

BOWDOIN COLLEGE, BRUNSWICK, MAINE



On the south side of the Quad is **Hubbard Hall** (1903), once the College's library and now the site of the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum and Arctic Studies Center; the Departments of Economics, Government, and History.

Bowdoin's idyllic campus, located twenty-five miles from Portland, provides exceptional opportunities for an autonomous student body. The balance of tradition and innovation continues to shape world leaders in every profession. Intense academic rigor and independent thinking is at the heart of a Bowdoin education. Students believe that their highly selective school seeks to provide an "excellent liberal arts education in a supportive, small community." According to Barron's Guide to the Most Competitive Colleges, "Bowdoin students are encouraged to choose their own paths, and that freedom of choice generates true intellectual growth." Students who benefit most from Bowdoin are "those who seek out new challenges and opportunities, who are willing to take risks and who take pride in achieving their goals."

Prior to the beginning of school, three quarters of the entering freshman class participate in outdoor activities, including canoeing, hiking and sea kayaking expeditions in order to learn more about the landscape of Maine. Community service projects are available for those who do not wish to participate in these outings. In addition, the entire incoming class reads the same book over the summer so they have something in common academically from the beginning.

Smaller than most of its competitors, students who apply to Bowdoin tend to also apply to Middlebury, Dartmouth, Williams, Brown, Amherst and Yale. Some of its most popular majors and strongest programs include Natural Sciences, Classics, Anthropology, Economics, English, Environmental Studies and Government. "Bowdoin students have a reputation as being all about humanities," states a junior, "but the hard sciences definitely have a good reputation on campus." Barron's Guide further states that, "There is also an increasing emphasis on service learning; more than half of all Bowdoin students apply their classroom work to real world problems faced by local community groups."

Bowdoin takes a thorough and holistic approach that gauges the academic and personal contributions each student possesses. Information from their website indicates that in 2008 they received 6,033 applications and admitted fewer than 19%. For the Class of 2013, in the Early Decision round, 694 students applied and 202 enrolled for a class of 494. Though standardized testing was done away with in 1969, for the 83% who submitted testing, the mid-50% scores were as follows: SAT Critical Reading: 660-750; SAT Math: 660-750; ACT 30-33.

The website also stated that the tuition, room, board and fees total \$50,900 for the 2009-2010 academic year. In order to receive financial aid, students need to file the FAFSA and the CSS Profile. Bowdoin does not offer merit-based scholarships or grants of any kind, but they will replace student loans with grants. Bowdoin meets one-hundred percent of calculated need with grant money from federal, state and institutional sources. If parents need help paying remaining billed charges, students may elect to borrow up to \$5500 in low interest, federal Stafford loan money.

Some prominent alumni include President Franklin Pierce; novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne; poet and linguist Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; Admiral Robert E. Peary, first man to reach the North Pole; Reed Hastings, Founder and CEO of Netflix; Kenneth Chenault, Chairman and CEO of American Express; Major General Oliver Otis Howard, Union Army Officer and Founder and President of Howard University; and Harold Burton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The **Visual Arts Center** (1975) contains offices, classrooms, studios, and exhibition space for the Department of Art, as well as Kresge Auditorium, which seats 300 for lectures, films, and performances.

