

Vassar College
Alumnae/i Admission Program



Volunteer
Handbook

2009-2010

Welcome to the Alumnae/i Admission Program!

On behalf of the Vassar College Admission Office, we want to thank you for volunteering for the Alumnae/i Admission Program. We hope you are excited about working with the many high schools students who are interested in Vassar. As an alumni admissions volunteer, your help is invaluable to Vassar's Admission Office. We appreciate all of the time and hard work you put into the program.

In 2008–2009, about 1500 volunteers provided vital support to the Admission Office through various activities. They interviewed 2,602 applicants, attended 122 college fairs, hosted dozens of receptions for admitted and matriculating students, called hundreds of accepted students, and much more. Each activity helped the Admission Office increase the number of students we reach and helped us personalize the college admissions process.

We realize that every volunteer has a different schedule, varying commitments, and different interests. There are many activities that are part of the AAP, and we hope you find one (or many) that interest you.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are happy to help and to support your efforts.

Thank you again for your commitment to the AAP, and we look forward to working with you.

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Purpose of the Alumnae/i Admission Program

Alumnae/i Admissions Program (AAP) volunteers help the Office of Admission increase the visibility of Vassar in their local community. The overall goals of the program are to:

- Increase the number of qualified students who know about Vassar.
- Encourage students who are offered admission to choose Vassar.
- Create a wider Vassar presence across the country and around the world.

These goals are accomplished through the following program activities:

- Connecting with students who have requested to be put in touch with Vassar alumni.
- Representing Vassar at local college fairs.
- Congratulating admitted and enrolled students by phone or email.
- Working with other local volunteers on receptions for admitted and enrolling students.
- Conversations with prospective students—particularly through one-on-one conversations or “interviews.” These conversations:
 - Offer a unique perspective for prospective students that only Vassar alumni can provide: a first-hand account of what people do with their Vassar degrees.
 - Extend the Office of Admission’s geographical reach by corresponding with applicants who could not visit the college.
 - Provide a “personal touch” in the admissions process, setting an example of the individualized attention that a student can expect at Vassar.
 - Create a positive image of Vassar for students, which has a community relations benefit when applicants share their positive impressions of Vassar with their family and friends.

Alumnae/i Admission Program Activities

Interviewing Applicants to the Freshman Class

AAP volunteers conduct personal conversations with applicants to the freshman class. Your conversation can contribute significantly to our applicants' knowledge of Vassar and make Vassar a more attractive college choice. Interview reports also add to our understanding of the strength of an applicant's interest in Vassar.

Representing Vassar at College Fairs

AAP volunteers represent Vassar at local college fairs. Fairs heighten Vassar's visibility in the local area and offer a meaningful opportunity for personal interaction between enthusiastic Vassar alumni and local students.

Congratulating Admitted Applicants by Phone or Email

Admission volunteers help admitted students make informed college choices by sharing their enthusiasm, personal anecdotes, and factual information about Vassar. Naturally, volunteers will want to contact the students they interviewed. In addition, we encourage AAP volunteers to contact admitted students who did not receive alumni interviews.

Receptions: Welcoming Enrolling Students to the College

During the summer, AAP volunteers welcome enrolling students to the Vassar family. Many AAP committees host a send-off event to give incoming freshmen, current students, and local alumnae/i a chance to meet.

Expectations of Volunteers

We have a few expectations of AAP volunteers so they can be as successful as possible.

Keep contact information up to date

Keep us informed about your current location and contact information. If you update your profile on the AAVC site (aavc.vassar.edu), we will be able to connect you with volunteer opportunities in your local area and will make sure that all the necessary information reaches you.

Keep in contact with your local AAP Chair

Your AAP Chair should be in contact with you in the fall and could request your help with college fairs, contacting students, interview days, and more.

Keep up to date on Vassar

We will be sending you Alumni Admissions Volunteer eNewsletters to help you keep abreast of what's new at Vassar and learn of resources that may assist you as an admissions volunteer.

Contact us if you don't know the answer to a question

Do not worry if you do not know the answer to a student's question. Feel free to have the student contact our office, or you can contact us and then relay the answer to the student.

Let us know about college fair opportunities and community-based organizations

We are counting on you bring our attention to events and organizations in your local that Vassar should know about.

