

Hotchkiss School

Ivy League MIT Stanford placement

Hotchkiss School: 21 %

Top 30 Boarding Schools: 18 %

Top 50 High Schools: 25 %

HYPMS placement

Hotchkiss School: 10 %

Top 30 Boarding Schools: 8 %

Top 50 High Schools: 12 %

Average SAT

Hotchkiss School-- Insufficient Data --

Top 30 Boarding Schools: 1,842

Top 50 High Schools: 1,569

Endowment per student

Hotchkiss School: \$ 0.77 million (US)

Top 30 Boarding Schools: \$ 0.32 million (US)

Top 50 High Schools: \$ 0.16 million (US)

Endowment

Hotchkiss School: \$ 430 million (US)

Top 30 Boarding Schools: \$ 186 million (US)

Top 50 High Schools: \$ 110 million (US)

AP courses

Hotchkiss School-- Insufficient Data --

Top 30 Boarding Schools: 16 (courses)

Top 50 High Schools: 12 (courses)

Students receiving aid

Hotchkiss School-- Insufficient Data --

Top 30 Boarding Schools: 30 %

Top 50 High Schools: 22 %

Average class size

Hotchkiss School: 12 (students)

Top 30 Boarding Schools: 12 (students)

Top 50 High Schools: 14 (students)

Advanced degree faculty

Hotchkiss School: 69 %

Top 30 Boarding Schools: 72 %

Top 50 High Schools: 64 %

Day Tuition

Hotchkiss School: \$ 38,650 (USD)

Top 30 Boarding Schools: \$ 31,941 (USD)

Top 50 High Schools: \$ 32,349 (USD)

Boarding Tuition

Hotchkiss School: \$ 45,350 (USD)

Top 30 Boarding Schools: \$ 46,116 (USD)

Top 50 High Schools: \$ 45,931 (USD)

Info

- School type: Boarding and day students
 - Day student only grade:9th to PG
 - Boarding student only grade:9th to PG
 - School focus: College Preparatory
 - AP and or IB: AP
 - Number of AP courses offered: 0
 - Average SAT: 0
 - ESL offered:
 - Academic calendar: Semesters
 - Summer program: Yes
 - Boarding availability: 7 day boarding
 - Setting: Rural
 - Founded:1891
 - Total school faculty: 123
 - Advanced degree faculty: 69 %
 - Teacher : Student ratio: 1 : 5
 - Religious affiliation: None
 - Website: <http://www.hotchkiss.org>
 - Address: PO Box 800 Lakeville CT 06039 United States
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Enrollment

- Day student only grade:9th to PG
 - Boarding student only grade:9th to PG
 - Enrollment gender: Coed
 - Average class size: 12
 - Dress code*:No
 - Total student enrolled:560
 - International student:
 - *Dress code, Yes=Formal or Uniform, No=Casual
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Tuition

- Boarding student tuition (per year):\$45,350
 - Day student tuition (per year):\$38,650
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Admissions

- Admissions deadline: January 14
 - Application fee: \$50.00
 - Acceptance rate:
 - Interview: On-campus interview required
 - Rolling admissions: No
 - English proficiency required for admission: Yes
 - Type of aid available: Need-based
 - % student receiving aid:
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Contact

- Email:admission@hotchkiss.org
 - Phone:860-435-3102
 - Fax:860-435-0042
 - Website: <http://www.hotchkiss.org>
 - Address: PO Box 800 Lakeville CT 06039 United States
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Reviews

Academic

[Yale] Broad range of classes. Classes are small, capped at 12. Very good teachers—accessible and helpful. The science building has labs for student use. There are opportunities to study film, theater, creative writing, African American studies, classical languages, etc—the art department is very good.

