

Williams College Info Guide

Basic Info

- Private liberal arts college founded in 1793
 - One of the oldest colleges in the U.S.
- Located at 880 Main St, Williamstown, MA 01267
- Applicants: 8,744
- Acceptance rate: 13%
- Graduation rate: 94% (compared to natl. 49%)
- Avg. cost before aid: \$75K
- Avg. cost after aid: \$21K
- Phone number: (413) 597-3131
- Ranked #1 in National Liberal Arts Colleges by U.S. News
- Ranked #19 in America's Top Colleges 2019 by Forbes
- Ranked #12 in 2021 Best Colleges for Art in America by Niche
- SAT & ACT Scores (w/ or w/o Writing both accepted)
 - Considered but not required
 - SAT Reading + Writing: 700-770
 - SAT Math: 710-790
 - ACT Composite Scores: 33-35
 - Allows Superscore ACT & SAT
- Early Decision Deadline – 11/16
- Regular Deadline – 1/8
- Admissions selectivity rating: 98/99
- Requires almost all students to live on campus
- Application fee: \$65
- Accepts Common App
- Median earnings 6 yrs after grad: \$59K (compared to natl. \$33K)
- 90% employed 2 yrs after grad.

Campus/Environment

- Located at the foot of Mt. Greylock in the Berkshires
 - Beautiful sunsets
 - Lots of trees and greens
- Experiences all 4 seasons
- Lots of snow in winter
- 1 hr away from Albany, NY
- ~3 hrs away from Boston & NYC
- Campus size: 450 acres
- Alcohol permitted on campus if of legal age
- Number of student services offered: 11
 - Includes:
 - nonremedial tutoring
 - women's center
 - daycare
 - health service
 - health insurance, and more
- Number of career services provided: 7
- Campus safety & security services
 - 24-hr foot and vehicle patrol
 - late night transport/escort service
 - 24-hr emergency telephones
 - lighted pathways/sidewalks
 - student patrols
 - controlled dormitory access (key, security card, etc.)
- Weston Hall: home of admission & student financial services
- 62 Center for Theatre and Dance
 - across the street from Weston Hall
 - inside includes:
 - 3 theatres
 - dance studios

- a costume shop
 - ~70 professional departmental and student productions of theatre dance and music
- Paresky Center: the hub of student life
 - 1st floor: SNAR: snack bar w/ dining option until 2 a.m., mailroom, and more
 - Halal, vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, & lactose-free options
 - Emphasis on locally sourced foods
 - Dining services work w/ the environmental center closely
 - 2nd floor: offices + spaces that support student life & different student groups
 - Chaplain's office
 - Center for Academic Resources
 - Williams Record (the school newspaper)
 - Minority Coalition
- Chapin Hall: one of the main gathering spaces for large lectures & music performances
- Hollander Hall: one of the main academic buildings
 - Faculty offices, classrooms, & study spaces
- The Environmental Center: net-zero energy building
 - Open to students 24/7
 - Beautiful kitchen, study spaces, & lovely garden
- South Science Building: space for students to conduct research & work w/ faculty
- North Science Building in construction for more spaces for labs & study spaces
- Sawyer Library
 - Designed for studying:
 - bean bags
 - reserved personal study carrels
 - quiet study rooms
 - can eat
 - very busy
 - 3D printing room
 - music production rooms
- Spring Street: "downtown Williams"

