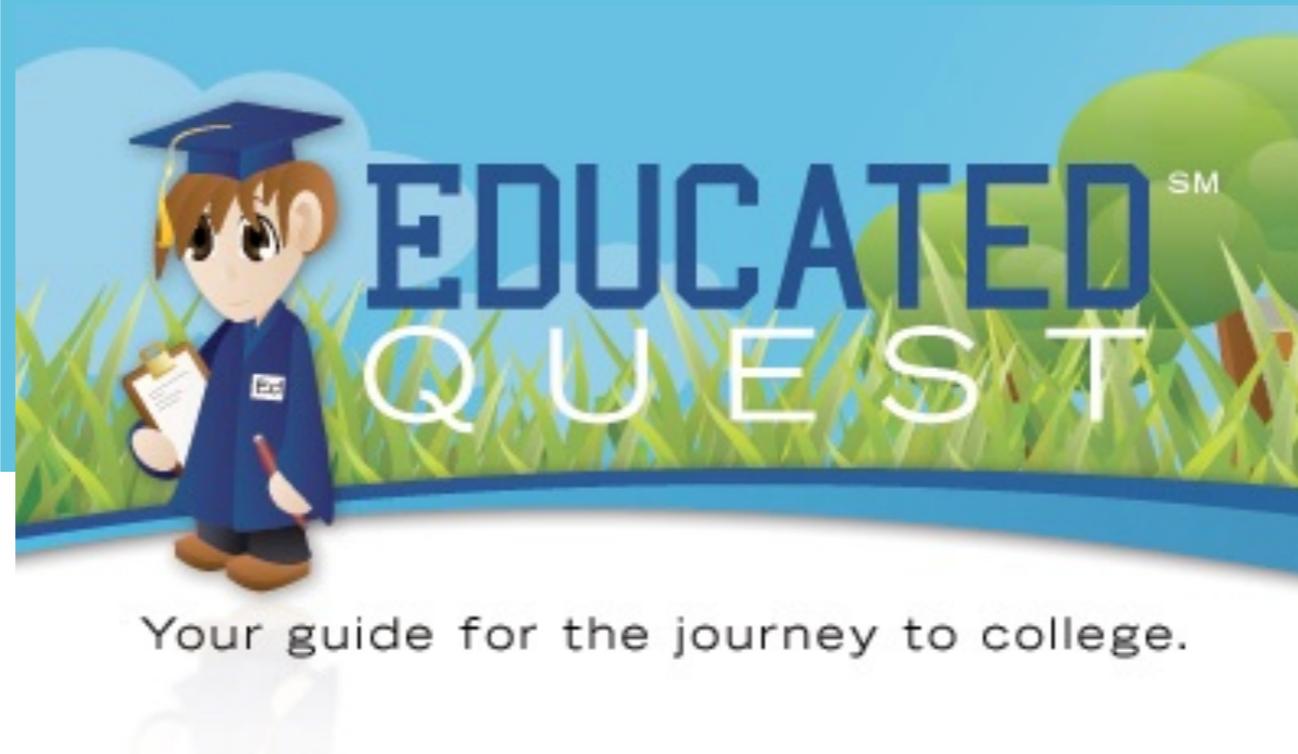


# First Impressions: Franklin & Marshall College



# Background

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**Introduction to Franklin &  
Marshall**

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# Background

Franklin and Marshall (F&M) College's origins trace back to 1787 with a gift of 500 British pounds from Benjamin Franklin. The College was a product of a merger between Franklin College, named for Benjamin Franklin and governed by leaders of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches with support from trustees that included four signers of the Declaration of Independence, three future governors of Pennsylvania, two members of the Constitutional Convention, and seven officers of the Revolutionary Army, and Marshall College named for Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. James Buchanan, 15th President of the United States, was the first President of the Board of Trustees. The park adjacent to the College is named for him.

According to the [College's history](#), F&M is the first bilingual college in the country; classes were taught in English and German. Also, according to the College's history, F&M was also the first coeducational institution in the U.S. Its first class was made up of 78 men and 36 women. Among the first-year students was Richea Gratz, the first Jewish female college student in the United States. However, coeducation was not revived at the College for another 182 years.