[U Penn] Hotchkiss is known for its rigorous academics. Academically its strengths lie in the foreign language, Science, and History department. The rigor of the academic work can be challenging for an incoming freshman, but will prepare you for life in college. The independence you are given during your 4 years is the aspect that has prepared me the most. The classes were more lectured based, but you were encourage to engage in discussion with your peers when possible. Class size was around 10 per class on average. The faculty were very accessible and will go out of their way to help you if need be. If you are very talented in a particular subject, and have been through all of the class levels offered by the school, you can request for an independent study in the class. You will be assigned a teacher who you will work with one on one on the chosen subject.

[Columbia] Hotchkiss is like a mini-college, situated in the woods. Within this beautiful scenery lies small classes taught by professors, whom are constantly within reach (each residence hall's floor has faculty). The quality of classes was great and very intensive, but the amount of work and choice selections in reading really prepares the student for college. Also, the small size helps facilitate discussions, preparing students to voice their opinions at the college level. There are Saturday classes, but it never was a bother. The biomedical/biotechnological ethics and other biology courses (such as Anatomy, Neuroanatomy, and Biotech) were quite interesting despite intensive in study.

[Wesleyan] Hotchkiss's academic program is second-to-none. Small classes (typically of 12, seldom of more than 15 students) are led by interesting, dedicated, compassionate professors. In-class participation is expected in every course, be it in math, science, or humanities. Many humanities classes are taught around oval tables (referred to as Harkness tables by some). Teachers across the board expect a high standard of work, and grade inflation is scant. While Hotchkiss has a number of base distribution requirements - for incoming 9th graders: four years of English, a year of laboratory science, a year of US history, a year of art (could be visual art, music, drama, etc.), completion of third-year high school math - these are easy to fulfill and are generally intended to prepare students for more advanced work in AP, honors, and elective courses. In reality, students will find that their course selection from year to year is influenced more by expectations of the admissions offices at elite colleges than any expectations imposed by Hotchkiss. Additionally, all students are required to write a capstone English paper referred to as a "Teagle" during their senior year in order to graduate. The Teagle is essentially open-ended, and most are about fifteen pages. The first two years at Hotchkiss emphasize bringing the "underclassmen" - 9th and 10th graders - up to speed so that they may go on to produce stellar, university-level work in their last two years. All underclassmen spend two hours in a mandatory study hall in their dorm rooms every evening. Additional avenues exist for those who struggle, such as a more closely moderated "supervised" study hall, and a similar program that allows for collaborative work in a supervised setting called "study tables." Additionally, faculty members are incredibly accessible. All have office hours, and the vast majority live on campus and are more than willing to give additional help and tutoring if asked. Students who have a particular talent or interest in a certain area may pursue either "special projects" structured projects in lieu of Hotchkiss's seasonal sports requirement - or for-credit independent study courses with the guidance of a faculty member. Beginning in the fall of 2008, Hotchkiss introduced a cohesive program of study in the humanities that runs from the start of 9th grade through the end of 10th grade. The program explores the development of Western society and thought by covering corresponding material in courses in English, History, Philosophy, and different areas in the arts. While this program has already achieved significant popularity, it is not required. Hotchkiss's curriculum is further distinguished by its rural surroundings. Science electives are offered in stream ecology and limnology. There are also two senior English electives, one titled "Fly Fishing in Literature" and another titled "Nature," which split time between the classroom and the school woods and lake. One of the most popular courses for upperclassmen is Hotchkiss's unique take on the traditional AP Environmental Science course, which incorporates upwards of twenty five field trips to areas of geological and ecological significance over the course of the year. Hotchkiss also owns and operates a small farm three minutes away from campus by car, which has becoming increasingly utilized by students over the past several years.

College Counseling

[Yale] The college counselors are great. They are very well-connected and have been doing their jobs for a long time. They start you early and make sure students are on top of applications. The only flaw in my eyes was giving all attention to getting into schools and not exposing people to scholarship opportunities as extensively.