2009–2010 Checklist of AAP Activities

Ongoing

- Encourage other enthusiastic, committed, and knowledgeable alumni to be AAP volunteers.
- At the request of the Admission Office, volunteers are assigned by the AAP Chairs to represent Vassar at local college fairs.
-

September

- Office of Admission sends AAP Chairs a list of AAP volunteers in your area.

November

- By November 10: AAP Chairs receive a list of students who have requested interviews from the Admission Office (including Early Decision Round I applicants whose interview reports should be submitted by December 1) and assign interviews to volunteers.
- Early Decision Round I application deadline for students.

December

- December 1: Last day to submit interview reports for Early Decision Round I applicants.
- By December 18: AAP Chairs receive an additional list of students to interview from the Admission Office (including Early Decision Round II applicants whose interview reports should be submitted by January 18) and assign interviews to volunteers.
- Late December: Congratulate admitted Early Decision Round I students.

January

- January 1: Early Decision Round II application deadline and Regular Decision deadline for students.
- By January 7: AAP Chairs receive a final list of students to interview from the Admission Office and assign interviews to volunteers.
- January 18: Last day to submit interview reports for Early Decision Round II applicants.

February

- Early February: Congratulate admitted Early Decision Round II students.
- February 12: AAP Chairs receive a status update on submitted interview reports.
- February 26: Last day to submit interview reports for Regular Decision applicants.

March

- End of March: Regular Decision letters mailed to students.

April

- By April 7: AAP Chairs receive list of admitted students from the Admissions Office and assign volunteers to congratulate students admitted to the freshman class.
- Optional: Reception for admitted students and their families.
- April 15 and 18: Campus Open House Days for admitted students.
- April 17 through 19: Focus on Vassar, a program for admitted students of color.

May

- May 1: Due date for students to submit deposits to the college they will be attending in the fall.
- By May 15: AAP Chairs receive list of enrolling students from the Admissions Office to share with volunteers. (If Vassar goes to the waiting list, we will send a final list by July 15.)

August

- Recommended: Hold a reception to introduce incoming freshmen to alumni and other Vassar students from the area.

Summer

- Optional: At the request of the Office of Admission, reach out to rising seniors who have expressed an interest in Vassar.

Interviewing Applicants

The Role of the Alumni Interview

For applicants to Vassar, interviews are optional and are conducted by Vassar alumni around the world. The interview is a conversation that is an ideal way for students to learn about Vassar from a different perspective, especially since you are encouraged to share what you have done with your Vassar degree. It is also a good way for the Office of Admission to get information about a student's level of interest in Vassar.

A note about interview reports: Your interview reports become part of the candidate's file. However, because alumni interviewers do not (for confidentiality reasons) receive additional information on the candidate (e.g., academic transcripts, standardized test scores), the purpose of the interview is not to determine whether or not the applicant is academically prepared for Vassar, but to learn more about the student's interest in Vassar. It is also difficult, because of the extremely high volume of highly qualified applicants, for an interviewer to assess where any one student falls on the overall scale of candidates. The value of the interview report submitted for the candidate's file is to provide the Admissions Office with information that will help determine whether or not the student is a good match for Vassar. Any information on an applicant's qualities that might raise a concern in the mind of the interviewer is helpful to the admissions officer reading that file.

Interview Assignment Process

From October to late February, the Office of Admission will send interview requests to your AAP Chair who will then assign students to you. Please contact the applicants assigned to you as soon as you receive their contact information.

Select a few dates and times when you are available to conduct the interview. We recommend a comfortable, convenient, public place for a face-to-face interview, but you are welcome to do a phone interview if you wish.

If you cannot reach the applicant or if the applicant declines the interview, please check the appropriate box on interview report form, which is available online by going to admissions.vassar.edu/aap and clicking on "Submit a Report".

Before the Interview

Before calling or emailing the applicant to set up the interview:

- Select a few dates and times when you are available to conduct the interview. The conversation with the prospective student usually takes 45 minutes to an hour.

