



Sophomore Fall



Swiss Semester has been changing students' lives for over twenty years!

Swiss Semester can make all the difference for students who are:

- adventuresome and courageous enough to confront the unfamiliar
- willing to be challenged—academically, personally, and physically
- energetic enough for a full, active, and fast-paced life
- mature enough for the presumption of responsibility and trustworthiness
- curious—and desirous of new perspectives and broadened horizons
- fond of the outdoors and the prospect of a lot of hiking, mountain climbing, and skiing

This has been by far the most amazing and unforgettable experience of my life!

—Swiss Semester Student

Tuition and fees for the semester are paid to Swiss Semester; affiliated home schools have agreed to pro-rate tuition for students that attend the program. The “Information Supplement” delineates the costs of Swiss Semester. Most past parents would concur with the father who declared, “Swiss Semester is a bargain at any price.”



I find it amazing that such a short period of time can make such an impression on a single life. I often wonder if I would be the same person that I am today if I had not gone to Swiss Semester. I know that I wouldn't. I want everyone to have the opportunity to change their lives, to grow, to mature, and to learn.

—Swiss Semester Student



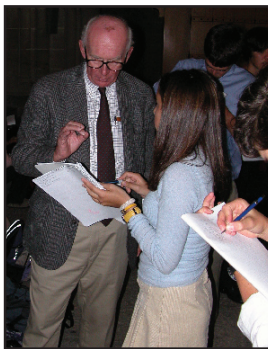
Colleges most frequently attended by Swiss Semester “graduates” in order of attendance:

- Princeton University
- Middlebury College
- Dartmouth College
- Harvard University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Georgetown University
- Yale University
- Duke University
- Brown University
- Cornell University



Academics

The majority of **teachers at Swiss Semester** have an advanced degree and more than ten years experience. Affiliated schools use the temporary Swiss Semester teaching appointments as rewards for especially valuable and capable teachers. These teachers, along with the permanent staff of Swiss Semester, constitute a highly qualified faculty which is reasonable for the demanding, yet supportive and friendly, environment that characterizes Swiss Semester. Swiss Semester is a closely knit family of about ten adults and forty students sharing common, exciting experiences. The program's small size and the one-to-four adult-to-student ratio ensures ample supervision and guidance. There are several faculty members in each student residence. In addition, each student has a faculty advisor with whom there is regular contact.



Once again—in reflecting about the beginning of my college experience, I must praise Swiss Semester. Not only did Swiss Semester give me the tools to reach

out and leave home, but it also promoted risk taking, a sense of adventure, and discovery.

—Swiss Semester Student

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Swiss Semester has been designed to provide change and challenge—and consequently personal growth—without sacrificing rigorous academic preparation for competitive colleges. The curriculum has been carefully planned with the help of the participating schools so that academic credit toward graduation from the home school will be uninterrupted. Every effort is made to ensure academic continuity and ease of reentry. In fact, there are sound reasons why Swiss Semester students most often seek greater academic challenge and achieve higher grades upon return to their home schools.

More importantly (to her and to us)



was the academic awakening she experienced at Swiss Semester. She truly loved her teachers...and she began to enjoy learning for the first time in her life.

—Swiss Semester Parent

The following **courses are offered at Swiss Semester:** English, humanities/art history, geology, math (all levels), French (all levels), Spanish (all levels)

German (depending on interest), Latin (sometimes).

The **mathematics and foreign language** courses are a combination of class work and tutoring designed to keep the students abreast of what is being covered in their home schools and thus to prepare them to reenter those programs at the end of the semester. Students use the textbooks of their own schools as well as additional materials provided by the teachers at Swiss Semester.



The **English and humanities/art history** courses work on the skills of analysis, discussion, and writing associated with these areas of study while incorporating the program's location and travel and the student's development in their themes and content.

The **science** course is a rigorous field geology course based on the spectacular and unique geological characteristics of the Zermatt and surrounding region. Weekly four hour



field labs to glaciers and high alpine regions give the students ample opportunity to observe and interpret geological themes that are being studied in the classroom.