Located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, F&M is approximately 90 minutes from Baltimore or Philadelphia and about two and half hours from New York or Washington D.C. All of these cities are also accessible to Lancaster via Amtrak trains. F&M is less iso-

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lated than many selective liberal arts colleges, important for students seeking internships during their education and for further study or full-time employment afterwards.

F&M is considered a National Liberal Arts College. More than half of the College's 2,400 students, all undergraduates, major in the Humanities or Social Sciences. [An additional 13 percent study Business, comparable to Pennsylvania sister schools Bucknell, Dickinson and Gettysburg. About a fifth choose majors in mathematics or the sciences, comparable to Gettysburg.](#) With freshman retention rates that hover between 92 and 94 percent and four-year graduation rates around 80 percent each year, F&M has one of the most successful student bodies at a selective liberal arts college.

Unlike most selective liberal arts colleges, F&M has a long history of offering education in Business; business courses have been available here for nearly a century. Like most similar schools a liberal arts education at F&M revolves around several "high-impact" learning practices: a First-Year Seminar, community service programs, funded research, internships and experiential learning among others. F&M stands out by offering [a College House System](#) that enhances the academic and residence life experience. Students are assigned to one of five Houses: Bonchek, Brooks, New, Ware or Weis based on their choice of First-Year Seminar. to the House closest to the residence hall they live in. Members of their House for life, students decide on

a government structure, draft a constitution and elect leaders. Advised by college administrators, called House Dons, they also plan programming and social activities. While the House System aids the first-year experience the most, students remain associated with their House for the duration of their education at F&M. They also serve in leadership positions, even if they choose not to live in the residence halls in their upper-class years.

Notable F&M alumni include Kenneth Duberstein, former Chief of Staff to President Ronald Reagan; Mary Schapiro, former Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission; William H. Gray III, Former President and CEO of the United Negro College Fund and former Majority Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Patricia Harris, CEO of Bloomberg Philanthropies.

# Competition

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**What does it take to get in?  
Who decides to go?  
What other schools do  
applicants consider?**

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# Competition

In 2013, according to *Big Future*, the College Board's search site, there were approximately 5,300 applications for 600 seats in F&M's freshman class. The College accepted approximately 1,900 or 36 percent. Just over 1,600 applicants were wait listed, but none were offered admission. In the prior year, there were around 5,150 applications, just under 40 percent were accepted. Over 1,300 were offered a place on the wait list, and 31 were accepted.

F&M is test optional, though it helps to have high SAT scores. The range for the middle 50 percent for the class that arrived in 2012 was between 1210 and 1390 (out of 1600); the ACT range was between 28 and 31. Of those who submitted SAT scores, less than a quarter of the accepted students scored below 600 on the Critical Reading section of the test; only 12 percent scored below 600 on the Math. Most recently, about a quarter of all applicants did not submit standardized test scores though they must submit two graded writing samples from high school classes. Students, whether they submit scores or not, who believe F&M is their first-choice school are encouraged to interview.

Unlike other selective liberal arts colleges, F&M does not award merit-based scholarships based on grades and test scores. The College targets under-represented minority students through the Gray Scholarships program and by partnering in the Posse

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Foundation programs in Miami and New York. F&M also singles out outstanding incoming freshmen for Moore Mentorships, research opportunities with faculty that take place between the end of the senior year in high school and the summer after freshman year as well as talent-based Courtney Adams Music Awards (\$2,500/year renewable for four years).

The College practices need-sensitive (also known as need-aware) admissions. The applicant's financial need is considered in the admissions process. Students who are higher in the applicant pool could receive an award weighed more heavily towards scholarships, which do not have to be repaid, based on financial need. Others lower down in the pool who need scholarships to reduce their costs could receive a package weighed more heavily towards loans and jobs, be wait listed, or not be admitted at all. However, for those who rank higher in a freshman class, [F&M is considered to be one of the most generous colleges in the U.S.](#) The College reports that it will meet 100 percent of a student's demonstrated financial need.

Students who consider F&M to be their first-choice school might want to consider applying Early Decision. Approximately half of an incoming class is admitted via this route. There are two Early Decision deadlines, November 15th and January 15th by which the CSS Profile, tax information and the completed application for admission must be submitted. Admitted students and

their families also have the opportunity to submit updated financial information up to March 1st.

