A CREATIVE FORCE, A CURIOUS SPIRIT, PROPELLING OUR PURSUITS, HOBBIES, STUDIES, AND ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS.
As we feed off one another’s energy, we further ignite our own fascinations. We can be uncommonly motivated and passionately inspired. We can also be laid back. But we are never just one thing. People who live out loud and introspective old souls. And no matter who we are, how we’re feeling, or what we’re doing, we share that universal spark that illuminates the world around us. We invite you to explore the things that spark our world and to discover something that sparks yours as well.

VASSAR IS FUELED BY AN ABUNDANT ENERGY
There’s a natural contrast built into everything we do, a positive tension, a push and pull between structure and freedom. Structure that guides us in our rigorous pursuit of knowledge. That creates spaces of support and belonging, and provides frameworks for navigating the complexities of our time. Freedom that drives us to discover not only the wild around us, but our own inner landscape. That urges us to dive headlong toward our passions, stoking the ceaseless flame of curiosity.

In our approach to academics, in our commitment to honest, inclusive dialogue, in the literal evolution of our historic campus, contrasts like these give shape to Vassar College.
A PLACE TO EXPLORE THE BIG QUESTIONS

“Progress is my motto,” Matthew Vassar once wrote. As one of the most successful brewers of the 19th century, Matthew was a noted philanthropist, businessman, and community leader. His crowning achievement was the establishment of Vassar College in 1861. From the beginning, Vassar was committed to access, becoming the first institution of higher education in the United States to offer an education to women equal to the all-male Ivy League. Students were offered vigorous courses in subjects like art history, biology, geology, mathematics, and music. We carried on our progressive legacy when we were the first formerly women’s college to go coeducational in 1969, and continue our pathbreaking mission in pushing the liberal arts forward today.
WHERE HORIZONS MEET

ON OUR 1,000-ACRE CAMPUS, YOU’LL FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED. HERE, TIMELESS ARCHITECTURE BLENDS WITH CUTTING-EDGE FACILITIES. BOLD THINKING CONVERGES WITH BREATHTAKING NATURAL BEAUTY. CITY LIFE AND OPEN AIR COALESCE. AND THE SPARK OF SOMETHING GREAT BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE. THE BEST WAY TO KNOW IT IS TO EXPERIENCE IT YOURSELF, BUT TO GIVE YOU A HEAD START, ALLOW US TO SHOW YOU AROUND SOME OF OUR FAVORITE VASSAR BUILDINGS.

THE MAIN BUILDING AND THE COLLEGE CENTER
The beating heart of campus life at Vassar. Main Building was completed in 1865 and, at the time, housed almost the entire College. Today Main Building is home to dining, the Palmer Art Gallery, a makerspace, and many student resources, with upper floors reserved for student housing.

THE LIBRARIES
The Libraries at Vassar hold one of the largest undergraduate library collections in the United States with more than 1 million volumes. The rare book collection includes books important in women's history, first editions of English and American literary and historical works, examples of fine printing, cookbooks, children's books, and rare maps and atlases.

PRESIDENT’S HOUSE
Since its completion in 1896, the President’s House has been used as a space to host foreign dignitaries and dinners, but also as an open environment for students and faculty to gather and converse. Our current President, Elizabeth Bradley, hosts weekly office hours at her house on Sunday evenings, and has even been known to host students for hot chocolate in the parlor on snow days.

GORDON COMMONS
Some of life’s deepest connections are forged over a good meal. At Gordon Commons, our campus dining center, we make sure the food we bring to the table reflects our connection to the wider world, too. We offer a range of all-you-can-eat dishes, with options that account for a range of preferences, allergies, and sensitivities. Gordon Commons features deli, salad bar, and brick oven pizza stations, kosher options, and fresh vegetables from the Vassar Farm. And around campus you can find the Street Eats food truck with its weekly rotating menu.

