



WINTER SPORTS SCHOOL | 2018 ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT FAQ

Q: *Is The Winter Sports School a new entity?*

A: No. The Winter Sports School first opened its doors in 1994 and operated for 20 years as an independent school. In 2014, The Winter Sports School opened its doors for the first time as a public charter school.

Q: *Is the Winter Sports School accredited?*

A: Yes. We are fully accredited by AdvancED.

Q: *What kind of student-athlete is mission-appropriate for The Winter Sports School?*

A: We are an ideal college-preparatory option for dedicated, competitive winter athletes. Mission-appropriate students seeking to enroll at WSS should therefore demonstrate passion for academic achievement and commitment to high-level athletic pursuit.

Q: *Does my student already need to be a national or international champion in his or her sport in order to attend The Winter Sports School?*

A: No. We want our students to show passion and drive and a constant desire to learn and improve. Coming to us as a ready-made athletic champion is not the requirement. We provide our students the high-quality academic course of study during our school year and the time during the winter to improve and to achieve their athletic goals; the requirement is that our students take full advantage of that opportunity.

Q: *Does WSS have coaches in each of the winter athletic disciplines?*

A: No. The Winter Sports School is strictly a college preparatory academic institution, and we are out of session during the winter months. Our students are therefore completely free to choose whichever coach or team will be the best fit for them, anywhere in the world. It also means that we are able to educate all students, practicing any winter sports discipline, as opposed to only a subset. At The Winter Sports School, skiers and snowboarders study alongside ski jumpers, figure skaters, speed skaters, luge and skeleton athletes, and others who often cannot attend institutions which package academics with athletics.

Q: *What is The Winter Sports School's academic calendar?*

A: We run our classes from April through November each year to give our students time during the winter months to focus on athletic training and competition. We also take short breaks and vacations from school throughout our academic year. We complete a full college preparatory curriculum in approximately 7 months, as opposed to the 9 to 10 month calendar utilized at most secondary schools. Our compressed calendar is intense, but the benefits are significant for students who have made the necessary commitment to their academics and athletics. Our detailed academic calendar is posted on our website each year by January 1 at www.wintersportsschool.org.

Q: *What is the nature of The Winter Sports School curriculum?*

A: Designed as a complete college preparatory program, WSS academic credits fall into one of the following departments: English, Mathematics, Social Science, Physical Science, Language, Art, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and Health/Physical Education.

Q: *Do you offer electives?*

A: Very few. Due to the compressed nature of our calendar, our program focuses on the core elements of a college preparatory curriculum and meeting the requirements for high school graduation in Utah. Students do have some choice with respect to Art course selection, CTE course selection, and advanced Language and Math

course selection. As our program evolves, we seek to provide more choice in these areas.

Q: *What is the typical high school course of study for WSS students?*

A: The following chart shows the available courses in each grade. Required courses are in black font, and electives are in green font. Art and CTE courses are electives to the extent that students will have the opportunity to choose between the two, although one of the two must be taken at the appropriate point in each year's curriculum.

	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
English	English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
Math	Math 1	Math 2	Math 3	Pre-Calculus or Calculus
Physical Science	Earth Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Language	Spanish 1	Spanish 2, or Intro to Spanish Conversation	Spanish 3, or Intermediate Spanish Conversation	Spanish 4, Spanish 5, or Public Speaking
Social Science	Geography	World Civilizations	U.S. History	U.S. Government & Citizenship, Economics/Finance
Art	Course offerings vary each year	Course offerings vary each year	Course offerings vary each year	Course offerings vary each year
CTE	Computer Technology, Other course offerings vary each year	Course offerings vary each year	Course offerings vary each year	Course offerings vary each year
PE/Health	Participation Skills & Fitness for Life *	Consumer Health & Individualized Lifetime Activities *	Varies by student *	Varies by student *

* PE credits earned through training and competition with students' registered sport clubs

Q: *Is it possible for my student to take Math 2 as a freshman, Math 3 as a sophomore, etc.?*

A: Not through WSS. The math curriculum for 9th through 11th grades is set. We require that students take a full year of Math 1, Math 2, and Math 3 during the 9th through 11th grades to ensure the strongest knowledge foundation and because those courses cover the topics emphasized on the SAT and ACT tests. Honors work is available (with teacher consent) for students who are ready for more advanced work at a given grade level. Our curriculum for Math 1 through 3 will prepare students to take Calculus as a senior should they desire to do so. Pre-calculus is available for students who would prefer to wait until college to study Calculus. Individual students, in consultation with the Math Department and Head of School, sometimes arrange to enroll concurrently in the WSS grade-level math course and an independent study course in another topic in Mathematics.

