

# 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

