Swarthmore is a private, coeducational, residential college offering a liberal arts and engineering curriculum. Located 11 miles southwest of Philadelphia, Swarthmore educates students to become leaders for the common good.

**WHY SHOULD YOU READ THIS?**

- Get an update from our Dean of Admissions
- Find out what we look for in student applications
- Learn how we remove barriers in the application process
- Understand our three major financial aid commitments
  - Explore how we support our students
  - Hear about life after Swarthmore
Dear Colleague:

I send you greetings from Swarthmore College. We are looking forward to connecting with many of you at virtual school visits and professional conferences, or — when circumstances allow — on Swarthmore’s beautiful 425-acre arboretum campus. Please feel free to contact me (jbock2@swarthmore.edu) if you have questions or comments.

We realize many schools around the world continue to experience disruptions as a result of the public health crisis. Our regional deans are here to help. We want you to know that we will work with prospective students and applicants to ensure that they are able to apply to Swarthmore, regardless of circumstances.

We are committed to increasing access and removing barriers for underserved students. For students applying to Swarthmore in the 2021 — 2022 admissions cycle, we have suspended our requirement that applicants submit SAT or ACT scores. Students will have the option to submit scores to us, and they will have the option for us not to consider scores already submitted. Submission of test scores for next year remains optional, and we will revisit the policy in the spring of 2022. In addition, students have two new options for supplemental essay prompts. If your students cannot visit campus, please encourage them to explore our robust virtual options — visit our website for more details.

The average financial aid award for the Class of 2023 for the 2019 — 2020 academic year was $56,326 toward last year's asking price of $70,744. Students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, should not remove high-priced schools from their lists before taking a closer look at financial aid policies. We offer loan-free, need-based decisions for all students receiving grant aid at Swarthmore. Starting this year, all of our students receive a $700 allowance for required course materials as part of tuition charges. We also revised our financial aid decision letter to make it clearer and easier to understand.

Swarthmore College enters its 16th year as a QuestBridge partner for the 2020 — 2021 academic year, and our team also continues to read applications from all undocumented and DACA students on a need-blind basis for both first-year and transfer admission. We hope you will remind your students that we have a long-standing commitment to provide financial aid to all students whose potential family resources fall short of our charges.

Please let us know how we might participate in any special programs or workshops at your school or organization, and how we can continue to strengthen our relationships with you and your students. Our regional deans look forward to working with you and your students.

Sincerely,

James L. Bock ’90  
Vice President and Dean of Admissions
HOW DO WE REMOVE OBSTACLES TO ADMISSION?

Application fee waivers: Students may select their need for a fee waiver on the Common Application or the Coalition Application. Students may also use SwatPass, an online tool that allows students to answer a few questions and self-identify their need for a fee waiver.

Test-optional and self-reported test scores: Standardized test scores are not required for students applying during the 2021 — 2022 admission cycle. Students who choose to submit scores may self-report them in lieu of submitting and paying for official scores from the testing agency.

Undocumented student policy: Our Quaker heritage informs our work. That’s one reason why we admit and fund undocumented and DACA-eligible first-year and transfer students the same way we do any domestic student.

Discover Swarthmore: Typically, we host a few hundred students on campus each fall to explore life at Swarthmore. The program is an all-expenses-paid trip to the College, and we accept nominations from counselors and advisers.

Swatlight: We believe that every admitted student should have the same ability to visit campus. Each spring, we typically host another all-expenses-paid trip to Swarthmore for admitted students who are the first in their families to attend college, come from low-income backgrounds, or have been working with a community-based organization.

Enrollment fees: Swarthmore automatically waives enrollment deposits for qualified students, and we do not ask for a housing deposit.

We accept the following applications:

Students should choose only one application to apply to Swarthmore.
Money for textbooks: Every student receives a $700 annual credit to support the purchase of required course materials, through Swarthmore's new Textbook Affordability Program.

Cash-free campus and cash-free consortium: There are no "additional fees" at Swarthmore. Nearly everything is included in the annual activities fee, so things like movie nights, laundry, printing, and athletic events are free to all students. In addition, Swatties may eat in the dining halls and attend most events for free at Haverford and Bryn Mawr colleges.

