

College Fairs Frequently Asked Questions

So tell me about Dartmouth...

- Located in beautiful Hanover, NH
- Liberal Arts college
- 4,300 undergrads & 1,700 grad students – the smallest in the Ivy League
- Unique D-Plan calendar that provides flexibility and opportunity for year-round study abroad, research, and internships
- Diverse student body (nearly half students of color) and strong sense of community

Questions about Admissions

Are there secondary school/high school course requirements for admission to Dartmouth?

Dartmouth has no specific subject requirements for prospective students. We do, however, encourage students to undertake the strongest course of study available at their secondary schools.

We recognize that not all high schools offer the same opportunities and we do take into consideration a student's academic environment. While we have no minimum grade point average or class rank required for consideration, approximately 90% of admitted students rank in the top ten percent of their graduating class.

I changed high schools; do I need to submit anything from my former school?

Yes, we need transcripts from every school where you have taken 9th-12th grade classes. The Admissions Committee understands that some academic programs and extracurriculars may have been interrupted when you transferred schools.

What is the minimum GPA and/or standardized test scores required for admission?

Dartmouth has no minimum GPA or standardized test scores for consideration, nor maximum above which admission is guaranteed. Test scores are always considered in conjunction with the student's academic record. There is no set formula or prescription for admission; our reading process is holistic, recognizing that the mix of accomplishments and potential varies for each individual.

What is the average GPA for students admitted to Dartmouth?

Because schools present such different grading scales and programs, we do not calculate average GPAs for our admitted students. I can tell you that over 93% of admitted students are in the top 10% of their high school class.

What are the average SAT scores? ACT score?

The middle 50% range for any one section of the SAT is about 680 – 780. The middle 50% for ACT is 29 – 34. The full testing statistics are available on the Facts section of our website.

If a student takes the required tests more than once, which results does Dartmouth consider?

If standardized testing is repeated:

For the ACT, we will take your highest composite score.

For the SAT Reasoning, we will take your highest individual section scores, regardless of which test date those section scores are from.

For the SAT Subject Tests, we will take your two highest scores regardless of what subjects they are (unless they are the same subject).

How do you consider AP and IB courses? Is course credit given on the basis of test scores?

We recognize the rigor of these courses and programs. Students who demonstrate exceptional preparation, on the basis of Advanced Placement exams, International Baccalaureate exams, A level exams, SAT Subject tests, or departmental exams given during Orientation Week may be eligible for advanced standing in certain departments.

Students may have the opportunity to receive either placement or course credit based upon results. With IB, Dartmouth typically grants credit for scores of 6 or 7 on Higher Level exams. For APs, some departments grant credit for scores of 4 or 5, others for only 5. Specific credits granted are listed online (just google "Dartmouth AP credit"). You will not know your exact credit until you enroll and the registrar has assessed your results.

Is an interview required?

An interview is not required, although we do encourage applicants to take advantage of the opportunity to have a conversation with a Dartmouth alum in their area. The interview process is automatic once you have applied; your name and contact information will be sent to a local alum who will get in touch with you to arrange a meeting. Sometimes our applicant volume outnumbers our alumni interviewer resources, so we never hold the absence of an interview against you when considering your application.

What is the peer recommendation?

The peer recommendation is a required part of the Dartmouth application. We ask every student applying to Dartmouth to get a letter of recommendation from a "peer" (who we define loosely as someone your age who knows you well). Your brother, sister, best friend, cousin, or classmate can all write a peer recommendation, as long as it is someone about your age. The peer recommendation helps us to see how you would add to the Dartmouth community.

What is your policy on the submission of supplementary materials, and may I submit an artistic portfolio or a tape/CD of my musical performance?

In general, applicants should include any information that they'd like to bring to the attention of the Admissions Committee in their application. The "Additional Information" section of the Common Application can be used to add a resume, add a brief abstract of an independent

research project, explain unusual circumstances that may have impacted your academic performance or other aspects of your candidacy.

Applicants with outstanding talents in the arts may choose to send examples of their work along with their application. When you send the Common Application Arts Supplement to the Admissions Office, we will submit your portfolio or solo performance to our faculty for evaluation. Specific guidelines for art supplements are available on our website. Applicants may submit the Arts Supplement, regardless of their potential major area of study. The Admissions Office is not able to return arts supplements to applicants.

May I submit supplementary recommendations?

