

VASSAR

EXPLORING TRANSFER PROGRAM

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in applying to the Exploring Transfer Program. This packet contains all the necessary forms for application.

About the Exploring Transfer Program

For over twenty years, the Exploring Transfer summer program has given community college students the chance to live and learn at Vassar College. In addition to rigorously preparing students for transfer to four-year institutions, the program provides students with a stimulating experience that enables them to decide if they would prefer to attend a challenging four-year liberal arts college. Correspondingly, students participating in the Exploring Transfer Program are immersed in an academically intensive five-week program, designed to foster the type of intellectual growth for which Vassar is known. Each student takes two Vassar courses at the 100-level, which are team-taught by a Vassar professor and a community college professor; lives on the Vassar campus, in dormitory housing; and takes meals in the campus dining halls. Vassar covers the cost of the courses, housing, food and books. In return, the program asks that students come with an eagerness to learn and a desire to challenge themselves academically, transcending boundaries previously thought impassable.

About Vassar College

Founded in 1861 and situated in Hudson Valley, Vassar College is a highly selective, residential, coeducational liberal arts college. Consistently ranked among the best liberal arts colleges in the country, Vassar is renowned for pioneering achievements in education, for its long history of curricular innovation, and for the beauty of its arboreal campus. The unique traditions upon which the college was founded continue to be cornerstones of the Vassar ethos: a determination to excel, a willingness to experiment, a dedication to the values of the liberal arts and sciences, a commitment to the advancement of equality between the sexes, and the development of leadership. The Vassar curriculum is characterized by boldness, breadth, and flexibility. Vassar graduates are recognized as a “breed apart” for their independence of thought. Consequently, Vassar College continues to stand at the forefront of liberal arts institutions.

Application Instructions

The Exploring Transfer packet contains four parts, with each part being labeled in the upper-right-hand corner of the page. Please prepare the forms in their entirety using **black** ink, carefully following the instructions in each section. Alternatively, you may download the forms to your computer and prepare them electronically. Throughout the application process, you should be working with an advisor from the Exploring Transfer committee at your respective community college. They will help ensure that your application is complete and that you have met all the necessary application requirements. A complete application packet must contain **all of the following**:

- One copy of forms 1, 3 and 4
- Two instructor evaluations (form 2) – *note: faculty may opt to send this form independently*
- One official copy of your community college transcript
- One copy of your personal essay

Applications are due March 31.

For the 2009 summer: Program begins June 12 and ends July 17.

APPLICATION

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Community College: _____
Please Specify

Legal Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Preferred to be called: _____ Birthdate: _____ SS# --
Month/Day/Year

Home Address: _____
Street Apt #

_____ City State Zip Code

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

US Citizen Permanent US Resident/Citizen of: _____ Not US Citizen: _____
Country of Citizenship Country of Citizenship

Ethnic Background: Please identify your racial or ethnic status

Asian American

- Chinese
- Japanese
- Korean
- Pacific Islander or Filipino
- Other Asian: _____
Please Specify

Hispanic or Latino

- Central or South American
- Mexican or Chicano
- Puerto Rican
- Other Latino: _____
Please Specify

Black

- African
- African-American
- West Indian
- Other Black: _____
Please Specify

Native American / Alaskan

- Caucasian or White
- Other: _____
Please Specify

Gender: Male Female Other: _____
Please Specify

What is your primary language? _____ Language spoken at home? _____

Place of birth: _____
City State Country

Occupation: _____ Number of hours worked/wk: _____
Attach brief employment history (optional)

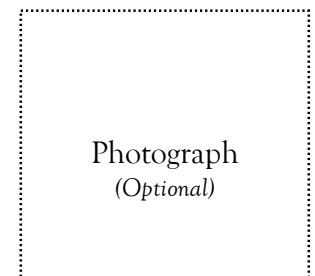
Employer Name: _____ Employer phone number: _____

Employer Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Primary Means of Support: _____
Please Describe

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Separated

How did you learn of the Exploring Transfer Program and what aspect(s) of it appealed to you?



EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Please indicate your current enrollment status: Full Time Part Time Current G.P.A _____

Please indicate the number of credits that you have earned by January of the year for which you are applying: _____

In the box below, please list the courses in which you are currently enrolled (Spring term):

Course Title	No. Credits

Please list in chronological order the secondary school(s) you attended from grade nine:

Name of School	City	State/Nation (if not US)	Dates attended	Diploma/Degree
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Please list in chronological order the colleges/universities you attended (are currently attending):

Name of School	City	State/Nation (if not US)	Dates attended	Diploma/Degree
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If there are gaps in your educational record or if there are other special circumstances in your educational history, please briefly describe the details below:

FUTURE EDUCATION

Will you be returning to your community college in the Fall, or will you be enrolled at a four-year school?

