

Wheaton Academy

Boarding School Profile 2009-2010



HISTORY

Wheaton Academy was founded in 1853 and continues as one of the oldest and most respected private Christian high schools in America. WA is characterized by: high academic standards, a mature student culture, opportunities for leadership, growing enrollment, a beautiful 43-acre college-style campus, consistently positive parent and student feedback, & state of the art facilities. WA offers a traditional college preparatory curriculum, an innovative January term and comprehensive co-curricular programs.

MISSION

The mission of Wheaton Academy is to nurture growth in our students through relationships, excellence and service to the glory of God.

ACCREDITATION/CREDENTIALS

- Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools since 1911
- Recognized by the State of Illinois and the Du Page County Education Service Region
- Member of (ACSI) Association of Christian Schools International (an association of 5500 schools in 100 countries)
- Colleges and universities respect and seek out our graduates
- Recently recognized by the 2009 Council for Standards in International Education Travel Awards Committee with an Honorable Mention for strong commitment to International Education
- Associated with Wheaton College for much of its history
- Maintains active relationships with numerous universities, including Taylor University, Wheaton College, and Northwestern University

FACULTY

The most important element in making a WA education effective is the strong leadership of "Living Curriculum Teachers." We believe LCTs must have a growing and dynamic relationship with Christ, must be excellent in their field, must hold high standards, and be capable of inspiring a range of students to reach their potential.

- Current faculty received degrees from 44 different colleges
- Department Head average teaching experience is 16 years
- 85% of faculty hold graduate degrees
- Faculty ethnic diversity ratio is 12%

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Wheaton Academy is a global school that provides its students opportunities to study, experience, understand and appreciate the rich diversity of peoples and cultures from all over the world. Trips and visits to foreign countries allow faculty and students to taste, touch and experience different cultures. The Teacher Exchange Program and growing international student population continues to expand the school community's international perspectives.

BOARDING PHILOSOPHY

- Wheaton Academy believes and validates that the international student's experiences and values are just as valid as that of an American student.
- To develop community, WA teaches host parents and host students to listen to the international students' needs and seek to understand their life story prior to their time in the States.
- The desire of WA is to make students bicultural—understanding one's own culture while simultaneously understanding and practicing values of another culture.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

- College Guidance Department provides application and recommendation assistance
- 97% of graduating seniors pursue college
- Students have access to ACT preparation courses
- Nearly 90% of our graduating seniors get accepted to their first college choice
- Wheaton Academy has a partnership with Northwestern University to prepare students to apply to Ivy League Schools such as Harvard, Yale, Stanford & MIT or other highly selective universities
- Taylor University partners with Wheaton Academy students to allow our seniors to earn dual high school and freshman year of college credit while at Wheaton Academy
- Wheaton Academy graduates annually attend 50-60 different colleges including recent enrollment at University of Chicago, Wheaton College, University of Pennsylvania, Cornell, Yale, Brown, Julliard, New York University, Pepperdine, Taylor and Gordon

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Wheaton Academy works with each individual student to build a personalized graduation plan given their academic background and preparation
- WA requires students to participate in a January

term which allows them to take experiential learning and do an internship in their intended career field

- WA graduation requirements of 56 semester credits is 30% higher than the Illinois standard

IVY LEAGUE PREPARATION

- Wheaton Academy offers a specialized track that is designed to prepare our graduates specifically for application to highly selective universities
- Two-thirds of the student body are in Honors or Advanced Placement classes including Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English and Literature, French, Government and Politics, Spanish, European History and U.S. History
- World languages classes offered include Spanish, French, Latin, and Chinese
- WA students can be nominated for the National Honor Society
- ELL- private English Language Learner tutoring is provided for all first year students
- Typically 90% of our AP test takers score high enough to earn college credit and graduate with up to a year of college credit
- Teacher to student ratio is 1:15
- Average class size is 21

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

- Wheaton Academy is both a private and Christian educational institution. WA cares deeply about the holistic development of our students—academically, socially, physically and spiritually. As a non denominational school, our students regularly come from 50-60 different Christian churches. Students study Christian history and doctrine, participate in school chapel services and attend church with their host families.
- International curiosity and a spirit of humility is evident among school assemblies, events, and global initiatives. Biweekly school assemblies also often feature international visitors who challenge the student body and faculty.

FACILITIES

The WA campus features state of the art wireless educational buildings equipped with multiple computer labs. A 700 seat fine arts center, built in 2004, welcomes world renowned artists to campus and provides a beautiful setting for school concerts and productions. An athletic field house opened in May 2009 and is a premier athletic facility in the western suburbs of Chicago, including 4 basketball courts as well as state of the art work out equipment.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Current WA boarding students hold leadership roles on the basketball and soccer teams, homecoming court, improvisation team, choir, band, newspaper staff and class office. 88% of Wheaton Academy students participate in over 1,800 co-curricular spots for 650 students including Scholastic Bowl, Academic teams, Science Bowl, Band, Orchestra, Chess Club and 34 sports teams.