Dartmouth requires the following letters of recommendation: a letter from a high school guidance counselor; two letters from teachers of any academic subject; and a peer evaluation. The teacher recommendations are usually written by 11th or 12th grade teachers, but this is not a requirement. The recommendation letters provide us with insight into the student's personal qualities and contributions to particular classes and the school community.

You may submit additional recommendations and we will consider them as we review your file. However, additional recommendations should be submitted only if they will add new and relevant information to our understanding of you. If you are considering submitting additional recommendations, they should only come from individuals who know you in different and meaningful ways from your other recommendation-writers.

Does Dartmouth have quotas for a particular region or school?

While we do seek to build a class that is geographically diverse, our applicant pool is large enough that we do not need to give preference to particular states or regions in order to achieve that diversity. Conversely, applying from schools or areas we typically see many applicants from does not hurt your chances of admission. Our review process focuses on you as an individual, so you are never directly compared against other students from your school or state. You are always evaluated based on your own credentials and qualities.

Is there really an advantage to applying ED?

Very slightly. Early decision is much like a brownie point at Dartmouth. We recognize that you want to commit to us, and that is always viewed as a positive attribute. In recent years, approximately one-third of Dartmouth's entering first-year class was admitted early. The students accepted early decision are comparable to the students who are accepted in the regular decision pool.

If you love Dartmouth and it is your first choice, early decision can be a great option. If you are not ready to commit to Dartmouth by November 1 of senior year, regular decision may be more appropriate. The majority of our applicants apply regular decision.

What happens with financial aid if I apply ED?

Financial aid awards are the same whether a student applies early or regular. We present the financial aid award at the time of admission (December for early, April for regular). In the rare case that our financial aid package does not meet expectations, a student may be released from the binding early decision commitment.

Does Dartmouth show preference in the admissions process for students who have demonstrated interest by visiting, calling and emailing?

No. Demonstrated interest is not a factor in our process. We are happy to answer questions through the Contact Us form on our website, but there is no need to establish contact with a regional Admissions Officer.

Questions about Dartmouth

What is the student-faculty ratio at Dartmouth?

The student-faculty ratio at Dartmouth is 8:1. 63% of classes have fewer than 20 students.

What percentage of classes at Dartmouth are taught by professors?

99.9% of classes are taught by members of the faculty, with only 2 specially supervised math classes taught by graduate students. Dartmouth is ranked #1 by US News & World Report for undergraduate teaching.

How many majors does Dartmouth offer?

Dartmouth offers 57 majors and programs, and students can also design their own major or "modify" a standard major by combining more than one area of interest.

What are the most popular majors?

Economics, Government, Psychology, History, Biology, English, and Engineering

Can I double major at Dartmouth? Can I complete a major and a minor?

Yes. Approximately 15 - 20 % of students graduate with a double major, and almost 30% of students complete a major and a minor. A small number of students (about 1%) even triple major.

Do students apply to specific academic departments or schools? Do I need to declare a major when I apply to Dartmouth?

Students are not required to declare a major until their sophomore year and do not apply to a particular major or school, regardless of academic interest. A student's intended area of study has no bearing on their candidacy to Dartmouth.

How does the liberal arts curriculum work? What are the requirements at Dartmouth?

Dartmouth's liberal arts curriculum lets you explore big ideas and pursue your particular passions. It's structured to maximize your understanding of the world in ways that enable you to be a leader in your future work.

Here's how it works:

1. You need to take 35 courses to graduate
2. You'll engage in deep analysis of a single discipline of interest to you, your major.
3. You'll explore broadly several fields gaining new perspectives through the distributive requirements. There are many courses to choose that will fulfill your distribution requirement in each of these fields.

Distributive Fields

- Arts
- International or Comparative Study
- Literature
- Systems of Traditions of Thought, Meaning, and Value
- Social Analysis
- Natural and Physical Science
- Quantitative and Deductive Science
- Technology or applied Science

World Culture

- Non-Western Cultures
 - Western Cultures
 - Culture & Identity
4. You're expected to become proficient in at least one foreign language. (The language requirement can be fulfilled with a strong language SAT Subject Test, AP, IB, or on-campus placement exam score.)

What is the advising system at Dartmouth?

Each first-year student is assigned a faculty advisor, whose work starts with helping you select your classes before the start of fall term. Students can also go to their Class Dean, to the Community Director of their residence hall, or to one of several other academic advisors. You'll also be assigned an Undergraduate Advisor in your residence hall.

