

# EMMA WILLARD SCHOOL

## 2009–2010 Profile

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Founded in 1814, Emma Willard is a leading college preparatory boarding and day school for young women. Known for its academic rigor, the school promotes intellectual curiosity and disciplined study habits through a challenging liberal arts curriculum. The school also promotes active involvement in the life of the campus and off-campus communities through a rich co-curricular program. Throughout its history, Emma Willard has been committed to enrolling a diverse student body from New York's capital region, across the country, and around the world. This commitment is honored by significant expenditures in financial aid to assist families who might not otherwise have the opportunity to provide an extraordinary secondary education for their daughters.

**Academic Program:** Emma Willard's learning environment offers an average class size of 11 and a student/faculty ratio of 5 to 1. The curriculum reflects the school's traditional pursuit of excellence, capitalizes on the strength of community and relationships, sustains a belief in the centrality of ethics in adolescent education, and honors the women's perspective. Emma Willard offers a rigorous college preparatory program with Advanced Placement® courses and upper-level electives in all disciplines. The faculty intentionally limits the number of AP courses offered in order to provide students with an array of equally rigorous elective courses at the upper levels. The school year is divided into two semesters, and most students take five academic classes per term. Classes generally meet four times a week in blocks of 50 or 75 minutes. Core requirements for graduation include a minimum of four units of English; three of history, foreign language, and mathematics; and two of laboratory science and visual/performing arts. Ordinarily, a yearlong course equals one unit. All students are required to participate in the Service Program and the Emma Willard Seminar Program each year and must take physical education or its equivalent each semester in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. (Seniors must take at least 10 weeks.) The school's Practicum program offers students the opportunity to pursue internships in various academic, professional, artistic, and athletic fields. The curriculum is complemented by the Serving and Shaping Her World Speakers Series, which invites accomplished and renowned experts in various fields to speak at assemblies throughout the school year.

**Faculty:** 56 (46 full-time, 10 part-time); 77% female/23% male; 41 hold advanced degrees.

**Student Body:** 308 students (198 boarding, 110 day) from 23 states and 19 foreign countries. One hundred five new students enrolled in the fall of 2009. Of the 308 students, 55 are students of color (according to guidelines established by the National Association of Independent Schools), 72 are international students, and 51 have an alumna or current sister relationship to the school. There are 76 students in the Class of 2010. A financial aid budget of \$3,388,650 enables 141 students (46%) to receive awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$41,500.

**Grading/Class Rank:** Letter grades are used with plus and minus notations to refine the passing grades of A, B, C, and D. "NC" (no credit) represents a failing grade. Consistent with school philosophy, we do not compute a class rank or a cumulative grade point average as part of a student's credentials. A grade of D- or better is a passing grade.

**ESL:** Each year, Emma Willard admits a small number of students for whom English is the second language. Students who enter ESL must be at the advanced level and, in order to earn a diploma, must complete all graduation requirements (with the exception of senior English) in non-ESL classes. The average TOEFL iBT score for students in the Class of 2009 was 98.

**Advanced Placement®** courses are offered by all the academic departments at the school. In 2009, 115 candidates completed 200 AP examinations in 18 subjects. Grades of 3 or higher were earned on 89% of the exams with the following distribution: 47% earned a 5, 25% earned a 4, and 17% earned a 3.

**Affiliations:** Emma Willard School is a member of the National Coalition of Girls' Schools, The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS), and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). It is accredited by NYSAIS.

SAT SCORES—CLASS OF 2009				
RANGE	CRITICAL READING	MATH	WRITING	
	800–470	800–400	800–520	
800	2%	4%	2%	
700–799	25%	10%	21%	
600–699	38%	37%	55%	
500–599	32%	39%	22%	
Below 500	2%	9%	0	
Mean	634	609	648	1891
Median	630	600	640	1870

SUBJECT TEST SCORES—CLASS OF 2009					
RANGE	LITERATURE	MATH LEVEL 1	MATH LEVEL 2	U.S. HISTORY	CHEMISTRY
	740–460	770–450	800–550	780–490	790–480
800	—	—	32%	—	—
700–799	21%	15%	16%	39%	40%
600–699	40%	54%	42%	39%	46%
500–599	28%	28%	10%	18%	7%
Below 500	11%	3%	—	3%	7%

Scores reported for tests taken by 15 or more members of the class.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT—MAY 2009						
	ART	BIOLOGY	CALCULUS	CALCULUS	CHEMISTRY	PHYSICS C
	HISTORY		AB	BC		E&M/MECH.
5	6	12	11	8	10	5/4
4	5	2	4	—	5	1/3
3	—	1	2	—	2	2/2
2	—	1	—	—	—	2/3
	ENGLISH LIT. &	FRENCH	Gov. &	SPANISH	STATISTICS	U.S.
	COMPOSITION		POLITICS			HISTORY
5	3	—	5	2	5	15
4	6	1	6	2	4	9
3	3	1	7	1	4	5
2	2	—	1	—	—	4

