); MN Teachers Debate Cup 3 of past 4 years; placed top 3 finalists in national qualifying tournament in 2014. Among global competition in International Public Policy Forum, runner up and 2nd time finalist in 2015.
- 4-time state champions at the Academic World Quest (world knowledge competition) 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015
- Quiz Bowl national qualifying team in 2014, 2015
- The Rubicon* newspaper: Crown Award (highest honor) from Columbia Scholastic Press Association 2015 recognizing print, online and social media presence. Minnesota Journalist of the Year Finalist 2015, winner 2013. All-American Award (highest honor given) from National Scholastic Press Association 2012.
- Art & Literature Magazine All-State Gold 2013, 2015; numerous individual Gold awards
- Ibid* Yearbook All-State Silver and Bronze 2009-2015
- 4 winners of the National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Awards in Writing 2008-11
- Guthrie Theater Review contest (MHSPA) - 4 winners (2010, 2012, 2014, 2015)
- National Scholastic Art Competition: 6 pieces and one portfolio competed; Minnesota Scholastic Art awards recognized 37 pieces by 26 students in 2015
- State tournament athletic honors:
 - Fencing Teams: Boys State Champion 2013, 2014, 2015. Girls Champion 2015
 - Track: Two All-State athletes 2015, Medalists 2014. 4th in state relays 2014, 2015
 - Alpine Skiing: 3rd in State Individual 2015
 - Girls Hockey: 4th in State 2014
 - Boys Basketball: State Tournament 2014
 - Girls Tennis: Two-time Singles Champion 2012, 2013. Doubles, 2012
- 2015 All-State athletic individual honors: girls soccer, girls/boys cross country, boys alpine, girls Nordic, girls/boys track
- State Class AA Player of the Year in Baseball 2013
- NCAA Division I athletes: 10 from 2013-15
- Nordic Conference Team Academic Awards: Girls Silver 2012-15, Boys Gold 2015

2011-2015 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION

- Average number of applications per senior: 6-7
- A typical class of 90-100 graduates enrolls at 60 different colleges.

Allegheny College
American University
American University of Paris
Amherst College
Arizona State University
Augsburg College
Augustana College
Babson College
Ball State University
Bard College
Barnard College
Barry University
Bates College
Beloit College
Bennington College
Bethel University-MN
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Bradley University
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
Butler University
California Institute of Technology
California Lutheran University
California State University, Los Angeles
Calvin College
Carleton College
Carroll College (Montana)
Carthage College
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
Clark University
Coe College
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
College of Saint Benedict
College of the Holy Cross
College of Wooster
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University
Concordia University at St. Paul
Connecticut College
Cornell College
Cornell University
Cornish College of the Arts
Creighton University
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
DePaul University
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Drake University
Drew University
Drexel University
Duke University
Earlham College
Eckerd College
Elon University
Emerson College
Emory University
Eugene Lang College

Evergreen State College
Fordham University
Franklin and Marshall College
Franklin University Switzerland
Furman University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Gonzaga University
Goucher College
Grinnell College
Guilford College
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamilton College (New York)
Hamline University
Hampshire College
Harvard University
Haverford College
Hillsdale College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Hope College
Howard University
Hunter College of the CUNY
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana University at Bloomington
Iona College
Iowa State University
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
Johns Hopkins University
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College
King's College London
Knox College
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Lewis & Clark College
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Luther College
Lynn University
Macalester College
Marist College
Marquette University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University
Merrimack College
Miami University, Oxford
Middlebury College
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Minnesota State University, Moorhead
Montana State University, Bozeman
Mount Holyoke College
New York University
Niagara University
Normandale Community College
North Dakota State University
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Illinois University
Northland College
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Oberlin Conservatory of Music
Occidental College
Ohio Wesleyan University

- About one-fourth apply via Early Decision; most select their college in the spring.

Pace University, New York City
Pacific Lutheran University
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College
Pomona College
Princeton University
Purdue University
Reed College
Regent's University London
Regis University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rice University
Richmond - The American International College in London
Ripon College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rutgers University - New Brunswick
Saint John's University
Saint Louis University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Saint Michael's College
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Scripps College
Seton Hall University
Seton Hill University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Simmons College
Skidmore College
Smith College
Southern Methodist University
St. Catherine University - St. Paul
St. Cloud State University
St. Edward's University
St. John's College
St. John's University (New York)
St. Joseph's College (New York)
St. Lawrence University
St. Norbert College
St. Olaf College
Stanford University
Stetson University
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
Trinity College
Trinity University
Tufts University
Tulane University
Union College
United States Naval Academy
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of British Columbia
University of California at Berkeley
University of California at Los Angeles
University of California at San Diego
University of California at Santa Barbara
University of California at Santa Cruz
University of Chicago
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Colorado at Denver
University of Dayton

University of Denver
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Maine
University of Manitoba
University of Maryland College Park
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota Duluth
University of Minnesota Morris
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
University of Missouri
University of Montana
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Dakota
University of Northwestern
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of St. Andrews
University of St. Thomas
University of Tampa
University of Texas at Austin
University of the Pacific
University of Toronto
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin Madison
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
University of Wisconsin River Falls
University of Wisconsin Whitewater
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Villanova University
Viterbo University
Wagner College
Wake Forest University
Warren Wilson College
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
West Virginia University
Westminster College
Wheaton College (Massachusetts)
Whitman College
Whittier College
Willamette University
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University
Yale University