What is the pre-med program like at Dartmouth?

At Dartmouth, students do not *major* in pre-med, but they can take all the courses they need to be ready for medical school. Dartmouth has a number of noteworthy resources for pre-med students. Most importantly:

- Dartmouth Medical School (DMS): The nation's fourth-oldest medical school is right on campus and many professors have dual tenure with DMS and Dartmouth College. Undergrads often collaborate on research projects with medical school faculty and students.
- Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC): One of New England's best hospitals is located just one mile from campus and provides numerous research and internship opportunities for undergrads.

Our Health Professions Program advises students applying to medical, dental, and veterinary schools, assisting students with course planning, internships, and applications. Each year 180 to 200 students apply to medical, dental, or veterinary programs. Dartmouth students who work hard, utilize pre-health resources, and maintain an average GPA are virtually guaranteed acceptance to medical school. The national medical school acceptance is about 45%, but with Dartmouth's strong Health Professions Program, our students' chance of admission to medical school is about twice the national average.

Unique advantages to Dartmouth's pre-med program:

- The advising system lasts beyond your years at Dartmouth. We continue to work with students through graduation and beyond.
- Because of Dartmouth's small size, the advising and letter-writing processes are very personal. Many universities have a pre-health committee that writes letters of recommendation. At Dartmouth, students select who writes the summary letter on their behalf (a faculty member, dean, or other advisor). The result: a much more personal letter than what might come from a committee.
- Dartmouth has very strong extracurricular programs that allow students to test their interests before they make a commitment to pursue this as a career.
- 80 Medical School Faculty members offer shadowing opportunities in a wide range of medical specialties. We also have community vet and dental shadowing programs.
- The Health Professions Program maintains a research opportunities directory, and students engage in a wide variety of medical research projects.
- Women In Science Project (WISP) connects students in their first or second year with paid part-time research internships with science faculty members or researchers in nearby industrial or government laboratories.

Can I be Pre-Law?

Your transcript won't say "Pre-Law" for your major, but your Dartmouth transcript will speak volumes when you apply for law school. The liberal arts curriculum at Dartmouth ensures you'll have the analytical and critical thinking skills law schools are looking for. On campus you'll want to check out Rockefeller Center, or Rocky as we call it, home to the Daniel Webster Legal Society, PoliTalk, VoxMasters, and a number of other student groups that will help you hone your legal skills. You also have the acclaimed Dartmouth Forensics Union, Mock Trial, and Parliamentary Debate.

When it's time to apply to law school, Career Services provides support to help you through the law school application process and personal advising when you need it. You'll also have the Alumni Career Advisory Network and the Dartmouth Lawyers Association to connect you with Dartmouth grads to help you be successful in law.

How is the-Business program at Dartmouth?

Undergraduates at Dartmouth have the opportunity to take classes in various aspects of business, including accounting and marketing, from Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business.

Though business can't be your major, with your Dartmouth connections it can lead you to exciting career opportunities. Dartmouth alumni serve as leaders of some of the world's largest companies, including CEOs of GE and eBay, of inspiring non-profits, like the founder of Grassroots Soccer, and of public financial institutions as the Secretary of the Treasury. Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business is one of the world's oldest and best business schools. Tuck offers undergraduate courses and arranges programs where undergraduates can meet global business leaders. We also have a number of student groups where you can pursue your interest in business or economics.

How does Engineering work at Dartmouth?

If you choose to study engineering at Dartmouth—the smallest school in the Ivy League—you'll experience unparalleled personal attention. And because engineering at Dartmouth is part of the liberal arts, you'll gain the skills and knowledge that distinguish Dartmouth engineers as a breed apart. You'll know how to communicate. You'll know how to see the big picture. And you'll know how to get things done.

Bachelor of Arts (A.B.)—A major in engineering sciences is a versatile springboard into engineering, technology, medicine, law, business, science, architecture, and other fields that value problem-solving, analytical thinking, and inventiveness. Major options include Engineering Sciences, Biomedical Engineering Sciences, Engineering Physics, and Modified Engineering Sciences major (requires 6-7 courses in engineering sciences and 4 in another discipline).

Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.)—A professional degree program that prepares you to work as a professional engineer. Many students complete both the A.B. and the B.E. programs in 4-5 years.