BUILDINGS AND BELONGING
Buildings and Belonging is a digital tool and self-guided campus tour that honors the contributions of African Americans to the history of Vassar College. Through the lens of 13 campus buildings, we celebrate and remember the African American community members whose presence and contributions have shaped our college over the years.
RESIDENTIAL HOUSES

WHERE A HOUSE BECOMES A HOME

Before you set foot in a lecture hall, explore the natural sciences in a lab, or get lost among the stacks at the Thompson Library, your Vassar experience will begin in our historic residential houses. First-year students can live in one of nine traditional Residential Houses. There’s no Greek life on campus, a fact we celebrate, and 97% of Vassar students live in campus housing, which isn’t separated by academic year or academic discipline.
THROUGH DISCOVERY, WE TRIUMPH
The truth is, what you’ll do here at Vassar is hard work. Making space for new voices is hard work. Questioning your deeply held assumptions is hard work. Exploring the perspectives of others is hard work. Thumbing through reams of original texts to uncover new insight is hard work. Bringing humanity into the science lab is hard work. Finding new ways to do more than just learn, but to infuse your learning into everything you do, that’s hard work.

When you bring that hard work into the world, that’s when it all pays off. Because the world won’t make it easy. BUT YOU’LL BE READY.
Vassar was built to advance the notion of what a liberal arts college can be. From day one, we’ve empowered students to explore widely, delve deeply, and investigate every new idea with an open mind. Here, you’ll find the freedom and flexibility to embrace the subjects you’re most passionate about and let them shape the course of your education.

That’s the value of a liberal arts education. You enter the world with the ability to see connections between disparate things and to use those tools to find your way in the face of the unfamiliar. Vassar College offers boundary-breaking programs in the STEM fields that will help redefine our future, but it’s our investigations of culture, society, and human nature that lend our progress a deeper sense of purpose.

CULTURES COINCIDE: VASSAR STUDY ABROAD

Vassar’s study abroad and exchange programs offer students exciting access to immersive learning experiences around the world. Nearly 50% of students take part in the study abroad programs. Our programs feature locations such as Berlin, Bologna, Dublin, London, Madrid, Paris, St. Petersburg, Santiago, Beijing, Glasgow, Tokyo, Kathmandu, Buenos Aires, Jerusalem, Rome, and so many more.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING

Through the Community-Engaged Learning initiative, you can earn credit by volunteering off campus in the greater Hudson Valley and in New York City. Each year students work in public schools, businesses, community centers, hospitals, nonprofits, and government offices, doing everything from mentorship to caring for exotic animals at the zoo.

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VASSAR IS WIRED FOR IMPACT

While we consider the world’s grand challenges, we also believe in practical application. With access to hands-on, high-level research alongside faculty, co-authoring impactful research (e.g., Undergraduate Research Summer Institute, Ford Scholars, Ecology research at Vassar Farm), we’re not just learning, leading, and conducting research for the sake of recognition but to improve the world around us.
FORGE A PATH BEYOND THE EDGES

ACCELERATED AND DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

In collaboration with Columbia University and Dartmouth College, we offer accelerated and dual degree programs to take you further, faster.

Vassar/Columbia BA/MPH Dual Degree Program
Earn your BA from Vassar then go on to an accelerated master's program in Public Health at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

Vassar/Dartmouth BA/BE
Through a cooperative arrangement with the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College, earn both a BA degree from Vassar and a bachelor of engineering (BE) degree from Dartmouth.

