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. Please see the addendum for the spring 2020 grading policy.

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).
### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle 50%</td>
<td>1330–1530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of students tested</td>
<td>76</td>
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</tbody>
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### 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

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

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

100% of Fieldston students will attend a college or university.