

# CLAREMONT McKENNA COLLEGE

888 COLUMBIA AVENUE, CLAREMONT, CA 91711 • ADMISSIONS: 909-621-8088 • FAX: 909-621-8516

## CAMPUS LIFE

Quality of Life Rating	99
Fire Safety Rating	88
Green Rating	80
Type of school	private
Environment	town

## STUDENTS

Total undergrad enrollment	1,301
% male/female	53/47
% from out of state	61
% frosh live on campus	100
% African American	3
% Asian	11
% Caucasian	45
% Hispanic	8
% international	9

## SURVEY SAYS . . .

*School is well run*  
*Great food on campus*  
*Dorms are like palaces*  
*Frats and sororities are unpopular or nonexistent*  
*Student government is popular*  
*Political activism is popular*  
*Internships are widely available*

## ACADEMICS

Academic Rating	98
% students graduating within 4 years	85
Calendar	semester
Student/faculty ratio	9:1
Profs interesting rating	98
Profs accessible rating	99
Most classes have	10–19 students

## MOST POPULAR MAJORS

economics; international relations and affairs; political science and government

## APPLICANTS ALSO LOOK AT

### AND OFTEN PREFER

Harvard College, Princeton University, Stanford University, Yale University

### AND SOMETIMES PREFER

Amherst College, Dartmouth College, Georgetown University, Pomona College, University of Pennsylvania, Williams College

### AND RARELY PREFER

Pitzer College, Tufts University, University of Southern California, Washington University in St. Louis, Harvey Mudd College, Scripps College, University of California—Berkeley, University of California—Los Angeles

## STUDENTS SAY “. . .”

### Academics

Students at Claremont McKenna really love their school. With its “phenomenal academics, “brilliant professors,” “amazing career services center,” and “perfect weather,” it’s no wonder CMC students are “the happiest students in America.” Claremont McKenna is known for its government and economics majors, but philosophy, international relations, and the joint sciences program also get high marks. Claremont is a part of the College Consortium, so if students are looking for something that Claremont doesn’t have, they can probably find it at one of the four affiliated schools. Students rave about Claremont’s emphasis on “professionalism” and all of the “great research and internship opportunities.” The workload is heavy, and professors set “high expectations,” so “students spend their weeks slaving over their papers, books, readings, research projects, problem sets, etc.” Despite the intense workload, students love their professors. “Professors are absolute geniuses in their field,” one student gushes. They’re “helpful and encouraging,” “incredibly accessible,” and even “willing to Skype on the weekends to answer questions.” “This sounds corny,” one student admits; “This really is a place where professors become like family.” Students spend a “good deal of out-of-classroom time” with their teachers. “Professors and students are so close that it might be considered creepy to outsiders,” but students aren’t too worried about creeping anyone out because they know how good they’ve got it. “When you take both academics and quality of life into account,” a cognitive neuroscience major says, “I can’t believe I almost went to an Ivy over this place.”

### Life

Life is good at Claremont McKenna. The “constantly beaming California sun and the close vicinity to both mountains and beaches” means students spend their time outdoors when they can. But even when students are lounging in the sun or playing Frisbee, they’re not really taking a break. The “conversation doesn’t end in the classroom,” a student explains, and the “intellectual culture... really allows for twenty-four-hour learning.” While Claremont McKenna has the campus and “community-life and identity of a small school” it “still [has] the resources of the other four C’s.” Even without the other schools students feel “completely pampered” because “the school cares about its students so much.” A Spanish major says, “The relationship between the students and the administration is excellent here,” and the “student government and Dean of Students Office...subsidize incredible off-campus trips and on-campus parties.” One of the best things about Claremont McKenna is the Atheneum, which hosts prestigious guest lecturers three to four nights a week. One student wisely asks, “Where else could you have dinner with Jesse Jackson, Mitt Romney, etc.?” Partying is definitely a part of life here, and a student admits that if you don’t drink, it could be “easy to feel left out.” However, students agree, “There’s a niche for everyone, and the welcoming, accepting atmosphere makes fitting in easy.”

