

LAFAYETTE

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LAFAYETTE COLLEGE: AN OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS (for International Students and Americans Overseas)

INFORMATION

Lafayette College is a privately endowed, coeducational, undergraduate institution with an enrollment of approximately 2,400 students in the social sciences, natural sciences, humanities, and engineering.

Distinguished faculty and achievement-oriented students combine their efforts under an educational philosophy emphasizing both academic and personal growth. Outstanding students from around the world attend Lafayette because of the college's multifaceted commitment to international awareness, the challenging academic programs, and the opportunity for personal and cultural enrichment.

The college is located in Easton, Pennsylvania, a city with a population of about 30,000, situated 112 km (70 miles) west of New York City and 97 km (60 miles) north of Philadelphia.

Lafayette defines international students as those who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States. A typical first-year class includes 35-50 such students. In addition to international students, Lafayette is the home of three other groups of students who have ties to the international community. They are the following: Americans overseas; permanent residents of the United States; and Americans holding dual citizenship. More than 75 foreign countries are represented within the Lafayette student body. Lafayette's international students bring to the College a unique perspective. The insights they share with classmates and faculty are an important part of a Lafayette education.

Academic Program

Lafayette offers 45 majors leading to the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. Students may select courses in all four academic divisions and may create their own individualized majors. Most departments also permit a minor. Special interdisciplinary minors include Biotechnology/Bioengineering, Asian Studies, Environmental Science, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Technology Studies.

Internships and independent study allow for the exploration of career interests, special academic topics, and research. Summer research assistantships, through the EXCEL Scholars Program, offer students the chance to work one-on-one with a faculty member on scientific, engineering, historical, or literary research.

The student-faculty ratio is 11:1 with an average class size of 18.

United States Citizens and Permanent Residents

Living Outside of the United States ONLY

If you are either an American citizen or Permanent Resident living outside of the United States who wishes to be considered for financial aid, you must submit the financial aid forms required, specifically the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** and the **CSS/Financial Aid Profile**. Information on how to file the Profile is available from American and international schools and Education USA advising centers worldwide. These schools and centers should have FAFSA materials available

by December 1. Request Lafayette's Financial Aid brochure or view it online for more detailed information about application procedures and funding possibilities. **Lafayette strictly adheres to deadlines for submission of financial aid applications.**

Admission to Lafayette

Admission to Lafayette is highly competitive. International students are selected carefully based on academic ability, preparation, and achievement; facility with the English language; non-academic activities; and potential for significant involvement in the life of the Lafayette community. An effort is made to include students from all regions of the world.

Admissions Tests

All applicants are required to submit the results of the SAT or ACT, whether or not their language of instruction is English. These tests are administered at centers throughout the world at various times during the year and should be taken before the application deadline to ensure the results arrive in time for use during the evaluation of the application. Official SAT scores should be sent directly by the testing authority. Lafayette College's CEEB code is **2361**. Lafayette also **recommends but does not require** the results of SAT II-Subject tests. Prospective science and engineering majors are encouraged to take mathematics and science for their additional tests.

Facility in English

Students from outside the United States are required to have a thorough knowledge of the English language. Candidates must be able to understand English as spoken in lectures and group discussions and to express their thoughts quickly and clearly in both verbal and written form. They must also be able to read the language with ease. The quality and quantity of work at Lafayette cannot be accomplished without such mastery of the English language before arrival on campus. An applicant for admission whose native tongue is not English is required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or another recognized examination of English proficiency, such as IELTS. The examination should be taken **before** the application deadline to ensure the results arrive in time for use during the evaluation of the application. Official scores should be sent directly by the testing authority. Lafayette College's CEEB code is **2361**. A minimum of 550 on the paper-based TOEFL, a 213 on the computer-based version, 80 on the Internet-based test, or a commensurate level of performance on another examination is required. The TOEFL requirement is waived for students who have studied in an English language curriculum during their final four years of high school.

While students admitted to Lafayette must have the English proficiency necessary to meet the academic demands of their coursework, all students have access to the College Writing Program for support or advice.

