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
### 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](http://www.spa.edu). Senior Course Descriptions submitted with transcript*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>SCIENCE</th>
<th>NON-DEPARTMENTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Requirements:</strong> 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.</td>
<td><strong>Requirements through Class of 2018:</strong> 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. <strong>Electives</strong> Advanced Scientific Research I, II Environmental Science (Fall) Space Science (Spring) Physics Honors Physics Honors Physics with Calculus</td>
<td>Required: Fitness for Life (9), Wellness (10) Designing Change (10 and 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2014-15 Junior/Senior English</strong> 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</td>
<td><strong>Electives</strong> Advanced Scientific Research I, II Environmental Science (Fall) Space Science (Spring) Physics Honors Physics Honors Physics with Calculus</td>
<td><strong>Elective</strong> Designing Change (10 and 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORLD LANGUAGE</strong> 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. <strong>Electives</strong> Level IV, V in Chinese, French, German and Spanish Level VI Senior Seminar in Spanish</td>
<td><strong>MATHEMATICS</strong> 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. <strong>Electives</strong> 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</td>
<td><strong>FINE ARTS</strong> Requirements: 3/4 credit, typically three semesters of art, music, or theater. <strong>Electives</strong> 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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### 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

### Math

- **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

### 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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA Range</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.75 - 4.00</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.50 - 3.74</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.25 - 3.49</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00 - 3.24</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.75 - 2.99</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.50 - 2.74</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00 - 2.49</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>below 2.00</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class Size</th>
<th>Semi-Finalists and Scholars</th>
<th>Commended</th>
<th>Percent of Class Recognized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TEST SCORES THROUGH SENIOR YEAR

DISTRIBUTION OF ACT SCORES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average ACT Composite</th>
<th>Mid-50% Composite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>27-33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISTRIBUTION OF SAT SCORES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mid-50% SAT (2400 scale)</th>
<th>Critical Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1720-2080</td>
<td>570-690</td>
<td>570-720</td>
<td>560-680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1770-2080</td>
<td>570-680</td>
<td>610-700</td>
<td>570-710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1740-2010</td>
<td>580-690</td>
<td>560-710</td>
<td>580-710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUBJECT TEST AVERAGES (MOST FREQUENTLY TAKEN SUBJECTS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US History</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Level 2</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology (M)</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
- 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
- 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:
  - 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
- 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
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
- Bamford 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
- 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
- Northern Arizona University
- Northern Illinois University
- Northland College
- Northwestern University
- Oberlin College
- Oberlin Conservatory of Music
- Occidental College
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- 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
- Sacred Heart University
- 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 University
- 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 Portland
- 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 Southern Maine
- 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)
- Whittier College
- Williamette University
- Williams College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Xavier University
- Yale University