

HAMILTON COLLEGE, CLINTON, NY



Founded in 1793 as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, chartered in 1812 as Hamilton College, this is the third oldest college established in the state of New York. Its namesake is Alexander Hamilton, U.S. statesman, first secretary of the U.S. Treasury and member of the first Board of Trustees of the Hamilton-Oneida Academy. While it began as an all male college, in 1978 it incorporated nearby artsy Kirkland College, consisting of only women. Today the campuses are made up of 1,300 acres situated on a hilltop overlooking the quaint village of Clinton, NY, located 90 minutes west of Albany.

Hamilton is a small liberal arts college comprised of approximately 1,800 students that takes pride in its commitment to personal instruction and independent research. A 2006 graduate has noted that, “I find my relationships with a lot of my professors to be collaborative. It feels more scholar-to-scholar than teacher-to-student. This relationship keeps me invested in my coursework because I feel like my professors truly value my thoughts.”

“Hamilton's rigorous yet flexible open curriculum means you will choose courses because they interest you and fit your individual academic plan, not because you need to fulfill some requirement. We provide this freedom because we think highly motivated students learn more and learn better when they are enrolled in courses that genuinely interest them.” This is how the college’s website clarifies its uncommon curriculum. The college further states it is “a national leader in teaching students to write effectively, learn from each other and think for themselves.” Though there is an extraordinary emphasis on writing, the school offers a strong science program. The science curriculum highlights undergraduate research in a recently built state-of-the-art science facility. Hamilton’s other most popular programs include Economics, English, Government, Mathematics, Political Science and Psychology.

While more than half of the geographic representation for the class of 2013 comes from the Mid-Atlantic, overall Hamilton’s student body represents 49 states and 45 countries. The SAT and/or ACT is not required if SAT Subject Tests and Advancement Placement exams are submitted, according to FairTest.org. For those who used the SAT to fulfill their testing requirement, the middle 50% SAT range of scores were SAT Critical Reading: 660-740; SAT Math: 650-730; and SAT Writing: 650-740. Eighty-seven percent of accepted students rank in the top 10% of their graduating high school class. Other colleges and universities that students who apply to Hamilton also apply to, include Amherst, Bates, Bowdoin, Colby, Colgate, Cornell, Dartmouth and Williams. According to Barron’s Guide to the Most Competitive Colleges, Hamilton’s

Admissions Office looks first and foremost for “students with a proven record of academic achievement and for those with strong academic potential.” They further seek out “well-rounded and involved students, so a strong activity resume demonstrating your leadership skills, extracurricular involvement, athletic accomplishments or community service may make up for a slightly lower GPA.”

The comprehensive tuition and fees for the 2009-10 year are \$49,860. Hamilton offers a wide-ranging program of scholarships, loans and campus jobs and work with families to meet 100% of their demonstrated need. They “promise to meet the full demonstrated need, for all four years, of each student [they] accept who qualifies for aid based on their annual financial aid application.” The average financial aid package (grants, loans, work-study) is \$32,580 and the average Hamilton scholarship for 2009-2010 academic year is \$28,250.

Well known alumni include Elihu Root, 1864, U.S. Senator, U.s. Secretary of War, Secretary of State, Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize; James S. Sherman, 1878, Vice-President of the United States; William M. Bristol, 1882, co-founder, Bristol-Myers. Co.; Ezra Pound, 1905, poet; B.F. Skinner, 1926, behavioral psychologist; Robert Moses, 1956, leader of the Civil Rights Movement; A.G. Lafley, 1969, President and CEO, Proctor & Gamble; and Kevin Kennedy, 1970, Managing Director, Goldman, Sachs & Co.