TRUE TO THE SPIRIT OF OUR LIBERAL ARTS MISSION, our intensives are innovative learning opportunities that complement more traditional courses by extending beyond the classroom. Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, you’ll have the freedom to shape the direction of your own experience, whether it’s podcast production (AMST374), artificial intelligence (CMPU382), managing an ecological preserve (BIOL393), and many more. The intensives curriculum is designed to create close interactions between students and faculty with 1:1 or very small class sizes, to recognize and catalyze deeper learning, and to create space and opportunity for exciting, forward-looking explorations of what a Vassar education can and should be.
IDEAS COLLIDE / DIALOGUES CONVERGE / PERSPECTIVES CROSS / CULTURES COINCIDE / BARRIERS SHATTER
What does it mean to truly belong? There’s no doubt Vassar will help shape the path of your life. But along that journey, there’s no need to lose sight of who you are. As Vassar, we aim to create a space that can be inclusive of all perspectives and backgrounds through our philosophy of engaged pluralism. The Engaged Pluralism Initiative helps to foster a more welcoming environment by challenging students, faculty, administrators, and staff to engage in meaningful dialogue and truly come to understand the perspectives of others. EPI provides a framework for navigating and leaning into difficult conversations by sidestepping the barriers that typically inhibit understanding, like structural hierarchy and class, race, or gender dynamics. Through engaged pluralism, we strive to give every voice a platform. Because it’s those differences that make our community strong.

WHEN DIALOGUES INTERSECT, DISSONANCE CREATES HARMONY.
**Alison Keimowitz**  
**Associate Professor of Chemistry**

How do we face the ongoing crisis of climate change? Chemistry could hold the keys. Dr. Alison Keimowitz, a self-described environmental chemist, asks big questions about the natural world and investigates the answers through chemical techniques. Her research explores environmental contaminants such as arsenic, manganese, and other materials and the ways in which they interact with lakes and groundwaters. And her classes, which students have described as life-changing, weave together science at the microscopic level and the liberal arts at the societal level to help create a tangible road map for understanding and addressing water pollution. Science, advocacy, and collective action will need to work hand-in-hand in order to make a real impact on our future.

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**Benjamin Ho**  
**Associate Professor of Economics**

What’s the economic power of an apology? How does human nature reinforce the income divide? Dr. Benjamin Ho, Associate Professor of Economics, has some pretty good answers for that. Using game theory and experimental design, Dr. Ho’s work investigates social systems like apologies, identity, fairness, and attitudes about climate change. Dr. Ho has consulted for big banks and tech startups and his work has been featured on NPR, in the *New York Times*, and in the *Wall Street Journal*. He brings his insights into the classroom to make Behavioral Economics accessible and understandable to students.
Amitava Kumar
Professor of English on the Helen D. Lockwood Chair

If you want to learn how to write, learn it from the professor who wrote the book. Dr. Amitava Kumar’s latest book of essays, Every Day I Write the Book: Notes on Style, provides practical advice and inspiration for academic writers about storytelling, organization, and cultivating good writing habits. His extensive body of work includes novels, non-fiction, reportage and essays. Dr. Kumar’s latest novel Immigrant, Montana was named one of The Best Books of 2018 by the New Yorker and was included in President Obama’s year-end list. Dr. Kumar’s courses often deal with reportage; the essay form in prose and film, cities, literatures describing the global movement of goods and people, war, and memory work through writing workshops, discussions, and vivid lectures.

Maria Höhn
Professor of History on the Marion Musser Lloyd ’32 Chair

In the classroom, Dr. Maria Höhn brings history to life with fascinating readings, discussion-focused lectures, big-name guest speakers, and stories from her own first-hand experience as a child growing up in post-WWII Germany. Her research and scholarship focuses on the American military presence in Germany, her book GIs and Fräuleins addressed the experience of African American soldiers there. She has received numerous awards for her research on how African American GIs energized the struggle for civil rights. On campus, Dr. Höhn helps organize the Vassar student response, Vassar Refugee Solidarity. To amplify that work, she founded the Consortium on Forced Migration Displacement, a month-long event series of panel discussions, photo exhibitions, and lectures to raise awareness of and money toward the crisis.

