

Vassar at a Glance 2020–2021

Overview

- 2450 students
- 1000-acre campus
- 75 miles north of New York City

Extensive Academic Program

- Flexible curriculum
- See list of majors printed on the back of the Facts brochure.
- 51 majors and 40+ minors. Our five most popular majors are Economics, Political Science, Biology, Psychology, and English.
- Ability to create your own Independent Major if your area of interest is not covered by an existing department.
- Strong support for students interested in pre-health (pre-med, pre-dental, pre-vet), pre-law, pre-business, pre-architecture, and other graduate programs. Vassar graduates enjoy impressive admission rates to the top medical, law, business, and Masters and Ph.D. programs.
- Seminar-style/discussion-oriented classes:
 - Average class size is 16
 - 95% of classes have enrollments under 30.
 - Student-faculty ratio is 8:1
- Student/faculty collaborative “Intensives”: small project-based classes, research opportunities and independent study.
- Credit-bearing internships (Community Engaged Learning) offered by all academic departments. About 60% choose Field Work in areas ranging from medicine, law, and the arts to journalism, advertising, the media, social service, and education.
- Extensive Study Away (JYA) program. About 40-45% of our students choose to study away.

Information about Individual Departments and Majors

Encourage students to visit www.vassar.edu. Each department has a comprehensive website.

Excellent Location

- Students have access to the resources in Poughkeepsie and throughout the Hudson Valley.
- New York City offers academic, internship, and recreational opportunities; one hour and 40 minute train ride to Grand Central in Manhattan.

Diverse Student Body

- 33% domestic students of color.
- About 2/3 from public schools, 1/3 from private, parochial, independent and homeschooling programs.
- Students from 49 states, DC, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Marshall Islands, and 60 foreign countries.
- 66% of students receive need-based financial aid. 60% receive need-based Vassar scholarship.
- Student body is roughly 41% male and 59% female.

Strong Student Community

- Over 150 student-run organizations and clubs including political, volunteer, ethnic, and religious groups. Weekly newspaper and other student publications, drama and comedy clubs, FM radio station, a cappella groups, student bands, Outing Club, and debate team.
- 23 athletic teams at the NCAA Division III level: Men’s Baseball, M&W Basketball, M&W Cross Country, M&W Fencing, Women’s Field Hockey, Women’s Golf, M&W Lacrosse, M&W Soccer, M&W Squash, M&W Swimming and Diving, M&W Tennis, M&W Track, M&W Volleyball.
- Department-run club sports for M&W Rowing and M&W Rugby
- Student-run club sports include Equestrian, Sailing, Ultimate Frisbee, Skiing, Quidditch; also many intramural and fitness opportunities.

Graduation Rates:

- 91% graduate in 6 years.
- 87% graduate in 4 years.

Successful Graduates

Within 6 months of graduating:

- About 20% enter grad school; 70% enter the work force; 5% participate in a fellowship or service program (Fulbright, Watson, Peace Corp, Etc.); 5% undecided/seeking.
- For the past 5 years- Medical School Acceptance Rate: 87%; Law School Acceptance Rate: 96%
- Top Industries for Class of 2018: Education; Health/Medicine/Public Health; Banking/Business/Consulting; Technology; Arts; Science/Math/Engineering.

Applying to Vassar

Vassar offered admission to 23.7% of the 8,961 students who applied for admission to the Class of 2023.

- Vassar accepts the Common Application (commonapp.org), Coalition Application or Questbridge Application.
- The 5 required parts of the application:
 - Transcript (most important)
 - Standardized testing
 - 2 letters of recommendation
 - Extracurricular activities
 - Essay
- Your Space is an optional, open section of the application where students can include any supplementary material they would like.
- Students can submit studio art, music, or dance submissions through Slideroom as part of the Arts Portfolio.

The Transcript In-Depth

- The most competitive applicants have about an A/A- unweighted GPA and are in the top 10-15% of their class.
- Rigorous college preparatory high school program with honors and Advanced Placement/IB courses (if offered).
- The high school program should include (to the maximum extent possible) four years of English, foreign language, history/social science, mathematics and science, or a course of studies of comparable breadth and rigor to this program.

Standardized Testing In-Depth

- **Vassar requires:**
 - Either SAT OR ACT
- **Important Notes:**
 - The optional Writing Test for the SAT and the ACT are NOT required.
 - SAT Subject Tests are NOT required, and students opting not to send Subject Tests will not be penalized. However, SAT Subject Tests will be considered if submitted as part of a testing profile.
- Full details on testing requirements on the website.

Standardized Testing In-Depth (Continued)

The average test score (middle 50%) for admitted students are:

- SAT (EBRW + M): 1390-1500
- ACT Composite: 31-34
- Middle 50% means 25% of admitted students scored below the range and 25% scored above the range.

Extracurricular and Leadership Expectations

- Significant extracurricular involvement in school or community
- Proven leadership ability and/or evidence of leadership potential.
- Admirable personal qualities including integrity, compassion, tolerance, maturity, vision, passion.

Financial Aid

- Admission decisions are need-blind for US citizens and permanent residents.
- Vassar meets 100% of demonstrated financial need. Vassar does not offer merit, artistic or athletic scholarships. All of our financial aid is need-based.
- Roughly \$69 million spent on need-based aid each year.
- Average financial aid package: \$50,275
 - 94% is grant money (\$47,191)
- Applicants submit the CSS PROFILE, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and tax returns
- Helpful web sites:
 - www.admissions.vassar.edu: click on "Financial Aid."
 - www.finaid.org: informative website with numerous links to other financial aid sites.

Other Facts

- Vassar offers up to two college credits for Advanced Placement exam results of 4 and 5.
- Vassar offers up to two college credits for International Baccalaureate (IB) scores of 5, 6, and 7 on IB Higher Level exams.

Application Deadlines

Early Decision I: November 15

Early Decision II: January 1

Regular Decision: January 1

- Applicants may request an alumnae/i interview online through the admission website once they submit their application, but interviews are not required