Excellence and Achievement

- Smith received the largest number of applications in its history (more than 5,400) for admission to the Class of 2021.
- With an undergraduate enrollment of 2,514, Smith is among the largest women's colleges in the United States. Smith students come from 48 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and 73 countries.
- More than 67% of Smith alumnae pursue post-graduate education within five years of graduation. By their 10th reunion alumnae have attained the following degrees: master's (41 percent), law (12 percent), doctoral (19 percent), medicine (5 percent), MBA (7 percent). Smith is a nationally ranked leader in the number of undergraduate women who later earn doctoral degrees.

Global Leaders

- In 2011, Smith joined the State Department and four women's colleges to launch the Women in Public Service Project (WPSP), a partnership to increase the participation of women in public service and political leadership throughout the world. The WPSP is now a project of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.
- According to a study by the Impact Careers Initiative of the Aspen Institute, Smith ranks fifth among the top liberal arts colleges whose graduates enter public service.
- Smith ranks third in the nation among U.S. baccalaureate institutions in the number of students studying abroad for a full year.
- In 2015-16, 19 Smith students and alumnae were offered Fulbright fellowships. Smith has been a top-producing college for Fulbright fellowships the past 10 years and leads the country among top producers in the success rate for its applicants.

Women of Promise

- The actual cost of educating each Smith student exceeds the comprehensive fee by more than 20 percent. Thanks to endowment earnings, philanthropic support and generous financial aid, the average price paid for a Smith education is less than 46 percent of its actual cost.
- Smith’s endowment per student ranks in the top 10 among private baccalaureate institutions.
- With nearly 20% of students receiving federal Pell grants, Smith is consistently recognized as a national leader in creating access for low-income and first-generation students. Over the past several years, stories in BusinessWeek, The New York Times, the Chronicle of Higher Education and The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education have lauded Smith for attracting and graduating students from low-income families. Sixty percent of Smith students receive need-based grant aid, a rate that compares favorably to Smith’s peers.
- Smith is a national leader among private colleges in graduating Hispanic students at the same rate as white students, according to the advocacy group Education Trust.
Public Recognition

• Black Enterprise has ranked Smith at number 15 among the country’s “50 Top Colleges for African Americans.” The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education ranks Smith sixth out of 30 leading liberal arts colleges (ahead of Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke and Wellesley) in the percentage of African-Americans in the first-year class.

• In 2015, Forbes listed Smith as one of America’s 20 most entrepreneurial colleges.

• The 2010 Newsweek/Kaplan college guide cited Smith’s Ada Comstock Scholars Program as “rare for a selective liberal arts college—a successful effort to stock the student body with...students far beyond their teenage years.”

• Smith—and Smithies—feature prominently in recent books and films. Julie and Julia stars Meryl Streep as Julia Child ’34; Commencement, by J. Courtney Sullivan ’03, imagines the lives of a group of Smith students, during and after their time in college; Mrs. Washington Goes to Smith features Cybil Shepherd as an Ada Comstock Scholar; Secretariat features Diane Lane as Helen “Penny” Chenery ’43, the Triple Crown–winner’s owner; Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West chronicles Dorothy Woodruff Hillman and Rosamond Underwood Carpenter’s (both Class of 1909) year spent teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in Colorado.

• Smith was the first women’s college to join the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Each year, more than 275 students compete on 12 Division III varsity teams, and another 200 on club sport teams.

Pride of Place

• Northampton, Massachusetts, Smith’s hometown, is an award-winning and vibrant small city. Recent accolades: “Number One Best Small Arts Town in America”; “Best Places to Live: Big Small Towns” (Boston magazine); “Great Places in America” (American Planning Association); “Top 25 Arts Destinations” (American Style magazine); “Top 100 Places to Live” (CNN/Money magazine).

• Smith’s distinctive housing system continues to earn accolades. The Princeton Review declared Smith number one in the category “Dorms Like Palaces” and number seven in the category “Best Quality of Life.” Smith students have access to 15 dining rooms, far greater than the number at peer colleges.

• A 1.6 million-item library system, a renowned museum of art and a world-famous botanic garden are some of the Smith resources that rival those of leading universities.

Changing the Face of Science and Engineering

• 38% of Smith students major in the natural sciences, well above the national average where only 19% of degrees conferred to women are in those same disciplines.

• Among liberal arts institutions, Smith is one of the top recipients of National Science Foundation funding.

• Smith’s pioneering Picker Engineering Program, the first engineering program at a U.S. women’s college, continues to garner national and international visibility since its founding in 1999. More than 240 Smith-educated engineers are working and studying in a broad array of engineering disciplines, including bioengineering, green design, electrical, civil, materials and aerospace engineering, as well as law and medicine.

• Smith’s two newest academic buildings are Ford Hall and the Bechtel Environmental Classroom at the Ada and Archibald MacLeish Field Station. Ford Hall, a teaching and research facility for the Picker Engineering Program, computer science, chemistry, biochemistry and molecular biology, is a $73 million, LEED-certified state-of-the-art building and the largest and most sophisticated facility built exclusively for women science and engineering students. The 240-acre MacLeish field station in West Whately includes the Bechtel Environmental Classroom, designed to be a net-zero, multi-purpose building that answers the Living Building Challenge.

Remarkable Women

• Smith is well known for its accomplished graduates. Notable alumnae (some deceased) include Margaret Mitchell ’25, author, Gone With the Wind; Julia Child ’34, cookbook author and television personality; Betty Friedan ’42, author, The Feminine Mystique; Nancy Davis Reagan ’43, former first lady; Barbara Pierce Bush ’47, former first lady; Sylvia Plath ’55, poet and author; Gloria Steinem ’56, Ms. Magazine founding editor and feminist leader; Marilyn Carlson Nelson ’61, global business leader and author; Jane Lakes Harman ’66, former U.S. Congresswoman; Molly Ivins ’66, columnist and author; Shelly Lazarus ’68, Ogilvy & Mather CEO; Niki Tsongas ’68, U.S. Congresswoman; Laura D’Andrea Tyson ’69, first woman to head the White House Council of Economic Advisers, first female dean of the London Business School; Margaret Edson ’83, Pulitzer Prize-winning dramatist; Tammy Baldwin ’84, U.S. Senator; and Adrian Nicole LeBlanc ’86, author and MacArthur Foundation “genius” grant recipient.