PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY

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Accreditation: New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

ETS/CEEB Code 300185

1,096 Students
55% Students of Color
45 States, D.C. & Guam
38 Foreign Countries

49% of Students Receive Financial Aid
Average Annual Grants
$60,036 Boarding Student
$39,715 Day Student

253 Faculty
28% Holding Doctorate
63% with Master's Degree

Class of 2026
312 Seniors
Including **35** New Seniors/PGs

12
Average Class Size

6:1
Student/Teacher Ratio

2026-27 PROFILE FOR COLLEGES

PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY is a coed, independent, residential school celebrating 246 years of fostering curiosity and cultivating potential. The **Harkness method** of instruction, with 12 students and one instructor working together around one table, originated here and defines our institutional culture. Harkness is more than a pedagogy, but a way of life at Exeter. It begins in the classroom and extends beyond it, to field, stage and common room. Harkness centers on critical thinking and collaboration, providing every voice equal weight and teaching the art of respectful dissent. It's where students explore ideas as a group, but moreover develop the courage to speak, the compassion to listen, and the empathy to understand.

In 1781, our founder charged instructors that "the disposition of the minds and morals of the youth under their charge will exceed every other care." Exeter today maintains a fierce commitment to uniting goodness and knowledge. We admit students from diverse backgrounds who combine proven intellectual ability and tenacity with good character. In accordance with the high expectations we have for student behavior, all seniors sign an honesty and integrity statement, pledging to uphold the values inherent in Exeter's founding principles throughout the college application process.

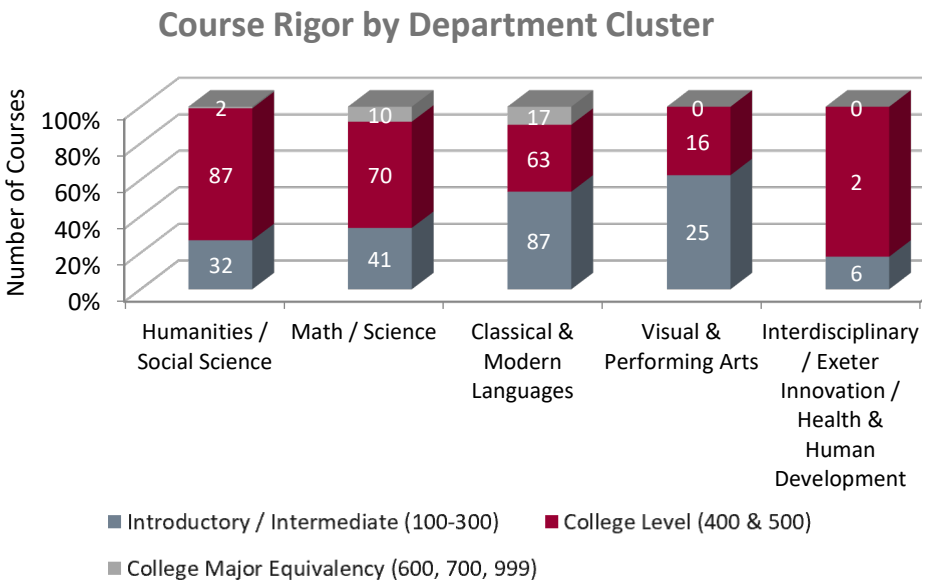
OUR CURRICULUM Harkness courses are demanding, and weekday classes run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. as well as on some Saturdays.

The chart below illustrates the rigor of our curriculum across academic disciplines. More than half of our courses are taught at the pace and level of college courses, often using college textbooks. We do not offer AP classes as our courses often go well beyond the AP curriculum. Exeter's research-based classes, which include partnerships with labs at Stanford University and Harvard University, prepare our students well for undergraduate research in STEM, the social sciences, and humanities. Students may also propose advanced field classes of their design and independent research projects with faculty approval and guidance. These are noted as 999 and SRP 400 respectively. Find course descriptions and an explanation of diploma requirements in our digital Courses of Instruction. (https://www.exeter.edu/academics/courses)

60% of 478 classes are 1st year college-level or above

10 Foreign Languages

10 Off-Campus Academic Programs



COURSE NUMBERING GUIDE

100 Preparatory level
200 Intermediate/Advanced level
300 Advanced proficiency level
400 Beyond AP or first-year college level
500 First or second-year college level
600 & 700 College major equivalency
999 Independent field course or tutorial

Courses ending in '1' indicate enhanced sections where student enrollment is by faculty selection. *Advanced, enriched, intensive,* and *accelerated* indicate increased rigor and pace.

NOTES ABOUT OUR TRANSCRIPT: Exeter follows a trimester schedule and does not calculate mid-term or mid-year grades. Fall term grades are available in early December; winter term grades, in early March. By faculty vote, **class rank is not reported and grades and grade point averages (GPA) are unweighted.** The cumulative GPA includes only Exeter coursework.

In addition to their five-course load, all students are required to participate in physical education and health classes. To satisfy the fine arts requirement, many students take music lessons or perform with choral and/or instrumental groups.

The highest possible grade is A; the minimum passing grade is D-. A grade of E equals failure. Students not meeting minimum attendance requirements will receive a NC (no-credit) in lieu of a letter grade; required courses must be repeated. Students receiving a low grade may choose (with faculty permission, and with no additional credit earned) to repeat a course. Some coursework is taken on a 'pass (P) or no-pass (NP)' basis, including (by faculty vote) all ninth-grade courses during the fall term. Also by faculty vote, four, three and two year students may use their one Health and Human Development credit to reduce their course load in one term.

