

# Profile 2024-25



975 Westtown Road | West Chester | PA 19382-5700 | (610) 399-7935 | CEEB Code: 395230

Founded in 1799 by the Religious Society of Friends, Westtown School continues to be one of the nation's best-known Quaker schools. Situated on 600 acres in Chester County, Pennsylvania, Westtown is accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools.

Students at Westtown are challenged to realize their intellectual, physical, emotional, and spiritual potential. Truth, openness, and honesty are values which undergird the school community. A spirit of inquiry reigns in the classroom, and students are encouraged to think creatively, to feel the condition of others, and to listen to their inner selves.

Through innovative and engaging teaching practices and challenging, intentional, experiential curricula, students are prepared to thrive in a world characterized by technological and social change, equipped with critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills. They are encouraged and empowered to be confident leaders of a just and compassionate future, to be active and empathetic participants in building healthy communities, and to be stewards of the natural world.

**Christopher L. Benbow**, Head of School  
**Veda R. Robinson**, Upper School Principal  
**Karen H. Gallagher**, Dean of Academics  
**Jessica K. Smith**, Director of College Counseling

**Laurel Weijer**, Associate Director of College Counseling  
**Fernando Gomes**, Assistant Director of College Counseling  
**Debra A. Weaver**, Registrar, College Counseling Coordinator

## ENROLLMENT

- ❖ Coeducational since the school's founding, Westtown's student body consists of 665 students in grades Pre-K through 12.
- ❖ Students come from 20 states and 22 countries.
- ❖ The Upper School (grades 9-12) enrolls 358 students (103 day students and 255 boarding).
- ❖ 5% are Quakers, 52% are American students of color, and 21% are international students.
- ❖ Need-based financial aid is received by 55% of students in the Upper School.
- ❖ From the Class of 2024, 92 students enrolled in four-year colleges, two enrolled in international universities, and two did not immediately enroll in college and deferred for a gap year. The Class of 2025 totals 89.

## SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE CURRICULUM

**Co-Curriculars:** Westtown's co-curricular program is rooted in the values of teamwork, collaboration, and creativity. All students must engage in the co-curricular program and participate in activities emphasizing skill-building, communication, creative expression, performance, competition, and individual and community-based growth. Co-curricular activities require students to demonstrate their skills through performance-based activities such as an athletic competition, a theater performance, or an outdoor leadership trip. The variety of co-curricular offerings allows students to select activities aligned with their interests and passions.

**Certificate Programs:** The Deep Dive Certificate Program challenges students to grow as leaders, to "become the change they want to see," and to lead others in developing a better world. Students may choose to participate in one of six interdisciplinary programs of study: Sustainability Leadership; Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice; Global Leadership; Multidisciplinary Arts; and Data-Driven Change. The programs include coursework, research projects, mentorship, experiential learning, and leadership on campus. Students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades who join this program create a focused, in-depth exploration of an area of passion across a number of subjects.

**Work Program:** Work Program reaffirms the value of service to others and the dignity of all work. All Upper School students complete a variety of work experiences, including janitorial and kitchen jobs. Students exhibiting excellent leadership skills may also be selected as a captain of a work crew, gaining valuable

experience in leadership and management of a team working toward a common goal.

**Independent Research:** Students who have completed the full program of study in a department may design an independent study to continue to pursue that subject in greater depth, most often in math, computer science, and world language. Scientific Research (Advanced) is a course that brings together students focused on their own independent, original long-term scientific studies.

**Discipline Council:** When major school infractions arise, consequences are determined by a panel of students and faculty members. Students serving on the Discipline Council are seen as moral and ethical leaders in the community; this group is committed to understanding discipline as an opportunity for learning and growth. Westtown reports to colleges disciplinary incidents resulting in dismissal or withdrawal. Students are expected to answer colleges' discipline questions honestly, with support from their college counselor.

**International Exchange and Service Trips:** In addition to living and learning in a dynamic, global community, Westtown offers innovative international programming featuring cross-cultural immersion and service worldwide. These programs reinforce the global competencies we expect of all our graduates. Students lead activities in both classroom and community life, design projects that put their beliefs and understanding of the world into action, and collaborate with others to learn from new cultures.

