Vassar College
Alumnae/i Admission Program

Volunteer Handbook

2012-2013
Welcome to the Alumnae/i Admission Program!

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

Each year, about 1500 volunteers provide vital support to the Office of Admission through various activities, including conducting prospective-student interviews, attending college fairs, hosting receptions for admitted and matriculating students, contacting admitted students, and much more. Each activity helps the Office of Admission increase the number of students we reach and help us personalize the college admission 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.

Sarah Schmidt
Director of the Alumnae/i Admission Program

Eli Stein
Assistant Director of the Alumnae/i Admission Program

Maureen Norcross
Alumnae/i Admission Program Assistant
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## Contact Information

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admissions.vassar.edu  

Office of Financial Aid: 845-437-5320  
financialaid.vassar.edu
Purpose of the Alumnae/i Admission Program

Alumnae/i Admission 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 alumnae/i.
- Representing Vassar at local college fairs.
- Congratulating admitted and enrolling students by phone or e-mail.
- 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 alumnae/i 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 admission 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 conversations can contribute significantly to our applicants’ knowledge of Vassar and make Vassar a more attractive college choice. The reports volunteers submit after their conversations 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 alumnae/i and local students.

Congratulating Admitted Applicants by Phone or E-mail

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 alumnae/i 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 Alumnae/i Admissions Volunteer eNewsletters to help you keep abreast of what’s new at Vassar and learn of resources that may assist you as an admission 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.

**Follow through on commitments**

We understand how unpredictable life can be. However, in order to ensure the continued success of the AAP as a positive representation of Vassar College, it is important for our volunteers to make every effort to follow through on their commitments, whether that is attending the college fair for which they volunteered, or contacting the first-year applicant with whom they’ve agreed to meet.

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

We are counting on you to bring our attention to events and organizations in your local area of which Vassar should be aware.
2012–2013 Checklist of AAP Activities

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

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

November
☐ By November 14: AAP Chairs receive a list of students who have requested interviews from the Office of Admission (including Early Decision Round I applicants whose interview reports should be submitted by December 1) and assign interviews to volunteers.
☐ November 15: 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 14: AAP Chairs receive an additional list of students to interview from the Office of Admission (including Early Decision Round II applicants whose interview reports should be submitted by January 14) 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 9: AAP Chairs receive a final list of students to interview from the Office of Admission and assign interviews to volunteers.
☐ January 14: Last day to submit interview reports for Early Decision Round II applicants.

February
☐ Early February: Congratulate admitted Early Decision Round II students.
☐ February 9: AAP Chairs receive a status update on submitted interview reports.
☐ February 24: Last day to submit interview reports for Regular Decision applicants.

March
☐ End of March: Regular Decision letters mailed to students and decisions available to students online.

April
☐ By April 5: AAP Chairs receive list of admitted students from the Office of Admission and assign volunteers to congratulate students admitted to the freshman class.
☐ Optional: Reception for admitted students and their families.
☐ April 14 and 18: Campus Open House Days for admitted students.
☐ April 13 through 15: 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 14: AAP Chairs receive list of enrolling students from the Office of Admission to share with volunteers. (If Vassar goes to the waiting list, we will send a final list by July 13.)

August
☐ Recommended: Hold a reception to introduce incoming freshmen to alumnae/i and other Vassar students from the area.
Interviewing Applicants

The Role of the Alumnae/i “Interview”

For applicants to Vassar, interviews are optional and are conducted by Vassar alumnæ/i around the world. The conversational interview 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 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 Office of Admission with information that will help determine whether 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 admission 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. If meeting with a student face-to-face is not possible, you are welcome to set up a conversation over the phone or even Skype if you wish.

If you cannot reach the applicant or if the applicant declines the interview, please check the appropriate box on the 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 e-mailing 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 or over Skype 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 since 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 Office of Admission (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 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 applicant 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 starting 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 Advice

- 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 him/her.
- Do not worry if the student does not answer the exact question you asked, as he/she 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. Any 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 him/her to choose our college? What might be a major obstacle to accepting admission?

Submitting Your Interview Report

- **Preferred Method:** Electronically: Submit it electronically by going to the Alumnae/i Admission Program website at http://admissions.vassar.edu/aap. (There is no need to follow up with a paper copy.)
  - In an effort to give Admission Officers quicker access to your completed evaluations, we are planning to create a system that allows AOs to access digital copies of evaluations. In order for this system to work, submitting evaluations online is preferred.
- E-mail: 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 school students (and sometimes middle school students) are invited to attend along with a large number of colleges. They often include a variety of institutions, public and private, small and big, from state universities to culinary schools. At most fairs, colleges are arranged alphabetically (Vassar is often placed 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 e-mail 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 2012-2013 section. Bring it to the fair.
2. Visit the following websites:
   • The Vassar website at www.vassar.edu
   • The Admission website at admissions.vassar.edu
   • The Alumnae/i Admission Program website at admissions.vassar.edu/aap
   • The AAVC “Hub” website at http://alums.vassar.edu/
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 about 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 this brochure to students who indicate a varsity athletic interest on the card.
   • Visitor's Guide (reference copy): Open your copy to the campus map. This is sent to all juniors in early June to help families plan summer college trips.
   • Science brochure (reference copy): This is sent in November to seniors who check “sciences” on the prospect card.
   • Limitless, our viewbook (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. If you don’t have a deep knowledge of a particular department, you can direct the student to check out the departmental website online. 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, e-mail 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 2012-2013 and the Frequently Asked Questions section. If you can't find the answer, encourage the student to contact the Vassar Office of Admission.

