2025-2026 Profile for College & University Admissions

Head of School
Beth D. Johnson ’77

Upper School Principal
Lee Payton

Director of College Counseling
Kimberley Lewis
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Tyler Clauson-Wolf
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College Counselor
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College Counselor
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Friends’ Central School
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CEEB Code: 393315

We Go Further

Established in 1845 by the Religious Society of Friends, Friends’ Central School (FCS) is an independent, co-educational Quaker day school for nursery through grade 12. Our Quaker values influence every aspect of our school life, including our curriculum. We promote a learning environment that encourages and values inquiry, reflection, discovery, and action.

Mission: We cultivate the intellectual, spiritual, and ethical promise of our students.

Vision: To awaken courage and intellect - and peacefully transform the world

886	Total School enrollment
418	Upper School enrollment
107	Class of 2026 enrollment
43%	of students self-identify as students of color
50%	of families granted need-based financial aid

NAIS Accredited

ACADEMICS OVERVIEW

Friends’ Central does not calculate a grade point average or class rank.

Friends’ Central does not offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses; our highest academic level is Advanced, which equals or exceeds the rigor of AP classes. Non advanced courses are taught at the Honors level.

The English department does not offer an advanced level. All students are required to complete the four-year literature curriculum.

The standard course load is five major courses per year.

CURRICULAR AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

United States History Advanced: U.S. History Advanced is a document-based course. Each student completes a capstone, 10-page, thesis-driven, primary source-based research project during the spring semester.

Natural Lands: Natural Lands is a non-credit certificate program that focuses on ecological monitoring and field research. In addition to observation and taking field notes, students also explore the regional policy issues that impact conservation. The program involves extensive outdoor work - from studying insects to habitat restoration.

May Term: May Term is a six-day program at the end of the academic year. Students participate in interdisciplinary courses, many of which will include community engagement beyond the FCS campus. The program culminates in a symposium of May Term projects.

Core Teams: Upper School students may join the Humanities or Science Core Teams. Modeled after college-level seminars, Core Teams explore problem solving, collaboration, and inquiry through the lens of their topic. Core Teams invite distinguished speakers and guest lecturers to campus for conversation with our full community.

Travel Abroad Opportunities: Each language’s classroom experience is supplemented by opportunities for travel abroad. Latin students may travel to Italy to see the monuments of the Romans – ancient and modern – and read their Latin inscriptions. French and Spanish students may take part in exchange opportunities with schools in Lyon, France and Seville, Spain. Summer service programs in Costa Rica and Peru may also be available to students to further their study of the Spanish language, and a summer trip to Québec City, Canada is available every two years for French students.

Upper School Academic Program

Friends' Central Upper School Curriculum Planner 2025-2026

ENGLISH (4 YEARS REQUIRED)

English I: The Journey Begins*
English II: In Pursuit of Justice*
English III: Literature of the United States*
English IV: Gods and Monsters: What is it to be Human?*
Writers' Workshop Advanced: Essay and Memoir
Writers' Workshop Advanced: Creative Writing
For All Time: William Shakespeare Adv

MATHEMATICS (3 YEARS REQUIRED)

Algebra I
Algebra II, Algebra II Adv
Geometry, Geometry Adv
Precalculus, Precalculus Adv
Statistics, Statistics Adv
Calculus I, Calculus I Adv
Calculus II Adv
Multivariable Calculus
Linear Algebra Adv
Intro to Economics

HISTORY (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

US History*, US History Adv*
Contemporary Global History*
Religions and Revolutions*

Partial list of History Electives:

- Capitalism and Consumption
- Constitutional Identity Adv
- Counternarratives of Resistance Adv
- Creating Africa Adv
- International Relations, International Relations Adv
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Philadelphia Black History from Reconstruction to the Present
- The Sociological Imagination: Race, Class, and Gender in an Unequal World

During the 2025-2026 academic year, all advanced History courses will be offered in the fall semester.

SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

Physics I
Astronomy
Atmospheric Science & Climate Change
Biology I, Biology I Adv
Biology II Adv Biodiversity
Biology II Adv...Exp.in Microbiology
Biology of Bodies
Botany
Chemistry I, Chemistry I Adv
Chemistry II Adv: Equilibrium
Chemistry II Adv: Kinetics and Electrochemistry
Experiential Physics
Physics III Adv: Astrophysics
Physics III Adv: Electricity and Circuits
Physics III Adv: Magnetism, Waves, and Optics
Advanced Topics in Organic Chemistry

WORLD LANGUAGES (2 YEARS OF THE SAME LANGUAGE REQUIRED)

Chinese (Mandarin) I,II
French I, II, II Adv, III, III Adv, IV
French Literature Adv
Greek I
Latin I, II, II Adv, III, III Adv
LATIN LITERATURE ADVANCED: Vergil
Spanish I, II, II Adv, III, III Adv, IV
Spanish: The Latino Immigrant Experience
Spanish: History & Culture of Latin America & Spain Advanced
Spanish Literature Advanced:
Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, and Ana María Matute

ARTS (4 SEMESTERS REQUIRED)

Partial list of Arts Electives:

- Art & Activism
- History of African American Music
- Introduction to Graphic Arts and Design
- Mixed Media: Connections to the real world
- Studio Art I: Foundations of Studio Art
- Studio Art II: Advanced Topics in Studio Art
- Wearable Art: Pattern to Precious Metal Clay

NON-DEPARTMENTAL COURSES

Advanced Computer Science
Introduction to Computer Hardware
Introduction to Computer Programming
Topics in Psychology

WELLNESS COURSES

Quaker School Life
Human Sexuality

Indicates a required course

2021-2025 College Acceptances & Matriculations

Bolded school names represent colleges where at least one Friends' Central student has enrolled.

Albright College
Alfred University
Allegheny College
Alvernia University
American University (3)
Amherst College
Arcadia University
Arizona State University (Tempe)
Auburn University
Babson College
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College (2)
Baylor University
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Boston College (2)
Boston University (5)
Bowdoin College (5)
Bowie State University
Brandeis University (2)
Brown University (3)
Bryant University
Bryn Athyn College
Bryn Mawr College (3)
Bucknell University (3)
Butler University
California College of the Arts
California Institute of Technology
California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo)
Camden County College
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve Univ. (3)
Catholic University of America
Cecil College
Champlain College (4)
Chapman University
Cheyney Univ. of Pennsylvania (2)
Claremont McKenna College
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado College
Colorado State Univ. (Fort Collins)
Columbia College (Chicago)
Columbia University
Commonwealth University (Bloomsburg)
Connecticut College (2)
Coppin State University
Cornell College
Cornell University (5)
Dartmouth College (2)
Davidson College
Delaware State University
Delaware Valley University
DePaul University
Dickinson College (6)
Drew University
Drexel University (11)
Duke University
Duquesne University
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
Eastern University
Eckerd College
Elizabethtown College
Elon University (2)
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona Beach)
Emerson College
Emory University
Fairfield University
Fairleigh Dickinson University (Metropolitan Campus)
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College (6)
Furman University
George Mason University
George Washington University (4)
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Grinnell College
Guilford College
Gwynedd Mercy University
Hamilton College
Hampton University (6)
Harvey Mudd College
Haverford College (4)
High Point University
Hobart & William Smith Colleges (2)
Hofstra University (2)
Howard University (5)
Illinois Wesleyan University
Immaculata University
Indiana Univ. (Bloomington) (5)
Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Main Campus)
Ithaca College (2)
Jacksonville University
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson C Smith University
Juniata College (5)
Kenyon College (2)
King's College London
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
La Salle University (2)
Lafayette College (3)
Lehigh University (2)
Lewis & Clark College
Lincoln University (2)
Long Island University (Brooklyn)
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University (2)
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Macalester College
Manhattan School of Music
Manhattanville University
Marist University (3)
Marquette University
Maryland Institute College of Art
Marymount Manhattan College
Marymount University
Massachusetts Instit. of Technology
McDaniel College
McGill University
Miami University (Oxford)
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Misericordia University
Monmouth University
Montclair State University
Moore College of Art and Design
Moravian University
Morehouse College
Morgan State University (4)
Mount St Mary's University
Muhlenberg College (3)
Neumann University
New York University (5)
Norfolk State University
North Carolina A & T State Univ.
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University (6)
Northwestern University (2)
Oberlin College
Occidental College (2)
Ohio University (Main Campus)
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pace University (New York City)
Parsons Paris at The New School
Parsons School of Design at The New School (2)
Penn State University (Abington)
Penn State Univ. (Altoona) (3)
Penn State University (Behrend)
Penn State University (Brandywine)
Penn State Univ. (Harrisburg) (2)
Penn State University (Lehigh Valley)
Penn State University (University Park) (20)
PennWest California
Pepperdine University
Philadelphia University
Pitzer College
Point Park University
Pomona College
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Providence College
Purdue University (Main Campus)
Queen Mary University of London
Quinnipiac University
Radford University
Randolph-Macon College
Reed College (3)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rice University
Rider University
Robert Morris University
Rochester Instit. of Technology (3)
Rollins College
Rutgers University (Camden)
Rutgers Univ. (New Brunswick) (3)
Saint Joseph's University (5)
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art & Design