[U Penn] The college counseling was honestly the main reason why I am at the school I am today. Starting from second semester junior year, each student will receive a college counselor who will guide him or her through the difficult process. During the second semester junior year, you will meet with your college counselor about 3 times to develop your college list. He will give you a preliminary list of schools that he feels might match your interest, but the final judgment of what schools you end up applying to is

completely up to you. My counselor was sincerely interested in my candidacy. He guided me step by step through the process, but also got to know me on a personal level. At various times during the year, he would invite me over to his house to have dinner with his family. He was very connected and he is the main reason I am at my present college. My teachers were more than happy to write me a recommendation. They knew how hard I worked in their class, and also got to see me grow over my four years at the school.

[Columbia] College counseling was excellent. The counselors were successful in placing students in their college of choice through meaningful conversation to determine what a student truly wanted to pursue and what schools were the best fits, and not just because of designer name (i.e. the Ivy League schools). Lots of one-on-one conversations starting in 3rd year.

[Wesleyan] College advising at Hotchkiss begins in the winter of 11th grade. On any given year there will be four advisors on staff, and the members of the class that is being advised are divided amongst these advisors, meaning a student will share an advisor with 40-45 other students. Throughout the rest of 11th grade, a student should meet with their advisor two to three times - although it is the student's responsibility to take the initiative to schedule these meetings. Like anything else, students generally get out of college advising what they put into it. The more of an effort they spend getting to know their advisor and talking to them about their college desires, the more likely their advisor is to craft a list of colleges that suit that student's personality and to write that student a more personalized letter of recommendation. While I've heard complaints about some advisors, I had a wonderful experience with mine. She was friendly, accessible, and interested in getting to know me. Perhaps above all, she knew what she was doing - she knew the ins and outs of the system, and was full of good advice.

Admissions Process

[Yale] Admission is tough and Hotchkiss has an admissions rate of less than 25% (tied for most selective among all boarding schools). There are 565 students in the entire school. Advice...prepare as if you are going to college, interview is very important, you need to stand out and come alive off of the paper.

[U Penn] The admission process was very competitive when I was applying and has only become more competitive since I've left. The qualities of the students who were given admission vary, but students that attend Hotchkiss tend to be either well rounded, or very skilled in a single activity. On average the admitted students are very intelligent and motivated. For the interview, the best thing is to just be yourself. Maintain a good conversation with the interviewer and try to let him or her know about the various activities you are in. Again it is a very selective school so no matter how impressive your application may be, nothing is guaranteed. Applicants should take the SSAT if you are entering as a 9th grader. The average incoming student SSAT percentile was about 92%, but it has increased since. Dress appropriate, and don't be nervous. Be yourself. Students on average tend to be well rounded, but if you do have a particular skill, it could help you get admittance. Sport skills, musical skills, and science skills tend to be favored

[Columbia] SSAT: Aim for as early as possible prior to admission. Range should be around 95+ percentile of SSAT scores. Student: Should be well rounded individuals, although I was more math & science. Admission Interview Required, dress conservatively, questions are typical ones about why Hotchkiss. Student's parents should be supportive, although it's important student shows desire to go. Feeder middle schools don't necessarily help admission.

[Wesleyan] Hotchkiss doesn't prefer a certain type of student, nor does it have preferred "feeder schools." The job of admissions is to build a class of smart, passionate students with a diversity of backgrounds, interests, and talents. Prospective applicants call the admissions office and set up a visit typically in the fall before they apply. The applicant goes on a 40 minute tour of campus with a student guide, and then has a half-hour interview. These interviews are probably more important than most people realize, especially if you're a borderline candidate, but there's no real way to prepare for them. That being said, relax. Be honest and be yourself. As a former tour guide, I can confidently say that our admissions officers will see through any dishonesty or affectation. After the student interview comes a parent interview. The same officer who just interviewed you will interview your parents. Parents: No high school wants to deal with smother mother or fathers, no matter how excellent your kid is. It's wonderful to advocate for your offspring, but don't come across as bullish or pushy. Also - be honest about your child's weaknesses. This way, the interviewer will take you more seriously when you enumerate their strengths. To complete the application process, students write an application which consists of a few short answers along with the choice of either a longer essay or a creative project. Applications include all the standard pieces as well: teacher recs, test scores (generally SSATs), as well as a graded essay written for a school assignment. Average SSAT scores are 89th percentile, but they are actually higher than this for non-legacy, non-faculty children applicants. However, don't freak out too much if one of these pieces is lacking, because applications are viewed as an entirety for the story total picture they paint of you. One thing though - DON'T exceed word limits with essays. Part of being a good writer is being able to express yourself efficiently.