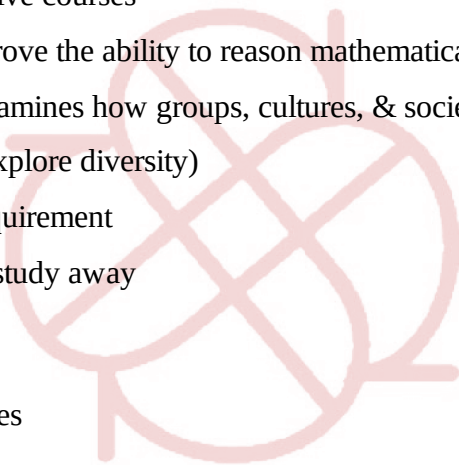
- o Middle of campus
- o Enjoy food from many restaurants + coffee shops
 - Ice cream very good
- o Bookstore
- o Pharmacy
- Williams College Museum of Art
 - o One of premier college art collections in the U.S.
 - o WALLS program - launched in 2014
 - Popular student art loan program – allows students to decorate dorm room walls w/ one of work of art from there
- The David Center (“DC”)
 - o Housed in 3 buildings
 - o Goal: embrace diversity + provide meaningful discussions on all issues of inclusion & diversity
 - o Makes sure Williams is welcome to all
- Goodrich
 - o Formal chapel
 - o Student-run café lounge area
 - o Performance space
 - o Dance studio
 - o Coffee bar (the only entirely student-run business on campus)
- Weston Athletic Complex
 - o Athletic facilities spread out on campus
 - o Redid very recently
 - o Overlooks Berkshire Mt.
 - o Pool, gyms, hockey rink, tennis courts
- Driscoll & Whitman’s dining halls
- Allow mobile ordering (Snack Bar, 82 Grill, Fresh-N-Go, etc.)
- [An Introduction to Williams](#)
- [Williams Virtual Tour](#)

Dorms/Housing

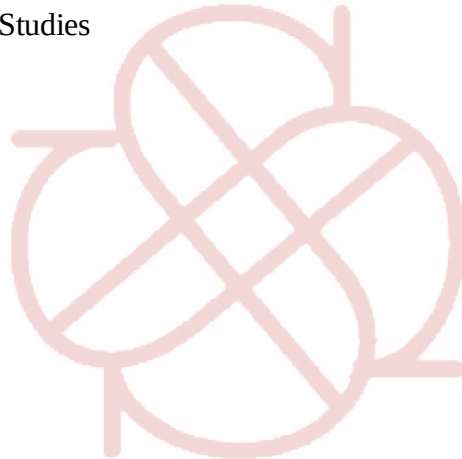
- 1st yr students live at Frosh Quad (Williams Hall & Sage Hall & Mission Park)
 - friendly competition between dorms to see which one is best each yr
 - 1st yr students placed into groups within dorms called Entries
 - microcosms of Williams community
 - 30-40 students, few JAs (upperclassmen mentors)
 - Missions dorm – can walk down for food w/o going outside

Academics

- 3 branches w/ grad program in the history of art & economics:
 - Arts and humanities
 - Social sciences
 - Science & mathematics
- Top 3 most popular majors:
 - Economics (115 grads)
 - English (60 grads)
 - Political science and government (56 grads)
- Oxford-style teaching – classes rely heavily on student participation
 - Williams tutorial (modeled after Oxford Tutorial system)
 - Pairs 2 students w/ 1 faculty member in deep inquiry over a single topic over an entire semester
- Offers bachelors and masters for degrees
- Combined-degree programs
 - Columbia University Combined Plan in Liberal Arts and Engineering
 - Dartmouth College Dual-Degree Program in Engineering
- Does not offer an online bachelor's degree program
- G.I. Bill certified
- Participates in Yellow Ribbon Program
- ~40% of students major in STEM-related fields
- Can be connected w/ Williams College through Quest Bridge
- Office of Special Academic Programs
 - Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

- o Allison David Research Fellowship
 - o Public Humanities Fellowship
 - o Summer Humanities and Social Sciences programs
 - o Summer Science Program
 - o C3 Undergraduate Fellowship
 - No academic minors → concentrations (groupings of courses around certain topics that pull from many departments & disciplines)
 - All students take at least
 - o 3 classes in arts and humanities
 - o 3 in social sciences
 - o 3 in science and mathematics
 - o 2 writing-intensive courses
 - o 1 course to improve the ability to reason mathematically & abstractly
 - o 1 course that examines how groups, cultures, & societies interact w/ & challenge each other (to explore diversity)
 - No formal language requirement
 - 250+ opportunities for study away
 - Majors
 - o American Studies
 - o Anthropology
 - o Arabic Studies
 - o Sociology
 - o Art History
 - o Art Studio
 - o Chinese
 - o Japanese
 - o East Asian Languages & Cultures
 - o Astronomy
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- o Astrophysics
- o Biology
- o Chemistry
- o Classics
- o Comparative Literature
- o Computer Science
- o Contract Major
- o Economics
- o English
- o Environmental Studies
- o French
- o Geosciences
- o German
- o History
- o Mathematics
- o Statistics
- o Music
- o Philosophy
- o Physics
- o Political Economy
- o Political Science
- o Psychology
- o Religion
- o Spanish