Transfer Students

Students who have begun post-secondary study will not be considered as first-year applicants to Lafayette. Applicants for admission to Lafayette who have already studied in a university in their own country or elsewhere are considered to be applicants for advanced standing and will be evaluated as transfer candidates. The amount of transfer credit to be granted is determined by the Registrar's Office and coordinated with the appropriate departments.

Transfer students may be able to complete the requirements for a Lafayette College degree in less than four years, but normally a minimum of two years study on campus is required. **No financial aid is available for international transfer students.** For details regarding transfer admissions policies, please refer to the Application for Transfer Admissions. Preferred application deadline for fall-semester admission is May 1.

Credit and Advanced Standing

Lafayette recognizes the International Baccalaureate (IB). Subject to change, acceptable score levels for the IB are 5 or higher in higher level biology, chemistry, English, foreign languages, and mathematics; scores of 4 or higher are acceptable in other subjects. The specific amount of credit will be determined by each department. A number of the subjects in the IB program do not have a direct Lafayette College course equivalent; credit for higher-level examination results in these areas is not guaranteed. No credit is awarded for subsidiary-level examinations. The full IB program does not by itself guarantee admission, but IB diploma-holders who gain admission may qualify for sophomore standing.

Lafayette also considers national examination programs of various countries (i.e. GCE "A" level, French Baccalaureate, and German Abitur) on an individual basis for credit. Credit will be granted upon the receipt of certified copies of the official examination results. Additional course information (i.e. course syllabus) may be requested.

Lafayette also honors high performance on the College Board Advanced Placement (AP) examination. Generally, Lafayette will grant credit and advanced standing for a score of 4 or 5 on the AP examinations. Each department determines its own policy of assessment of AP scores. A complete listing of credit and placement is available from the Registrar's Office, and procedures for requesting credit are provided at enrollment. More information is available on the Lafayette website at: ww2.lafayette.edu/~registra/index.htm.

Support Services

Lafayette has an International Student Adviser and active International Student Association (ISA). The ISA offers such services as an international student orientation and cultural, informational, intellectual, and social programming. Academic, personal, and peer advising; visa and passport information; and local host families are also available.

Expenses

Students enrolled for the 2009-10 Academic Year will spend \$52,889 for one academic year (September through May including holiday periods). This figure includes tuition, fees, room, board, books, classroom supplies, limited travel, laundry, and personal expenses. The following is a breakdown of costs for academic year 2009-10:

Tuition + Activity/Technology Fee	\$37, 815
Matriculation Fee	\$675
Room Fee	7,105
Board Fee (20 Meals Per Week)	4,694
Textbooks/Supplies	1,000
Personal and Living Expenses	1,600
Total	\$52,889

There is no difference in costs for in- and out-of-state residents. Current estimated living expenses for the summer months (June through August) are \$1,500. Costs for the 2009-10 Academic Year have not been finalized at the time of this printing

Financial Aid

Traditionally, Lafayette has had limited funds available to assist citizens of other countries. Students must recognize that the competition for financial aid for international students is extremely keen. All financial aid for international students, as well as for the vast majority of Americans, is based on need. The student must demonstrate a need for funds in order to receive financial assistance. The amount a family can contribute toward a student's education is determined by a thorough evaluation of the financial asset and income information provided on either the CSS Profile online (recommended) or the International Student Financial Aid Application (ISFAA). (A copy of the CSS profile online is available at www.collegeboard.com and the ISFAA can be downloaded from the Lafayette College web site at: www.lafayette.edu/admissions/finaid. Click on "first year students". If you are unable to download this document, please contact the admissions office to request a paper copy. You can send an email to internat@lafayette.edu. Include your complete mailing address and type "International Student Financial Aid Application needed" in the subject heading.) The family contribution is then subtracted from the costs to determine financial need.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA is **not** required of nonimmigrant international candidates. International students are not eligible for Academic Scholarships (Marquis). No scholarships based solely on academic record or merit are offered to international students, although the international students who are selected for financial aid are certainly well qualified academically.

