

MARLBORO COLLEGE

PO BOX A, SOUTH ROAD, MARLBORO, VT 05344-0300 • ADMISSIONS: 802-258-9236 • FAX: 802-451-7555

CAMPUS LIFE

Quality of Life Rating	82
Fire Safety Rating	67
Green Rating	73
Type of school Environment	private rural

STUDENTS

Total undergrad enrollment	311
% male/female	52/48
% from out of state	88
% from public high school	70
% live on campus	80
% African American	1
% Asian	3
% Caucasian	61
% Hispanic	3
% international	1
# of countries represented	4

SURVEY SAYS . . .

Lots of liberal students
Class discussions encouraged
No one cheats
Campus feels safe
Frats and sororities are unpopular or nonexistent
Student government is popular

ACADEMICS

Academic Rating	99
Calendar	semester
Student/faculty ratio	8:1
Profs interesting rating	97
Profs accessible rating	92
Most common reg class size	fewer than 10 students
Most common lab size	fewer than 10 students

MOST POPULAR MAJORS

English language and literature
social sciences
visual and performing arts

STUDENTS SAY “. . .”

Academics

Marlboro College is all about giving students “the freedom to pursue their own interests and study what they want.” Here, undergrads design their own junior and senior curricula, then pursue them in one-on-one tutorials with professors. The process, known here simply as “The Plan,” culminates in a substantial senior thesis. The goal is to “learn how to think critically and find the resources you need in the course of completing a dissertation-level project,” and undergrads here “wouldn’t settle for anything less in their academic pursuits.” Freshmen and sophomores complete more traditional-style courses, albeit in smaller classrooms and with a greater-than-usual focus on writing and discussion. The size of the school—just more than 300 undergraduates attend—is sometimes a hindrance. One student observes that, “Since there is generally only one professor per field, it is a bit disappointing to realize that there can only be a limited number of classes offered per semester.” “Too often a student will reach the final year when his/her Plan sponsor goes on sabbatical and a replacement is not hired in time or hired at all. This presents a problem: Does the student leave the college until their professor returns, or does the student switch Plan sponsors, potentially altering the focus of their work so much they dislike what they’re doing?” Despite these issues, “professors are very receptive and try to accommodate individual interests as best they can.” Most here feel these are reasonable costs to bear in order to pursue “independent, difficult, intellectually stimulating work inside a student-centered and directed curriculum.”

Life

Marlboro is “a little school on top of a hill” with Brattleboro, the closest town, “about a half hour away,” so “life is pretty intensely focused on the campus.” “While we do make the trip to Brattleboro fairly often, most of our time is spent ‘on the hill,’” says one student. Students “study a lot, but there is also a lot of hanging out, mainly in small impromptu ways.” They “like to debate about philosophy, politics, and religion.” Fun “is found in the 300 acres that surround the college: skiing, hiking, long walks in an apple orchard, broomball (a hippie version of hockey), soccer, etc.” Trips to Brattleboro are pleasant because it’s “an arts town.” Students occasionally travel to Massachusetts college towns Amherst and Northampton for concerts or shopping and “frequently classes take field trips to NYC or Boston.” Many get involved in grassroots political organization, both on campus and off.

Student Body

The typical Marlboro student “wouldn’t fit quite right anywhere else: academically driven, maybe a little nerdy, politically vocal, and looking for a laid-back environment. There is no atypical student at Marlboro, because we all would have been atypical someplace else.” Personality types run the gamut, including “hippie environmentalists, geeks and gamers, theater kids, artists, and so on and so forth and every combination thereof. We’re underrepresented in the jock and beauty queen categories, but that doesn’t seem to bother anybody.” Everyone here, we’re told, “is extremely passionate about their own little academic niche, and furthermore each person is one of the smartest people you will ever meet.” The school is home to “a large gay population and a few transgender students,” but “there are a lack of minority students, [and] Republicans.”

