Ethical Culture Fieldston School.

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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. **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

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

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

California+
University of St. Andrews
University of Texas at Austin*
University of Toronto
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
Wesleyan University+
Wheaton College (MA)
Whitman College
Whittier College
Williams College*
Yale University+

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