## Academic Information and Course Offerings

General Information: There are two grading systems in use at Emma Willard. For most courses the grading system ranges from A to No Credit with grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D- and No Credit. For some courses, a grading system of Credit/No Credit is used. Freshmen receive grades of Credit/No Credit for their first semester at Emma Willard. In the second semester, freshmen receive letter grades that are recorded with the registrar and reported on transcripts. Comprehensive final exams may be included in this second semester grade. There is no year grade recorded. All arts courses may be taken Credit/No Credit. 1.5 unit = year Advanced Placement course; 1 unit = year course; .75 unit = semester Advanced Placement course; .5 unit = semester course or its equivalent; A student customarily carries 5–6 units per year: 2.5–3 units per semester. A student must carry a minimum of 2.5 units per semester. A student may carry more than 6.25 units in a year with the permission of her advisor and the academic office.

Graduation Requirements: ARTS—For entering 9th graders, successful completion of 2 units of arts electives; 1 of these units must be completed by the end of 10th grade; at least one course must be performing and at least one course must be a visual arts course. For entering 10th graders, successful completion of 1 unit of arts electives; at least one course must be performing and at least one course must be a visual arts course. For entering 11th graders, successful completion of 1 unit of arts courses with no distribution required among the arts. ENGLISH—Successful completion of four years of English. During 9th, 10th, and 11th grades a student must take year-long English courses. In 12th grade she must choose two English electives, one per semester. HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCE—Three year-long courses in history and social science or their equivalents, including one year of United States history taken at the 11th- or 12th-grade level. FOREIGN LANGUAGE—Successful completion of the third year of a single foreign language. This does not apply to students for whom English is a second language. MATHEMATICS—Successful completion of the mathematics sequence through the third level following the sequence: Algebra I, Algebraic Geometry, and either Essential Topics in Functions and Trigonometry or Algebra II and Trigonometry satisfies the mathematics graduation requirement for juniors and seniors. If Essential Topics is taken before junior year, another year of mathematics must be taken to fulfill the graduation requirement. SCIENCE—Successful completion of two units of laboratory science: one year of physics and one year of biology. For students entering in 10th or 11th grade, successful completion of two units of laboratory science during their high school career: one year of physical science and one year of natural science. PHYSICAL EDUCATION & ATHLETICS—All students must take physical education classes or their equivalent in team sports or dance all year during 9th, 10th, and 11th grade. 12th graders are required to take 10 weeks of physical education or the equivalent. SEMINAR—Participation in the seminar program each year. COMMUNITY SERVICE—Participation in the community service program each year.

### Course Listings and Units

#### Arts

Beginning Contemporary Dance I .25  
Beginning Contemporary Dance II .25  
Intermediate Contemporary Dance .5  
Advanced Contemporary Dance .5  
Beginning Ballet .5  
Intermediate Ballet .5  
Advanced Ballet  
Jazz Dance .5  
Emma Willard Dance Company 1.0  
Choir .5  
Inner Choir .5  
Voice Seminar .25  
Introduction to Opera .5  
Orchestra .5  
Advanced String Ensemble .5  
Musical Theory and Skills .5  
Music Appreciation I .25  
Music Appreciation II .25  
Acting I .5  
Technical Support .5  
Theater Production .25  
Storytelling .5  
Oral Interpretation and Speech .5  
Advanced Acting .5  
Introduction to Weaving .5

Color and Design .5  
Introduction to Drawing .5  
Ceramics I .5  
Ceramics II .5  
Woven Structures .5  
Photography I .5  
Photography II .5  
Photography III .5  
Film and Video .5  
Drawing and Painting Workshop .5  
Digital Imaging .5  
Drawing and Painting Portfolio I 1.0  
AP Drawing and Painting Portfolio II 1.5

#### English

English I 1.0  
English II 1.0  
English III 1.0  
Writing Skills for International Students .25  
The Supernatural and the Suppressed in Nineteenth Century Fiction .5  
Paired Texts: Writers Under the Influence .5  
Shakespearean Tragedy .5  
Autobiography .5

Storytelling .5  
Poetry Workshop .5  
Literature of the 1920s .5  
Wilderness of the Mind: Nature Writing from the Romantics to Kyoto .5  
Modern Indian Literature .5  
Short Fiction Workshop .5  
Advanced Placement English .75  
ESL Advanced Writing 1.0  
ESL Advanced Reading 1.0