WINTERIM (Innovative January Term)

In addition to two traditional semesters WA features a unique curricular experience called Winterim. This interim of two weeks during January allows for intensive in-depth study. Students receive 30 hours of classroom instruction in each of two courses. In addition to upper level and practical arts courses, students are also encouraged to travel or serve internships in the work environment of their choice. Various classes are offered, including Internet Broadcasting, Introduction to Biblical Greek, Shakespeare, Starting your own Business, World Cultures & Cross Cultural Communication, Chicago Then--Chicago Now, Dian Ying! (Asian Film Study), Illustrated Journaling and Interior Design.

A quarter of Wheaton Academy students complete two week internships in a professional work environment. Internships have been carried out in various fields, including Physics, Architecture, Orthopedics, Biomechanics, Chemical Engineering, International Business, Law, and Pharmacology. A quarter of WA students travel during Winterim on numerous trips such as sailing the coast of Florida, Guatemala & Honduras, Habitat for Humanity, Italy & Greece, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

BOARDING STUDENT PLACEMENT

- One of the unique features of the WA boarding program is the home stay program. Instead of impersonal dorms, we believe international students living with American families 24/7 is a much better learning environment and provides more focused social and emotional support. WA believes strongly in a partnership between the home and school, and Wheaton Academy international students thrive under this partnership with their host family.
- Host families are chosen after background checks, reference checks and personal interviews. Orientation and ongoing support is provided to host families as well.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROFILE

Wheaton Academy looks for students who are:

- Representative of a variety of countries
- Academically motivated and successful
- Emotionally and socially mature
- Willing to get involved in clubs and activities
- Respectful of world cultures and values

International students:

- Meet weekly for dinner and Kairos (international student group) meetings
- Participate in fun social activities together
- Attend orientation and retreat events throughout the year
- Present international cafés for the student body to learn more about their home cultures

CHICAGO

- Wheaton Academy is uniquely located in the beautiful western suburbs of Chicago while conveniently accessible to a wide range of metropolitan cultural experiences
- Most popular Chicago destinations include: Millennium Park, Art Institute of Chicago, Navy Pier, Shedd Aquarium, Willis Tower, and the Museum of Science and Industry
- Learn about famous Chicagoans such as U.S. President Barack Obama, Michael Jordan, the infamous Al Capone, and Illinois' former 16th president of the U.S., Abraham Lincoln

NOTABLE WA ALUMNI

The following are a few of our nearly 5,000 active alumni all over the world: **C. William Pollard**, Chairman of the Board and former CEO of ServiceMaster; **Randy Hultgren**, State Senator of Illinois; **Dr. William Wood**, Chairman, Dept. of Surgery at Emory University Medical School; **Dr. Wess Stafford**, President of Compassion International and **Faith Willard**, co-founder of The Widow's Friend, which sponsors several projects in Bangladesh to help widows and orphans.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Fill out your online application today at www.wheatonacademy.org under the Admissions tab, then Boarding tab. Applications received by February 15 will be considered in early admissions. Applications received after February 15 will be considered as space is available.
- Students are granted F1 Visas for academic study that begins in August of their acceptance year through their high school graduation.

BOARDING CONTACTS

Brenda Vishanoff, Boarding Program Director, Director of Admissions
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Nate Leman, International Student Advisor, Social Studies Teacher (Previously taught in China)
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Jinhi Roskamp, International Student Advisor, Spanish Teacher (Previously taught in Paraguay, Host Parent for Boarding Students)
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Jon Keith, Lead Host Parent, Chief Operating Officer (Graduate of an international boarding high school, Host Parent for Boarding Students)
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Rachel Swanson, Admissions Assistant (Former resident of Colombia and the Dominican Republic)
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WA COMPARED TO OTHER BOARDING SCHOOLS	U.S. BOARDING AVERAGE*	WHEATON ACADEMY
Enrollment	300	650
Yearly Tuition (Boarding Students)	\$38,675	\$33,600
% of Students on Financial Aid	30%	40%
Merit Scholarship Offered	No	Yes
Student Minority Ratio	18%	12%
Support for Students with Special Needs	No	Yes
Number of AP Classes	14	18
ACT Average	21.1 (all schools)	25.1
% of Faculty w / Advanced Degrees	60%	85%
Percent International Students**	16%	3%**

* taken from boardingschoolreview.com

** WA intentionally maintains a modest % of international boarding students to insure boarding students experience the benefit of full immersion into Western educational culture and build new relationships.

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