# CURRICULUM

**Course levels:** All courses are college preparatory. Academic departments identify their most rigorous courses as Advanced. There are 50+ Advanced courses offered; it is impossible to take all of them. A complete description of our curriculum is available in our [Curriculum Guide](#).

**Course load:** A typical course load for freshmen and sophomores consists of five year-long courses and one or more semester-long courses. The minimum requirement for juniors and seniors is five courses per semester; the maximum is seven. The academic program offers students both breadth and depth of study across the curriculum. The faculty emphasizes the quality of study over quantity, especially in the junior and senior years. Summer courses for credit show the course, credit, and grade on the transcript.

**GPA:** The GPA is calculated on a 100 point scale at the end of each semester. The cumulative GPA is updated at the end of each school year. Only Westtown credit-bearing classes are included in the GPA. We include all graded courses and do not weigh any class more heavily than another.

Highest GPA in Class of 2025	Lowest	Average
97.96	76.91	90.7

Reflecting the Quaker testimony of equality, comparative statistics (class rank, checkboxes) are not reported. When students repeat a course, both grades appear on the transcript. Credit is awarded for the most recent course.

## SELECTED ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH GRADE COURSES

### PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

- Symphonic Band 1-4
- String Orchestra 1-4
- Jazz Ensemble 1-4
- Acting Workshop
- Applied Music 1-4
- Ceramics 1-3
- Digital Music and Studio Production 1, 2
- Drawing and Painting 1, 2
- From Blues to EDM: Popular Music in American Culture
- Performing Arts Advanced Tutorial
- Photography and Digital Art 1, 2
- Sculpture 1,2
- Storytelling and Performance
- Studio Arts Forum (Adv)
- Theater Arts Topics (Adv)
- Woodworking 1,2,3

### ENGLISH

- Challenging the Canon: Great Books & Their Contemporary Connections (Adv)
- Contemporary Award Winning Fiction (Adv)
- Contemporary World Literature (English 11)
- Creative Writing\*
- Dystopian Literature\*
- The Essay (English 12)
- The Short Story\*
- World Mythology\*
- Writing & Critical Film Studies\*
- Writing with Power\*

### HISTORY

- 9/11 & US-Middle Eastern Relations\*
- African American Experience\*
- Cold War & US-China Relations\*
- Contemporary Affairs\*
- Gender & Queer Studies\*
- Genocide Studies 1 and 2\*
- Latinx-American Experiences\*
- Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
- Modern Africa\*
- Modern Asia\*
- Modern Latin America\*
- World History: 1300-1800\* & 1800-2000\*

### MATHEMATICS

- Statistics
- Calculus 1\*
- Calculus 2 (Adv)
- Linear Algebra (Adv)
- Multivariable Calculus (Adv)
- Differential Equations (Adv)

### ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Introduction to Mechanical Engineering
- Introduction to Programming
- Dynamic Application Development
- Website Development
- Computer Science 1 (Adv)
- Design Engineering
- Design Engineering Solutions 1, 2 (Adv)

### WORLD & CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

- Chinese 3, 4 (Adv), 5 (Adv), 6 (Adv), 7(Adv)
- French 4 (Adv), 5 (Adv), 6 (Adv)
- Latin 3, 4 (Adv), 5 (Adv)
- Spanish 3, 4 (Adv), 5 (Adv), 6 (Adv)

### SCIENCE

- Anatomy & Physiology (Adv)
- Applied Chemistry
- Astronomy
- Bioethics
- Biology of Disease
- Chemical Bonding/Equilibrium (Adv)
- Chemical Reactions (Adv)
- Electricity & Magnetism (Adv)
- Environmental Science 1, 2\*
- Molecular Biology (Adv)
- Modern Physics (Adv)
- Scientific Research (Adv)
- Zoology & Biochemistry of Animal Behavior\*

### RELIGION

- Environmental Justice\*
- Ethics & Philosophy\*
- Gender, Sexuality, & World Religions\*
- World Religions 1: Judaism and Christianity
- World Religions 2: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- 4 English
- 3 Mathematics
- 2 Lab Science
- 2 History (including US)
- 2 Language
- 1.5 Art
- 1.75 Religion (Quakerism, World Religions 1, World Religions 2, and 1 elective)