#### History

Ancient and Medieval History 1.0  
Global Perspectives in Modern History 1.0  
United States History 1.0  
Advanced Placement United States History 1.5  
History of Art and Architecture I .5  
History of Art and Architecture II .5  
Advanced Placement Art History .5  
History of Philosophy .5  
The Dark Continent: African History from Imperialism Through Aids .5  
Economics .5  
History of Latin America .5  
United States Government and Politics (AP option) .5/.75

King Arthur and His Court: History,  
Legend, Ideology .5  
The Eagle in the World .5  
History of East Asia .5

### Languages

Chinese I 1.0  
Chinese II 1.0  
Chinese III 1.0  
French I 1.0  
French II 1.0  
French III 1.0  
French IV-I .5  
French IV-II .5  
French V Advanced Placement-I .75  
French V Advanced Placement-II .75  
Latin I 1.0  
Latin II 1.0  
Latin III/ IV 1.0  
Spanish I 1.0  
Spanish II 1.0  
Spanish III 1.0  
Spanish IV-I .5  
Spanish IV-II .5  
Spanish V Advanced Placement-I .75  
Spanish V Advanced Placement-II .75

### Mathematics

Algebra I 1.0  
Algebraic Geometry 1.0  
Functions and Trigonometry 1.0  
Algebra II and Trigonometry 1.0  
Mathematical Methods:  
Reasoning and Analysis .5

Applications of Finite  
Mathematics 1.0  
Advanced Math 1.0  
Calculus 1.0  
Advanced Placement Statistics 1.5  
Advanced Placement Calculus AB 1.5  
Advanced Placement Calculus BC  
with Additional Advanced Topics  
(AP optional) 1.5

### Science

Physics 1.0  
Physics II 1.0  
Advanced Placement Physics C—  
Mechanics .75  
Advanced Placement Physics C—  
Electricity and Magnetism .75  
Chemistry 1.0  
Principles of Chemistry 1.0  
Advanced Placement Chemistry 1.5  
Biology: Concepts and Connections 1.0  
Biology: Research and Investigations 1.0  
Advanced Placement Biology 1.5  
Neuroscience 1.0  
Animal Behavior .5  
Environmental Studies .5  
Forensic Science .5  
Ethics in Science .5

### Technology

Introduction to Programming .5  
EdSocial .5

### Practicum

Practicum is Emma Willard's independent study program and offers students opportunities to enrich and extend their studies through academic and nonacademic experiences available on and off campus. It enables a student to individualize part of her course schedule through learning that is experiential and self-directed. Internships and courses fall under one of the following categories: arts, career exploration, college courses, community service, language study, physical education substitution, sports, and music instruction. Projects are pursued in several ways: most common are part-time classes, internships, or other activities pursued on campus or in the Capital Region. Each practicum experience is an integral part of a student's schedule, planned with guidance from the practicum director and the approval of the student's academic advisor. The number of units a project can earn is determined by the practicum director in consultation with the appropriate department chair.

Individual course descriptions are available at [www.emmawillard.org/academics/departments](http://www.emmawillard.org/academics/departments).

### College Matriculation Class of 2009:

Agnes Scott College  
American University  
American University of Sharjah  
Amherst College  
Barnard College (3)  
Bates College (2)  
Brandeis University  
Brown University (2)  
University of Central Florida  
University of Chicago  
Clark University  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
Colorado College (2)  
Columbia University  
Connecticut College  
Cornell University (4)  
Dickinson College (3)  
Emory University  
Franklin and Marshall College  
George Mason University  
George Washington University (2)  
Georgetown University

Green Mountain College  
Grinnell College  
Hamilton College (2)  
Kalamazoo College  
Lawrence University  
Lehigh University  
University of Maryland (2)  
University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst (2)  
Mount Holyoke College (4)  
New York University (2)  
Northeastern University  
Occidental College (2)  
Oxford College of Emory University  
Pace University  
Parsons/Eugene Lang  
BA/BFA Program  
Parsons The New School for Design  
Pratt Institute  
Purdue University  
University of Redlands  
University of Rochester (2)

Salem College  
Scripps College  
Siena College  
Skidmore College (2)  
Spelman College  
St. Andrews Presbyterian College  
University of St. Andrews (Scotland)  
St. Lawrence University  
Syracuse University (2)  
Trinity College  
Tufts University  
Vassar College  
University of Vermont (2)  
Wagner College  
Warren Wilson College  
Washington College  
Wellesley College  
Wheaton College  
University of Wisconsin  
Wofford College  
College of Wooster (2)