Q: *I'm not familiar with the integrated Math courses of Utah's Common Core. What topics are covered in the various Math courses at WSS?*

A: Math 1 covers a combination of topics from Algebra 1 and Geometry, with some statistical concepts. Math 2 is a continuation of Geometry and an introduction to Algebra 2, with a bit more statistics. Math 3 is a continuation of Algebra 2, statistics, and an introduction to Trigonometry. The Utah Common Core is a set of standards, not specifically a prescriptive set of mandatory topics. As such, The Winter Sports School has structured its Math curriculum such that those courses cover all the subject areas included in national standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT, as well as the subject areas required to be prepared for Calculus studies as a senior. Pre-Calculus is a deeper dive into Trigonometry with an introduction to Calculus. Our Calculus course covers the topics covered in Calculus AB courses at other secondary schools, while honors level work in our Calculus course covers the equivalent of Calculus BC.



Q: *My student is advanced in Spanish. Do we have to stick to the course of study outlined above?*

A: It is our policy that Winter Sports School 9th graders take Spanish 1, since our experience shows that middle-school instruction in Spanish 1, 2, etc. is not the equivalent of Spanish 1, 2, etc. at the high school level. Our Spanish curriculum becomes highly immersive after the introductory topics are completed, which is a wonderful way to develop fluency but can be challenging for students who are unprepared. Students coming into The Winter Sports School as a 10th, 11th, or 12th grader may test into a higher level of Spanish than prescribed; Spanish level promotion is at the sole discretion of our Language Department. If a 10th or 11th grade student has already taken the prescribed level of Spanish for his or her grade, but is not deemed ready to step up to the next level, they may take the prescribed level of Spanish instruction but with an emphasis on conversational skills as indicated in the course of study chart above. 12th graders may take Spanish 4, serve as a Teaching Assistant for Spanish 5 credit, or opt into the Public Speaking course.

Students who have completed a dual immersion program in Spanish may elect to take an alternate foreign language online. The potential issue is that taking high school credits online can sometimes jeopardize NCAA athletic eligibility, so the students, parents and The Winter Sports School will have to evaluate such instances on a case-by-case basis. This potential issue exists only for students who intend to compete at the Division I level in collegiate sports regulated by the NCAA, which are currently Alpine Skiing and Nordic Skiing.

Please be advised that most 4-year colleges and universities will require at least two years of secondary school credit in the same foreign language (that is, French 1 and 2 will be fine, but French 1 and German 1 will not) in order to consider an applicant for admission, so we highly recommend all students meet this expectation as college-bound students.

Q: *My student has been studying a Language other than Spanish and would like to continue. Can that be accommodated?*

A: Due to the small size of our school, we do not offer any instructor-led courses in foreign languages other than Spanish, but individual students may pursue courses in other languages offered through accredited online programs. The potential issue is that taking high school credits online can sometimes jeopardize NCAA athletic eligibility, so the students, parents and The Winter Sports School will have to evaluate such instances on a case-by-case basis. This potential issue exists only for students who intend to compete at the Division I level in collegiate sports regulated by the NCAA, which are currently Alpine Skiing and Nordic Skiing.

Q: *In what subjects can a student do honors level work?*

A: English, Math, Physical Science, Spanish, and History. Earning honors in a designated course while earning an average of 97% or better is the only way for a student to gain an A+ grade in a class, with an unweighted grade point of 4.33. Honors work is especially rigorous; we caution students to consider carefully before attempting honors-level work in more than two classes simultaneously.