Approximately 1000 international candidates from around the world submit applications for admission and funding. About 100 international students whose financial resources are not sufficient to cover their expenses at Lafayette are awarded aid each year. Many additional international applicants have achieved the academic standard that Lafayette expects and could do well in the academic program. Unfortunately, the College simply cannot fund all of them. The candidate's ability to meet Lafayette's costs is a factor in the admissions decisions; the admissions process for international applicants is not need-blind.

In 2008-09, the average aid amount offered to international students was \$33,540. We meet completely the demonstrated financial need of the students we select to fund each year. We expect every family to contribute toward the cost of attending Lafayette to the best of their ability. Awards are comprised of a combination of grants, loans, and on-campus employment. Students from abroad should not anticipate securing employment in the United States to assist in meeting their expenses. United States government regulations restrict off-campus opportunities. It is difficult for international students to secure full-time jobs during the summer months, although many do find them on campus.

In most cases, international students should be prepared to finance their education at Lafayette with funds secured primarily through their families, sponsors, and other resources at their disposal. They should not consider applying to Lafayette until they have carefully thought out how they expect to meet their expenses. In order to obtain a visa for study in the United States, a student must furnish the United States consulate with proof of sufficient financial support for at least the first year of study. Lafayette expects a consistent family contribution to be available in each of the four years and requires a completed Certification of Finances form as verification. The College is not aware of additional sources of sponsorship which may exist for international

students; students must research alternative sources of funding on their own.

Students with applications pending for Permanent Resident status will be considered for financial aid along with international students as described above until proof of approval, such as the nine-digit alien registration number verified by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), is received.

Passports and Visas

Students who enroll at Lafayette and are not United States citizens should obtain a passport from their own government. Lafayette will supply the appropriate documentation (Form I-20 A-B) after a student has paid the enrollment deposit and returned a properly completed Certification of Finances form. These documents, together with the letter of admission and a passport, should be presented as soon as possible to the nearest United States consulate in order to procure a visa to the United States. The visa issued to students holding the Form I-20 A-B is the F-1 Student visa. Enrolling holders of other nonimmigrant visas can contact the Admissions Office for further clarification, at the point of enrollment.

Early Decision

If Lafayette is your first choice, you are welcome to apply under our Early Decision (ED) plan. Please be aware that we are seeking the same highly qualified students that we would select in the regular pool. The Admissions Office will review Early Decision applications beginning November 1, but will continue to accept ED applications until December 15. Decisions on Early Decision applications normally are made within one month of receipt of your completed application forms. See application procedures below for what must be received in order for an application to be considered complete for review.

The following statement requesting Early Decision consideration must also be submitted with the application: 'Please consider me for admission to Lafayette College as an Early Decision candidate. I understand that if I am admitted to Lafayette College under the Early Decision Plan and my financial need, if any, is met, I am obligated to enroll. Upon notification of admission to Lafayette, I will pay a nonrefundable \$700.00 enrollment deposit within three weeks and withdraw any application I may have submitted to other institutions.' This statement should be signed and dated by both the applicant, his or her parent or legal guardian, and his or her school counselor, adviser, or headmaster. **If you are seeking financial aid, the CSS Profile (recommended) must be filed or the ISFAA must accompany the admissions application and the Early Decision signed statement.**

If admitted under the ED Plan, you are obligated to withdraw applications submitted to other colleges and to enroll at Lafayette. Those financial aid candidates selected for funding are bound by this requirement to enroll. If you have applied for funding and a decision regarding aid can not be made within the 30 days, you will be notified and released from the Early Decision obligations. In most cases, the application will then be reconsidered in the regular pool for both admission and funding.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

If you believe you have the academic qualifications, the command of English, and the possibility of financial resources to study at Lafayette College, we encourage you to apply. Preference is given to well-qualified candidates who demonstrate interest in the College by completing **all** application procedures promptly and with care. Each question must be answered completely and in English. You may apply online by accessing the Common Application website through the Lafayette

College website: www.lafayette.edu/admissions/application/download.html.

