

2015-2016 School Profile

Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy

PO Box 369/1 Academy Loop
Minturn, CO 81645
970.328.2830 (P)
970 328-2835 (F)

ACT/CEEB School Code: 061011

Website: <http://www.skiclubvail.org/academics/about-vssa>

Founded in 2007 as a partnership between Ski & Snowboard Club Vail and Eagle County Schools, the Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy (VSSA) provides student athletes with a world-class winter sports program in a fully accredited and certified public school setting. VSSA is a college preparatory day school with 177 students in grades 5-12. There are 11 students in the class of 2016.

Mission Statement

Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy (VSSA) provides a rigorous college preparatory academic program while supporting the athletic and personal goals of our students. In partnership with Ski & Snowboard Club Vail and Eagle County Schools, VSSA facilitates the attainment of our students' dreams by offering challenging academics, flexible scheduling, and individualized attention.

Graduation

25 credits are required for graduation with a minimum in the following areas:

English.....	4.0	Mathematics.....	3
Social Studies.....	2.5	Science.....	3
Government.....	0.5	Health.....	0.5
Physical Education.....	1.5		
One semester earns....	0.5 credit.		

Curriculum

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered in Calculus AB and English Language and Composition on campus. Other AP courses are offered through the online program Jeffco 21st Century Virtual Academy. All students in AP courses have the opportunity to take the AP exam.

Dual Enrollment (DE) courses are offered in College Algebra, Trigonometry, Psychology and Environmental Science on campus. Other DE courses are offered through our local community college, Colorado Mountain College in Edwards, Colorado.

Independent Study (IS) courses are designed to give students an opportunity to study beyond the regular classroom.

Work Place Experiences are offered to students who work in paid or unpaid internships with local businesses in the community.

Advisory is a full year, 0.5 credit life skills course that focuses on character and leadership development. Students work within mixed grade groups and participate in activities such as meditation, mindfulness practices and compassion cultivation exercises.

Grading

Grades are given on a letter scale: A, B, C, D, and F.

GPA is calculated on a 4-point scale. AP and DE classes are weighted by 1.0. VSSA does not maintain class rank.

	Non-weighted points	weighted points
A 90-100	4	5
B 80-89	3	4
C 70-79	2	3
D 60-69	1	2
F below 60	0	0

Academic Calendar

VSSA utilizes two semester grading periods. Students take 6 academic courses in each semester with a slightly lighter load of their core classes during the most demanding weeks of their athletic schedule. From November through March, students train with Ski and Snowboard Club Vail on Vail Mountain in the morning and attend classes from 12:51PM - 4:50 PM. Spring and fall, students attend classes from 8:30 AM - 3:50 PM.

Athletics

VSSA student-athletes train six days a week during the competitive season with the full-time coaches at Ski & Snowboard Club Vail.

College Enrollment: VSSA graduates from the classes of 2010-2015 are enrolled at the following institutions:

Bates College	McGill University	University of New Mexico
Boston College	Middlebury College	University of Utah
California Polytechnic State University	Montana State University	University of Vermont
Colby College	St Lawrence University	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Colorado School of Mines	University of British Columbia	Westminster College
Columbia University	University of California Santa Barbara	Williams College
Dartmouth College	University of Colorado Boulder	
Harvard University	University of Colorado State	
Lafayette University	University of Denver	

Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy

Supplement to the 2015-2016 Profile for Colleges

Founded in the fall of 2007 as a partnership with Ski & Snowboard Club Vail (SSCV) and Eagle County Schools (ECS), the Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy (VSSA) provides student athletes with a world-class winter sports program in a fully accredited and certified public school setting. VSSA is a coeducational academy comprised of 83 students in grades 5-8 and 94 students in grades 9-12. The majority of our students are Eagle County residents though the academy also facilitates housing for some non-Eagle County students. The campus is located 8 miles from the slopes and training facilities of Vail Mountain, with Nordic training facilities in Maloit Park adjacent to the VSSA campus.

The goal of VSSA is to challenge our student-athletes with a rigorous academic curriculum while supporting a world-class training and competition schedule. The majority of the student-athletes compete on a national or international level, which entails extensive travel during the school year. VSSA is specifically tailored to provide for the education of our oftentimes far-flung student body. Every student travels with a laptop computer or iPad. The use of innovative internet technologies allows teachers and students to remain in close communication. Students collect assignments, participate in discussion boards, take quizzes, download videos of lectures, and receive real-time instruction from teachers over the internet. VSSA's student to teacher ratio of 13:1 allows for individualized attention. Flexible scheduling is the rule. Careful planning and monitoring of each student's course work maintains a uniform opportunity for learning. Our students develop a level of independent learning that is unusual among high school students.

VSSA students are required to graduate with Eagle County Schools' mandated 25 credits. VSSA provides 5 core classes and 1 elective course each school year. VSSA offers Advanced Placement Calculus and English, Dual Enrollment College Algebra, Trigonometry, Psychology and Environmental Science, ACT test preparation, Independent Studies, Work Study Experiences, and online courses (supported on-site) through Jeffco 21st Century Virtual Academy. In addition, VSSA requires 4 years of Advisory and 4 years of Physical Education. Many students participate in additional athletic and extracurricular activities offered by the school district. Spring and fall, VSSA students attend classes from 8:30 AM -3:50 PM. In the winter, the student's day begins with athletic training from 8 AM - 12:30PM on Vail Mountain. The winter academic day runs from 12:51 PM-4:50PM.

VSSA student-athletes race and train full-time with elite coaches at Ski & Snowboard Club Vail in a program that is recognized internationally as one of the leading snow sports programs in the world and as the top program in the United States. Current and former VSSA students have gone on to compete in the Olympics and X Games and to enjoy competitive careers with the US Ski and Snowboard teams and numerous NCAA Ski Teams.

Thank you for your interest in Vail Ski & Snowboard Academy. We hope you will call or email if you have any questions or would like further information.

Charlene Whitney
Director of College Counseling
charlene.whitney@eagleschools.net
970.328.2833

Geoffrey Grimmer
Head of School
geoffrey.grimmer@eagleschools.net
970.328.2939