Q: *What Art courses do you offer?*

A: Offerings may vary year to year. Recent Art course offerings have included General Art, World Art, Watercolor Painting, Oil Painting, and Printmaking.

Q: *What CTE courses do you offer?*

A: Offerings may vary year to year. Recent CTE course offerings have included Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Architectural Design, and Industrial Design.

Q: *How are PE credits issued?*

A: As athletes, our students are in training through most of the summer months to ensure that they're well prepared for the winter competitive season. At the end of each year's training cycle, students' authorized

coaches/program directors complete an Athletic Training & Competition form, indicating the number of hours and nature of the training activities in which students were engaged during the past year. Based on these forms, the Winter Sports School will issue a PE credit in the students' specific athletic discipline and related dryland training disciplines on a pass/fail basis.

Q: *Do you offer any AP classes?*

A: We do not, simply because AP exams are administered in the spring, just as we are starting our academic year, which would create an untenable situation for our students. Our honors-level course options are fully recognized by colleges and universities, and our students therefore suffer zero negative impacts with respect to college admissions. An added benefit is that our teachers are able to spend more time with our students developing problem solving skills, critical thinking, and analytical abilities which would be nearly impossible to do if we were to try and condense the required AP curriculum into our shortened school year.

Q: *I'm interested in other specialized classes, such as Computer Programming, Psychology, Statistics, etc. Will such classes be offered?*

A: We have no plans at this time to offer classes other than those listed above. We are a small school, and those are the courses that have proven necessary and effective for college preparedness and to suit the unique needs of our target demographic. As the school grows, we may consider new options, but we will always prioritize the course selection necessary to fulfill our mission and vision.

Q: *Is preparation for standardized tests such as the ACT part of your curriculum?*

A: Yes. And because standardized tests are administered at several points throughout the year, our students are able to benefit fully from that preparation despite our unorthodox annual schedule. Our students also have access to online test prep programs available at no cost through the state and our online courseware subscriptions.

Q: *What are your academic graduation requirements?*

A: In order to graduate from The Winter Sports School in Park City, a student must:

- Complete a minimum of 24 credits in four years, including a minimum of:
 - 4 credits in English
 - 3 credits in Math
 - 3 credits in Science
 - 3 credits in Social Studies, including :
 - 0.5 credits in Geography
 - 0.5 credits in World Civilizations
 - 1 credit in U.S. History
 - 0.5 credits in U.S. Government & Citizenship
 - 0.5 credits in Economics & Finance
 - 2 credits in Healthy Lifestyles & Physical Education, including
 - 0.5 credits in Consumer Health
 - 0.5 credits in Fitness for Life
 - 0.5 credits in Participation Skills
 - 1.5 credits in Career and Technical Education (CTE), including 0.5 credits in Computer Technology
 - 1.5 credits in Fine Arts
 - 6.0 credits in electives from the above categories and (or) in Foreign Language
- Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.67
- Complete a minimum of 1,000 hours of training and competition in an athletic activity or activities which fall under the jurisdiction of a National Governing Body or International Governing Body, with said hours verified by a coach or athletic director serving with an organization which offers need-based grants to offset the costs of athletic development. We strongly recommend averaging a minimum of 250 annual hours between the 9th and 12th grades instead of attempting to fulfill the 1,000-hour requirement during fewer years. A minimum of 200 hours must be earned within a single training year in order for PE credit to be issued for that year. Hours earned and properly verified from 9th grade onward, but prior to matriculation at The Winter Sports School, will count towards the required total.
- Complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service, verified by an executive director or other authority at a non-profit or charitable organization. We strongly recommend averaging a minimum of 10 annual hours between the 9th and 12th grades instead of attempting to fulfill the 40 hour requirement during fewer years. Hours earned and properly verified from 9th grade onward, but prior to matriculation at The Winter Sports School, will count towards the required total.