Extra-Curricular Activities

[Yale] Dance, film, visual art, ceramics, investment club, black and Hispanic student alliance, poetry group, eating club, Italian club, student-faculty (school government), Hotchkiss Republicans, Hotchkiss Democrats, Drama Club...They have everything. There was even a Harry Potter club active while I was a student. I really do mean everything. Sportwise-we are considered the small out of the

big schools and a part of the Founder's League. We compete with Choate, Taft, Trinity Pawling, Salisbury, Westminster (etc.) and Andover and Exeter later on in the season (these schools are the biggest and trying to downsize). Track and Field, Lacrosse, Hockey, Field Hockey, Football, Basketball, Squash, Tennis, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, Soccer, Cross Country. (Probably more, everything but crew basically) Sports are offered on a varsity, v, thirds, and club level (4 teams of different quality) Essentially, everyone gets a chance to play. Many athletes go on to play in college.

[U Penn] The school for the most part does a good job in balancing student life. In general everyone has to participate in an extracurricular activity from 3-5 Mondays through Fridays. The school offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities, and if you are interested in something that is not provided, you can request to start the activity if you have the support of a faculty member. The sport program in the school has grown stronger every year since I was there. Sport teams tend to be very competitive, but there were different levels in each sport so if you are interested in a sport but do not have the skills to compete on the varsity level, you could choose to play on the junior varsity level or even thirds. In some sports, students could even participate on the club level where you simply compete against other classmates. Community service was not a big part of the school when I was there, but there are many opportunities to partake in community service if you want to. You have the option to participate in community service after classes from 3-5. Some options included volunteering at a retirement home or being a T.A for a group of kids at the local elementary school.

[Columbia] not really take advantage of extracurriculars, there are many extracurriculars available at Hotchkiss, from the traditional (newspaper, fine arts, theater, cultural clubs, political) to unusual (polar bear club). Sports are another source of extracurricular activity, ranging from baseball to wrestling.

[Wesleyan] For a relatively small high school, Hotchkiss offers a tremendous amount of extracurricular opportunities of varying degrees of institutional sponsorship. When I graduated there were about eighty student-run clubs, a number which only increases, as it doesn't take much for groups to apply for institutional recognition and support. Of course, some of these were more active than others, with the active ones meeting once a week or more. Generally, clubs will meet in the evening, after sports practices and dinner. Groups such as St. Luke's Society (essentially a community service collective), Students for Environmental Action, and Hotchkiss Political Union, to name a few, provide outlets for student involvement in different kinds of service and activism. As off-campus entertainment options are decisively limited by the rural surroundings, campus clubs (especially performance groups) contribute to Hotchkiss culture in a big way. An enjoyable Saturday night might consist of an a cappella concert, or a student-produced musical or dance recital. When I was a student, I was a member of Right Brain Logic (the jazz ensemble), a member of Blue Notes (the all-male a cappella group), a board member of the environmental advocacy group, and a member of class council, to name just a few, and that kind of level of commitment wasn't atypical. A word to the wise though - because students have such an opportunity to spread themselves thin, they really have to both improve their time management skills and avoid biting off more than they can chew, unless they want to make themselves miserable. This was a lesson I didn't fully learn until my upperclassmen years.