Travel is an important and integral part of the Swiss Semester curriculum. Through careful planning and preparation, travel contributes significantly to the personal and academic growth of Swiss Semester students. The English and humanities

courses rely heavily, although not exclusively, on the ideas, literature, art, and architecture of western civilization. The travel is largely designed to reinforce and extend what is learned in the classroom. This “experiential learning” often leads to greater enjoyment in the learning process.

She loved everything and doesn't even want to think of the Semester coming to an end.

—Swiss Semester Parent





Swiss Semester is a

coeducational program of academic, personal, and physical challenge for sophomores from the finest schools in the United States. Swiss Semester's campus in Zermat, Switzerland is an outdoor paradise that optimizes the security, and natural beauty for which Switzerland is so renowned.

I would like to thank Swiss Semester for giving me the greatest experience of my life that I spent as part of the Swiss Semester family gave me the opportunity to become stronger, more independent, and a better version of myself. Without this program,

Swiss Semester offers adventure, challenge, and a temporary change of routine and setting, without sacrifice of rigorous academic preparation for competitive colleges.

Swiss Semester was indeed the "experience of a lifetime" for my child and the parents! My child left us a tentative girl and returned a self-confident young lady.

— Swiss Semester Parent

Top reasons Swiss Semester students have given for attending Swiss Semester: "Experience of a lifetime"

Challenge myself
Broaden horizons

Gain independence
Make new friends

Increased confidence
Time management skills

Global experience
Enjoy the outdoors

"Something new"
Better understand capabilities

The whole program was amazing and so much better than I could ever have expected and will ever be able to express. I learned so much, not only academically, but so many life lessons along with how to challenge myself...

— Swiss Semester Student



Swiss Semester



The hallmarks for Swiss Semester—academic rigor, a very fast pace, and strenuous physical exercise in the outdoors—make Swiss Semester particularly appropriate for students of above average achievement and motivation who are responsible, of positive attitude, energetic, and mature enough to take full advantage of the program's many unique opportunities.

Swiss Semester is based upon faith in the ability of young people to meet challenges. Students are treated as capable, responsible, trustworthy men and women. By design, the program conveys the message, "we believe in you." Students respond accordingly and come to believe in themselves; they develop a "can do" attitude.

Outdoor activities and challenges further the development of confidence and self-reliance. With an emphasis upon hiking, mountain climbing, and skiing, advantage is taken of Zermat's incomparable alpine setting. Endless summits and ridges beckon students as they gain climbing skill and confidence. Weekend adventures are supplemented by weekend options including tour biking, mountain biking, ice climbing, rock climbing, hiking, canyoning, goring, ropes course, and helicopter assisted ascents.

The fall term at Swiss Semester was probably the most compelling and formative period of time that I will ever experience; the friends that I made, the mountains that I climbed, the pistes that I skied, and the trails that I biked are just a few of the memories that stay with me wherever I go.

— Swiss Semester Student



Visit the Swiss Semester website
SwissSemester.org
E-mail Swiss Semester at SwissSem@mac.com

Talk to past Swiss Semester students and parents.



Swiss Semester will truly be one of the most memorable experiences that my son will carry with him for the rest of his life. He loved every moment of it. But not only



the hiking in Zermat, traveling in Europe, hiking, biking, skiing, and friendships made along the way, but what it did for him as a person and how he views life now is something no one could ever teach him.



— Swiss Semester Parent

Swiss Semester is an extraordinary program. The positive changes it has wrought in my daughter cannot be underestimated. She is so confident, doesn't know how Swiss Semester instills these demands that she makes on other people. I don't know how Swiss Semester instills these punches in your students and I am all the more pleased that Swiss Semester sees such an enjoyable experience for her as well.

— Swiss Semester Parent

Swiss Semester students have given for attending Swiss Semester: "Experience of a lifetime"

- 0700-0745 Breakfast
- 0750-0800 Assembly
- 0800-1120 Four Classes
- 1120-1630 Activities
- 1630-1810 Two Classes
- 1810-1910 Dinner

1915-2145 Study Hall

