

Frequently Asked Questions

Does Vassar accept the Common Application?

Yes. Vassar uses the Common Application, but we will also accept the Coalition and Questbridge Applications.

Which departments are the best?

Each department has an impressive array of course offerings and many offer research opportunities. Many departments (including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy, Drama, Film, and Music) have their own magnificently equipped buildings.

What are Vassar's 5 most popular majors?

Economics, Political Science, Biology, Psychology, English.

Does Vassar have a core curriculum?

No. Our flexible open curriculum allows students to take advantage of the breadth and depth of our offerings.

Does Vassar have required courses?

No. However, we do have some requirements to ensure that students develop the skills they need to be successful at Vassar and after they graduate:

- The First-Year Writing Seminar: a one-semester course offered in many disciplines, focuses on written and oral work.
- The quantitative requirement: a one-semester course that features the use of numbers. Examples include courses in mathematics, natural sciences, psychology, certain economics courses, etc.
- The foreign language proficiency requirement: one year at the introductory level or one semester at the intermediate level. Students may test out of this requirement.

How are the sciences at Vassar?

Vassar completed an extensive renovation of 3 existing buildings housing various STEM departments, as well as the completion of a new, 80,000 sq. ft. science center. There are exceptional course offerings in the sciences. Students have access to the most modern and sophisticated lab equipment. Many students work directly with professors on funded scientific research.

Are there research opportunities?

URSI (Undergraduate Research Summer Institute) offers students valuable experience in planning and executing original research in the sciences with faculty sponsors.

The Ford Scholars Program involves students in collaborative research in the humanities and social sciences. Students can also do research with professors during the academic year starting the second semester of the first year.

Does Vassar have a pre-med program?

Our curriculum offers excellent preparation for medical, dental, and veterinary school. Vassar's small classes and opportunities for personal interactions in class and during laboratories allow our professors to write significant and convincing letters of recommendation. Our admission rate is well above the national average. Vassar does not pre-screen or restrict those who want to apply to medical school.

Are internships available?

Academic departments offer credit-bearing internships through our Community Engaged Learning program. Well over half of our students complete field work prior to graduation, in a broad range of areas such as health, medical, social service, governmental, political, and environmental and planning agencies. They also work in the arts and in business, educational, publishing, advertising, and scientific fields. Internships are typically elected during the school year but may be elected in the summer.

Is the campus safe?

Vassar has an excellent safety record. Residence buildings are accessible by student ID card. The campus is well lit and uniformed security officers are on duty around the clock. The College maintains a blue-light emergency phone network, a shuttle bus service, an on-call campus escort service, and a student patrol network.

What is there to do in the Poughkeepsie area?

The greater Poughkeepsie area has shopping malls, movie theaters, museums, galleries, and extensive cultural programming in addition to volunteer and recreational activities. There are many restaurants, delis, bookstores, and shops in the area right around the campus. The Hudson Valley is rich in historical sites, hiking and biking trails, and riverside recreation opportunities. New York City is easily accessible by commuter railroad.