Quality of School Life

[Yale] Facilities are top notch, believe me even the best universities pale in comparison-that goes for classrooms, athletic facilities, dorms etc. There is nothing round. So it is safe, but very isolated. This is great in terms of focus. The train station is 20 minutes away and then it is only 2 hours from NYC. There are shuttles to CVS, supermarket etc on Sundays. The campus is breathtaking, look at the website. Hotchkiss involves itself in community service in Lakeville. There are dances (with other schools and only with Hotchkiss), student productions, carnivals, Holidays (no school), school wide tournaments, Jeopardy tournaments, a magician, a hypnotist, comedians, live bands. Basically any idea is also accepted.

[U Penn] The quality of life was amazing at Hotchkiss. Dorms for the most part tend to have all the amenities of home plus more. The food at Hotchkiss was decent. Some meals were amazing while others were the complete opposite. If the food at the snack bar does not suit you, you could always go to the snack bar in main building and order burgers or chicken tenders. Hotchkiss is located in a wealthy area of Connecticut so crime and safety were never an issue. Plus there are guards on campus 24/7 so in the rare occasion there is an event dealing with crime, the guards will be close by. The technology is top of the line and is always kept current. The library is stocked with almost any possible book you could ever need. I never had a problem finding a book I needed for a report. In the rare event the library does not have the book you are looking for, they can order it and have it to you by the end of the week. The school is very diverse, and from what I have heard from current students, it is only increasing in diversity. The school is based on tradition but it is not set in its past. It is willing to change for the students. It has the best in both worlds in the sense that it has those traditional values, but also has a liberal side to it.

[Columbia] Small campus, rural setting...means lack of things to do off-campus outside of clubs, and there's barely any crime. Small campus also allows for one to get to know pretty much everybody at school. Buildings are all easily within walking distance, housing varies from singles to triples. Dining plan gets repetitive.

[Wesleyan] Hotchkiss is in the very rural (and beautiful) Lakeville, Connecticut, and much of the school's personality is shaped by these surroundings. Campus has everything students need, and that's not to say it doesn't have a lot - the facilities are top-notch across

the board. The athletic center and the music wing are arguably the two most impressive aspects of campus. Built in 2001 and 2004 respectively, they are either on par or better than their counterparts at many of the best universities in the country. There are twelve dorms in total, six for boys and six for girls. While some of these are handsomer than others, they are at least comfortable and they are all appealing in different ways. Two to three 12th grade "proctors" moderate and enhance the life of each floor by enforcing school policy and by looking out for any academic, social, and health concerns their peers may have. Each floor also has an apartment with at least one faculty member (two in the case of a faculty couple). These floor faculty members are charged with fostering a sense of community. They throw semi-regular "feeds" for their floors, typically consisting of takeout or chips 'n dip, although the especially dedicated ones might even bake for you! While Hotchkiss has a relatively large campus, it is pulled together nicely. All classes are taught in either main building or the science building, which are basically the center of campus. Additionally, the heart of main building connects the chapel, the auditorium, the music and art centers, the library, and the dining hall. Excluding some of the athletic fields, no spot on campus you'll have to be is too far of a walk - a big advantage in the winter. Hotchkiss loses a star for the Quality of Life ranking because at times it is overly stressful both academically and socially. In terms of academics: the combination of consistently heavy work loads, the absence of grade inflation, a student body of overachievers, and the competitive nature of the college process can make some people pretty miserable, although it can also have the opposite effect of helping students to develop a sense of perspective. In terms of social life: Hotchkiss tries hard to be diverse socioeconomically by recruiting less privileged applicants, but ultimately some aspects of the school still feel very upper-class. For some this isn't such a big deal, while for others it can be intimidating and alienating. That being said, Hotchkiss's biggest strength is perhaps the camaraderie among the students. There's a certain feeling of rapport, even with people you aren't necessarily best friends with, which is in part forged by the pressures students share along with the rural isolation of campus, but also by times when we would come together in celebration over the victory of a sports team or to support each other in a recital or performance.