Mia Mask
Professor of Film on the Mary Riepma Ross ’32 Chair

From the silver screen and beyond, Dr. Mia Mask’s lectures explore the power of cinema at the intersection of popular culture, art, and identity. She teaches discussion-based courses on African American cinema, documentary film history, African national cinemas and seminars on auteurs Spike Lee and Ava DuVernay. Her film reviews and commentary can be found across a number of publications and media broadcasts including National Public Radio, The Criterion Channel, CNN, CBS2 News, Bloomberg, and the Guardian. Dr. Mask is the author of Divas on Screen: Black Women in American Film. She is the editor of Contemporary Black American Cinema and the co-editor of Poitier Revisited: Reconsidering a Black Icon in the Obama Age.
A STRONG COMMUNITY IS MADE OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL.
The energy cultivated at Vassar is unlike any other. It is born from the collision of our own edges; those passions and quirks and hangups and fascinations we carry with us. From creative endeavors to political action, when we bring our true selves to the table, we spark something more. And we are at our best when those sparks begin to fly.
CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

GALVANIZE YOUR ENERGY

Hundreds of student organizations. Thousands of campus-wide events. Lectures, concerts, theater performances, clubs, gallery openings, art shows. There’s no lack of ways to spend your energy at Vassar. When you dive in, and seek out new experiences, new voices, new areas of your interest, you’re also contributing to the energy of our college.

Students run the show when it comes to campus activities. The clubs and student organizations are overseen by the Vassar Student Association, our student government, of which every student becomes a member. There are nine different a cappella groups, newspapers, identity-based/affinity groups, STEM groups, a business club, Mock Trial, environmental and sustainability groups, comedy troupes, and even a circus troupe.

VASSAR COMMUNITY

2,456 STUDENTS
355 FACULTY
124+ WOMP WOMPS

Vassar is home to students from 63 countries

CLASS OF 2023

691 STUDENTS
23.7% ACCEPTANCE RATE
14.2% FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS
36% STUDENTS OF COLOR
20% PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS
44 LANGUAGES SPOKEN

At Vassar, our spirited and fearless creativity is reflected in our collective individualism. We celebrate our differences and embrace our connections. Vassar is a place where perspectives cross, ideas intersect, and passion burns bright. Here, you will join students from all 50 U.S. states plus Washington D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as students from over 60 nations.

GEOGRAPHY

19.0% Asian American/Pacific Islander
7.4% Black/African American
11.7% Latinx
1% Native American

These stats reflect every box a student checked when voluntarily self-identifying.

MID-ATLANTIC 40.1%
WEST 19.2%
NEW ENGLAND 14.6%
SOUTH 9.6%
INTERNATIONAL 11.6%
U.S. TERRITORIES 0.4%
MIDWEST 4.5%

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and the College’s spirit of continuous evolution guarantees new traditions are established all the time. Here are two particular traditions that have stood the test of time.

**Ringing the Bell**
Every year, near the end of Spring semester, students in the junior class make their way to the top of Main Building and ring the bell, marking their transition to senior year as the bell reverberates over the green treetops.

**Founder’s Day**
First celebrated in 1866, Founder’s Day is Vassar’s oldest tradition. It first began as a tribute to the still-living Matthew Vassar, but has now become a day of full-on celebration with food, music, concerts, and a fireworks display at Sunset Lake.

**The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices**
Supports students of all faiths, beliefs, and spiritual callings by offering opportunities for observance on campus and connecting students to nearby places of practice and worship.

**The Women’s Center**
Supports and celebrates women’s leadership; provides empowering spaces for women; takes action to address gender inequity on campus; provides programming and resources on local, national, and global gender issues; honors Vassar College’s unique history.

**Vassar Transitions**
A four-year program supporting first-generation, low-income, and/or undocumented students. Transitions focuses on community-building and creating a sense of belonging for students on campus.

**The ALANA Center**
Provides resources and programs to support students of color, and fosters cultural, social, academic, and creative expressions.

**The LGBTQ Center**
Enhances the campus life experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer students and their allies by providing social, cultural, and academic programming on campus.

**The Office of International Services (OIS)**
Offers a full range of resources for international students and scholars, including advice and assistance in visa, immigration, tax, employment, cultural, and general matters.