- o Russian
- o Theatre

Student Life/Body

- 2K enrolled students
- 63% of students receive financial aid
- Student-faculty ratio: 7:1
 - o Small classes (teachers will know your names!)
- No Greek life (no fraternities & sororities)
- [Sophia Shin](#) – current Youtuber who is a senior at Williams right now majoring in political science – lots of videos about Williams
- Clubs offered:
 - o Campus Ministries
 - o Dance, Drama/Theater
 - o Student Gov't
 - o Williams Record (student newspaper), and more
- Music
 - o Choral groups
 - o Concert band
 - o Jazz band
 - o Marching band
 - o Music ensembles
 - o Musical theatre
 - o Opera
 - o Pep band
 - o Symphony orchestra
- Many students stay on campus over the summer
 - o Work as fully paid researchers in the humanities, natural and mathematical sciences, and social sciences
- [Day in the Life of a Williams Student | COVID Edition!](#)

Sports

- varsity, JV, intramurals, club sports, Phys. Ed., recreation, & fitness classes
- 32 total men's + women's varsity teams
- club sports include ult. Frisbee, rugby, equestrian, cycling, fencing, volleyball, sailing, water polo, and more
- team name: Ephs (rhymes w/ "chiefs")
 - shortened form of founder name Ephraim Williams
- Division III of NCAA & NESCAC
- Part of unofficial Little Three athletic conference w/ Amherst College + Wesleyan University
- Requires 4 Phys. Ed. credits by the end of 2nd year (at least 2 credits in 1st yr) + pass swim test to graduate
 - Avg. of 30 activity courses/semester
 - Opport. such as Outing Club activities, dance ensembles & sports at varsity, JV, & club levels fulfill Phys. Ed. requirement, too
- Supports You Can Play project (no discrimination for all athletes)
- For more information on athletics at Williams, please visit their athletics website at <https://athletics.williams.edu/>

Fun Facts

- Originally a men's college – women 1st admitted in 1971
- Fraternities abolished in the 1960s
- School traditions include:
 - Semiannual, schoolwide trivia contest
 - Mountain Day in Oct. – students hike Mt. Greylock.
- Oldest alumni society in the world
- Hosted 1st intercollegiate baseball game
- Class of 1887 1st in the U.S. to wear caps + gowns at grad.
- A tradition of dropping a watch from the top of the college chapel at each grad.
 - Watch breaks → class will be lucky!

Famous Alumni

- Elia Kazan, director of “On the Waterfront” & “A Streetcar Named Desire”
- John Frankenheimer, director of “The Manchurian Candidate”
- Prince Hussain Aga Khan, whose father is the spiritual leader of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims
- Wang Leehom, famous American singer-songwriter, actor, producer, & film director, mainly in China
- James Garfield, 20th president of the U.S. from March to Sept. 1881
- Stephan Sondheim, American composer & lyricist, known for work in musical theatre
- Steve Case, American entrepreneur, investor, & businessman, best known as the former CEO & chairman of AOL
- David Strathairn, American actor w/ several accolades (Independent Spirit Award, Primetime Emmy Award, and more)

Social Media

- Facebook: @williamscollege
- Twitter: @williamscollege
- Youtube: @WilliamsCollege
- Instagram: @williamscollege

Sources

- <https://www.princetonreview.com/college/williams-college-1023876>
- <https://www.forbes.com/top-colleges/#5bceb1df1987>
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- <https://www.williams.edu/>
- <https://www.niche.com/colleges/williams-college/>
- <https://www.questbridge.org/college-partners/williams-college>