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## HWS Application Instructions

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### First-Year Applicant 2011-2012

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each first-year class at Hobart and William Smith Colleges is composed of highly motivated students from a wide range of academic, cultural, financial, geographic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Admission to the Colleges is highly selective. Successful applicants demonstrate strong academic achievement during secondary school, special talents and skills, and commitments and involvement outside the academic curriculum. While not a requirement for admission, we strongly urge prospective students to visit our campus, take a student-guided tour and have an interview. Arrangements for interviews can be made through the Office of Admissions.

Candidates must offer a strong and well-balanced secondary school record. In addition to involvement in community and school activities, special talents are also considered.

Candidates for admission are expected to complete a secondary school program with a minimum of four academic subjects each year. At a minimum that program should include four years of English, three or more years of mathematics, three or more years of social science, three or more years of science, and two or more years of a foreign language.

We recognize that school curricula vary, and therefore are willing to consider applications from students whose preparation for college differs from the suggested plan of study where there is clear evidence of continuity in the study of fundamental subjects and readiness for college.

#### ADMISSION PLANS FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Hobart and William Smith Colleges offer the following admission plans for first-year students: Early Decision, Regular Decision, and the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP, for New York State residents only).

- **Early Decision:** If you have identified Hobart or William Smith as your first choice for undergraduate study, we encourage you to apply under one of our Early Decision plans. Students who apply under an Early Decision plan agree to enroll at Hobart and William Smith if admitted and must withdraw all applications to other institutions upon enrollment. First-year students can opt for our **ED I** program, with a deadline for all application materials of **November 15**, or our **ED II** program, with a deadline of **January 1**. *Students who have applied under the Regular Decision plan (and whose applications are complete) can change their application status to ED II up until February 15.*
- **Regular Decision:** If you plan to apply as a Regular Decision candidate, all application materials are due by **February 1**.

#### NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID

Students who want to be considered for need-based financial aid must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the College Scholarship Service Profile (CSS/Profile). The FAFSA is available at [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov) and the Profile is available at <http://profileonline.collegeboard.com>.

#### MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Hobart and William Smith Colleges offer merit-based scholarships for academic excellence, artistic talent and leadership and service credentials established during the secondary school years. Some HWS scholarships require separate applications. Other scholarships are determined based on the information provided in your application for admission.

**Merit scholarships offered by Hobart and William Smith Colleges:**

• **Trustee Scholarships for Academic Excellence**—This competitive scholarship provides **\$20,000** a year toward the cost of attending Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Prospective students must complete the Trustee Scholarship Application and return it to the Office of Admissions by **January 1\***, along with all the required admissions application forms. The Admissions Committee will select 50-60 winners to attend a recognition day on our campus in **late Winter**. From the group of Trustee Scholarship winners who attend the recognition day, the Admissions Committee will select the winners of the full-tuition Hersh and Wood Scholarships. **See the Trustee Scholar application form for additional details.**

• **Arts Scholars Program**—Students with talent in studio art, music, dance and/or creative writing who want to vie for an Arts Scholarship must submit the application for the Arts Scholars Program, along with all admissions application materials, by **January 1\***. Arts Scholars winners will be selected by the arts faculty. Arts Scholarships range from **\$3,000 to \$15,000** toward expenses at Hobart and William Smith and are renewable each year upon recommendation of the arts faculty. **See the Arts Scholars application form for additional details.**

• **Elizabeth Blackwell Medical Scholars Program**—Students who are U.S. citizens and wish to attend medical school, who have exceptional academic credentials, and who meet **at least one** of the following criteria are eligible to apply for this full-tuition competitive scholarship. Applicants must be: from a rural background, from an underrepresented minority or first generation in family to attend college. **See Blackwell Medical Scholars application form for additional details.** The Blackwell Medical Scholarship application and admissions application materials must be submitted by **January 1\***.

• **Hersh Scholarships** cover **full tuition** and fees and are awarded to an entering first-year Hobart student and an entering first-year William Smith student who demonstrate an exceptional secondary school academic record as well as substantial extracurricular involvement and achievement in their school/community. The scholarship is renewable each year with the maintenance of a 3.2 GPA and completion of Honors work in the senior year. Recipients are selected by the Admissions Committee from the Trustee Scholars winners.