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School of Drama at The New School
School of the Art Instit. of Chicago
Scripps College
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Siena University
Simmons University
Skidmore College (6)
Smith College (7)
Southern Methodist University
Southwest Mississippi Community College
Spelman College
St. John's College (Annapolis)
St. John's University (2)
St. Lawrence University (2)
Stanford University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stevenson University (2)
Stockton University
Stony Brook University (2)
Suffolk University
SUNY at New Paltz
SUNY at Purchase College
SUNY University at Buffalo
Susquehanna University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University (4)
Temple University (14)
Temple University, Japan Campus
Texas Christian University
The Boston Conservatory at Berklee (2)
The College of New Jersey
The New School
The Ohio State University (2)
The University of Edinburgh
The University of Manchester
The University of Tampa (2)
The University of Tennessee (Knoxville)
Thomas Jefferson University
Towson University
Trinity College
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University (10)
Tulane University of Louisiana (3)
Tuskegee University
Union College
United States Naval Academy
University at Albany
University College Dublin
University of Alabama
University of Alabama in Huntsville
University of Arizona
University of Birmingham
University of British Columbia
Univ. of California (Berkeley) (3)
University of California (Davis)
University of California (Irvine)
University of California (Los Angeles) (2)
University of California (Merced)
University of California (Riverside)
Univ. of California (San Diego) (3)
University of California (Santa Barbara)
University of California (Santa Cruz)
University of Chicago
Univ. of Cincinnati (Main Campus)
University of Colorado Boulder (2)
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware (3)
University of Denver
University of Detroit Mercy
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Glasgow
University of Hartford
University of Hawaii at Hilo
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Houston
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2)
University of Iowa
University of Kentucky
University of Maine
University of Mary Washington
Univ. of Maryland (Baltimore County)
University of Maryland (College Park) (3)
Univ. of Maryland Eastern Shore
University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
Univ. of Massachusetts (Boston)
Univ. of Massachusetts (Dartmouth)
University of Memphis
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota (Twin Cities)
University of Mississippi
University of Mount Union
University of New Hampshire (Main Campus)
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
Univ. of North Carolina Wilmington
University of North Dakota
University of North Florida
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania (17)
Univ. of Pittsburgh (Bradford)
University of Pittsburgh (Greensburg)
University of Pittsburgh (Johnstown)
University of Pittsburgh (18)
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond (2)
University of Rochester (2)
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Scranton
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida (Main Campus)
Univ. of Southern California (4)
University of St Andrews (5)
University of the District of Columbia
University of Toronto (2)
University of Utah
University of Vermont (3)
University of Virginia (Main Campus) (3)
University of Washington (Seattle Campus)
University of Winchester
Univ. of Wisconsin (Madison) (5)
University of York
Ursinus College (3)
Utica University
Vanderbilt University (2)
Vassar College (2)
Villanova University (5)
Virginia Commonwealth Univ.
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Virginia State University
Virginia Wesleyan University
Wagner College
Wake Forest University (4)
Washington & Jefferson College
Washington College
Washington Univ. in St. Louis (5)
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University (5)
West Chester University of Pennsylvania (4)
West Virginia University
Wheaton College - MA
Widener University (2)
The College of William & Mary (4)
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (3)
Xavier University
Xavier University of Louisiana
Yale University (2)
York College of Pennsylvania (2)