Alternatively, you may complete the application by hand and mail it to: Coordinator of International Admissions, Admissions Office, 118 Markle Hall, Lafayette College, Easton, PA 18042. Please apply early as the mailing process from overseas generally takes longer. **For maximum consideration, the application and all supporting documents should be received by the deadline, December 15.**

Required Documents (Your application will not be considered complete without all of the following:)

1. If you are applying online, please follow the directions related to paying the nonrefundable U.S. \$60.00 application fee by credit card. If you do not have a credit card or you wish not to pay by credit card, then send a money order or check (on a U.S. bank) along with your application to the Lafayette Admissions Office. An alternative acceptable form of payment is by wire transfer. For wire transfer instructions, send a request by email or fax. A waiver of the application fee is granted to those applicants who present a letter from a school head or counselor or an official of an advising center who certifies the need for such a waiver. A request for a fee waiver from a student or parent is not sufficient

2. Ask a teacher and your college adviser or school head to each write a letter of reference for you. Their letters should indicate what subject they taught you, how long they have known you, and how you fared academically at school relative to others. They should also include information about your intellectual promise, motivation, relative maturity, integrity, originality, initiative, leadership potential, capacity for growth, and special talents.

3. Request that your school send an **OFFICIAL CERTIFIED** transcript (mark sheets) and/or progress reports covering each of your secondary school years (including the current one) and National Standardized exam results, if taken. An official certified transcript is a record that has been received directly from the issuing institution or examination authority in the country and bears the appropriate seals and/or stamp, date, and original signature(s). Academic records must include all courses taken and grades earned during enrollment at a particular program or institution (including failures and re-examinations). Since in some countries it is unusual for institutions to issue multiple originals or to mail records, an acceptable alternative for applicants from these countries is to submit copies of their original transcripts or mark sheets attested, certified, or authenticated by the official source issuing the original. When documents other than the originals are used for evaluation and placement, it is common for U.S. institutions to request that the student show the original document for comparison and verification prior to registration at the institution.

They should also include, if available, a school profile and explanation of the grading system. All transcripts should be sent in the native language accompanied by a translation into English.

4. Arrange to have official SAT results sent to Lafayette by the Educational Testing Service. If your first language is not English, take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or another recognized test of English language proficiency and have the score sent directly to Lafayette. Lafayette College's CEEB code is **2361**.

COMMUNICATION

On the application form, spaces are provided for telephone and fax numbers and email address. Please be sure to provide

complete, accurate numbers and addresses where you can be reached throughout the application process. Communication by email is a preferred method, so it is critical that you give us a stable address where you can receive messages.

INTERVIEW AND CAMPUS VISIT

You are always welcome to visit the Lafayette campus. A personal interview, however, is not mandatory and the absence of an inter-

view will not jeopardize your chance of admission. Lafayette offers admissions interviews to applicants on campus from May 1 through January 1. In some areas of the world, an Alumni Admissions Representative (AAR) may be available to interview prospective students. If this is the case, the AAR will receive your name after an application has been filed and will contact you. If you plan to visit the campus, call the Admissions Office in advance to arrange for an interview and tour.

A DISTINCTIVE EXPERIENCE

Lafayette is uniquely positioned in its standing among America's leading liberal arts colleges for its strictly undergraduate focus that offers the best in liberal arts programs and engineering.

Lafayette's approach to teaching and learning goes well beyond traditional classroom methods. Through active-learning experiences in small-group seminars, student-centered team projects, independent study, student-faculty research, study abroad, and internships, students have the opportunity to cross academic boundaries in the arts, sciences, and engineering.

A combination of programs and characteristics make Lafayette truly distinctive and unique. These include:

- Lafayette's strictly undergraduate focus.
- One of the few undergraduate colleges to offer the very best in the liberal arts **and** engineering.
- Lafayette's commitment to growing its exceptional faculty by nearly 20%.
- Unparalleled opportunities to do significant undergraduate research with faculty.
- The exceptional academic opportunities and alumni connections afforded by Lafayette's proximity to New York City.
- Its ideal size of 2400 students with an average class size of 18 students.
- Its NCAA Division I programs in 23 varsity sports.
- An active experience that transforms the lives of our students.