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 (generally from all 50 states and about 60 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, you should 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 a 3-2 program with Dartmouth through which students can earn 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. We also offer academic internships in the medical field.
- Business – Vassar does not offer a business major, but we do have an Economics Department, which is very similar. This is the major chosen by most students who are interested in business or finance. We also offer academic internships in business in our local area and in 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 ensure that every department has great professors and strong courses, regardless of its size.

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-what?) – 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 over 40 years ago (in 1969). Currently the student body is about 43% male and 57% female.

6. Do you have a course catalogue? – Our entire course catalogue is now online 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.

**“What should I do if I can no longer attend the college fair for which I volunteered?”**

We understand how unpredictable life can be. However, in order to ensure the continued success of the AAP as a positive representation of Vassar College, it is important for our volunteers to make every effort to follow through on their commitments. In the case of college fairs, often Vassar has paid a non-refundable fee (as minimal as $25 or as much as $500) to participate in the fair.

If you are unable to attend, there are a few things you should do.
- First, if you know other alumnae/i volunteers in the area, please see if any of them can cover the fair for you. If you are able to find a replacement, please notify your area chair and the AAP leadership team via email.
- If you are unable to find your own replacement, please notify your area chair and the AAP leadership team so that we can try to find a replacement.

**Above all** - If you must miss a college fair, **PLEASE** notify your area chair and the AAP leadership! Do not miss a fair without telling anyone.
Congratulating Candidates

Congratulatory phone calls and e-mails from Alumnae/i Admission Program volunteers to admitted students (and welcoming those who decide to enroll) 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, which 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 admit package, 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 admission notifications. **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 student or parents have additional questions.
Vassar at a Glance 2012–2013

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. Our five most popular majors are English, Psychology, the Biological Sciences, Political Science, 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:
  o Average class size is 17
  o Student-faculty ratio is 8:1
• Student/faculty collaborative research opportunities and independent study courses.
• Credit-bearing internships (Field Work) offered by all academic departments. About 60% 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 40-45% 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 33% are students of color.
• 60% from public schools, 40% from private, parochial, independent and homeschooling programs.
• Students from all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, and 60 foreign countries.
• 65% of students receive need-based financial aid. 60% receive need-based Vassar scholarship
• Student body is 43% male and 57% 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.
• 23 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 Soccer, M&W Squash, M&W Swimming and Diving, M&W Tennis, M&W Track, M&W Volleyball.
• Student-run club sports include M&W Rowing, M&W Rugby, Equestrian, Polo, Sailing, 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 City offers academic, internship, and recreational opportunities.
Applying to Vassar
Vassar offered admission to 22.5% of the 7908 students who applied for admission to the Class of 2016.
- Vassar uses the Common Application (commonapp.org) and the required Vassar Supplement.
- The 5 required parts of the application:
  - Transcript (most important)
  - Standardized testing
  - 2 letters of recommendation
  - Extracurricular activities
  - Essay
- Your Space is an optional, open section of the application where students 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/IB courses (if offered).
- The high school program should include (to the maximum extent possible) four years of English, foreign language, history/social science, mathematics and science, or a course of studies of comparable breadth and rigor to this program.

Standardized Testing In-Depth
- Vassar requires:
  - ACT with Writing
  - SAT Reasoning Test and any two SAT Subject Tests.
- The average test score (middle 50%) are:
  - SAT Reasoning Test (all 3 sections): 2050-2250
  - SAT Reasoning Test (Critical Reading + Math): 1360-1500
  - ACT Composite: 30-33
  - Middle 50% means 25% of admitted 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 for American citizens and permanent residents.
- Vassar meets 100% of demonstrated financial need. Vassar does not offer merit, artistic or athletic scholarships. All of our financial aid is need-based.
- Applicants submit the CSS PROFILE, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and tax returns
- Helpful web sites:
  - www.admissions.vassar.edu: click on "Finances"
  - www.finaid.org: informative website 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 alumnae/i interview online when they submit the Vassar Supplement to the Common Application.
Frequently Asked Questions

**Does Vassar accept the Common Application?**
Yes. Vassar uses only the Common Application.

**Which departments are the best?**
Each department has an impressive array of course offerings and many offer research opportunities. Many departments (including 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 ensure 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 one-semester course in mathematics, natural sciences, psychology, 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 first 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. Well over half of our students complete field work prior to graduation, 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.