

SKIDMORE



Creative Thought Matters

OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (HEOP/AOP) AT SKIDMORE

For over 40 years, Skidmore's Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) has been **one of the most successful in New York State**. HEOP recruits talented and motivated students from New York State whose academic and financial circumstances might make them otherwise unable to attend Skidmore. The Academic Opportunity Program (AOP), Skidmore's own program, recruits similar students who reside out of state and/or whose family income slightly exceeds HEOP guidelines. Both programs, HEOP and AOP, are collectively referred to as the Opportunity Program at Skidmore.

The Opportunity Program provides **highly personalized academic, financial, and counseling services**, beginning with a required summer program at Skidmore prior to the first year. The Summer Academic Institute strengthens students' academic and study skills and familiarizes them with the Skidmore environment, building a solid foundation for a successful four-year career.

Currently, nearly 170 Opportunity Program students attend Skidmore (5% of the student body). The College is proud of its remarkable Opportunity Program grade-point average and graduation rates. In fact, **Skidmore's program is seen as a national model**, having been recognized by the Institute for the Study of Social Change's Consortium for High Academic Performance at the University of California at Berkeley. Skidmore's Opportunity Program graduates—almost 500 in all—have gone on to successful careers in business, education, human services, medicine, publishing, and more. The College's Office of Career Development and Multicultural Alumni Network have been instrumental in launching post-college careers.

Recent Opportunity Program internships:

Global Foundries
AYCO
InRoads
Time Inc.
State Farm Insurance
New World Foundation
Coin Internships
Name Bubbles
Office of Congressman
Scott Murphy
Office of New York City Mayor
Michael Bloomberg

Recent Opportunity Program fellowships:

National Institutes of Health
Fulbright

continue on reverse



THE SUMMER PROGRAM

The 4.5-week Summer Academic Institute is the **cornerstone of Opportunity Program student success**. The staff works closely with Skidmore faculty and the registrar in designing an intense but supportive academic experience. Students earn true Skidmore grades and up to six academic credits. As a bridge program, the institute underscores the seriousness of academic work, introduces you to Skidmore standards, alerts you to future expectations, and fosters engagement and a will to achieve. Just as importantly, a close mentoring and advising relationship is started. At summer celebration dinners, students often speak of how the program fostered their individual and group accomplishments, a sense of community, and personal and academic self-confidence.

The Opportunity Program offers **comprehensive support**. Veteran staff members (all required to give academic support across the disciplines) pay especially close attention to first-year students. They review faculty academic evaluations in the fourth and eighth weeks of each semester; these reports, as well as frequent contact with the students, guide the staff in making recommendations about tutors, faculty mentors, and future course work. In later years as students choose and pursue a major, faculty in their major largely handle academic guidance. However, Opportunity Program staff continue to provide mentoring guidance and academic support when needed. Other College offices are also valuable resources, including Career Development, the College Chaplain, Student Academic Services, and Student Diversity Programs.

Outside the classroom, the Opportunity Program office provides a **warm, welcoming atmosphere**. Through informal conversation among staff members and fellow students, you can share insights and discover interests and opportunities. You're welcome—even encouraged—to telephone staff members outside school hours. Special events, such as dinners at staff members' homes, foster a nurturing college experience. Simply put, the staff offers friendship as well as tutoring and counseling, providing a personal connection to the Skidmore community as a whole.

Recent Opportunity Program study-abroad locations:

Australia
Brazil
China
Czech Republic
England (London)
France (Paris)
Ghana
India
Italy
Japan
Mexico
South Africa
Spain (Madrid)
Swaziland
Switzerland

Recent Opportunity Program summer jobs:

National Park Service
Teen People Magazine

Recent grad schools attended by Opportunity Program students:

Albany College of Pharmacy
American University
Ball State
Columbia
Florida International University College of Law
Fordham
Harvard
New York University
Notre Dame
Stony Brook
Thomas Jefferson School of Law
Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth
University of Chicago
University of Illinois
University of Pennsylvania
University of Tennessee

