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The Ethical Culture Fieldston School is accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS). It is a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and complies with NACAC's Code of Ethics and Professional Practices.

2023–2024 Profile for Colleges

About our School

Founded by Felix Adler in 1878, the **Ethical Culture Fieldston School (ECFS)** offers a world-class progressive education in Pre-K–12th Grade at two historic campuses in Manhattan and the Bronx. Our upper school is Fieldston Upper, colloquially known as **Fieldston**. Most of our students come from the five New York City boroughs and Westchester County, with a small percentage of students commuting from northern New Jersey.

The core of our educational program is the study and practice of ethics, which prepares and compels us to take care of our world, ourselves, and each other.

Curriculum

The academic year is divided into two semesters. While most courses are designed for a full year's study, most electives in English and history — and some in ethics and science — are offered on a semester basis. A minimum of 17 units (also called majors) of credits, of which 16 must be in core academic subjects, is required for a student to graduate.

Adler Requirement: Beginning with the Class of 2023, Form V and VI students must earn two (2) major credits, one in English and one in history, in semester-long elective courses that focus on the histories and writings of people of marginalized identities and that are designated as approved Adler Requirement courses. The purpose of the Adler Requirement is to advance a progressive ethic, center pluralistic narratives versus solely majoritarian ones, and examine multiple discourses, including issues of social identity, inclusion, and marginalization. This requirement provides students with opportunities to appreciate cultural pluralism at large while also thinking critically about differences and social inequalities.

Ethics is a core academic subject. To graduate, students must complete at least two and a half years of ethics coursework along with a service learning requirement. The independent community service learning requirement at Fieldston is project/portfolio based and includes benchmarks and learning opportunities across all four years of high school.

All AP courses were eliminated from the curriculum beginning in September 2001. Foreign language, mathematics, and science placements are determined by a student's prior achievement; courses designated as intensive or advanced are the most demanding courses in their subject. With the exception of Advanced Senior Seminar, we do not designate English, ethics, or history courses as **intensive or advanced**. English and history electives offered in the 11th and 12th Grade are taught at a college level.

Grades and class rank

Letter grades ranging from A to F are given at the end of each marking period, with a small percentage of courses using a Credit/No Credit (CR/NCR) grading system.

We do not compute class rank or GPA. In alignment with our mission, we do not confer official honors or awards to our students; the only exception is for varsity letters in athletics.

Special programs

We offer two robust interdisciplinary programs: Humanities and City Semester. **Humanities** is a year-long course for 10th Graders that satisfies requirements and credits for English, ethics, and history. **City Semester** is a selective, interdisciplinary, experiential semester program focused on fostering a sense of civic leadership through the immersive study of New York City. Students apply for admission into City Semester, and the program, now in its twelfth year, is offered during both fall and spring semesters. Students in the program are not attending regular classes; this work is project-based and organized around both individual and group assignments drawing from multiple subjects and from the world beyond the classroom.

Given the program's interdisciplinary nature, the City Semester faculty has opted to provide skill-based assessment rather than traditional letter grades. All participants will receive a transcript that reflects the program's interdisciplinary, skills-based approach. For core academic course calculations as well as NCAA Clearinghouse requirements, City Semester students receive standard graduation credits for each discipline (English, History, Math, Science, World Language, Ethics, Arts, and PE).

We also offer independent study courses (by permission of the instructor and administration) in

Facts at a glance

600 students in Fieldston Upper	39% identify as students of color	22% receive tuition assistance
10:1 student/faculty ratio	33% of faculty/staff identify as people of color	

Minimum graduation requirements

English*	4 years
Ethics*	2.5 years + project/portfolio based service learning requirement
Foreign language*	3 years
History*	2 years
Mathematics*	3 years
Science*	2 years
Arts	2 years
Physical education	4 years

* denotes core academic subject.

Standardized testing

	SAT	ACT
Middle 50%	1330–1530	30–34
# of students tested	76	62

all disciplines, as well as a **Senior Project** for 12th Graders in the second semester. Approval for a Senior Project is selective: Students must present a proposal that is accepted by a committee of administrators. Given that the scope and time commitment of a Senior Project are equivalent to those of a traditional academic course, most students are allowed to drop a course. All students in the Senior Project program send detailed descriptions of their proposals to colleges, and the project appears on the transcript with a CR designation if completed satisfactorily.

Our visual and performing arts program is extensive and rigorous. While arts courses are usually graded CR/NCR, students may choose to **major in one of the arts** and receive letter grades for their coursework. Students who major in the arts are advised to take only four core academic subjects per semester, and their major designations appear on their transcripts.

Disciplinary policy

All disciplinary matters are brought before the Fieldston Upper Accountability and Restoration Council and/or Academic Integrity Board and reported to colleges accordingly by the student and counselor.

College destinations for the Classes of 2018–2023

100% of Fieldston students will attend a college or university

American University	Duke University+	Middlebury College+	Swarthmore College*	California+
Amherst College+	Emerson College	Morehouse College	Syracuse University+	University of St. Andrews
Babson College	Emory University+	Mount Holyoke College	The Cooper Union	University of Texas at Austin*
Baldwin Wallace University	George Washington University*	Muhlenberg College	Trinity College	University of Toronto
Bard College*	Georgetown University+	Naropa University	Trinity University	University of Vermont
Barnard College*	Goucher College	New York University+	Tufts University+	University of Virginia*
Bates College	Grinnell College	Northeastern University*	Tulane University+	University of Wisconsin+
Bennington College	Hamilton College+	Northwestern University+	Union College	Vanderbilt University+
Binghamton University	Hampshire College	Oberlin College+	Universidad de Navarra	Vassar College*
Boston College+	Harvard University	Occidental College*	University at Albany	Villanova University
Boston University+	Harvey Mudd College	Oxford College of Emory University	University of California at Santa Cruz	Wake Forest University+
Bowdoin College*	Haverford College+	Parsons School of Design	University of California—Los Angeles*	Washington & Lee University
Brown University+	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Penn State Behrend	University of Chicago+	Washington University in St. Louis+
Bryn Mawr College	Howard University	Pitzer College+	University of Colorado, Boulder	Wellesley College
Bucknell University*	Illinois Institute of Technology	Pomona College*	University of Miami*	Wells College
Carleton College	Indiana University*	Pratt Institute	University of Michigan+	Wesleyan University+
Carnegie Mellon University	Ithaca College*	Quinnipiac University	University of New Haven	Wheaton College (MA)
Case Western Reserve University	John Jay College of Criminal Justice	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Whitman College
Colby College+	Johns Hopkins University	Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)	University of Oregon	Whittier College
Colgate University+	Kenyon College+	Rice University	University of Ottawa	Williams College*
College of William and Mary	King's College of London	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Pennsylvania+	Yale University+
Colorado College+	Lafayette College*	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	University of Pittsburgh	
Colorado State University	Lehigh University*	Scripps College	University of Rhode Island	
Columbia University+	Lewis & Clark College	Skidmore College+	University of Richmond	
Connecticut College*	Manhattan College	Smith College	University of Rochester	
Cornell University+	Maryland Institute College of Art	Spelman College	University of Scranton	
Dartmouth College*	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	St. Lawrence University	University of Southampton	
Davidson College	McGill University*	Stanford University*	University of Southern	
Deep Springs College		SUNY Cortland		
Drexel University				

* denotes colleges where five or more students matriculated.
+ denotes colleges where ten or more students matriculated.