



Shimer College

Dangerously Optimistic Since
1853

WWW.SHIMER.EDU
312.235.3555
ADMISSION@SHIMER.EDU

PROFILE

Academic Year 2014-2015

Shimer is a small independent four-year liberal arts college located just minutes from downtown Chicago. Our students develop their capacity for critical thought and interpersonal communication through careful reading of the Great Books, which sustain a life-long passion for learning. With small, discussion-based classes, a full-time teaching faculty, and original-source texts, Shimer offers a rare and enduring educational experience.

Academics

Method: All classes are discussions of the Great Books. Text books and lectures are not used at Shimer.

Class size: Average 9 students, minimum 1.

Course Work: 85 credit hours spent in interdisciplinary core curriculum classes, focusing on Natural Science, Social Science, Humanities, and Integrative Studies. The remaining 40 hours are spent in elective classes.

Majors: Humanities, Liberal Studies, Natural Science, and Social Science.

Admission Criteria

📖 College-preparatory course work

📖 High School/College Transcripts

📖 SAT/ACT Scores recommended

📖 2 writing samples

📖 Letter of recommendation

Admission Information:

Application Fee: \$25

Application Deadline: Rolling

ACT Code: 1142

SAT Code: 1717

2014-2015 Tuition and Fees: \$32,499

2014-2015 Room and Board: \$10,804+ (varies with meal plan and room type)

Financial Aid

Shimer offers need- and merit-based financial aid and is a Barron's Best Buy.

These Scholarships and more:

📖 Montaigne Scholarship- full- and half-tuition scholarships based on writing and discussion of an original text.

📖 Matching Scholarship- Matching up to \$2000 per year of external scholarships.

📖 Homeschoolers and Nontraditional Schooling Scholarship- Up to \$6000 per year.

📖 Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship- Up to \$6000 per year.

FAFSA Code: 001756

📖 Shimer College is proud to share a campus with the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and Vandercook College of Music. In addition to Shimer electives, students may take elective courses at either of these two institutions and Harold Washington College, located nearby in the Loop. 📖

Contact Us

General Phone: (312) 235-3555

Admission Fax: (888) 808-3133

General Email: admission@shimer.edu

Address:

Shimer College
3424 S. State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60616

Website: www.shimer.edu

Dean of Admission:

James Bowers

j.bowers@shimer.edu, (312) 235-3543

Assistant Director of Admission:

Adrian Nelson,

a.nelson@shimer.edu, (312) 235-3549

Director of Financial Aid:

Janet Henthorn,

j.henthorn@shimer.edu, (312) 235-3507

Database Services Administrator:

Bridget Anderson, b.anderson@shimer.edu,

(312) 235-3509

Noteworthy

📖 **Shimer-in-Oxford Program:** Each Shimer student has an opportunity to spend a semester or a year at Oxford University, typically taking one core class with a Shimer faculty member and two tutorials with Oxford faculty. These tutorials are one-on-one, and their subjects are defined by the individual student on the basis of his or her specific academic interests. Past subjects have ranged from Ancient Greek, to Gnostic Gospels, to Principles of Architecture, to Tolkien, to Evolutionary Biology.

📖 **Early Entrance Program:** Shimer has accepted exceptionally bright juniors and seniors wishing to enter college prior to their graduation from high school since 1950.

📖 **BA to JD Program:** Through an agreement with Chicago-Kent College of Law, Shimer is able to offer exceptional students an accelerated route to the JD.

📖 **IIT Community:** Shimer students have access to virtually all facilities, services, and student organizations at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Students can also concentrate in pre-med, psychology, and more.

📖 **Chicago Access:** Shimer students have unlimited access to Chicago buses and the "L" train system through the UPass. Shimer is located across the street from an "L" stop, and only 2 train stops away from the loop.

📖 **College Assembly:** Students at Shimer are part of a governing body called the Assembly. In it, every student, professor, and staff member has an opportunity to participate in decisions of college-wide importance.



SHIMER CORE CURRICULUM

HUMANITIES 1: ART AND MUSIC

Albers, *Interaction of Color*
Alberti, *On Painting*
Cooper, *Learning to Listen*
Leonardo, *Notebooks*
Plato, *Ion*
Rilke, *Letters on Cezanne*
Steinberg, *Leonardo's Incessant Last Supper*
Taylor, *Learning to Look*
Tolstoy, *What is Art?*
Vasari, *Lives of the Artists*

HUMANITIES 2: POETRY, DRAMA AND FICTION

The Norton Anthology of Poetry
Aristotle, *Poetics*
Auerbach, "Odysseus' Scar"
Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*
Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*
Homer, *Odyssey*
Sophocles, *Oedipus the King, Antigone*
Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

HUMANITIES 3: PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY

Anselm, *Proslogion*
Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*
Aristotle, *Metaphysics*
Augustine, *Confessions*
The Bible, *Genesis, John, I Corinthians*
Descartes, *Meditations*
Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*
Locke, *Essay on Human Understanding*
Pascal, *Pensées*
Plato, *Apology, Phaedo, Phaedrus, Symposium*
Teresa of Ávila, *Autobiography*