- Select a comfortable, convenient, public place for the interview. You might consider a quiet coffee shop, a bookstore cafe, a library, or your office. In all cases, it is important to be sensitive to the feel of the interview site. Students (and their families) may feel uncomfortable about an interview at your home or apartment. If the applicant lives some distance from your home, it is entirely appropriate to ask the applicant to travel to your area; a conversation by phone is also a possibility.

Interviewing Tips

- Have a thoughtful conversation that touches on a wide range of topics.
- Feel free to share your experiences at Vassar and especially about what you have done with your Vassar degree after you graduated.
- Keep the purpose of the conversation in mind: to inspire a student to choose Vassar if he or she is admitted and to assess a student's level of interest in attending the College.
- Encourage applicants to call the admission office (845-437-7300 or 800-827-7270) if they have questions about the admission process or their chances of admission.

Conducting the Interview and Sample Questions

1. Greet the applicant. Introduce yourself and offer some information about you such as your Vassar major, your job, volunteer commitments, or other interests.
2. Assure the applicant that this is more of a conversation than an interview and that you welcome whatever she/he has to say.
3. Put the applicants at ease by asking questions, then connecting their answers to opportunities at Vassar and your own experiences. Sample questions include:
 - a. "Tell me about your favorite class/favorite teacher this year."
 - b. "What is your favorite subject? Why?"
 - c. "What is your favorite extracurricular activity?"
 - d. "Which activities would you like to continue at Vassar? Are there new activities you would like to try?"
 - e. "How did you spend last summer? Did you have a job, travel, volunteer?"
 - f. "If you were to take a year off before enrolling in college, what would you do?"
 - g. "What interests you about Vassar?"
4. See what questions the applicant has for you. They may be about Vassar, your experience there, and what you do now.
5. Offer to stay in touch. Give the applicant your name and contact information.

Some Tips

- Try not to ask questions that can be answered with “yes” or “no,” as these will tend to shorten the conversation.
- Ask questions that are open-ended enough for the student to talk about an area of strong interest for them.
- Do not worry if they do not answer the exact question you asked, as they may feel more comfortable taking it in another direction.
- Keep in mind that this is a conversation! Share information about yourself, too, and let your passion for Vassar show in what you talk about.
- The thrust of your questions should help you discover the following:
 1. An unusual circumstances or “red-flags: that might not come through on the student’s application.
 2. The level of interest a student has in Vassar.

Writing the Interview Report

On the interview report, you will be asked the following:

- Student's Name
- Student's Vassar ID (Number that starts with 999 on the rosters given to the Chairs)
- Brief summary of the interview.
- Unusual circumstances or experiences of note.
- Applicant’s level of interest in Vassar:
High Moderate Low Cannot Judge
- For Regular Decision candidates: If this student were offered admission, what might convince them to choose our College? What might be a major obstacle to accepting admission?

Submitting Your Interview Report

- Electronically: Submit it electronically by going to the Alumni Admission Program website at <http://admissions.vassar.edu/aap>. (There is no need to follow up with a paper copy.)
- Email: vcaap@vassar.edu
- Mail: Submit your report by mail to Maureen Norcross, Vassar Office of Admission, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12604.

Representing Vassar at a College Fair

Introducing College Fairs

College fairs vary widely in who hosts them and who attends. Some are sponsored by schools and others by local organizations. Generally large groups of high schools students (and sometimes middle school students) are invited to attend along with a large number of colleges. They often include a variety of colleges, public and private, small and big, from state universities to culinary schools. Generally colleges are arranged alphabetically (Vassar is often in between Vanderbilt and Villanova).

Vassar is invited to hundreds of college fairs every year. Some are attended by Admission Officers as part of their travel for the college, and we ask AAP volunteers to attend others.

You will get an email from our office or your chair if we need someone in your area to attend a college fair. They are often quite fun as you get to interact with prospective students and representatives of other colleges.