Whether a student does or does not need financial aid, Early Decision is a serious expression of demonstrated interest. A well-prepared application submitted early, combined with academic excellence has a better chance of being accepted. F&M uses the Common Application for admission.

Students who consider F&M also consider Bates, Colgate, Hamilton and Union among selective liberal arts schools. Other Pennsylvania schools cross-shopped most often include Dickinson, Gettysburg and Muhlenberg. Given F&M's student body size and academic mix, the schools most similar to F&M are probably Dickinson and Gettysburg. However, Union which is more science-oriented, has its own version of a college house system called Minerva Houses.

# Costs

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Tuition and Fees  
Scholarships  
Debt

# Costs

Tuition and fees, room and board charges at F&M for the current academic year were approximately \$58,500, on the high end for a selective private liberal arts school. According to College Navigator, the U.S. Department of Education search site, [the College raised tuition and fees by 4 percent over the previous academic year, and room and board by approximately two percent.](#)

The College will try to meet the full need for all admitted students, though need will be decided, in part by where the admit stands in the incoming class. However, according to Big Future, the College Board's search site, [the average need-based scholarship award for students who entered in 2013 was just over \\$39,000.](#) This represented over 80 percent of tuition and fees, on the high end for a private school. In addition, in 2012, according to the Project of Student Debt, only 49 percent of F&M's graduating seniors had any student loan debt. However, 40 percent of those borrowers had to take out loans from sources other than the Federal Government. This suggests that some students and their families had to take on more debt, at higher interest rates than expected. According to the Project on Student Debt, the average student borrower who graduated from F&M in 2012 owed approximately \$33,200. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education's Parent PLUS loan database, the average F&M parent borrower who took out one of these loans borrowed just over \$23,000 in 2011.

The table on the right compares F&M indebtedness with other schools that are cross-shopped against the College. It can be seen that most of the other schools listed left their average borrower with lower amounts of student loan or parent loan debt than F&M. However, financial aid awards at each school are dependent on the quality of their applicant

pool, the competition to gain admission, the school's financial aid resources and the availability of merit, as opposed to need-based awards. Gettysburg, for example, offers merit-based awards as large as \$25,000 to incoming freshman while Dickinson's awards are as large as \$20,000. [Bates, Colgate and Hamilton also report that they will meet 100 percent of financial need.](#) Coincidentally, graduates of Bates and Hamilton who took out loans, as well as parents who borrowed, left with less debt than F&M graduates and parents.

College	Average Indebtedness @ Graduation/Student Borrower 2012	Percentage of 2012 Graduates with Student Loan Debt	Average Indebtedness/Parent PLUS Borrower, 2011
Franklin and Marshall	\$33,200	49	\$23,130
Gettysburg	\$25,530	58	\$18,343
Dickinson	\$25,574	53	\$20,932
Colgate	\$20,751	34	\$23,597
Hamilton	\$18,568	39	\$19,591
Union	\$27,911 (2011)	N/A	\$17,621
Bates	\$24,515	40	\$20,811

While F&M tries to fulfill need, it is competing against better-endowed schools, in many cases for the same student. The table on the right shows that most of the the schools cross-shopped most often versus F&M have larger endowments. Bates, which has a lower endowment, has about 700 fewer undergraduates to assist.

College	Endowment
Franklin and Marshall	\$285 million
Gettysburg	\$229 million
Dickinson	\$336 million
Colgate	\$687 million
Hamilton	\$635 million
Union	\$317 million
Bates	\$216 million

F&M makes the most of more limited resources to aid its neediest students. This partly explains the popularity of Early Decision. The student who ranks in the upper third to upper quarter of the applicant pool at F&M who can also gain admission to Bates or Hamilton would have an exceptionally difficult decision to make. So would the student who gets into two or more of these schools who needs no aid at all.

F&M does make a limited number of merit awards available to returning students based on academic and leadership. Two students per class may be chosen as Rouse Scholars. Rouse Scholars receive the cost of tuition, books and other academic expenses. In addition, they can receive a grant for research and leadership projects.

