



HAVERFORD COLLEGE, HAVERFORD, PA

Located on Philadelphia's Main Line, Haverford was established in 1833 as a men's college, founded on the Quaker values of individual dignity, academic strength, and tolerance. Women were not admitted until 1980. According to their website, the college is known for its intellectual community, "combining a rigorous academic program with an informal atmosphere of mutual respect and collaboration among students, faculty and staff." Its beautiful and serene campus, made up of over 200 acres, is a nationally known arboretum, designed by renowned English gardener William Carvill in 1834.

Haverford is a small, private, liberal arts school with a total enrollment during the 2008-2009 school year of 1169 students hailing from 45 states and 38 countries. Approximately one-third of its students are considered minority. With an 8:1 faculty-student ratio, more than half the faculty lives on campus and are readily available to students, who often assist their professors with research and even with the publishing of academic papers. Haverford combines its resources with nearby Swarthmore and Bryn Mawr Colleges and cross-registration is also available with the University of Pennsylvania.

Fiske Guide to Colleges notes that, "One of Haverford's most distinctive features is the honor code that governs all aspects of campus life... The code, administered by students and debated and re-ratified each year at a meeting called Plenary, helps instill the values of 'integrity, honesty, and concern for others.' In good Quaker tradition, decisions are made by consensus rather than formal voting, and students play a large role in college policy." Haverford teaches its students to be not only "a complete intellectual package, but also how to be humane and thoughtful in their social interactions," maintains the Guide to the Most Competitive Colleges. It is a perfect combination of academic excellence and a strong sense of community.

Data found on the college's website include the fact that last year there were 3,311 applicants, of whom 27% were accepted for a freshman class of 327, with 109 of these being accepted under their Early Decision plan. Academically, the most important factors in the admission process include the rigor of the secondary school record, GPA, student essay and recommendations. Of the non-academic factors, extracurricular activities and character/personal qualities rank highest in their determination for acceptance. The mid 50% range of SAT scores of their entering freshman class last year were: Critical Reading 650-740, Math 650-740 and Writing 660-750, with 91% of these students ranking in the top tenth of their high school class, while 98% were in the top 20%. Students returning as sophomores numbered 96%, while the national average was only 75%, indicating students had a successful first year experience on campus. Other colleges applicants typically apply to include Brown, Swarthmore, Pomona, Penn, Yale and Harvard.

Total expenses for the 2008-2009 academic year at Haverford totaled \$49,155, with 42% of its students receiving aid and the college meeting full financial need of all admitted students who meet the criteria of demonstrated need. To be considered for financial aid, a family must file the FAFSA and the CSS Profile by February 1st for Regular Decision. For Early Decision, the Profile must be filed by November 15th. To learn more about the admission process, students can visit <http://www.haverford.edu/admission/>.

Haverford's strongest programs include Biological and Physical Sciences, English, History, Political Science and Economics, asserts Fiske. According to Guide to the Most Competitive Colleges, roughly 15% of the graduates continue on at graduate school, while another 35% spend some time working before continuing on in school. Those who begin work immediately following graduation, do so in a variety of fields in business, education, scientific research, and journalism, to name a few.

Our own Sagal Ahmed, W-H '08 is presently a sophomore at Haverford. Notable alumni include John Whitehead, '43, Former Deputy Secretary of State; Gerald M. Levin, '60, Former Chairman and CEO, Time Warner; Joseph Taylor, '63, Nobel Laureate in Physics; Norman Pearlstine, '64, Former Editor-in-Chief, Time, Inc.; and Dave Berry, '69, Humorist.