Q: *Your academic year starts in April, but my student's current academic year won't end until June. How should we transition into your program?*

A: We recommend that all students finish at least the first half of their prior academic year before joining our program, regardless of grade level. The logical breakpoint between “halves” of the year varies from district to district – for some it falls in December, for others in January – but the goal is to complete a minimum of 0.5 credits in each course at the student's prior school. As of that point, students may choose to withdraw from their prior school if they and their parents or guardians believe the student to be ready for their studies at the next incremental grade level. This option allows students to gain time during the winter to focus on athletics as quickly as possible, and it gives the student an extended break from academics before starting our compressed (and intense) academic program the following April. Other students may opt to stay involved with their prior school for a longer time period, which may increase their readiness for the next grade. Our Guidance Counselor will schedule a meeting with parents and students for all those selected from the lottery to consider each new student-athlete's course of study, credit recovery needs, and to consider the best plan for withdrawing from his or her prior school.

Q: *If a student leaves his or her prior school at the halfway point or any time prior to completion of the prior year before joining WSS in April, how does that student make up missed partial credits?*

A: Former 8th graders entering our 9th grade don't need to make up credits just for the sake of completeness, because 8th grade credits will not be evaluated by colleges or universities for admissions purposes. The most important consideration for our incoming 9th graders is whether they will be well prepared for 9th grade level work beginning in April of what would have been their 8th grade year. For students coming into higher grades, certain partial credits will need to be made up, but not all. Students have the opportunity to earn 7 credits each year with us – for a total of 28 in four years – while only 24 are required for graduation. Students will need 4 full credits of English to graduate from our program, but students needing to make up a partial credit of English may do so by opting into our Public Speaking elective course in the 12th grade, which may be counted as a core English credit. Independent studies and online course options may exist for some students as well. Non-English credits may or may not need to be made up, depending on NCAA eligibility considerations, potential college choices, etc. And, once again, there are a number of ways in which such credits may be earned. Our pre-enrollment meetings with the Guidance Counselor will consider all such credit recovery needs and options.

Q: *If my student ends his or her prior year of school at the halfway point, how do I ensure my student's preparedness for subjects in which concepts cumulatively build upon each other, as they do in Math?*

A: Math and Spanish are the key subjects in which this issue needs to be considered, and our courses in those subjects begin with review units to ensure student success. Additionally, our pre-enrollment meetings with the WSS Guidance Counselor will consider each student's preparedness and strategies for entering as well-prepared as possible.

Q: *Can a student complete the academic year at their prior school in May or June and then join The Winter Sports School at a later point in your schedule?*

A: It's possible, but not a guaranteed or even feasible option in most cases. The Winter Sports School cannot enroll a student and then proceed to mark them absent for almost three months. So the only way this option could be pursued is by applying for admission, then not enrolling until the summertime. The catch is that, if your student's grade level becomes oversubscribed, your student's spot may be lost to another who is ready to enroll and begin attending classes in April. Given the high level of interest in our program, the odds of successfully waiting until the summer to enroll are slim.

Q: *What is The Winter Sports School's college placement record?*

A: We have an excellent college placement record. Recent alums have gained admission to such institutions as Stanford, Brown, Williams, Middlebury, Colby, Bates, Hamilton, Wesleyan, The University of Southern California, Johns Hopkins, NYU, The University of Utah Honors College, and the list goes on. Even more importantly, the

feedback we receive from these institutions indicates that our graduates arrive exceptionally well prepared for their college studies.

Q: *Does freeing up the students' winter months really make a difference athletically?*

A: It is, of course, our students' own talent, commitment, and effort these make the difference for them athletically. We merely provide the "tools, support, and balance," – as our mission indicates - for them to pursue that success. The results, still, are impressive to say the least. As a small school, we have a base of only ~350 alumni spanning our entire history. As of 2017, that small group has combined to win 170+ World Cup podiums, 70+ World Cup Titles, 10+ Overall World Cup Titles, 25+ World Championship Medals, 12 Olympic Medals, and 4 X-Games Medals. Those results are unparalleled by any other secondary school in the United States. And on a per capita basis, they're staggering.

Q: *As a Utah State Charter School, are you part of the Park City School District?*

A: We report directly to the Utah State Office of Education. We enjoy a very friendly and cooperative relationship with the Park City School District, but we are not a district school.

