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**ECFS** 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.



## 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, one in Manhattan and one in 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, and a small number commute from northern New Jersey and Connecticut.

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 year-long study, most electives in English and history — and some in ethics and science — are offered on a semester basis. To graduate, students must complete a minimum of 17 majors (a year-long course taken six times per week), of which 16 must be in core academic subjects.

**Adler Requirement:** Beginning with the Class of 2023, 11th and 12th Grade students must earn two 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 gives students 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 three ethics courses and a service learning requirement. Service learning can be fulfilled through a classroom-based course or through an independent, project-based activity completed within the broader community.

Fieldston eliminated AP courses 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 and a small number of courses use 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 is offered during both fall and spring semesters of 11th Grade. Students in City Semester fulfill all their semester courses while participating in the program; the work is project-based and organized around 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 receive an additional narrative-transcript that reflects the program's interdisciplinary, skills-based approach.

## Facts at a glance

**634**

students in  
Fieldston Upper

**39%**

identify as  
students of color

**22%**

receive tuition  
assistance

**70%**

of faculty hold  
advanced degrees

**36%**

of faculty/staff identify  
as people of color

**10:1**

student/faculty  
ratio

### 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 and **Senior Projects** in the second semester of 12th Grade. Students are approved for a Senior Project after presenting an appropriate proposal for acceptance 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, students are typically allowed to take it in lieu of a core academic 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. ECFS created a special “arts major” for students who concentrate in fine or performing arts and take multiple major subjects in these disciplines. Students who pursue an arts major are advised to take only four core academic subjects per semester, and their major designation appears on their transcripts..

### Disciplinary policy

The School expects students to honestly answer any college application questions related to disciplinary infractions. Likewise, if the School receives an inquiry from a college or university regarding a specific student's disciplinary record, the School will answer honestly. This may include violations of ECFS rules, regulations, and policies, whether or not such violations resulted in a suspension.

## College destinations for the ECFS Classes of 2020–2025

American Univ.....1	Connecticut College.....3	Indiana Univ.....4	Princeton Univ.....8	Syracuse Univ.....23	Univ. of Richmond.....2
Amherst College.....8	Cornell Univ.....25	Ithaca College.....1	Purdue Univ.....1	Temple Univ.....3	Univ. of Rochester.....1
Babson College.....1	Dartmouth College.....8	Johns Hopkins Univ.....2	Quinnipiac Univ.....1	The College of Wooster.....1	Univ. of Saint Andrews.....1
Bard College.....2	Davidson College.....1	Kenyon College.....8	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.....1	Trinity College.....3	Univ. of Southern California.....5
Barnard College.....7	Deep Springs College.....2	Lafayette College.....2	Rice Univ.....2	Tufts Univ.....20	Univ. of St. Andrews.....3
Bates College.....1	Denison Univ.....1	Lehigh Univ.....11	Rhode Island School of Design.....1	Tulane Univ.....17	Univ. of Texas – Austin.....2
Bennington College.....1	Dickinson College.....1	Macalester College.....1	Rochester Institute of Technology.....4	Union College.....4	Univ. of Toronto.....2
Berklee College of Music.....3	Duke Univ.....13	Manhattan College.....1	Sacred Heart Univ.....1	Univ. of Binghamton.....1	Univ. of Vermont.....5
Binghamton Univ.....2	Elon Univ.....1	Marquette Univ.....1	Santa Clara Univ.....1	Univ. of California – Los Angeles.....3	Univ. of Virginia.....6
Boston College.....13	Emerson College.....1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology.....1	Sarah Lawrence College.....7	Univ. of California – Santa Barbara.....2	Univ. of Wisconsin.....13
Boston Univ.....4	Emory Univ.....31	McGill Univ.....3	School of the Art Institute of Chicago.....1	Univ. of California – Santa Cruz.....1	Vanderbilt Univ.....9
Bowdoin College.....4	Fashion Institute of Technology.....1	Middlebury College.....13	Sciences PO College in Spain.....1	Univ. of Chicago.....16	Vassar College.....1
Brown Univ.....23	Fordham Univ.....3	Morehouse College.....1	Skidmore College.....9	Univ. of Colorado.....1	Villanova Univ.....1
Bryn Mawr College.....2	Franklin & Marshall College.....1	Mount Holyoke College.....2	Smith College.....1	Univ. of Massachusetts.....1	Wake Forest Univ.....19
Bucknell Univ.....9	George Washington Univ.....3	Naropa Univ.....1	Southern Methodist Univ.....1	Univ. of Miami.....8	Washington and Lee Univ.....1
Carleton College.....2	Georgetown Univ.....14	New York Univ.....9	Spelman College.....2	Univ. of Michigan.....24	Washington Univ.....16
Carnegie Mellon Univ.....3	Goucher College.....1	Northeastern Univ.....8	St. Lawrence Univ.....1	Univ. of Minnesota.....1	Wellesley College.....3
Case Western Reserve Univ.....3	Grinnell College.....1	Northwestern Univ.....28	Stanford Univ.....6	Univ. of Navara in Spain.....1	Wesleyan Univ.....17
City College of New York.....1	Hamilton College.....5	Oberlin College.....8	Story Brook Univ.....1	Univ. of New Haven.....1	Whitman College.....1
Claremont McKenna College.....1	Harvard Univ.....2	Occidental College.....3	SUNY – Cortland.....1	Univ. of North Carolina.....3	Williams College.....14
Colby College.....8	Harvey Mudd College.....1	Ohio State Univ.....1	SUNY – Purchase.....1	Univ. of Oregon.....2	Worcester Polytechnic Institute.....1
Colgate Univ.....9	Haverford College.....7	Pace Univ.....1	Swarthmore College.....3	Univ. of Ottawa.....1	Yale Univ.....7
Colorado College.....7	Hobart & William Smith College.....1	Pennsylvania State Univ.....2		Univ. of Pennsylvania.....14	
Columbia Univ.....8	Howard Univ.....6	Pitzer College.....8		Univ. of Pittsburgh.....3	
		Pomona College.....3		Univ. of Rhode Island.....1	