

HUNTER



Hunter College High School—College Profile 2012-2013

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The School

Hunter College High School is publicly funded and serves intellectually gifted students in grades 7 through 12. Students are admitted from public, private and parochial schools in all five boroughs of New York City. Independent of the NYC Department of Education and administered by Hunter College of the City University of New York, Hunter provides a rich and accelerated education tuition free. Hunter is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Admissions

Students accepted to Hunter represent the top one-quarter of 1% of students in New York City, based on test scores. Just sitting for the Hunter Entrance Exam required a score above the 90th percentile on standardized verbal and math tests; of the roughly 2,500 who qualify each year, only the top 185 scorers are admitted to the 7th grade, along with about 45 students from Hunter College Elementary School. This is the sole entry point to the school. News media routinely run footage of hopeful students lined up for blocks around the test sites. It is not an overstatement to say that getting into Hunter is an achievement in itself.

The Students

Total enrollment in grades 7 through 12 is about 1,200. This year's graduating class of 199 mirrors the diversity of the student body as a whole. Students come from all parts of New York City and from a vast range of racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds—from struggling to very wealthy. Approximately 15% are economically disadvantaged. Nearly 75% were either born abroad or have a parent who was.

Hunter students often comment that the school's

greatest resource is other Hunter students. Along with drive and curiosity, they bring a remarkable range of talents to school. Some 60 student-created clubs—including Quiz Bowl, satire cultural clubs and robotics—are currently chartered. The school counts actors, nationally-ranked athletes, chess masters, and even a U.S. Supreme Court Justice among its ranks. This past year alone, Hunter students have won national and regional awards for writing, debate, chemistry, engineering, math, history, chess masters, art and music composition, and performance.

Academic Program

Hunter's high school program begins in the 8th grade. Our curriculum provides a rigorous liberal arts education, rich in all academic disciplines as well as in the performing and fine arts. All subjects are accelerated; state educational requirements are completed by 11th grade. During the 12th grade, students design a program comprised of electives, college courses, internships, and independent study.

Required Courses

Hunter's academic program is prescribed for the first three high school years. Students take English, social studies, math, science, and one of three languages (Latin, French, Spanish). Biology, chemistry and physics are required, as are music, theater and art, including both studio and history components.

The depth of study often surprises outsiders. Teachers capitalize on students' intellectual curiosity and ability to go beyond factual material and provoke debate. Writing is intrinsic to every class - essays are assigned even in physical education courses.

All students take honors math. Students selected for our "extended honors" track (indicated on transcripts as E) go in greater depth at a faster pace. Because of the demands of the E-math curriculum, students may receive grades somewhat lower than they would in our regular honors program.

Electives

In 11th grade, study is limited to five courses—math, English, social studies, and two electives. (International Relations, a study of Joyce’s *Ulysses*, Advanced Art History, and Physiology are a few of this year’s less typical offerings.) All elective courses exceed the standard secondary-school level; most use college texts and are designed to match undergraduate offerings.

Throughout their six years at Hunter, students with strong proficiency in music may also enroll in the band, orchestra, chorus, or string ensembles. These groups are selective and perform both locally and internationally.

A Word on APs

Recognizing that Hunter students’ abilities exceed the expectations of the College Board’s AP curricula, a few departments have eliminated designated AP courses.

Because our program requirements prevent students from taking more than two AP

The number of AP courses on the transcript does not measure the rigor of a Hunter student’s program.

courses in 11th grade, and because our AP courses are not necessarily our most demanding in each department, the number of AP courses on the transcript is not an accurate measure of the rigor of a Hunter student’s program.

Senior Year

With most students completing required courses by the end of 11th grade, senior year is a time to broaden and personalize study. Seniors must take a minimum of five and not more than six courses per semester, including off-campus courses at Hunter College or Columbia University (indicated as OCC on transcripts).

Seniors may also elect to substitute an internship for one or two

Students pick colleges with care—they apply to just eight.

courses through the Hunter Scholar’s Program. Recent settings include Rockefeller University Labs, the W Hotel, the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office and several Fortune 500 companies.

Graduation Requirements

English/Communication & Theater	4.5 credits
Mathematics	4.0 credits
Social Studies	4.0 credits
Foreign Language	3.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Art & Music	2.5 credits
Health	1.0 credits
Physical Education	2.0 credits
Electives	5.0 credits
Community Service	75 hours

Our College & Ranking Policies

Hunter College High School neither ranks students, nor calculates GPAs. Distinctions between individual students are often too close to be meaningful—and in a school like ours, being in the “top 10%” or “top quarter” of the class isn’t comparable to that designation in a more heterogeneous environment. Simply put, most students here work extremely hard, and their grades reflect it.

The inserted chart reflects the grade distribution for junior year courses taken during the 2011-2012 year. Grades for course work are granted with the following designations: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, F.

Hunter limits applications to eight private colleges and universities. This encourages students to carefully consider the schools to which they apply—and assures colleges of a student’s genuine interest.

Challenges

Making the most of limited resources is something Hunter students view as a badge of honor. Perennially underfunded, the school cannot match the facilities and staffing of the private and suburban schools often labeled its peers. Space shortages limit the number of electives and sometimes result in students being denied courses they want. Money for extras—trips, student publications, specialized equipment, technology, classroom renovations—depends on parent fundraising. Clubs, theatre productions, and publications are largely run by students.

