

# CAMPUS BOUND

PREMIER COLLEGE ADMISSIONS  
and FINANCIAL AID SERVICES

## Hobart and William Smith Colleges

629 South Main Street, Geneva, NY 14456

### FAST FACTS

**Website:** [www.hws.edu](http://www.hws.edu)  
**Public or Private:** Private  
**Campus Setting:** Small Town  
**Total Enrollment:** 1,950  
**Undergraduates:** 1,940  
**Male/Female:** 46% / 54%  
**SAT CR Range:** 550 – 630  
**SAT Math Range:** 550 – 630  
**ACT Range:** 24 – 27  
**Applicants:** 3,515  
**Accepted:** 64%  
**Enrolled:** 26%  
**Returning Freshmen:** 86%  
**Living on Campus:** 100%  
**Admissions Contact:**  
800-852-2256  
[admissions@hws.edu](mailto:admissions@hws.edu)

### NEARBY SCHOOLS TO VISIT

[Ithaca College](#)  
University of Rochester  
Wells College

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### The Quick Overview

Two small colleges combine to make big opportunities at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. HWS places an emphasis on interdisciplinary study, close student-faculty relationships, and student leadership and athletics.

### History, Mission, and Geography

Hobart and William Smith Colleges began as completely separate institutions. Hobart College (for men) was founded in 1822 and William Smith College (for women) began in 1908. Over time, the proximity of the campuses and reduced opposition to co-education caused the colleges to naturally begin to share resources, faculty, and facilities. By 1941, co-educational classes were the norm at HWS. Today, Hobart and William Smith Colleges remain an interesting combination of separation and unification. Men receive their degrees from Hobart and women from William Smith. Every club, organization, and committee has a leader or representative from Hobart and one from William Smith. Hobart and William Smith have separate Academic Deans and Athletics Departments, but the same admissions office, housing, classes, and faculty. Located in Geneva, NY, the colleges are about an hour away from Rochester and Syracuse, two hours from Buffalo, and five hours from New York City. The beautiful, spacious campus sits right on the shores of Seneca Lake in the heart of New York's Finger Lakes region.

### Academics

Liberal arts are alive and well at HWS—a school with a longstanding tradition of interdisciplinary study. All students are required to complete a major and a minor or two majors in order to graduate. Additionally, one of these areas of study must be disciplinary (like biology, dance, or history) and one area must be interdisciplinary (like international studies, environmental science, or public service). Other college requirements focus on breadth of

# Campus Quick Looks™

## Hobart and William Smith Colleges

study; that is, there are no specific courses that all students must take but instead, their course selection must fulfill eight particular goals. As one faculty member said, “We hate distribution requirements—these goals are very different.” Students feel there is enough variety within the goals to ensure everyone is able to easily complete the requirements while taking classes they enjoy. All freshmen are paired with faculty advisors and small seminar groups during their first semester to ensure a personal approach and immediate connections between students and faculty.

Distinctive programs at HWS include the variety of interdisciplinary programs and unique majors and minors. Where else could you minor not just in Women’s Studies, but in Men’s Studies? How many other liberal arts colleges offer Architectural Studies? In addition, there is an emphasis on life experience as well; students are strongly encouraged to participate in internships and study abroad programs. In fact, HWS provides more than 30 different study abroad options—an unheard of amount for such a small college. Service learning is a popular option at HWS as well—even faculty members are encouraged to participate. For example, faculty members were allowed 90 days of paid leave to aid the relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina. Service learning projects are offered as part of first year orientation and several ‘alternative,’ service-oriented, spring break trips are also planned each year.

### Student Body

One benefit of the Hobart and William Smith Colleges partnership is that there are twice as many opportunities for leadership on campus. Each college has its own student government and each club on campus has an equal number of leaders representing each school. Club options are limitless and range from the Flying Squirrels (ultimate Frisbee team) to a cappella singing to paintball and glass blowing. Students are encouraged to start new clubs if their area of interest isn’t already represented. Some people describe the students as sporty and this is true—more than 75% of the students here participate in some kind of club or varsity team.

One academic Dean says that “though the faculty are pretty liberal, the students here are more moderate politically.” Students come mostly from the Northeast—46% are New York residents and an additional 30% hail from New England. Twelve percent of students identify themselves as students of color and/or international students. Though hoping to improve on these numbers, HWS is happy to announce that they are closer on the gender balance than most other small liberal arts institutions at 46% male, 54% female. Additionally, HWS is known for being generous with scholarships and financial aid—nearly 80% of the student body receives financial assistance.

### Campus and Residential Life

Surrounded by vineyards, the Finger Lakes, and farmland, Geneva, NY is home to Seneca Lake and Hobart and William Smith Colleges are on prime lakefront property. The two college campuses blend together to form one amazing landscape—this is a gorgeous place with incredible facilities. New construction on campus has enhanced the already impressive layout with new wireless residence halls, new academic buildings, and there’s a new field house renovation and turf football field on the way. Residence halls include a variety of options from traditional to apartment housing and from coeducational to single-sex options. Students rave about the dining options—Saga, the catering company of choice for many colleges and now a part of the Marriott Corporation, was actually founded by HWS alumni, who began operating the school’s cafeteria while they were undergraduates.

# **Campus Quick Looks™**

## **Hobart and William Smith Colleges**

Students love that HWS brings entertainment and speakers to campus. Recent guests include the Black-Eyed Peas and Al Gore, among others. Though urban dwellers may find Geneva, NY to be too rural for their tastes, the tourist attractions, history, and culture of the area are appealing to many. One student from Denver, Colorado, comments that Geneva is “the perfect college town.” Students who find the campus or location too small take advantage of the many exchange and study abroad programs the college offers—“there is always a way to get out there and experience more of the world, if necessary,” says one student.

### **Athletics**

HWS is the place to be for quality sports. The Hobart Statesmen and the William Smith Herons each field 11 varsity Division III teams; the one exception is the Hobart Lacrosse team which is the lone Division I sport on campus. The athletic facilities rival that of any Division I school—because of the nature of the two separate institutions there are twice the facilities of most small colleges. Varsity athletes have their own field house with training and workout facilities and non-varsity athletes have separate facilities to enjoy. The Athletic Director comments that this “takes the pressure off” the general fitness area and allows all students to experience less wait-time for machines and less wear and tear on the facilities as a whole. Each varsity team has its own team room with a cubby area for each individual athlete—definitely an upgrade from your standard D3 locker room! HWS teams play in the Liberty League competing against fellow NY teams like Hamilton, Skidmore, Rochester, Union, and Clarkson. Students who enjoy playing sports on any level will appreciate the athletic spirit, facilities, and support on the HWS campus.

### **The College in a Nutshell**

Hobart and William Smith Colleges have blended together to offer the best of all worlds. They offer single-sex leadership and academic attention with coeducational classes and socializing. HWS has a beautiful lakefront campus rich in history but with new facilities and opportunities to enrich one's education with time abroad or hands-on learning. HWS is putting itself on the map—as one of the most recent schools to drop the standardized test requirement in the admissions process, expect more and more people to “discover” all that HWS has to offer.

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