

The James Baldwin Scholars Program

The James Baldwin Scholars Program provides scholarships to college applicants who exhibit strong leadership within their school community and show academic promise. The program recruits students from communities historically unrepresented in higher education and who are typically first generation college students. Baldwin students demonstrate talent and ability but do not have access to the financial and academic resources to succeed in a rigorous, private college curriculum.

The Program's Foundation is the transitional first year. Students have full access to Program academic counseling, personal mentoring, and community support; a full scholarship; a guaranteed place in two writing courses (one each semester); and skill support from the Writing Program faculty for their efforts in all courses. Students do not officially matriculate until they successfully complete the transitional year, at which point all courses taken during the transitional year may be applied toward general college requirements.

Transitional Year Requirements

- ➔ Attend the James Baldwin Scholars Orientation
- ➔ Attend Hampshire College Orientation
- ➔ Live on campus
- ➔ Complete 3 Hampshire courses each semester during the first-year transitional program
 - The following courses must be among the 6 completed:
 - Introduction to Writing*
 - The Space in Our Identity: Writing About Home*
- ➔ Work 8-10 hours per week to earn spending money
- ➔ Meet once a week with the Director of James Baldwin Scholars Program in a group meeting
- ➔ Check in regularly with the Director of the James Baldwin Scholars Program through individual meetings

In order to be eligible for matriculation, students must complete at least five courses (including the two mandatory writing courses) by the end of the year and attend regular advisory community meetings with Director and/or other Program students. The Baldwin Committee makes final matriculation decisions.

Financial Aid

During the transitional year, students receive a full scholarship that covers tuition, room/board, supplies, and book stipend. The Financial Aid office works with the Baldwin Program to meet 100% of students' demonstrated need for the following eight semesters. The financial aid package after the transitional year is a combination of grants, loans, and work-study. Students must be a United States Permanent Resident or a United States citizen in order to be eligible for a financial aid package after matriculating to Hampshire College.

The James Baldwin Scholars Admission Committee seeks applicants who have:

- ➔ Involvement with academic enhancement program or Community-Based Learning projects
- ➔ A love of ideas
- ➔ An upward trend in GPA
- ➔ A solid load of rigorous courses taken (if such are offered at their school)
- ➔ A pattern of hard work in courses that pose a challenge
- ➔ A demonstrated commitment to academic pursuits and social justice

The Baldwin class has a limited number of spots. Some applicants who could no doubt benefit from the academic and financial support of the program also qualify for regular admission and will be considered accordingly by the Admission Office.

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