As teenagers in a city of eight million, Hunter students are also forced to develop life skills early on. Many commute up to three hours a day, mostly by public transportation. Because the vast majority of students are involved in

activities after scheduled classes, the school day often pushes past 6PM.

Finally, it's worth noting that Hunter's high-achieving atmosphere is its

Students' extraordinary intellectual passions and abilities spill out of the classroom and into the hallways.

own challenge. Students who would be stars in virtually any other setting find themselves in the middle here. Interestingly, most celebrate the camaraderie of their situation rather than the competition.

All of this tends to make the average Hunter student far more resourceful and independent than average.

Awards, Athletics and Arts

Hunter does not give academic or leadership awards to students until the spring of senior year. Meanwhile, students immerse themselves in a myriad of extra- and co-curricular activities. At last count, there were eight student publications, several theater groups, 60 clubs, and 22 varsity athletic teams. The Hunter United Nations Society, the Federal Reserve Challenge (economics), Mock Trial, Debate Team, Math Team, the Science Research Seminar, and the Washington Seminar allow students to pursue interests more formally. In recent years, students have won or placed in many national competitions, including Intel, Siemens Westinghouse, Scholastic Art and Writing, Random House Creative Writing, the U.S. Chess Federation, and various national subject Olympiads.

Faculty

87 men and women make up the Hunter faculty. Deeply engaged in the subjects they teach, more than 89% have advanced degrees. Many are scientists, writers, artists, and musicians in their own right. A good number come to Hunter with university-level teaching experience.

National Merit Recognition

74 members of the Class of 2013 (38%) were National Merit or National Achievement Scholarship Semifinalists.

Standardized Tests

Class of 2013 (all exams taken prior to 9/2012)

ACT	Students Tested	Middle 50	Mean
Composite	23	31-34	32.6

SAT	Middle 50%	Mean	Students Tested
Critical Reading	700 - 760	730	
Math	690 - 780	730	
Writing	700 - 790	741	
Total	2130 - 2300	2200	185

SAT Subject Test	Middle 50%	Mean	Students Tested
Biology-Ecology	690-750	720	50
Biology-Molecular	700-780	741	47
Chemistry	720-800	751	59
Chinese with Listening	670-800	770	5
English Literature	700-770	728	33
French	700-770	743	7
French with Listening	670-670	670	1
Latin	650-750	695	11
Math Level I	630-750	690	22
Math Level II	740-800	762	76
Physics	720-800	749	14
Spanish	690-770	740	13
U.S. History	730-780	742	43
World History	710-780	768	4

AP Exam	Students Tested	3	4	5
Art History	3	1		2
Biology	44	1	13	27
Calculus BC	8			7
Chemistry	33	1	10	22
Computer Science A	11	1	2	7
English Language	7			6
English Literature	3	1		2
French Language	13		6	7
Latin: Vergil	12		1	11
Macroeconomics	37	6	13	17
Microeconomics	38	4	16	15
Music Theory	4		1	3
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	4			4
Physics C: Mechanics	4			4
Psychology	14	2	2	9
Spanish Language	40	3	13	24
Statistics	2		1	
Studio Art-Drawing	1			1
U.S. Government & Politics	4			4
World History	1			1
U.S. History	86	5	27	52

College Matriculation for the Class of 2012

College	Number Attending
Allegheny College	1
Amherst College	4
Bard College	3
Barnard College	2
Beloit College	1
Bennington College	2
Boston College	3
Boston University	7
Brandeis University	1
Brown University	4
Carnegie Mellon University	2
City College of New York CUNY	1
Colgate University	2
Columbia University	10
Connecticut College	1
Cornell University	7
Dartmouth College	4
Drexel University	3
Duke University	2
Elmira College	1
Fordham University	1
Georgetown University	1
Georgia Institute of Technology	1
Harvard University	9
Haverford College	1
Hunter College of the CUNY	2
Indiana University at Bloomington	1
Ithaca College	1
Johns Hopkins University	4
Lafayette College	1
Lehigh University	4
Macaulay Honors College at CUNY	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2
New York University	16
Northwestern University	3

College	Number Attending
Pennsylvania State University, University Park	1
Polytechnic Institute of NYU	1
Princeton University	3
Rice University	1
Rutgers, New Brunswick	1
Skidmore College	1
Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education	1
St. John's University - Queens Campus	2
Stanford University	1
SUNY Binghamton	1
SUNY College of Env. Science & Forestry	1
SUNY New Paltz	1
SUNY Stony Brook	4
Syracuse University	1
Temple University	1
The Cooper Union	3
The Ohio State University	1
The University of Texas, Austin	1
The University of Texas, Dallas	1
Tufts University	2
University of California at Berkeley	2
University of Chicago	8
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	3
University of Michigan	5
University of Pennsylvania	7
University of St. Andrews (Scotland)	1
University of Virginia	1
Vanderbilt University	1
Vassar College	5
Villanova University	1
Washington University in St. Louis	2
Wellesley College	1
Wesleyan University	3
Williams College	2
Yale University	9