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Vassar students lead the Liberty League Conference in all-academic students each year.

Athletics have always been an important facet of the Vassar experience, but these days, the Brewers are on the rise like never before. We field men’s and women’s varsity teams in the NCAA Division III Liberty League Conference as well as intercollegiate clubs and intramural teams. In 2018, the Women’s Rugby club team won our first team national championship. And over the last few years Vassar has advanced three teams (Field Hockey, Women’s Soccer, and Women’s Cross Country) to the NCAA tournament for the first time in program history. There’s never been a better time to be a Brewer.

In addition to our official team sports, we offer a robust set of activities for the entire Vassar community including intramurals, fitness classes, open recreation, and access to a spacious fitness center with state-of-the-art cardio and strength training equipment.

Our athletes strive for excellence on and off the field. Over the past two years, we’ve graduated seven All-Americans, two Academic All-Americans, and a finalist for the NCAA Woman of the Year.
Through boundless potential and fearless creativity, Vassar is built to make an impact. Sure, our graduates have gone on to make a name for themselves in the arts, sciences, politics, non-profit sectors, and beyond. But it doesn’t matter whether or not you go on to become a household name. It’s the accomplishments you don’t hear about that actually matter most. Because impact is sparked at the smallest scale. It begins inside you but takes others to bring it out.
MEET JUST A FEW OF OUR ALUMNI WHO ARE SHAPING OUR WORLD TODAY

Sherrilyn Ifill ’84
President and Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund
After receiving her B.A. in English at Vassar, Sherrilyn Ifill went on to become the seventh president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF). The civil rights legal organization, which was founded by Thurgood Marshall, secured its most celebrated victory at the Supreme Court in Brown vs. Board of Education – the landmark school desegregation case that transformed America. Today, Ms. Ifill heads the organization as it confronts urgent civil rights issues, including fighting against voter suppression, advocating for policing and criminal justice reform, and combating educational inequities, among many other initiatives. As a speaker and advocate, she is a sought-after voice on the complex issues of racial justice that our country still faces today.

Ethan Weiss ’91
Cardiologist and Associate Professor at University of California San Francisco Medical Center
Ethan turned his early passion for music – he played trumpet in the school’s jazz ensemble – to medicine and today splits his time between seeing patients and researching metabolism, nutrition, obesity, and type 2 diabetes as they relate to cardiovascular health. When COVID-19 hit, he was compelled by his strong connection through Vassar to travel to New York City to assist hospitals in their treatment of patients. Ethan also played varsity lacrosse for all four years at Vassar.

Geraldine Laybourne ’69 P’93
Nickelodeon, Oxygen Network, Child Advocate
Vassar art history alumna Geraldine Laybourne changed the face of children’s television programming. She led the team that created Nickelodeon and Nick at Nite. She is an entrepreneur who co-founded Oxygen Media and Katapult Studios, and is working to make sure all of our youngest children get high quality early childhood education. In 1996, she was ranked No. 1 among the 50 most influential women in the entertainment industry by The Hollywood Reporter and named one of the 25 most influential people in America by TIME magazine that same year.

Gregg Orton ’08
National Director, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans
Gregg is the National Director of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans where he leads the coalition in developing policy and communications strategy and advancing a joint agenda to address the needs of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community. He earned his B.A. in political science from Vassar.

Jason Blum ’91
Film Producer, Blumhouse Productions
Vassar drama alumnus Jason Blum is a three-time Academy Award-nominee for his work producing the films BlackKklansman, Get Out, and Whiplash. He is the founder and CEO of Blumhouse Productions, a multi-media production company that pioneered a new model of studio filmmaking, producing high-quality, micro-budget films. He has been recognized by TIME magazine’s top 100 list of the world’s most influential people.