American University (8)	Kutztown University of Pennsylvania	The Ohio University
Amherst College (4)	Lafayette College (9)	The University of Edinburgh
Anderson University	Lehigh University (3)	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2)
Arcadia University	Lesley University	
Arizona State University	Limestone College (2)	The University of Tampa
Art Center College of Design	Long Island University (Post) (2)	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Auburn University	Loyola University Maryland (2)	The University of Texas, Austin (2)
Barnard College (3)	Loyola University New Orleans	Thomas Jefferson University (3)
Bennington College (2)	Macalester College	Tufts University (4)
Binghamton University	Manhattan College	Tulane University of Louisiana (4)
Boston College (4)	Marquette University (2)	Union College
Boston University (7)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States Military Academy
Bowdoin College (2)	Michigan Technical University	University of California, Berkeley (4)
Brown University	Middlebury College (2)	University of California, Irvine (3)
Bryn Mawr College (3)	Monmouth University	University of California, Los Angeles (3)
Bucknell University (4)	Mount Saint Mary's University (2)	University of California, San Diego (2)
California State University (Fullerton)	New Jersey Institute of Technology	University of California, Santa Cruz
Carnegie Mellon University (5)	New York University (6)	University of Chicago (2)
Case Western Reserve University (2)	North Carolina A & T State University	University of Colorado at Boulder (8)
Catholic University of America (2)	Northeastern University (6)	University of Connecticut (2)
Cleveland Institute of Music	Nova Southeastern University	University of Delaware (3)
Coastal Carolina University	Occidental College	University of Denver
Colby College (2)	Ohio State University	University of Florida
Colgate University (3)	Ohio Wesleyan University	University of Iowa
College of Charleston (6)	Olin College of Engineering	University of Maryland, Baltimore County (2)
College of William & Mary (3)	Onondaga Community College	University of Maryland, College Park (3)
Columbia College (Chicago)	Pace University	University of Massachusetts-Amherst (2)
Columbia University (2)	Pennsylvania State University (10)	University of Miami (7)
Connecticut College	Princeton University (4)	University of Michigan (2)
Cornell University (2)	Purdue University (4)	University of North Carolina at Wilmington (2)
CUNY Hunter College	Queens University of Charlotte	University of Notre Dame
Dartmouth College (2)	Regent University	University of Oregon
Davidson College (8)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Pennsylvania (9)
Delaware State University	Rhode Island School of Design	University of Pittsburgh (6)
Denison College (2)	Rhodes College (2)	University of Richmond (7)
Dickinson College (3)	Rochester Institute of Technology (4)	University of San Francisco (3)
Drexel University (10)	Royal Veterinary College (UK)	University of Southern California (2)
Duke University (3)	Rutgers University (4)	University of Toronto
Duquesne University (2)	Saint Joseph's University	University of Vermont (6)
Durham University	San Diego State University	University of Virginia (2)
Earlham College	San Jose State University	University of Waterloo
Eastern University	Santa Clara University	University of Wisconsin-Madison (3)
Elizabethtown College	Santa Monica College	Ursinus College (6)
Elon University	Sarah Lawrence College (3)	Vanderbilt University
Emory University (2)	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Vassar College (2)
Fairfield University	Seton Hall University (2)	Villanova University (3)
Florida State University	Sewanee: The University of the South	Virginia Commonwealth University
Fordham University (2)	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania	Virginia Military Institute
Franklin & Marshall College (6)	Skidmore College (4)	Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (3)
George Washington University	Smith College (3)	Wagner College (2)
Georgetown University (2)	Southern Methodist University	Wake Forest University (2)
Gettysburg College (2)	Spelman College (3)	Washington and Jefferson College (2)
Goucher College	Springfield College	Washington College
Guilford College	St. Lawrence University	Washington University in St. Louis (5)
Hamilton College - NY	St. Thomas University (FL)	Wellesley College (4)
Hampshire College (2)	Stanford University	Wesleyan University
Hampton University	Stetson University	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Harvard University	Stony Brook University	West Virginia University
Haverford College (9)	SUNY at Albany	Wheaton College MA (2)
High Point University	Swarthmore College (6)	Williams College (2)
Hobart and William Smith Colleges (4)	Syracuse University (4)	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Ithaca College	Temple University (3)	Xavier University
James Madison University (2)	Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology	Yale University
Johns Hopkins University (5)	The College of Wooster	
Kenyon College (3)	The New School - All Divisions (2)	