

What are Academic Opportunity Programs?

Brief Background: The Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) and the Hobart and William Smith Colleges Academic Opportunity Program (AOP) are college access and academic support programs. These programs promote and provide broad and varied educational experiences to capable students whose financial and academic environments have not allowed their full potential to come to fruition before college. HEOP/AOP gives students who possess strong personal initiative and potential for academic success, but do not meet the requirements for regular admission to the Colleges, the chance to attend an institution of higher learning.

HEOP was created by the New York State Legislature and is a partnership between Hobart and William Smith and the New York State Department of Education. The Colleges have also created a mirror education access program to HEOP called the Academic Opportunity Program (AOP) which provides almost identical services as HEOP.

We serve our program students by providing a support network of services that fosters academic, social and personal development, inspires students to become fully active members of the campus community and enhances their persistence toward graduation and success beyond HWS. Program students now exceed 80% graduation and retention rate.

Program Overview: Students admitted to Hobart and William Smith Colleges through HEOP/AOP are provided a set of comprehensive support services aimed at helping students succeed toward a college degree and success beyond college through close advising and monitoring of their academic progress for their entire four-year college experience.

The first step in this process after admission is for all students to attend the Summer Institute (SI). SI is a five week intensive academic experience which provides a “real-time” college academic experience prior to full matriculation for the fall term. Students have the opportunity to earn three college credits toward graduation at the completion of SI.

First-year students who wish to apply to Hobart and William Smith Colleges through HEOP or AOP must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a first-time college student
2. Be a New York State resident or possess permanent resident status and reside in NYS
3. Be a high school graduate or recipient of a state approved high school equivalency
4. Meet the economic guidelines determined by the New York State Department of Education, and the academic criteria established by the HEOP/AOP program
5. Must possess and display the potential and desire to succeed, but would not be admitted to Hobart and William Smith Colleges under regular admissions standards



Services

Summer Institute

- Residential five-week on-campus academic experience
- Academic credit towards graduation
- Academic tutoring and skill set development
- Study skills enhancement
- Mentoring component
- Academic advising
- PATHWAYS link through Career Services
- Comprehensive academic evaluations to best accommodate and/or enhance student's individual strengths and interests

Academic-Year Services

- Center for Teaching and Learning Workshops in test-taking strategies, effective note taking, study skills
- On-going academic year advising in the areas of financial aid, academics, study strategies, course selection, career counseling and internships in concert with career services, graduate school selection and study abroad

Afro-Latino Alumni/ae Association's Spring

Weekend featuring an Alumni/ae Career Panel, Dr. Alger L. Adams '32 Academic Excellence Awards Dinner and many co-sponsored academic enrichment events with the Office of Intercultural Affairs

HEOP Economic Eligibility

For Students First Entering College on or after July 1, 2017

New York State Opportunity Programs Income Eligibility Criteria

Number in Household	2016-2017 HEOP Income Eligibility Criteria
1	\$21,978
2	\$29,637
3	\$37,296
4	\$44,955
5	\$52,614
6	\$60,273
7	\$67,951*

*Add \$7,696 for each family member in excess of 7

Exceptions

The income guidelines noted above do not apply if a student falls into one of the following categories:

- The student or the student's family is the recipient of Aid to Dependent Children (ADC), Home Relief, or Family Day Care payments through a New York state or a county department of Social Services;
- The student is living with foster parents who do not provide support for college, and no monies are provided from the natural parents; or
- The student is a ward of the State of New York or a county in New York State.

Academic Opportunity Programs Office

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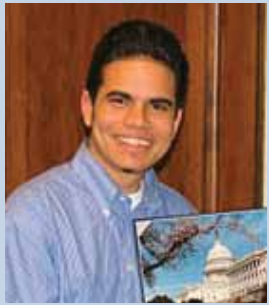


HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES



Academic Opportunity Programs and the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)

Academic Opportunity Programs Office



"I was born and raised by Dominican immigrants in NYC, and am a first-generation college student. College was always the ultimate goal of my parents for their son. While at HWS, I majored in international relations with double minors in economics and Latin American studies. Additionally, I spent a semester in the Washington, D.C. public policy program where I worked for Congressman Jose E. Serrano

(D-NY), and completed a summer internship at a Fortune 500 energy company in NYC. My extracurricular activities included participating in Hobart Student Government, Day of Service, Latin American Organization, and the Chi Phi Fraternity. After graduation, I worked for an innovative non-profit in NYC called Groundwork, Inc. where I helped develop job-training opportunities for disadvantaged individuals in the community. Currently, I am attending graduate school at Cornell University where I am completing a master's in public administration. I hope to work in the governmental sector to promote economic development in underserved communities throughout the nation. HEOP was a crucial aspect of my success at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. The financial and supportive resources HEOP provided were critical in helping me be successful and graduate from HWS. As a first-generation college student, we often face many challenges that a traditional student might not have to deal with and having this additional resource is critical to ensure successful completion of a college education." — **Dubary Brea '08**



"I heard stories of students who tried to do too much in their first year, so I decided to solely focus on my academics. In my second year, I joined the Teacher Education Program and became involved with programs such as America Reads. These experiences exposed me to my true passion – children. I got more involved with the Geneva community and worked with girls ages 11

– 17 at the Geneva Community Center as a "Smart Girls" Coordinator, and volunteered at ARC College Experience on campus, and joined the College Experience Club. I later joined Female Empowerment Movement and explored my interests by creating my own major; Child Development and Multiculturalism. This year has been my most productive. I am back at the Geneva Community Center working on creative writing and photography with the students, volunteering at Lakefront Child Development Center, working with America Reads, as well as a study mentor at the Center For Teaching and Learning, and for the Offices of Student Activities and Intercultural Affairs. All of these experiences have led me to where I am today. Many would say that I am overdoing it but I am doing what I love. The Higher Education Opportunity Program has allowed me to explore my interests and take chances. I have appreciated my time at Hobart and William Smith and look forward to connecting more with the Geneva community, as well as my HWS family." — **Yesenia Morales '13**



Eligibility requirements

General

HEOP applicants must be a resident of New York State for one year prior to the first term of enrollment. For additional information, please visit www.hws.edu/admissions/finedu_opprograms.aspx.

Academic

Must have a high school diploma or the equivalent, be non-admissible by the Colleges' regular admissions standards and demonstrate an ability to succeed despite academic under-preparation.

Economic

The applicant or his/her family must also meet one or more of the following economic requirements:

- 1) Earn a yearly income not in excess of New York

State economic guidelines for HEOP on the opposite page. For more information, please visit www.hws.edu/admissions/finedu_opprograms.aspx.

- 2) Receive or be a dependent of an individual receiving either Aid to Dependent Children, Home Relief or Family Day Care payments through a New York State or county Department of Social Services.

- 3) Live with foster parents who do not provide economic support for college.

- 4) Be a ward of the court.

www.hws.edu/admissions/finedu_opprograms.aspx

The Academic Opportunity Program staff provides academic support services, counseling and financial aid to enable students to successfully complete their program of study at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