Darys Estrella ’92 P’23
International Consultant, Finance
Originally from the Dominican Republic, Vassar graduate Darys Estrella quickly found herself immersed in the world of global finance. Her Vassar Hispanic studies degree opened the door for a position in the international branch of Deltec Asset Management, where she began rising up the ranks and was quickly named Vice President of Fixed Income at just 27 years old. She later returned to the Dominican Republic to serve as the first female CEO of the Dominican Stock Exchange. Today she runs her own consulting business, giving conferences about leadership, women’s issues, empowerment, and sustainability.

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MAJORS

Our open curriculum gives you the flexibility to combine your many interests and the freedom to explore new ideas. With a broad selection of majors and multidisciplinary programs, plus unique correlate sequences (equivalent to minors) like Arabic Language and Culture, Sustainability, Public Policy, and Queer Studies, you can craft an academic path that’s perfectly suited for your passions and goals.

Africana Studies  
American Studies  
Anthropology  
Anthropology-Sociology  
Art History  
Art, Studio  
Asian Studies  
Astronomy  
Biochemistry  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Chinese  
Cognitive Science  
Computer Science  
Drama  
Earth Science  
Earth Science and Society  
Economics  
Educational Studies  
English  
Environmental Studies  
Film  
French & Francophone Studies  
Geography  
Geography-Anthropology  
German Studies  
Greek and Roman Studies  
Hispanic Studies  
History  
Independent Program  
International Studies  
Italian  
Japanese  
Jewish Studies  
Latin American & Latino/a Studies  
Mathematics  
Media Studies  
Medieval & Renaissance Studies  
Music  
Neuroscience and Behavior  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Political Science  
Psychological Science  
Religion  
Russian Studies  
Science, Technology, and Society  
Sociology  
Urban Studies  
Victorian Studies  
Women’s Studies

ADMISSION

Each year, Vassar aims to enroll smart, creative, and talented students from around the globe. We seek those who can make an important contribution to our community of impassioned discourse, collective individualism, and fearless creativity. Although we weigh a number of factors in the admission decision, the most important is academic ability, as demonstrated by performance in high school. We also consider personal strengths, motivation, and potential as evidenced in essays, recommendations, and out-of-class involvements. For the 2020-2021 admission cycle, Vassar is test optional. Students do not need to submit SAT or ACT scores.

FINANCIAL AID

Through a generous financial aid program, Vassar meets 100% of the full demonstrated need of all admitted students for all four years. Financial aid is awarded to over 60% of Vassar students, exclusively on the basis of need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS Profile.

2020-2021 Tuition and Fees
Tuition: $60,030
Room and board: $14,990
Fees: $980
Total: $76,000

Estimate Your Cost
sfs.vassar.edu/calculator

Financial Aid Application Deadlines
Early Decision I: November 15
Early Decision II: January 1
Regular Decision: February 1
Spring Transfer: November 1
Fall Transfer: March 15

For more information, visit vassar.edu/admissions/apply

vassar.edu/admissions/apply/requirements
Vassar is committed to the principles of integrity in an academic community, as articulated in the statement on civility and responsibility. Vassar’s policy is not to discriminate in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, athletics programs, or other college programs and activities, and not to tolerate discrimination or harassment of its faculty, administration, staff, students, or visitors. Vassar College prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion or religious belief, citizenship status, sex, marital status, disability, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, military service or affiliation, genetic information, age, or any other characteristics protected by the law.

The Clery Act requires colleges and universities to publish an Annual Security Report by October 1 each year. This report includes crime statistics for the prior three years, policy statements regarding safety and security measures, a description of campus prevention programs, and procedures to be followed in the investigation of allegations of sexual misconduct.

Vassar’s Annual Security Report can be accessed at security.vassar.edu/statistics. A hard copy of the report may be obtained by contacting Arlene Sabo, Director of Safety & Security, at 845-437-5200 or arsabo@vassar.edu. This publication will also be made available to the visually impaired in an accessible format upon request to the Office of Communications at Vassar College at 845-437-7400.

The College’s crime information is also posted on the U.S. Department of Education website at ope.ed.gov/security.