THE PRINCETON REVIEW SAYS

Admissions

Very important factors considered include: Application essay, academic GPA, rigor of secondary school record, character/personal qualities. *Important factors considered include:* Extracurricular activities, interview. *Other factors considered include:* Class rank, recommendation(s), standardized test scores, alumni/ae relation, first generation, geographical residence, level of applicant's interest, state residency, talent/ability, volunteer work, work experience. TOEFL required of all international applicants. High school diploma is required, and GED is accepted. *Academic units recommended:* 4 English, 3 mathematics, 3 science, (1 science labs), 3 foreign language, 3 social studies, 3 history, 3 academic electives.

Financial Aid

Students should submit: FAFSA. Regular filing deadline is 3/1. The Princeton Review suggests that all financial aid forms be submitted as soon as possible after January 1. *Need-based scholarships/grants offered:* Federal Pell, SEOG, state scholarships/grants, private scholarships, the school's own gift aid. Applicants will be notified of awards on a rolling basis beginning 3/15. Federal Work-Study Program available. Institutional employment available. Off-campus job opportunities are fair.

The Inside Word

Don't be misled by Marlboro's acceptance rate—this is not the type of school that attracts many applications from students unsure of whether they belong at Marlboro. Most applicants are qualified both in terms of academic achievement and sincere intellectual curiosity. The school seeks candidates "with intellectual promise, a high degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, personal stability, social concern, and the ability and desire to contribute to the College community." These are the qualities you should stress on your application.

THE SCHOOL SAYS "..."

From The Admissions Office

"Marlboro College is distinguished by its curriculum, praised in higher education circles as unique; it is known for its self-governing philosophy, in which each student, faculty, and staff has an equal vote on many issues affecting the community; and it is recognized for its 60-year history of offering a rigorous, exciting, self-designed course of study taught in very small classes and individualized study with faculty. Marlboro's size also distinguishes it from most other schools. With 300 students and a student/faculty ratio of 8:1, it is one of the nation's smallest liberal arts colleges. Few other schools offer a program where students have such close interaction with faculty, and where community life is inseparable from academic life. The result, the self-designed, self-directed Plan of Concentration, allows students to develop their own unique academic work by defining a problem, setting clear limits on an area of inquiry, and analyzing, evaluating, and reporting on the outcome of a significant project. A Marlboro education teaches you to think for yourself, articulate your thoughts, express your ideas, believe in yourself, and do it all with the clarity, confidence, and self-reliance necessary for later success, no matter what postgraduate path you take."

SELECTIVITY

Admissions Rating	93
# of early decision applicants	10
% accepted early decision	90

FRESHMAN PROFILE

Range SAT Critical Reading	590–690
Range SAT Math	510–650
Range SAT Writing	640–720
Range ACT Composite	24–32
Minimum paper TOEFL	550
Minimum computer TOEFL	213
Minimum web-based TOEFL	80
Average HS GPA	3.2
% graduated top 10% of class	40
% graduated top 25% of class	60
% graduated top 50% of class	95

DEADLINES

Early decision	
Deadline	12/1
Notification	12/15
Early action	
Deadline	2/1
Notification	2/15
Regular	
Deadline	3/1
Notification	rolling
Nonfall registration?	yes

APPLICANTS ALSO LOOK AT AND OFTEN PREFER

Reed College

AND SOMETIMES PREFER

The Evergreen State College

Bard College

College of the Atlantic

AND RARELY PREFER

Hampshire College

Green Mountain College

University of Vermont

FINANCIAL FACTS

Financial Aid Rating	87
Annual tuition	\$32,550
Room and board	\$9,220
Required fees	\$1,110
Books and supplies	\$1,000
% frosh rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	62
% UG rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	63
% frosh rec. non-need-based scholarship or grant aid	73
% UG rec. non-need-based scholarship or grant aid	54
% frosh rec. need-based self-help aid	65
% UG rec. need-based self-help aid	68
% frosh rec. any financial aid	92
% UG rec. any financial aid	96
% UG borrow to pay for school	94
Average cumulative indebtedness	\$6,631