# Comforts

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**On-Campus Housing**  
**Local Housing Market**

4

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# Comforts

F&M has a four-year residency requirement, rare for any four-year college. According to the residence life page on the College's Web site:

*Since Fall of 2011 with the opening of our new college house, we grew to approximately 1550 beds on campus and in the theme houses. All first-year students are required to live in their assigned College House. Second year students may choose to live in their College House, in theme housing or in one of our residential quad annex buildings (Thomas or Schnader). Juniors and Seniors are permitted to live in their College House, in theme housing, in an annex building on the residential quad or in approved off campus housing within the college's portfolio.*

F&M has approximately 2,400 undergraduates, so around 950 live in fraternity or sorority houses or in the approved off-campus housing.

Currently, according to the College about 35 percent of the men join one of seven fraternities while 15 percent of the women join one of three sororities. The College does not have a "fraternity row." The houses, which are not owned by the school, are scattered throughout campus. While a significant share of the student body is engaged in Greek life, it is a far smaller percentage than it was 30 years ago, [when more than half of the male population pledged houses](#). The F&M administration has enforced tighter controls and program/service requirements on fraternities and sororities, [reversing a pattern of "de-recognizing" houses](#) due to disciplinary actions that had begun over 25 years ago.

The College House system probably benefits first-year students the most since it is a step up from freshman living situations such as living-learning communities or "dorm clubs" because the Houses host academic as well as social programming and have their own unique governance and leadership structures. The Houses are not exclusively freshman halls; they have upper-class residents as well to provide leadership and continuity.

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The Houses are similar to residential colleges at schools such as Yale, although the student is not obligated to live in their House beyond the freshman year. Each College House has a \$5,000 budget for events, community service and trips, and can raise more money if necessary. Houses also have Common Hours between 11:30 AM and 12:45 PM, when no classes are scheduled, for academic presentations and cultural events. While students take the lead in governing and programming, each House also has a House Dean, who acts as an informal student advisor and attends to the day-to-day management of the House, as well as a Faculty Don who helps with the academic and cultural programs. Academic Progress Reports are sent to the House Dean as well as the student's academic advisor. The Faculty Don as well as prefects, other faculty engaged with the House, may also nominate sophomores to be [Marshall Fellows](#), who receive grants to conduct research or lead community service projects. They may also nominate two juniors for the Junto Society; membership is for the junior and senior year. The Society, which meets five Sunday evenings during the academic year, requires and debates student papers presented by each senior member.

Over time, as F&M graduates more students who have been part of the College House system, each House will have the opportunity to maintain contacts with alumni who lived their while undergraduates. This will help the College add more career-oriented programming and provide an outlet for fundraising. Graduates often support programs, especially Greek life, music and sports, that they were closely involved in college.

F&M opened three of the five College Houses in 2005: Bonchek, Brooks, and Ware. The fourth and fifth houses, Weis and New, opened in 2011. New, which started as a new building, as opposed to a dramatically renovated residence hall, is separate from the other houses, which are organized as a quad with a common green space. Each House has study spaces and meeting rooms as well as a great hall (which doubles as a lounge) for major events and programs.

F&M puts all continuing students through a housing lottery. Juniors and seniors receive priority when applying to live in one of the four [Theme Houses](#): Arts, Quiet Living, Sustainability and Wellness/Substance-Free. These houses include options for single and double rooms. Of these four houses, the Arts House is owned by a private owner. Proof of renter's insurance is required. The College also has four [Special Interest Houses](#). Three: Community Service House, Human Rights Initiative House and Leadership House, require students to sign 12-month leases as well as provide proof of renter's insurance. A fourth, Harbaugh Club, requires a nine-month lease as well as a signed substance-free agreement. There are also [two apartment complexes](#), Campus Crossings-College Row which are modern apartments and College Hill, which are loft-style units. These require 12-month leases, proof of renter's insurance and security deposits. It is unusual for a college to promote privately-owned dwellings as on-campus living options, especially when they require proof of insurance and 12-month leases. These are not attractive options for students who plan to leave campus during the summer months for study abroad, internships or full-time jobs after graduation. A College House, Theme House, residence hall annex, even a Greek organization might be a more feasible living alternative. F&M charged between [\\$7,300 and \\$8,600 per year for housing](#), depending on whether a student chose a standard double or triple (most common in the College Houses), a single room, suite-style living arrangement or an apartment.