GRADING SCALE

11 = A
10 = A-
9 = B+
8 = B
7 = B-
6 = C+
5 = C
4 = C-
3 = D+
2 = D
1 = D-
E = failure

ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS: Students meeting the following benchmarks are awarded Honors (B/8.0+); High Honors (B+/9.0+); and Highest Honors (A-/10.0+) at the end of each term. Departmental academic prizes are awarded each spring.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY Students participating in Exeter's off-campus programs may have transcripts that do not align with most others because they reflect differences in each program's calendar and curriculum. For instance, the School Year Abroad runs on a semester system and the Washington Intern Program is ungraded, except for an optional English elective.

CLASS of 2026 AVERAGES

SAT	ACT	AP EXAMS
RW: 711	E: 32	5 or 4 – 82%
M: 726	M:31	3 – 12%
	R: 33	2 or 1 – 6%
	S: 32	
Middle 50%: 1360 – 1530	Middle 50%: 31-35	

STANDARDIZED TESTING: Test scores are not recorded on the transcript. Of the class of 2027, 27 seniors are National Merit Semifinalists and 70 qualified as National Merit Commended Students.

LIFE AT EXETER: About 80% of our students and 70% of our faculty live on campus. Exeter's dorm structure, including the option to live in one of two "all gender" houses, creates close-knit residential communities that are diverse, with students from all class years, interests, identities and backgrounds.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: Exeter students are busy people. Students participate in nearly 200 organizations including cultural and affinity groups, community governance, service organizations, and varied arts, media, political, entrepreneurial and academic clubs. Nearly 70% of Exonians participate in one or more of the 60 athletic teams that we field in 22 sports. ESSO, the Exeter Student Service Organization, serves as the umbrella for more than 50 different groups and projects that aim to address unmet needs in the local and global communities. As in the classroom, collaboration is valued and shared leadership is the norm at Exeter. Most teams and clubs are guided by co-captains and co-heads.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION 2024-2026

Our college counselors help students choose schools appropriate to their interests, where they can build upon their Exeter educational foundation. Our student body celebrates a diverse matriculation list, with 99% of graduates attending a four-year institution.

≥10 Students: Babson, Boston College, Bowdoin, Brown, Case Western, Chicago, Colby, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Georgetown, George Washington, Harvard, Holy Cross, MIT, NYU, Northeastern, Notre Dame, Penn, Princeton, Purdue, Trinity College, Tufts, UC - Berkeley, U Mass Amherst, U Michigan, UNH, Wash U. St. Louis, Wellesley, William & Mary, Williams, Yale

<10 Students: Amherst, Appalachian State, Auburn, Barnard, Bates, Bentley, Berea College, Binghamton, Boston University, Brandeis, Bryant, Bucknell, Cal Tech, Carleton, Carnegie Mellon, Catholic U of America, Central CT State U, Clark, Clarkson, Clemson, Colby-Sawyer, Colgate, Colorado College, Columbia Univ. - Sciences Po Dual BA Program, Concordia, Connecticut College, CUNY Bernard M. Baruch, CUNY Macaulay Honors College, CUNY Sophie Davis, Davidson, Denison, Dickinson, Drew, Drexel, Duke, Emory, Endicott, Florida A&M, Fordham, Franklin and Marshall, Furman, Grinnell, Hamilton, Harvey Mudd, Haverford, Hobart and William Smith, Howard, Indiana Bloomington, James Madison, Johns Hopkins, Lehigh, Louisiana State, Macalester, Marist, Merrimack, Michigan State, Middlebury, Morehouse, Mount Holyoke, Northwestern, Oberlin, Occidental, Ohio State, Penn State, Pomona, Reed, Rhodes, Rice, RIT, Rollins, RPI, Rutgers – New Brunswick, Rutgers - Newark, Saint Anselm, Saint Leo, Santa Clara, Santa Monica, Sarah Lawrence, Sciences Po, Scripps, Skidmore, Smith, SMU, South Dakota State, Southwestern, Spelman, St. Lawrence, St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Olaf College, Stanford, Stetson, Stockton, Stony Brook, Swarthmore, Syracuse, The New School, Townson, Trinity, Tulane, Union (NY), U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U Alabama, U Arkansas, UC – Davis, UC - Irvine, UC - San Diego, UC - Santa Barbara, UCLA, U Colorado - Boulder, UConn, U Denver, U Florida, U Georgia, U Hawaii at Manoa, U Houston, U Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, U Illinois – Chicago, U Kentucky, U Maine, U Maryland, U Miami, U Minnesota – Twin Cities, U Nebraska – Lincoln, U Oregon, U Pittsburgh, U Rhode Island, U Richmond, U Rochester, U South Carolina, U Tennessee, U Texas - Austin, U Texas – San Antonio, U Utah, U Vermont, U Virginia, U Washington, U Wisconsin – La Crosse, U Wisconsin - Madison, Vanderbilt, Vassar, Villanova, Wake Forest, Washington & Lee, Wesleyan, WPI

International: American U Paris, Edinburgh, Hanzehogeschool Groningen, Imperial College London, ITEMS - Campus Monterrey, McGill University, Nottingham Trent University, Trinity College Dublin, U British Columbia, Universita Bocconi, Universiteit Utrecht, Oxford, U St. Andrews, U Toronto