

Admission Policies

Policy/Procedure

Dickinson uses a holistic approach to the review of candidates for admission.

The Office of Admissions reviews all candidates applying as degree-seeking students—whether first-year or transfer, domestic or international—whereas the [Registrar's Office](#) reviews all candidates for guest student status and continuing education. The Office of Admissions also reviews candidates for merit-based [scholarships](#) for incoming students.

Application Forms Dickinson College is a member of the Common Application. Students may access the Common Application at www.commonapp.org, or the Coalition Application + SCOIR at [Coalition Application](#). Financial aid applications are due by the same deadline as the (Early Decision, Early Action or Regular Decision) admission deadline:

- Domestic students wishing to pursue federal funding must also submit the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA).
- Domestic and international students wishing to pursue institutional funding must submit the [CSS Profile](#) form.
- International candidates must submit the [Certification of Finances](#) form, and if they are unable to complete the CSS Profile, the [International Student Financial Aid Application](#) Form.

Applicant Portal Candidates for admission will be given unique login credentials to access the online Applicant Portal which provides checklists of items required to complete the application for admission and financial aid, posting of admission outcomes, scholarship decisions, financial aid packages, and other information for the particular student.

First-Year Admission

Programs Dickinson offers three first-year application programs: Early Decision, Early Action and Regular Decision.

- Early Decision The college actively encourages early decision applications from students for whom Dickinson is clearly their first-choice college. Students may apply for early decision admission and financial aid by November 15 (Early Decision I) or January 15 (Early Decision II). Decisions for completed applications will be sent in mid-December and mid-February respectively. In addition to fulfilling the regular requirements for admission, Early Decision candidates must submit the Early Decision Agreement Form. Following the submission of an enrollment deposit, it is the obligation of an admitted Early Decision candidate to Dickinson is to withdraw all other college applications, which is applied to the first semester tuition charges, by the deadline specified in the

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acceptance letter. Admitted Early Decision candidates can be released from the promise of enrollment at the discretion of the Dean of Admissions for reasons such as financial hardship, medical issues, etc.

- Early Action reinstated August 2026. Students may apply Early Action for admission and financial aid by November 15 without a binding commitment. Candidates admitted through Early Action must accept or decline the offer of admission by May 1.
- Regular Decision Students may apply Regular Decision for admission and financial aid by January 15 without a binding commitment. Candidates admitted through Regular Decision must accept or decline the offer of admission by May 1.

Requirements The minimum requirement for entrance to Dickinson is the satisfactory completion of a secondary-school program of at least 16 units, including four units of English, three units of natural science (at least two with labs), two units of social science and three units of college-preparatory mathematics. Two units of one world language are preferred but not required. The remaining units should be within these academic areas. Most applicants to Dickinson complete more than the minimum requirements.

Application Review A student's high grades earned in solid academic courses from an accredited secondary program are among the most significant factors in the application review process. This record offers the clearest signal of high motivation, good study habits, strong self-discipline and intellectual curiosity. The admissions staff also looks at engagement in outside activities—the talents, interests, and leadership potential demonstrated through school and community activities—as well as the student's demonstration of fit and interest in Dickinson's distinctive character.

Primary credentials for admission to Dickinson are 1) the secondary school academic record; 2) leadership and commitment in extracurricular activities; 3) the official recommendation from the secondary school guidance counselor, college advisor, headmaster or principal plus recommendations from teachers in academic subjects; 4) the application, including the essay.

Optional credentials for admission to Dickinson are 1) SAT I or ACT scores; 2) admissions interview; 3) supplemental essay questions.

There is no application fee.

Supplementary materials—for instance, additional recommendations, graded writing samples or articles—may be reviewed by the admissions committee. Arts materials may be reviewed by faculty in the arts who may offer feedback to the admissions committee on the strength of the submission.

The Office of Admission maintains the right to waive any of these requirements.

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Submission of results from the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) became optional for admission for domestic candidates in 1994. While we may or may not be review AP or IB scores for Dickinson credit during the admissions process, we may take AP and IB scores and overall performance into consideration during our application review process. The college began accepting self-reported scores in 2018. Students self-reporting scores must provide official scores should they ultimately enroll. See the [standardized testing page](#) for additional details.

Transfer Admission

Programs Candidates for transfer admission may apply to enter in either the fall with an application deadline of April 1 or spring semester with an application deadline of November 1.