Q: *As a Utah State Charter School, does The Winter Sports School receive funds from the Park City or Summit County property tax base, or from the Park City Education Foundation?*

A: As a State Charter School, we are not a taxing authority, so we do not receive funds directly from Park City or Summit County property taxes. We do not receive any funds from the Park City Education Foundation.

Q: *Does your transition to Charter status mean that non-Utah Resident students are no longer able to attend The Winter Sports School?*

A: It does not. Non-Utah Resident students are still welcome to apply and attend on a tuition-paying basis.

Q: *What will tuition in 2018 be for non-Utah Resident students?*

A: Our 2017 Out-of-State Tuition is currently \$14,750. The 2018 tuition will be approved by the Board of Trustees in December 2017, but will likely remain at a similar level with a slight increase

Q: *Do you have boarding facilities for non-Utah Resident Students?*

A: The Winter Sports School does not have a boarding facility. Non-Utah Resident students are responsible for securing their own living arrangements.

Q: *How do I apply to The Winter Sports School as a Utah Resident student?*

A: Please visit www.wintersportsschool.org/admissions/ and fill out the online lottery enrollment form in full. Your submission must be entered during an open enrollment period to be considered or kept. These enrollment periods are posted on that same page each year by August 1 for the following school year. After your properly-timed submission is received, you will be issued a unique ID number. Shortly after the conclusion of the enrollment period in which your application is received (within a few business days), the admissions results for that enrollment period will be posted to the same web page. A result will be posted next to your student's number, whether admitted or waitlisted. If admitted, you will receive enrollment instructions via e-mail.

Q: *How do I apply to The Winter Sports School as a non-Utah Resident student?*

A: Please visit <http://www.wintersportsschool.org/admissions/>. There, the necessary forms can be downloaded, completed, printed, and sent to us via e-mail, FAX, or U.S. Mail along with a copy of the student's current transcript. Non-Utah Resident student admissions are processed on a rolling basis beginning in December until any available spots are filled. Applicants will be notified of their status as quickly as possible – usually within a couple of weeks after an application is received.

Q: *As a Utah State Charter School with a lottery enrollment process for Utah residents, how do you ensure a mission-appropriate student body?*

A: While our in-state admissions process is open in compliance with Federal F.A.P.E. law (Free Access to Public Education), our graduation requirements are clearly articulated up front and strictly enforced to ensure that our students represent mission-appropriate goals, ambitions, and behavior. Additionally, we meet with each family selected from the lottery to prepare for enrollment to ensure each enrolled student's success at our school.



Q: *As a Utah State Charter School, do you have to administer the Utah SAGE tests? Aren't those administered in the spring at the beginning of your academic year?*

A: We do indeed have to administer the SAGE tests as a State Charter School, but the Utah State Office of Education has granted us permission to do so in the fall, at the appropriate point in our curriculum. Our students are not negatively impacted in any way. Additionally, beginning in the 2017 school year, we have been given special dispensation to have our 11th grade students take the October ACT instead of the 11th grade SAGE tests.

Q: *Will you be able to accommodate student absences for training camps and other athletic activities during your school year?*

A: Yes, for students in good academic standing. We have protocols in place for pre-arranged absences for mission-appropriate activities. We ask that families prioritize and support student attendance in school to the greatest possible extent and avoid scheduling appointments and/or family vacations during school days. While we are accommodating of mission-appropriate activities, excess absences of any kind may naturally impact a student's ability to successfully navigate our challenging academic program in a condensed calendar. Given the limited time we have with students and the number of legitimate excused absences they may have for athletic training camps, unexcused absences (skipped classes) will result in failed courses, suspension, or expulsion. Our detailed 2017 schedule is posted online at www.wintersportsschool.org/academics/; the 2018 calendar will be posted by January 1.

Q: *What are the school's daily hours?*

A: Classes are held from 8am to 2:55pm. The office is open from 7:45am to 3:30pm.

** FAQs dated September 2017; subject to revision prior to start of new school year **