• **The Cornelius and Muriel P. Wood Scholarship** is awarded to one entering first-year student identified as the most outstanding high school student. This award is a **full-tuition** scholarship. The recipient is selected by the Admissions Committee from the Trustee Scholars winners.

• **Faculty Scholarships** are awarded to students who have a combination of a cumulative GPA of 90 or equivalent in core academic subjects and a class rank in the top 15 percent or higher. This scholarship award is **\$17,000** each year. Recipients are selected by the Admissions Committee. No separate application is required.

• **President's Leadership Award** is awarded to students with strong academic records, demonstrated and sustained leadership and high motivation. This scholarship award is **\$15,000** each year. Recipients are selected by the Admissions Committee. No separate application is required.

• **President's Service Award** is awarded to students with strong academic records and significant involvement in service/civic engagement activities in their schools and/or communities. This scholarship award is **\$15,000** each year. Recipients are selected by the Admissions Committee. No separate application is required.

**\*If you are applying for Admission under the Early Decision I plan (deadline is November 15) and you want to be considered for the Trustee, Arts or Blackwell Scholarships, you must submit all of the required materials associated with the scholarship you are applying for by the November 15 ED I deadline.**

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS**

1. Common Application submitted online or on paper
2. Submission of the HWS Supplement
3. School Report form completed by your guidance/college counselor
4. Official transcript (including current-year grades to date), along with a secondary school profile
5. Teacher Evaluation / Recommendation form from one teacher

6. Completed Mid-Year School Report, which should be submitted by your guidance/college counselor after completion of the full first semester or first term, if on a trimester calendar
7. A non-refundable \$45 application fee (fee is waived if application is submitted online)

Please note: Standardized test scores from either the **SAT** or **ACT** exams are **optional** for most applicants (see policy)

#### If you are applying for need-based financial aid:

1. Complete the FAFSA using the Hobart and William Smith Code **002731** by **February 15**.
2. Complete the CSS/Profile using the Hobart and William Smith Code **2294** by the appropriate date as indicated on the "Admissions and Financial Aid Timetable."

#### ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID TIMETABLE

	App. Due	Notification	CSS/Profile	FAFSA	Aid Notification	Candidate's Reply Date
<b>ED I</b>	11/15	12/15	12/1	2/15	12/15	1/1
<b>ED II**</b>	1/1	2/1	1/1	2/15	2/1	2/15
<b>Regular</b>	2/1	4/1	2/15	2/15	4/1	5/1

\*\*Students who have applied under the Regular Decision plan (and whose applications are complete) can change their application status to ED II until February 15. Notification of admission decision will be made within four weeks.

#### STANDARDIZED TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS

Hobart and William Smith are test optional for most first-year applicants\*

##### What does that mean for prospective students?

You'll have the choice to submit your SAT scores, ACT scores, or no standardized test scores at all\* when you apply to HWS. Over time, we've found that standardized tests do not play a big role in the way we select our students, so we've decided to let you choose whether or not we use them in the application review process.

We value many qualities in our students that are better measured by other elements of the application. We look for curiosity, conscientiousness, a strong work ethic, and a willingness to go beyond what is required. All of these things are best demonstrated in the high school transcript, recommendations, and the choices students have made about how they spend their time.

##### How do you decide if you should submit your scores to us?

Even though many students may struggle with this decision, we hope the answer is simple. Ask yourself this question, "Do you think your scores are a good representation of your skills and abilities?" If the answer is yes, send them in.

In order for your standardized test scores to be used in the assessment of your application for admission, your scores must be sent directly from the testing center or must appear on your official high school transcript and must arrive by the appropriate deadline. Self-reported test scores will not be considered. If you choose for us to use your standardized test scores, we will use the highest combined total of the individual components of the SAT scores. We will use the highest ACT Composite score if you submit ACT scores. If you submit both SAT and ACT scores, we will consider whichever scores are the highest based on a standard conversion chart comparing SAT and ACT scores.

Please note: If you indicate you would like your test scores used, it is your responsibility to ensure that we receive them by the appropriate deadline. If we do not have your scores on file at the time of evaluation, we will review and make a decision on your application without them. If you do not inform us of your choice on test score usage, we will review your application considering whatever official test score information we have, or don't have, at the time of evaluation.

\* For those applying for the Blackwell and Trustee Scholarships, standardized test scores are required. Also, for those who attend a school (or are home schooled) that does not provide a traditional transcript, standardized test scores are required.