Preparing

1. Read the Vassar at a Glance 2009-2010 section. Bring it to the fair.
2. Visit the following websites:
 - The Vassar website at www.vassar.edu.
 - The Admissions website at admissions.vassar.edu.
 - The Alumni Admission Program website at admissions.vassar.edu/aap.
3. Look over the materials we will send you prior to the fair:
 - Facts, our general information brochure. Majors are listed on the back in the green box.
 - Finances, our brochure all about finances and financial aid.
 - Prospect cards to be completed by those who want to be added to our mailing list.
 - Athletic brochure (reference copy): The Office of Athletics will send a copy of this brochure to students who check athletics on the prospect card.
 - Visitor's Guide (reference copy): Open your copy to the campus map. Sent all juniors in early June to help families plan summer college trips.
 - Science brochure (reference copy): Sent to students who check science on the prospect card.
 - Limitless, our view book (reference copy): Seniors on our mailing list will get this in the mail.
4. Get excited!

Talking with Students at the Fair

1. Greet students and ask what they are interested in studying in college. If a student asks about a particular major (listed on the back of Facts in the green box), provide a few facts about that major. Your response might include information about small, seminar style classes (average class size is 17), research opportunities, and internship possibilities offered by the field work office.
2. Encourage students to take Facts and complete a prospect card to get on our mailing list. We prefer that students complete the card and leave it with you so we have a record that you met them at the fair.
3. Encourage students to visit the campus. This is the best way to determine if Vassar is a good match. Check admissions.vassar.edu or call us at 800-827-7270 for tour and information session times and for travel directions.
4. If you run out of cards, ask students to provide their names, complete mailing address, email address, high school, and year of graduation on a piece of paper.
5. If a student asks a question that you cannot answer, check the Vassar at a Glance 2009-2010 and the Frequently Asked Questions section. If you can't find the answer, encourage the student to contact the Vassar Admission Office.

Guidelines

Your role as a volunteer representative is to provide a local contact and to help students learn more about Vassar. Please emphasize the following:

- Comprehensive and flexible curriculum, no core curriculum, lots of freedom
- Attentive, teaching faculty; small seminar-style classes.
- Research programs like URSI (Undergraduate Research Summer Institute), the Ford Scholars Program, and our internship (field work) opportunities.
- Excellent preparation for medical, law, business, and graduate programs.
- Diversity of our student body (from all 50 states, 58 foreign countries).
- Supportive residential campus community with a wide range of extracurricular activities.
- Ideal location 75 miles north of New York City in the Hudson Valley; many social, cultural, and recreational opportunities.
- About 60% of students receive need-based financial aid. Please refer families to the Finances brochure.

Frequently Asked Questions at College Fairs (with suggested answers)

1. Do you have X major? This question will come up a lot. Take a look at the back of the Facts brochure to see a list of majors. Here are some sample responses:
 - General (for a major we have) – Yes, we do have an X department. Like all departments at Vassar, you will have small classes and get to know your professors well. If you would like more information on the X department I would check out the Vassar website at www.vassar.edu.

- General (something we don't have, like physical therapy, cooking, etc.) - Unfortunately, Vassar does not have an X department. (If there is something closely related you can mention that.)
 - Engineering - As an undergraduate institution Vassar does not offer engineering. However, we do have 3/2 program with Dartmouth where students get both a Vassar degree and a Dartmouth engineering degree in 5 years. More information can be found on our website.
 - Pre-med or Nursing - While Vassar does not have a formal pre-med major, we do have a strong Office of Pre-health advising which works with students who are thinking about going to medical school. Also, because of the flexibility of our curriculum you can be pre-med and be, say, a History major quite easily, and we offer academic internships in the medical field.
 - Business - Vassar does not offer as business major, but we do have an Economics department, which is very similar. This is the major most students who are interested in business or finance choose. We also offer academic internships in business in our local community and New York City.
 - Education - Vassar has an Education Department. You can minor in education and can graduate with a New York State Teaching Certification by completing a sequence of courses in addition to your major.
2. How strong is your X department? - All of our departments are strong. We try to make sure that no matter how large or small the department is that it still has great professors and strong courses.
 3. What do I need to get in? What are you looking for in a student? - This is a harder question to answer. There is no one thing that you need. The most important factor in the admission process is the transcript. We want students to be taking challenging courses and doing well in them. You could also mention our SAT/ACT ranges and the other parts of the application. More can be found in the Vassar at a Glance section.
 4. Where's Poughkeepsie (pa-wha?) - Poughkeepsie is a small city located about an hour and a half north of New York City in the Hudson Valley. It is easily accessible by train from New York City and its airports.
 5. Do you have boys? - We do! Vassar went co-ed 40 years ago (in 1969). Currently the student body is about 41% male and 59% female.
 6. Do you have a course catalogue? - Our entire course catalogue is now on-line with up to date information. You can visit our website to see the list of classes being offered.