HUMANITIES 4: MODERN CURRENTS IN THE HUMANITIES

Beauvoir, *Ethics of Ambiguity*
Buber, *I and Thou*
Derrida, *Dissemination*
Kafka, *The Trial*
Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*
Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*
Heidegger, *An Introduction to Metaphysics*

SOCIAL SCIENCES 1: SOCIETY, CULTURE, AND PERSONALITY

Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*
Chodorow, "Family Structure and Feminine Personality"
Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk*
Durkheim, *Suicide*
Freud, *New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*
Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*
James, *Psychology: The Briefer Course*
Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*
Piaget, "Moral Feelings and Judgments"
Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*
Weber, *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

SOCIAL SCIENCES 2: THE WESTERN POLITICAL TRADITION

Aristotle, *Politics, Nicomachean Ethics*
Douglass, *Story of My Life*
Hobbes, *Leviathan*
Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*
Machiavelli, *The Prince*
Plato, *Republic*
Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality, Emile*
Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*
U.S. Declaration of Independence
U.S. Constitution
Federalist Papers

SOCIAL SCIENCES 3: MODERN THEORIES OF SOCIETY AND POLITICS

Arendt, *The Human Condition*
Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*
Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit, Philosophy of Right*
Marshall, *Principles of Economics*
Marx, *Das Kapital, "Manifesto of the Communist Party"*
Mill, *On Liberty*
Sartre, *Essays on Existentialism*
Smith, *Wealth of Nations*
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

SOCIAL SCIENCES 4: SOCIAL PERSPECTIVES AND SOCIAL ACTION

Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*
Foucault, *History of Sexuality*
Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*
Geertz, *Interpretation of Cultures*
Harding, ed., *Feminism and Methodology*
Jacobs, *Death and Life of Great American Cities*
Mannheim, *Ideology and Utopia*
Milgram, *Obedience to Authority*
Weber, "Objectivity in the Social Sciences"

NATURAL SCIENCES 1: LAWS AND MODELS IN CHEMISTRY

Aristotle, *Physics*
Bacon, *New Organon*
Cannizzaro, *Sketch of a Course in Chemical Philosophy*
Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things*
Pascal, *Scientific Treatises*
The Presocratics
Selections from Boyle, Priestly, Lavoisier, Thompson, Dalton, Avogadro, Joule, Faraday, Mendeleev, Curie

NATURAL SCIENCES 2: EVOLUTION, GENETICS, ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

Aristotle, *On the Soul, On the Parts of Animals*
Chetverikov, *On Certain Aspects of the Evolutionary Process*
Cuvier, *Revolutionary Upheavals on the Surface of the Globe*
Darwin, *Origin of Species, Descent of Man*
Goodall, *Chimpanzees of Gombe*
Hardy, *Hardy-Weinberg Law*
Lamarck, *Zoological Philosophy*
Lorenz, *On Aggression*
Mendel, "Experiments in Plant Hybridization"

NATURAL SCIENCES 3: THE NATURE OF LIGHT

Descartes, *Optics*
Galileo, *Dialogues Concerning the Two New Sciences*
Huygens, *Treatise on Light*
Newton, *Opticks, Principia*
Selections from du Fay, Franklin, Faraday, Hertz, Maxwell, Oersted, Young

NATURAL SCIENCES 4: MODERN SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTIONS

Carroll, *Endless Forms Most Beautiful*
Dyson, *Origins of Life*
Einstein, *Relativity, "Photoelectric Effect"*
Feynman, *QED, Character of Physical Law*
Gamow, *Thirty Years that Shook Physics*
Heisenberg, *Physics and Philosophy*
Schrödinger, *What is Life?, "Four Lectures on Wave Mechanics"*
Selections from Crick, Davisson, Millikan, Spemann

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 2: FOUNDATIONS OF MATHEMATICS AND LOGIC

Aristotle, *Posterior Analytics, Prior Analytics, On Interpretation*
Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*
Einstein, *Relativity*
Euclid, *Elements*
Lobachevsky, "Theory of Parallel Lines"
Nagel and Newman, *Gödel's Proof*
Newton, *Principia*
Venn, "On the Diagrammatic and Mechanical Representation of Propositions and Reasonings"

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 5: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Epic of Gilgamesh
Aeschylus, *Oresteia*
Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*
Aristotle, *On the Heavens*
Augustine, *City of God*
The Bible, *Genesis, The Gospels*
Dante, *Inferno*
Herodotus, *Persian Wars*
Hildegard of Bingen
Homer, *Iliad*
Plato, *Republic*
Ptolemy, *Almagest*
Sappho, *Poetry*
Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*
Virgil, *Aeneid*

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 6: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*
Copernicus, *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*
Galileo, "On the Heavens"
Goethe, *Faust*
Hume, *Treatise on Human Nature*
Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*
Kepler, *Epitome of Copernican Astronomy*
Luther, *Three Treatises*
Milton, *Paradise Lost*
Pizan, *Treasure of the City of Ladies*
Shakespeare, *Tempest*