

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2016

Applying

Hamilton's application is the Common Application. The list below describes the Common Application and our various required supplements.

A completed application consists of:

- the Common Application
- Hamilton's Application Supplement
- an application fee of \$60, non-refundable, submitted with the student's portion of the Common Application form. In cases of financial hardship, you may request a fee waiver by submitting a letter from your counselor or principal stating that you are eligible for such a waiver. Hamilton subscribes to the fee waiver guidelines established annually by the College Board.
- Personal Statement as described in the application
- Teacher Evaluation Form from a teacher who recently instructed you in an academic subject

- Secondary School Counselor Evaluation Form to be completed by your college advisor or guidance counselor and sent with your high school transcript and school profile
- Mid-year Report Form
- Official Standardized Test Report(s)

Early Decision candidates must also complete the Early Decision Agreement, which can be submitted through the Common Application or downloaded from our website and submitted by regular mail or fax.

You may download the Common Application forms from our website or complete and submit electronically. Links can be found at the following websites:

- www.commonapp.org
- www.hamilton.edu/apply

Deadlines

Early Decision Plan I – applications are due by November 15. Candidates will be notified by December 15.

Early Decision Plan II – applications are due by January 1. Candidates will be notified by February 15.

Note: Regular Decision candidates may convert to EDII by filing an Early Decision Agreement that must be received by the Admission Office by 5 p.m. on January 30.

ED Plans I and II are binding admission programs. See the Early Decision Agreement for full details.

Regular Decision – applications must be submitted by January 1. Decisions will be mailed in late March, and admitted candidates will have until May 1 to accept admission to Hamilton and submit the \$500 enrollment deposit. Candidates will be notified of their financial aid awards with their admission decisions.

Admission Overview

Hamilton's Admission Committee seeks candidates with intellectual curiosity, academic promise and a diverse range of interests and backgrounds. Each application is carefully reviewed and evaluated on the basis of its merits and in the context of the strengths of the applicant pool. Our ultimate goal is to admit the most able and promising mix of students who will contribute to the Hamilton community in meaningful ways.

Although the primary criteria for admission are academic achievement and intellectual potential, Hamilton also values leadership and commitment to extracurricular and community activities. In shaping the class, the admission staff seeks students representing diverse geographic, economic and ethnic backgrounds whose perspectives will enrich our learning community. Lastly, Hamilton seeks to admit students who are a good fit with the program and experience the College offers.

Standardized Testing

Our applicants are best served by being provided with a variety of ways to meet our standardized test requirement.

They include:

- The SAT Reasoning Test; OR
- The American College Testing assessment test (ACT); OR
- Three exams of your choice which must include a quantitative test, a verbal or writing test, and a third test of the student's choice. The following tests satisfy Hamilton's quantitative and verbal/writing requirements:

Acceptable Quantitative Tests: SAT Math; SAT Subject Tests in Math, Chemistry or Physics; AP Computer Science, Chemistry, Economics, Math or Physics; final exam results for IB Chemistry, Computing Studies, Economics, Math, Physics or Physical and Chemical Systems.

Acceptable Verbal/Writing Tests: SAT Critical Reading; SAT Writing; ACT Writing; AP English Language and Composition; final exam results for IB Language (A1, A2 or B English); TOEFL Exam (for International students ONLY)

Note: If you would like to submit all of your testing to Hamilton, we will choose the best scores for you.

Supplementary Materials

You are invited to submit materials to document your special talent(s), e.g. CDs or DVDs of solo music performances, theatre, dance or athletic performances, or samples of creative writing or visual artwork. Unless otherwise indicated, send directly to the Office of Admission. We will return samples if you include stamped, self-addressed packing materials.

Whether or not you send samples, you may include a special-talent résumé listing training and experience, repertoire or roles performed, writing or scientific research, athletic involvement and honors received.

Artists

- Send an artist's statement and 10-15 images of drawings, paintings, photographs, sculptures or other visual artwork. Do NOT send originals.
- Acceptable media are CDs and DVDs. Acceptable formats are JPEG, PowerPoint or QuickTime files (must be Macintosh compatible), or slides (numbered, labeled, titled in a standard 9" x 11" slide sheet). An accompanying explanatory document with name, date, medium and explanation of work is recommended.

Athletes

- If appropriate, send a DVD to Hamilton's head coach of your sport or Hamilton's athletic director.
- Other important information to send to Hamilton's head coach of your sport or Hamilton's athletic director: schedule of your high school season, years of varsity competition, times/stats, awards and recognitions.

Musicians

- Send a CD or DVD labeled with your name and address, instrument (or voice), and the work's title and composer. Do not send a full orchestral, band or choral recording unless you are a featured soloist; if so, please specify your solo.
- Describe with whom and for how long you have trained, any ensemble and solo experience you have had and your plans for musical involvement in college.

Scientists

- If you are involved in scientific research or mathematical projects and are considering a research or academic career, we welcome descriptions of your work. Please send a full report of your research, including an abstract and a cover sheet noting your intended field of study. Provide a résumé of related activities, independent projects, summer study, or research and recognition received.

Theatre and Dance Students

- Send a DVD of a performance (less than five minutes). Theatre students should perform two contrasting monologues. Do not send a full company work unless you are a featured performer. If so, please specify your solo/role.
- Include on a separate sheet of paper your name and address, the titles of works performed, and your training and experience.

Writers

- Send poetry, short stories, novels or other writing samples to be evaluated.

Interviews

Because the Admission Committee wants to know as much as possible about each applicant, a personal interview is strongly recommended. On- and off-campus interviews can be scheduled by calling the Admission Office at 800-843-2655.

Financial Aid

Financial aid candidates must file the College Scholarship Service PROFILE form and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form by the deadlines listed below. The PROFILE code for Hamilton is 2286; the FAFSA code for Hamilton is 002728.

Other requirements include:

- Hamilton's Financial Aid Application
- Parent & Student federal taxes
- Non-custodial Parent PROFILE (if relevant)
- Business/Farm Supplement (if relevant)
- New York State taxes (if relevant)
- International Student Financial Aid Application and Certification of Finances (for non-Canadian international students only)

A financial aid award cannot be made until all forms are submitted. Hamilton will meet the full demonstrated financial need for all admitted students who complete their financial aid application by the required deadlines. You are encouraged to keep a copy of all forms before sending them for processing.

Checklist

Regular Decision Applicants

- \$60 fee with application or fee waiver
- Hamilton supplement
- official high school transcript and Counselor Evaluation Form
- Teacher Evaluation Form from teacher in major academic subject
- personal statement
- standardized test scores (on official high school transcript or from testing agency)
- mid-year grade report is due in February or as soon as possible

International Applicants

- requirements listed above
- TOEFL scores
- translation of official documents, when originals are not in English

Early Decision Applicants

- requirements listed above
- Early Decision Agreement, including your parent's and your counselor's signatures
- all testing completed by November of senior year for Plan I and December for Plan II
- First-quarter grades
- if applying for financial aid in Plan I, submit the CSS PROFILE by November 15. For Plan II, file by January 1.

Admission and Financial Aid Deadlines

| | All admission application materials must be postmarked by: | All financial aid application materials must be postmarked by: | Notification of admission decision on or before: |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| Early Decision I | November 15 | November 15* | December 15 |
| Early Decision II | January 1 | January 1* | February 15 |
| Regular Decision | January 1 | February 15 | April 1 |

* The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) portion of your financial aid application is due February 15.