Other Things to Keep in Mind

Attendance at college fairs varies considerably. We measure success by the interest demonstrated by students who stop at the Vassar table. Just one terrific student can make a fair worthwhile.

If an emergency arises that prevents you from attending a program, please contact the sponsoring high school or organization and the Vassar Office of Admission before the event. If possible, drop off your materials for display at the fair.

After the College Fair

Please complete the College Fair Evaluation form. Return it and the completed prospect cards to:

Maureen Norcross
Vassar Office of Admission
124 Raymond Avenue, Box 10
Poughkeepsie, NY 12604

You do not need to return extra brochures.

Congratulating Candidates

Congratulatory phone calls and emails from Alumni Admission Program volunteers to admitted students and welcoming contacts to enrolling students are important to the success of the Office of Admission's enrollment strategies. Our research indicates that your enthusiasm indicates a level of commitment to Vassar and a belief in its educational mission that are very important to students and their families.

These calls are easier if you interviewed the applicant and have already established a rapport with him/her. In some cases you may be asked to call an admitted student you do not know. To make all congratulatory contacts productive and comfortable, please use the format below to structure the conversation.

1. **Introduce yourself clearly:** "My name is _____. I am a Vassar alum from the Class of _____. I am calling to congratulate _____ on her/his admission to Vassar!"
2. **Ask about the student's senior year** and about commencement, a summer job, or summer activities.
3. **Ask if the student has visited the campus.** Students who visit our magnificent campus are more likely to enroll here than those who do not visit. We included an invitation to the April Open House Programs in the admission packet, but we encourage admitted students to visit anytime in April.
4. Admitted students may request an **overnight visit** with a Vassar student and a class visit. There is information about the appropriate websites in their admit package.
5. You might **mention your major and then briefly describe your profession.** Some students may be concerned about declaring a major. Please stress our individualized pre-major advising, opportunities to take courses in many academic areas before declaring a major, Vassar's small classes, access to faculty, and research opportunities. Each academic department has a website. Students are encouraged to contact faculty members by e-mail.
6. Students who applied for financial aid should receive notice of financial aid awards about five days after they receive their letters of admission. **Encourage students who have questions or concerns about their financial aid packages to call the Office of Financial Aid** at 845-437-5320.

If the student is not available, you should talk with his or her parents. Congratulate them on their daughter's or son's admission to Vassar and ask if they have any questions. We want parents to know about the Vassar community and to feel welcome. Leave your name and number in case the parents or the student have additional questions.

Vassar at a Glance 2009–2010

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 (in the green box).
- Over 50 choices for majors and minors. Five most popular majors are English, the Biological Sciences, Political Science, Psychology, and Economics.
- 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-med, pre-law, 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 17
 - Student-faculty ratio is 9:1
- Student/faculty collaborative research opportunities and independent study courses.
- Credit bearing internships (Field Work) offered by all academic departments. Over 50% choose Field Work in areas ranging from medicine, law, and the arts to journalism, advertising, the media, social service, and education.
- Extensive Study Away (Junior Year Abroad) program. About 40% 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.

Diverse Student Body

- About 25% are Students of Color.
- About 60% from public schools, 40% from private and parochial schools.
- Students from all 50 states and 58 foreign countries.
- 58% of students receive need-based financial aid.
- Student body is 41% male and 59% female.

Strong Student Community

- Over 125 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, and debate team.
- 27 varsity 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 Rowing, M&W Soccer, M&W Squash, M&W Swimming and Diving, M&W Tennis, M&W Track, M&W Volleyball, M&W Rugby
- 11 club sports, including Ultimate Frisbee, Cycling, Skiing, Quidditch; many intramural teams.

Excellent Location

- Students have access to the resources in Poughkeepsie and throughout the Hudson Valley.
- New York offers academic, internship, and recreational opportunities.

Applying to Vassar

Vassar offered admission to 24.7% of the 7577 students who applied for admission to the Class of 2013.

