

Swarthmore College

2020-21 Fact Book

Introduction

I compiled this twenty-second annual Swarthmore College Fact Book with assistance from Robin Huntington Shores, Assistant VP of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment, Jason Martin, Assistant Director for Institutional Analysis, and, of course, my many colleagues from across the College who contribute to the information found in these pages. To those contributors, I offer my gratitude for your continued assistance in reporting these data.

The Fact Book assembles tables and graphs of current and historical data reflecting the areas of the College that are asked about most often. Its purpose is to serve as a comprehensive reference and planning tool for members of the college community, and to provide a single source for many kinds of data and information. The Fact Book is also available on the web, at: <http://www.swarthmore.edu/institutional-research/fact-book>. While this print version of the Fact Book is updated just once a year, the tables in the online version of the Fact Book are kept updated as new data become available.

There are many different “true” statistics about an institution, each serving a necessary purpose. While it is frustrating for someone who simply wants to know how many students attend Swarthmore to learn that there are quite a few ways to answer that question, it should be recognized that each of those ways addresses a specific need and is correct for its own purpose. The data presented in this Fact Book do not represent the only way of looking at things, but rather “snapshots” of information at key points in time, according to the most commonly used definitions.

We welcome all comments and suggestions about the content and format of the College’s Fact Book.

Pamela Borkowski-Valentin
Assistant Director for Institutional Research
Office of Institutional Research