F&M requires freshmen and sophomores to purchase a meal plan. Freshmen must buy the most expensive plan (it was just under \$5,000/year) that has 225 "swipes," while sophomores are allowed to drop to 180. Other options range from 50 to 125 swipes. All meal plans also have "flex dollars" as well as 10 guest passes. Students may also pay for meals with "Ben Bucks" that can be used elsewhere on campus. F&M offers kosher dining and gluten-free dining options for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

# Community

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Campus  
Environs  
School Spirit

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# Community

F&M has a compact (170 acre), easily walkable campus. Buildings designed in various eras do not follow one particular architectural style; on a campus of this size the setting could be considered eclectic. The campus is adjacent to Buchanan Park, which has one of the nicest public dog parks one could find in a small city. The campus is extremely walkable. Students only need to cross streets to get to housing (if they live in Theme Houses or apartments) or to use the recreation center. The College has two libraries, one dedicated to sciences, unusual for a school of this size. The campus is surrounded by two-family residences that form a historic district in Lancaster City. It is well lit, open and easy to patrol.

However, reported incidents of crime have gone up, according to the College's most recent [Clery Report](#). From 2010 through 2012, the number of reported incidents of burglary rose from 4 to 23, larceny-theft reports from 58 to 81. There were also seven reported incidents of forcible rape in 2012, four sexually-related offenses that were not rape, as well as four for possession of a weapon and 43 incidents of vandalism. These are all high for a small school. Arrests related to drunkenness rose from 2 in 2010 to 34 per year in 2011 and 2012 while liquor law violations rose from 115 to 130 over the three-year period. Drug-related incidents rose from 14 to 42. It is fair to ask if law enforcement and crime reporting has be-

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come stricter and more effective or if there are more incidents of crime on the F&M campus.

Lancaster City's economic fortunes are tied to health care (Lancaster General Hospital) tourism (Wheatland, the estate of President James Buchanan, Pennsylvania Dutch Country), retail shopping and dining (Gallery Row, Park City Center and the Lancaster Farmer's Market, the oldest continually operating farmer's market in the U.S.) and higher education (F&M, Pennsylvania College of Art and Design and nearby Millersville University, part of the public Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education). With just over 59,000 residents, Lancaster is the eighth largest city in Pennsylvania. The city is a national leader in historic preservation--the F&M campus is located near many Harrisburg Street businesses dedicated to materials and service for building renovations--and the management of public parks.

Downtown Lancaster is an emerging arts community. Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, an private visual arts school, is downtown The downtown has Friday Night festival events, but the audience is more adults than college students. In addition, the downtown is not immediately outside the campus, although there are retail shopping options across Harrisburg Street on the first floor of the Campus Crossings-College Row apartment complex.

Lancaster is becoming a more livable community for its residents as well as a growing arts community. But the more likely shopping, entertainment and dining options for F&M students are probably at the Park City Shopping Center. Either downtown or the shopping center can be reached via [the Lancaster Loop](#), a free shuttle bus available to F&M students on Fridays and Saturdays. [Lancaster is also served by Amtrak connections to Philadelphia as well as private bus services to New York.](#) These connections, as well as close proximity to Harrisburg and its regional airport, help make F&M appear less isolated than many other selective liberal arts colleges.

# Curriculum

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**Academics**  
**Honors Programs**  
**Experiential Learning**

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# Curriculum

F&M offers 55 majors, the most popular being Business, Organizations and Society (BOS), Government, Psychology, Economics, and Sociology. The College requires students in all majors to complete two first-year seminars: Connections 1 and Connections 2. Connections 1 is writing intensive while Connections 2 is multi-disciplinary and research-focused. Each of these courses, given in the student's College House, is capped at 16 students. All students are also required to complete two Foundations courses within their first two years as well as distribution requirements including one class each in one course in the humanities, the arts and the social sciences, two in the natural sciences and a course in Non-Western Cultures. Students are expected to be at third-semester proficiency in the foreign language in a foreign language previously studied in high school or may start a year of introductory courses in a new language.

Unlike most colleges that allow direct admission to a business major, F&M requires students interested in BOS to apply for the major after completing the introductory economics course. Enrollment in the major is capped; applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher to be considered. Students interested in Accounting may apply for a joint five-year Bachelors/Masters program in Accounting with Wake Forest University. After completing both degrees they are qualified to sit for the CPA exam. As many as five students each year admitted to this program may

receive \$10,000/semester scholarships for the final year at Wake Forest.