If you intend to be enrolled at a four-year school, to which schools have you applied, if any?

Have you been accepted to any four-year school(s)? Which?

What is your proposed major at a four-year school?

FAMILY INFORMATION

Parent 1:

Full name: _____ Gender: _____ Living: _____

Home address: _____

Occupation: _____

Position

Name of business or organization

Name of college (if any): _____ Degree and year: _____

Parent 2:

Full name: _____ Gender: _____ Living: _____

Home address: _____

Occupation: _____

Position

Name of business or organization

Name of college (if any): _____ Degree and year: _____

If you have any siblings, please list their names and ages. Please include the names of colleges each has attended (if any), degrees earned, dates of enrollment, and/or their occupations:

Names and ages of children (if any):

Name	Age	Place of residence	Supported by you?

Others that you support: _____

My signature below indicates that all information contained in my application is complete, factually correct and honestly prepared.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this completed form by March 31 to: Exploring Transfer Program, Vassar College, Box 3755, Poughkeepsie, New York 12604.

INSTRUCTOR'S EVALUATION

Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Community College: _____
Please Specify

TO THE INSTRUCTOR:

Dear Colleague:

Instructor recommendations are a critical component of the student's application because they provide the admissions committee with insight that extends beyond the student's grades, allowing us to learn about the student's distinct personality and learning style. Please complete the brief questionnaire below, and then provide additional written comments or information that you think might be helpful to us. In your response, please discuss the following: What is the student's capacity for functioning in an intensively challenging academic environment that involves critical thinking and rigorous analytical writing? How well does the student write? What would you consider the student's greatest strengths and weaknesses? In what areas does the student need the most improvement? You may either use the space provided or attach a signed copy of your evaluation.

What three words best describe the applicant? _____

I recommend this student to the Vassar Exploring Transfer Program:

For academic qualities: enthusiastically very strongly strongly fairly strongly
(top few) (top 10%)

For personal qualities: enthusiastically very strongly strongly fairly strongly
(top few) (top 10%)

Name and Title: _____ Department: _____
(Please print)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WRITING SAMPLE - PERSONAL ESSAY

Name: _____
Last First M.I.Community College: _____
Please Specify

The reasoning and writing skills demanded by an analytical essay are central to a liberal arts education. We are interested in knowing more about you as an individual. The questions below provide you with an opportunity to tell us about yourself and your aspirations. It also allows you to demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself. We assume that your essay will be your own original work. On separate sheets of paper, please compose an essay of approximately 500 words (2-3 pages), and be sure to label it with your name. Your essay must be typed (Times Roman 12pt and double spaced), well structured and analytical, evaluating all aspects of your experience. Please be sure that you address each of the following questions below. You do not need to do so in the order in which they are presented.

Exploring Transfer students have, in their academic and life achievements, demonstrated the personal authority and ability to strive for academic success, despite the educational limitations often imposed on them by realities such as race, gender, and financial constraint.

- How have your life experiences affected your access to education and other opportunities?
- How has the academic experience at your community college challenged you intellectually, and in which areas do you aspire for even greater challenge?
- What factors spurred your desire to apply to this program?

YOUR SPACE (Optional)

Your Space is your opportunity to allow the admission committee to learn something about you that you have not addressed in another section of the application. Please feel free to use space below in your own way, or include the Your Space submission, labeled with your name, with your application. Due to the volume of submissions, we will be unable to return your work. Please do not send in anything that is irreplaceable.

EXPLORING TRANSFER PROGRAM

MID-SEMESTER GRADE REPORT

Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Community College: _____
Please Specify

TO THE STUDENT:

The mid-semester grade report is an important part of your application packet. It gives the admissions committee a general sense of your current academic performance. Please prepare this form with the names of the courses in which you are currently enrolled (Spring term). Then, bring it to each of your instructors, have them enter the appropriate grade and ensure that they sign in the space provided.

TO THE INSTRUCTOR:

Dear Colleague:

Please assist us in evaluating the student's current performance. In the space below, please estimate, to the best of your ability, the student's current grade average in your course. We understand that this may be difficult given the amount of work completed at this point in the semester. If you are unable to provide us with a grade (i.e. because no graded work has been completed), please indicate the student's performance by writing "S" or "U" for satisfactory or unsatisfactory, respectively.

Course title	Grade	Instructor's name	Instructor's signature