



Focus on Bryn Mawr College

Founded in 1885 by The Society of Friends to give women opportunities that were rare at the time, Bryn Mawr remains committed to supporting women. As at all women's colleges, proponents tout the benefit of having all the leadership positions on campus going to women. Nevertheless, the Bi-College relationship with Haverford and Tri-College relationship with Swarthmore means, one student says, that "the experience is as co-ed as you want to make it."

Bryn Mawr women are intellectually engaged academics, activists and artists, committed to taking their education out of the classroom and abroad and making a difference in the world. Their typical classroom has a big table around which seminars are conducted, and the wealth of research opportunities available to them is undoubtedly one reason the Bryn Mawr alumni are so apt to pursue graduate degrees. In fact, the college ranks among the top ten in the nation in the percentage of graduates who do so.

A senior thesis is required for some majors and optional for others, and funding is available to support research in the sciences and other fields as well.

Requirements include courses in four "Modes of Inquiry," one year of a foreign language, one quantitative course, and six credits for gym, one of which is a mandatory swim test. Beyond these requirements, Bryn Mawr encourages interdisciplinary scholarship. A "360 degree" program allows students to pick a theme and take three courses or experiences that allow them to examine it from different perspectives.

The most popular majors are Social Sciences, Math, Foreign Languages and Literature, English, Psychology, Physical Sciences, Visual and Performing Arts, Biology, Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Performance standards are high, but a variety of strategies are used to reduce student stress. First, students have many mentors, both peer and faculty. Peer tutoring for classwork is readily available to all at both the Writing Center and Quantitative Center. For emotional issues, the Counseling Center on campus provides each student with ten free sessions. If a student needs more and signs a statement that she is unable to pay for it, she will be given additional sessions free of charge even after that.

Under the Honor Code, students submit and receive back work in an open location, trusted not to look at each other's papers, and they take tests un-proctored in many possible locations including their own rooms or classrooms where the other students are taking different tests so no one can compare their pace.

Application deadlines are Nov. 15 (Early Decision I), Jan. 1 (Early Decision II) and Jan. 15 (Regular Decision). The acceptance rate is 40%, with median ACT scores ranging from 27 to 32. Interviews are considered.