The Government program at F&M administers a national political poll as well as the Sidney Wise Public Service Internship program. Interns receive a \$4,000 summer stipend for a 10-week position located in Lancaster, Harrisburg, Washington D.C., New York City, or other approved site.

F&M is also a good starting point for students interested in the sciences. The College is among the top 25 National Liberal Arts Colleges on U.S. News' list half in the number of science students who obtained the Ph.D. and in the top third in the number of publications produced by faculty and students over the last decade. Science students can be coauthors of as many as six publications by the time they graduate. The Hackman Summer Research program usually involves about 60 students working with over 30 faculty members in the sciences. The College reports that it is common for a Hackman student to use their summer research opportunity after their junior year as a springboard into a funded independent research for the senior year.

The College also has joint degree programs in Engineering (with Case Western Reserve University, Columbia University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Washington University in St. Louis) and Environmental Management (with Duke University). Interestingly students who are admitted to the 3-2 (Bachelors-Masters) program in Environmental Management

may later apply to advanced joint degree programs including the MBA, JD, Public Policy (MPP), or Teaching (MAT) at Duke. This is a standout for any student interested in environmental issues as well as a liberal arts education.

F&M has a low student-faculty ratio of 10 to 1; all faculty teach undergraduates exclusively. Of the nearly 550 class sections, only 26 had more than 30 students. There are no 100+ student courses at the College.

F&M students showed high regard for their faculty on RateMyProfessors.com, as shown below, when compared with similarly selective schools.

College	RateMyProfessors.com Rating (out of 5)
Franklin and Marshall	3.82
Dickinson	3.80
Gettysburg	3.68
Lafayette	3.84
Muhlenberg	3.71
Bates	3.83
Colgate	3.79
Hamilton	3.77
Union	3.81

# Connections

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**Alumni Relations**  
**Career Services**

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# Connections

F&M has one of the oldest college alumni associations in the country. Founded in 1840, it represents nearly 26,000 living alumni from 50 states and more than 90 foreign countries. It has 19 regional chapters as well as many affinity groups based on former student involvements with sports or clubs and organizations. The College also has an African-American Alumni Council, a Jewish Alumni Council and GOLD, Graduates of the Last Decade, among other affinity groups. Alumni not only volunteer to help with campus programming, they are also the beneficiary of a new tradition: The Alma Mater Cup where freshmen groups sing the F&M Alma Mater to alumni during orientation.

In 2012, F&M launched a three-year alumni relations strategic plan. Items related to student and career development included:

- Build alumni pods of professional specialties and link them to career development functions for students. Build alumni “pods” by region, geography, major, post-grad schooling.
- Match students looking for summer jobs with alumni in their area in coordination with the Office of Student and Post-Graduate Development
- Develop and assist with alumni mentorship programs.
- Build a bridge to students through academic departments.

- Make a deliberate outreach to academic departments where students “anchor” during their junior and senior years to help students with career ideas and advice. Students have already participated in Career Exploration Treks to meet with alumni in New York City and Washington D.C.
- Use alumni-focused student groups as a base for reaching more students and engaging them with alumni.
- Support College Admissions in their efforts to develop a corps of alumni who assist with student recruitment and interviewing.

To date, F&M has a larger alumni network on LinkedIn than some of the other peer schools of similar size that were most likely to be considered by the alumni who applied to F&M when they were in high school, but not all of them. [However, more](#)

School	Size of Linked In Alumni Network
Franklin & Marshall	4,837
Dickinson	5,586
Gettysburg	6,715
Lafayette	3,388
Muhlenberg	3,686
Union	4,795

[than 5,000 F&M alumni live and work in the New York and Philadelphia metro areas, while nearly 1,400 are in the Baltimore-](#)

[Washington corridor. Approximately 1,000 more live and work close to campus near Lancaster or Harrisburg.](#)

F&M manages career services through its Office of Student and Post-Graduate Development, handling post-graduate employment and education advising through the same counseling staff. Like most selective liberal arts colleges, F&M has an extensive jobs and internship database (F&M Connects) as well as programs in preparation for the job search. Unlike similar offices at other schools, F&M incorporates the advising and programming into the College House System; advisors are as likely to come to the students as the students are to come to them. F&M also offers the Career Closet a program, where students are loaned professional attire for interviews and presentations. In addition, [the office has its own Facebook page.](#)

F&M students are very bright and no doubt prepared to compete against peers from other selective colleges for places in graduate and professional schools as well as highly coveted jobs and internship programs. However, F&M is not part of the in-person or online networks used by similar schools including the Liberal Arts Career Network and the Selective Liberal Arts Colleges Consortium. As a comparison, Dickinson is a member of both jobs networks while Lafayette and Union are members of the Liberal Arts Career Network.