- Vassar uses the Common Application (commonapp.org) and the required Vassar supplement.
- The 5 required parts of the application:
 - Transcript (the most important one)
 - Standardized testing
 - 2 Letters of recommendation
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Essay
- Your Space is a optional, open section of the application where a student can include any supplementary material they would like.

The Transcript In-Depth

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

Standardized Testing In-Depth

- Vassar requires:
 - ACT with Writing
 - OR
 - SAT Reasoning Test and any two SAT Subject Tests.
- The Average test score (middle 50%) are:
 - SAT Reasoning Test (all 3 sections): 2000-2250
 - SAT Reasoning Test (Critical Reading + Math): 1320-1490
 - ACT Composite: 29-33

- Middle 50% means 25% of accepted students scored below the range and 25% scored about the range.

Extracurricular and Leadership Expectations

- Significant extracurricular involvement
- 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.
- Vassar meets 100% of demonstrated financial need. Vassar does not offer merit scholarships based on special academic, artistic, or athletic talent. All of our financial aid is need-based.
- Applicants submit the CSS PROFILE, Federal Application for Free Student Aid (FAFSA), and tax returns
- Helpful web sites:
 - www.admissions.vassar.edu: click on "Finances"
 - www.finaid.org: informative web site with numerous links to other financial aid sites.

Other Facts

- Vassar offers college credit for Advanced Placement exam results of 4 and 5.
- Vassar offers college credit 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 alumni interview online when they submit the Vassar Supplement to the Common Application.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does Vassar accept the Common Application?

Yes. Vassar uses Common Application exclusively.

Which departments are the best?

Each department has an impressive array of course offerings and many offer research opportunities. Many departments like biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, drama, film, and music have their own magnificently equipped buildings.

What are Vassar's 5 most popular majors?

Political Science, Psychology, English, Economics, and the Biological Sciences.

Does Vassar have a core curriculum?

No. Our flexible curriculum allows students to take advantage of the breadth and depth of our offerings.

Does Vassar have required courses?

No, however, we do have some requirements to insure that students develop the skills they need to be successful at Vassar and after they graduate.

- The Freshman Seminar, a one-semester course offered in many disciplines, focuses on written and oral work.
- The quantitative requirement, a semester course in mathematics, natural sciences, psychology, statistics, or certain economics courses.
- The foreign language proficiency requirement: one year at the introductory level or one semester at the intermediate level. Students may test out of this requirement.

How are the sciences at Vassar?

Vassar has exceptional course offering in the sciences. Students have access to the most modern and sophisticated lab equipment. Many students work directly with professors on funded scientific research.

Are there research opportunities?

URSI (Undergraduate Research Summer Institute) offers students valuable experience in planning and executing original research in the sciences with faculty sponsors. The Ford Scholars Program involves students in

collaborative research in the humanities and social sciences. Students can also do research with professors during the academic year starting the second semester of the 1st year.

Does Vassar have a pre-med program?

Our curriculum offers excellent preparation for medical, dental, and veterinary school. Vassar's small classes and opportunities for personal interactions in class and during laboratories allow our professors to write significant and convincing letters of recommendation. Our admission rate is well above the national average. Vassar does not pre-screen or restrict those who want to apply to medical school.

Are internships available?

Academic departments offer credit-bearing internships through our Field Work program. More than a quarter of our students elect internships annually in a broad range of areas such as health, medical, social service, governmental, political, and environmental and planning agencies. They also work in the arts and in business, educational, publishing, advertising, and scientific fields. Internships are typically elected during the school year but may be elected in the summer.

Is the campus safe?

Vassar has an excellent safety record. Residence buildings are accessible by student ID card. The campus is well lit and uniformed security officers are on duty around the clock. The College maintains a blue light emergency phone network, a shuttle bus service, an on-call campus escort service, and a student patrol network.

What is there to do in the Poughkeepsie area?

The greater Poughkeepsie area has shopping malls, movie theaters, museums, galleries, and extensive cultural programming in addition to volunteer and recreational activities. There are many restaurants, delis, bookstores, and shops in the area right around the campus. The Hudson Valley is rich in historical sites, hiking and biking trails, and riverside recreation opportunities. New York City is easily accessible by commuter railroad.