### Student Body

“Claremont McKenna doesn’t accept students who aren’t amazing.” “Amazing” means a “really smart and very physically fit,” person who’s “incredibly motivated and career-driven” and “loves drinking and partying.” It’s “a tight-knit community of driven, competitive, and intelligent people who know how to be successful and have a great time.” “A lot of kids are political and well-informed”; most are “active on campus,” very into sports, and involved with internships or clubs. But even though the environment is “academically strict, the students... rarely fit the ‘nerdy’ stereotype.” Students are extremely well-rounded; they “know how to lead a discussion...clock hours in the library, play a varsity or club sport, and hold a leadership position in a club or organization,” and they also know how to throw “a great party on Saturday night.”

## THE PRINCETON REVIEW SAYS

### Admissions

*Very important factors considered include:* Rigor of secondary school record, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities. *Important factors considered include:* Application essay, recommendation(s). *Other factors considered include:* Academic GPA, alumni/ae relation, character/personal qualities, first generation, geographical residence, interview, racial/ethnic status, talent/ability, volunteer work, work experience. SAT or ACT required; ACT with writing component required. TOEFL required of all international applicants. High school diploma is required and GED is accepted. *Academic units required:* 4 English, 3 mathematics, 2 science (2 science labs), 3 foreign language, 1 social studies, 1 history. *Academic units recommended:* 4 mathematics, 3 science.

### Financial Aid

*Students should submit:* FAFSA, CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, noncustodial PROFILE, business/farm supplement. Regular filing deadline is February 1. The Princeton Review suggests that all financial aid forms be submitted as soon as possible after January 1. *Need-based scholarships/grants offered:* Federal Pell, SEOG, state scholarships/grants, private scholarships, the school's own gift aid, United Negro College Fund. *Loan aid offered:* Direct Subsidized Stafford, Direct Unsubsidized Stafford, Direct PLUS, Federal Perkins, college/university loans from institutional funds. Federal Work-Study Program available. Institutional employment available. Off-campus job opportunities are excellent.

### The Inside Word

Although applicants have to possess exemplary academic qualifications to gain admission to Claremont McKenna, the importance of making a good match shouldn't be underestimated. Colleges of such small size and selectivity devote much more energy to determining whether the candidate as an individual fits instead of whether a candidate has the appropriate test scores.

## THE SCHOOL SAYS "..."

### From the Admissions Office

"CMC's mission is clear: To educate students for meaningful lives and responsible leadership in business, government, and many other professions. While many other colleges champion either a traditional liberal arts education with emphasis on intellectual breadth or training that stresses acquisition of technical skills, CMC offers a clear alternative. Instead of dividing the liberal arts and working world into separate realms, education at CMC is rooted in the interplay between the world of ideas and the world of events. By combining the intellectual breadth of liberal arts with the more pragmatic concerns of public affairs, CMC students gain the vision, skills, and values necessary for leadership in all sectors of society.

"Applicants must take the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with writing. We will use the highest scores from the SAT or ACT. SAT Subject Tests are not required."

### SELECTIVITY

Admissions Rating	98
# of applicants	4,412
% of applicants accepted	14
% of acceptees attending	49
# accepting a place on wait list	447
# admitted from wait list	3
# of early decision applicants	419
# accepted early decision	139

### FRESHMAN PROFILE

Range SAT Critical Reading	630-720
Range SAT Math	670-760
Range SAT Writing	640-730
Range ACT Composite	29-32
Minimum paper TOEFL	600
Minimum web-based TOEFL	100
% graduated top 10% of class	71
% graduated top 25% of class	94
% graduated top 50% of class	100

### DEADLINES

Early decision	
Deadline	11/15
Notification	12/15
Regular	
Deadline	1/2
Notification	4/1
Nonfall registration?	no

### FINANCIAL FACTS

Financial Aid Rating	99
Annual tuition	\$41,995
Room and board	\$13,625
Required fees	\$245
Books and supplies	\$2,000
% needy frosh rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	100
% needy UG rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	100
% needy frosh rec. non-need-based scholarship or grant aid	13
% needy UG rec. non-need-based scholarship or grant aid	13
% needy frosh rec. need-based self-help aid	77
% needy UG rec. need-based self-help aid	73
% frosh rec. any financial aid	45
% UG rec. any financial aid	47
% UG borrow to pay for school	34
Average cumulative indebtedness	\$9,915
% frosh need fully met	100
% ugrads need fully met	100
Average % of frosh need met	100
Average % of ugrad need met	100