# Conclusions

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Summing up



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# Conclusions

F&M stands out for its location as well as the College House system which helps to bond a freshman class through four years. F&M is well balanced between arts and sciences and business than many similar schools, much like Dickinson and Gettysburg. Like these schools, the College retains over 90 percent of a freshman class and graduates more than 80 percent within four years. This is a competitive advantage for a selective liberal arts school; it helps to prove the value of the education.

Students who are sure that F&M is their first-choice school, and feel confident that they can gain admission should seriously consider applying Early Decision. About half of a freshman class comes in this way. Those who meet the November 15th deadline face less competition. If they can interview or write well or have special talents, they should not be discouraged by low test scores.

The decision to choose F&M over other selective liberal arts colleges will come down to fit as well as finances, for those who have need. The College does an excellent job at trying to assist its needier students, though well-qualified applicants who rank lower in the class might be able to get a more attractive aid package at another school. However, those interested in a more quantitative business education, environmental studies and the sciences will find some special opportunities at this College.

F&M is trying to become a more diverse institution, much like Bates, Colgate or Hamilton, though it has thinner resources as more limited access to jobs networks. However, F&M is less isolated than any of these three schools, a major advantage when seeking internships or full-time jobs as well as pursuing the next degree as well as finding entertainment away from campus. The downside: Downtown Lancaster and retail shopping are not a short walk from campus. One can walk through some rough ar-

eas to get there--take the free loop bus on weekends--and the campus and the surrounding area have been sites for more reported incidents of crime than similar schools, especially those with less urban campuses. On the other hand, F&M makes it very easy for students to connect with a strong alumni base in the New York area as well as the Baltimore-Washington Corridor.

Where F&M really stands out is through the College House system. Few schools give first-year students similar opportunities to lead and engage academically in a residence hall setting. The involvement of faculty and administrators as Dons, prefects and Deans no doubt contributes to freshman retention and student success. It also gives every F&M student an identity that they carry for life. One caution: Housing for upper-class students can get very expensive outside of residence hall living and Greek life.

Selective liberal arts colleges have their own unique personalities. Different features and programs attract different people. No one who seriously seeks and chooses one of these schools ever “loses” from the experience, unless they do not take advantage of what their chosen college offers. F&M is no exception.

### Ed Quest Report Card: Franklin and Marshall College

Four-Year/ Six-Year Grad Rates	Freshman Retention	Costs	Comforts	Community	Curriculum	Connections
A/A	A	B+	B+	B+	A	A

Strengths	Weaknesses
Location near Philadelphia, Baltimore-Washington Corridor and Amtrak helps connect to strong alumni base	Very limited merit-based aid
Attractive compact campus surrounded by parks	Downtown Lancaster is not immediately outside the front gate,
College House system encourages bonding and academic direction.	If you want a school less dominated by Greek life, look elsewhere.
Easy to do multiple majors, combine business or performing arts with liberal arts.	Not a member of national career services networks (Liberal Arts Career Network, Selective Liberal Arts Consortium)
Lancaster City is a growing arts community with ample dining shopping options--and you can get to them for free on weekends	Other selective liberal arts schools (Bates, Colgate, Union as examples) are more ethnically diverse
People who come here really want to come here: 50 percent enter through Early Decision.	Low endowment considering the long history of the College
Excellence in public service, science and environmental studies. Innovative accounting and environmental studies joint degree programs	Room and board can get pricy, considering the college is not located in a larger metro area. Juniors and seniors must commit to 12-month leases, security deposits and renter's insurance for college-affiliated apartments
Major investments in the sciences for a small school as well as foreign languages (11 available)	High reported incidents of crime for a small college on a compact campus.
Generous need-based scholarship aid--for those who can qualify	Higher student indebtedness than similar schools.

# The End



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