Campus spaces and programs: Swarthmore supports students from diverse backgrounds with programs sponsored by the Black Cultural Center, the Women's Resource Center, the Hormel-Nguyen Intercultural Center at Sproul Hall, the Interfaith Center, and the International Student Center. We also offer services, events, and resources that support the personal and intellectual development of Asian American, Latinx, multiracial, Native American, queer (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender), low-income, international, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities.

First-Gen/Low-Income: Swarthmore's FLI (First-Gen/Low-Income) Program assists students in building community, finding support, and taking advantage of College resources while bringing together FLI students, staff, and faculty.

Student Emergency Fund: Students who find themselves facing an urgent financial shortfall for expenses not included in the cost of attendance receive monetary support when they need it.

Undocumented students: A member of the Dean's Office staff supports undocumented students with their specific questions and concerns, and a student-run organization provides community.

Mentoring: Initiatives like the Richard Rubin Scholar Mentoring Program and Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program provide thoughtful mentoring and significant funding to conduct research, attend conferences, and pursue professional development opportunities.

Internship and summer research funding: Students do not need to choose a paid internship over nonprofit or community work. The College provides funding programs for internships and summer research that are open to all students who wish to apply.

Swarthmore Summer Scholars Program (S3P): This program is designed for students who have been admitted to Swarthmore for the following fall and are the first in their families to attend college, come from a low-income background, or belong to a traditionally underrepresented group. S3P provides coursework in STEM and writing, along with mentorship from faculty and staff that lasts throughout the students' time at the College. Swarthmore pays all program expenses, and a stipend is provided.

WHAT ARE OUR FINANCIAL AID POLICIES?

Students should not be limited in their educational pursuits because of their inability to afford higher education.

Our admissions review does not take the ability to pay into consideration for U.S. citizens, permanent residents, eligible noncitizens (such as refugees), and undocumented students who graduate from a high school in the United States.

Swarthmore adds up the costs of attendance (tuition, activities fee, room and board, transportation, and personal expenses), determines what the family can reasonably pay (from $0 to total cost), and provides a financial aid decision for the difference between the total cost of attendance and the family contribution.

Swarthmore's financial aid decisions do not include loans. While some families choose to take out loans to pay the family contribution, all Swarthmore financial aid awards consist of grants (which do not have to be repaid) and an opportunity to earn money while working in a part-time College job.
Swarthmore cultivates interdisciplinary collaborations that enable students to pursue fascinating careers.

**Meaningful career services:** We offer a wide-ranging, valuable set of programs and resources that help Swatties figure out how to apply their knowledge in practical and meaningful ways after graduation, including:

- Funding for undergraduate research
- Externships and internships
- Career services
- Medical, dental, and veterinary school advising
- Law school advising
- Alumni connections

**Employment:** Graduating seniors enter careers in a variety of fields, including business, public service, scientific research, economics and policy research, law, writing/editing, technology, engineering, and education.

**Graduate school:** Swarthmore alumni regularly attend the nation’s finest graduate and professional programs, and 75% enroll within five years of graduation. In a recent national survey, Swarthmore alumni ranked third highest in the country for earned doctorates across all disciplines, first in social sciences, third in life sciences, fourth in humanities, and top 10 in education, math and computer sciences, and physical sciences.

**Medical, dental, and veterinary school:** The Health Sciences Office provides programming, resources, and personalized guidance to students and alumni who are considering a career in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or other health professions. In 2018, Swarthmore announced an early acceptance program with Thomas Jefferson University’s Sidney Kimmel Medical College for Swarthmore students who are interested in becoming physicians with expertise in health policy, population health, and community engagement. During the past five years, 84% of Swarthmore applicants were admitted to medical school, compared with a national average of 42%.

**Law school:** The Pre-Law Office counsels students throughout their time at Swarthmore, and assists them during the law school application process, facilitates a series of meetings with law school admissions deans each fall, and prepares dean’s certifications for students applying to law schools that require it. During the past five years, 94% of Swarthmore applicants to law school were accepted, compared with a national average of 77%.

Wherever life takes students after Swarthmore, they are ready.