Requirements Dickinson College welcomes qualified applicants with previous academic work at other accredited college-level institutions. As a matter of definition, a candidate will be considered for transfer admission if the person is enrolled or has been enrolled at another institution as a full-time, degree-seeking student. An applicant normally will be considered for transfer admission if the person has been enrolled elsewhere as a degree candidate for the equivalent of at least two semesters, but a maximum of 16 course credits, prior to the term of desired enrollment at Dickinson.

Application Review The primary factors in the admission of transfer candidates, in addition to those required of first-year applicants, are the college transcript, the reasons for transfer, evidence of good academic and non-academic standing (as indicated by the College Report Form or similar official statement) and one recommendation from a professor.

Credit The formal credit evaluation occurs after the student has been accepted and deposited. Final determination of credit and the satisfaction of distribution requirements will be made by the [Registrar's Office transfer credit policy](#). Courses taken at a college or university located outside of the United States must be evaluated by [World Education Services](#) (WES). WES is an international academic credit evaluation agency. Dickinson College requires the Comprehensive Course by Course evaluation. WES will require an official, translated transcript.

Community College Partnership - The [Community College Partnership Program](#) provides coordinated and structured advising for students identified in the first-year of study at the partner community college. In order to be considered for admission to Dickinson through this program, candidates must be a member of Phi Theta Kappa, earn at least 3.25 cumulative grade point average, and graduate with a transferable associate degree. If admitted, these students enroll with junior status to complete the Bachelor of Arts or Science degree at Dickinson in two years of full-time study.

International Student Admission

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Dickinson College encourages applications for both first-year and transfer admission from international students who are successful in their secondary school and whose English language is of sufficient quality to demonstrate an ability to succeed in our rigorous academic environment.

International students may apply for first-year admission through the Early Decision, Early Action and Regular Decision admission programs and for transfer admission through both the fall and spring transfer admission programs. Standardized test scores, such as the SAT or ACT, are optional for international applicants. English proficiency scores are required for students whose first language is not English or if they have not been in an English-speaking curriculum for at least three years.

Dickinson College has a limited international student financial aid budget to assist international students. Required forms for need-based aid are noted under Application Forms. International students may be awarded any of Dickinson's merit scholarships as well. Those offered need-based aid will be reminded in the acceptance letter that they should not anticipate additional funding—beyond that offered based on the information submitted with the application for admission and aid—and should enroll only if the current funding is sufficient.

Enrollment

In order to ensure a student's enrollment at Dickinson, an accepted candidate must submit an enrollment form and non-refundable enrollment deposit (unless waived) by the deadline stated in the acceptance letter. The enrollment deposit is applied toward the first-semester tuition charges.

Related Information

Deferred Admission

Some accepted students may wish to defer the start of their college experience until they have pursued an alternate activity for a year or two. Normally, experiences which enhance a student's educational background such as overseas travel, work, or study (but not coursework for credit from another college/university) are approved. The student requesting the deferral must make the non-refundable enrollment deposit by May 1. A written request which explains why the student wishes to defer admission and also describes the alternate activity must be submitted for approval by the Dean of Admissions by May 15.

Admission Volunteer Network

The Dickinson Admission Volunteer Network (AVN) is composed of alumni and parents representing the college both on and off campus. Members may be important sources of

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information for prospective students, parents, and high schools at college fairs, receptions, and interviews.

Early Admission

A student who plans to leave secondary school prior to the scheduled graduation, often a year in advance, is considered an Early Admission candidate. Such students usually have performed very well academically and have exhausted the highest-level course offerings of their schools.

Applications for Early Admission are reviewed on an individual basis, taking into consideration readiness to participate in a residential college environment as well as academic ability. An Early Admission applicant is required to have a personal interview prior to the application deadline and must have the written recommendation and approval of the secondary school counselor or equivalent.

Part-Time Status

Dickinson College is a traditional, residential liberal arts college and all students working toward a degree are expected to study full-time. Students seeking permission for part-time status must request that status through the [Registrar's Office](#).

Requirements for the Degree It is incumbent upon each student to review the [Requirements for the Degree](#) when considering whether to apply to or enroll at Dickinson. The College has established Requirements for the degree in broad categories, including a foreign language requirement. Such requirements have been established only to the extent that they are fundamental to the College's mission. Because they are fundamental to Dickinson's view of a liberal arts education, they will likely not be waived for any student.

Records The Office of Admission will pursue such practices as reasonably protect personally identifiable information that is outlined in record-retention policy.

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History/Revision Information

Responsible Office/Division: Admissions/Enrollment

Last Amended Date: 8/29/26