Founded in 1845, The Packer Collegiate Institute is the oldest independent school in Brooklyn. A co-educational, college preparatory school enrolling students from Preschool through Grade 12, Packer is housed on a landmarked campus in historic Brooklyn Heights, one subway stop from Manhattan.

Mission Statement
Grounded in rich traditions while embracing the future, The Packer Collegiate Institute is a diverse community that balances the value of scholarship and the intellect with the importance of meaningful and sustained relationships. Guided by dedicated adults, Packer students are challenged to develop talents, pursue aspirations, and become empathetic, responsible, globally-minded women and men.

We educate students to think deeply, speak confidently, and act with purpose and heart.

Upper School Overview
Packer’s Upper School faculty, 84% of whom hold advanced degrees, are dedicated to helping students to develop strengths and interests in academic, artistic, and athletic pursuits, as well as to grow through leadership and service. Our program offers an innovative curriculum featuring interdisciplinary and project-based learning; the integration of technology; an acknowledgment that profound learning takes place beyond the walls of the school; and a balance between core academic requirements and student-selected areas of study. Packer’s Upper School provides a learning environment that supports students in developing as individuals as well as members of a community. This approach fosters their development as critical thinkers, compassionate citizens, and engaged learners who understand the connection between what is learned in the classroom and lived in the world.

Community
Packer believes the composition of our student body should reflect the diversity of our city. Upper School students commute from all parts of Brooklyn and Manhattan, and smaller numbers come from as far away as the Bronx, Long Island, and New Jersey. Forty-one percent identify as students of color or as multiracial, and more than a dozen languages are spoken in the homes of Packer students. Twenty-five percent of our students receive financial aid. Packer’s community is strengthened by the inclusion of students from Prep for Prep, Oliver, TEAK, and other community-based organizations.
Upper School Curriculum

Packer no longer offers AP courses. In their stead, we now offer Advanced Topics (AT) classes, faculty-authored courses of equivalent or increased academic rigor.

In the 2015–16 school year, AT courses are offered in English, American Government, European History, Archival Research, Calculus I, Calculus I/II, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Chinese, French Literature, Latin Poetry, Spanish, Computer Science, Studio Art, and Photography (see page 5 for additional information).

A schedule of five academic subjects is recommended for most students. Given the rigor of our overall program and our students’ dedication to significant co-curricular endeavors, most juniors and seniors are counseled not to take more than two AT or advanced courses each year. Other advanced courses include Multivariable Calculus and the three-year Independent Science Research Program (see page 3).

In evaluating Packer transcripts, it is important to understand that while there are multiple options for underclassmen to enroll in accelerated courses in math and science, there are no such opportunities in English and history prior to 11th grade. The only exception to this is a very small cohort of students who are approved for an honors option within the 10th grade U.S. History course.

Graduation Requirements

Students typically complete courses of study that exceed the minimum requirements noted below. They also complete a minimum of 45 hours of community service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Additional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History/Social Science</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts (Visual Arts, Dance, Music, and Theater)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading System

- Semester calendar, with final exams administered in June
- Letter grades A through F, including pluses and minuses (see grade distribution below)
- All courses excluding health and physical education are factored into an unweighted grade point average (GPA).
- It is the long-standing policy of the School not to report any type of class rank.

Disciplinary Records

We believe that students should respond with the utmost integrity to disciplinary questions from schools to which they apply, taking the time to reflect on the ways in which they have grown as individuals and as members of the community. College counselors will disclose only those disciplinary matters that have resulted in a student being placed on disciplinary probation or separated from school by suspension or expulsion.

Enrollment

Pre-Kindergarten through 12th Grade: 1,032 students
Upper School: 376 students
Class of 2016: 91 students

Accreditation

New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS)

Mean SAT Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Reading</td>
<td>678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>691</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean SAT Subject Test Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean ACT Composite Score: 29.2

AP Scores

In 2015, our final year of AP courses, 140 students took 260 AP exams, 189 of which received a score of 3 or higher.
Features of Packer’s Upper School

The Packer Symposium
For two weeks between first and second semester, regular classes are supplanted by an array of intensive educational experiences that extend beyond the regular classroom. The Packer Symposium is defined by creative research, study, discussion, and action that engage Packer students and faculty in meaningful collaboration and intensive learning.

The New York Experience: Freshmen participate in an extensive investigation of New York City. Students choose from several distinct strands of study, each of which explores the city’s culture, history, and sustainability.

International Program: Sophomores travel to the Andalucía region of Spain, where they study the unique culture forged by the confluence of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Students work independently and collaboratively to research areas of personal interest and share their findings with the community upon their return. As an expression of our commitment to the value of an international travel experience, the cost of the trip for all students is included as part of Packer’s regular tuition.

Individual Explorations: Juniors and seniors select from 16 course offerings shaped by the interests and passions of both students and teachers. Through in-depth study, discussions with scholars and experts, and field trips around the region, students explore a variety of topics, including scientific innovation, wilderness travel, game design, mathematical art, filmmaking, and the philosophy of happiness.

Independent Science Research Program
Packer offers a three-year sequence of study in the physical and life sciences, leading to two school years and two summers of laboratory research with professional scientists. Students in this program have received national recognition as well as credited publication in scientific journals. They also receive credit through the SUNY system.

Student Leadership
Peer Leadership and Peer Support programs offer students the opportunity to serve as mentors to younger students. Peer Leaders/Peer Supporters are selected by faculty and receive leadership training so they may provide a range of services including tutoring and mediation to assist younger students as they socialize and acclimate to Middle and Upper School life.

Global Opportunities
Global awareness is promoted not only through the curriculum and the 10th Grade trip to Spain, but also through a variety of travel experiences. Opportunities include: service in South Africa; music performances, master classes, and artistic festivals in Europe; and language and culture studies in Italy, Spain, France, and China. In addition, some students choose to spend a year or semester participating in overseas exchange programs such as School Year Abroad.

Independent Study and Senior Thesis
These two programs allow students to personalize and deepen their individual interests while working one-on-one with a selected faculty mentor. All students present their research publicly and seniors are awarded academic credit for participating in the semester-long Senior Thesis program.

Community in Action Day
NAIS has long recognized Packer for its inclusive programming and its integration of diversity learning into every aspect of community life. A committee of students and adults collaborates in preparing a day-long biennial exploration in which the entire school participates in critical conversations about race, gender, equity, and diversity. The program includes seminars developed and facilitated by nationally recognized keynote speakers and Packer students, as well as an array of other cultural presentations and workshops.
College Enrollment

Listed below are the colleges and universities to which Packer graduates have matriculated in the past five years. Colleges that have enrolled one or more members of the Class of 2015 appear in bold.

American University (2)
Amherst College (3)
American University (1)
Amherst College (2)
Bard College (8)
Barnard College (5)
Bates College (1)
Beloit College (1)
Bennington College (1)
Binghamton University (1)
Borough of Manhattan CC (1)
Boston College (5)
Boston University (2)
Bowdoin College (8)
Brandeis University (2)
Brown University (7)
Bryn Mawr College (1)
Bucknell University (4)
Carleton College (1)
Carnegie Mellon University (5)
Case Western Reserve University (1)
Claremont McKenna College (2)
Clark University (1)
Colby College (9+)
Colgate University (10)
College of Charleston (4)
College of William & Mary (1)
College of Wooster (2)
Colorado College (4)
Columbia University (7)
Connecticut College (1)
Cornell University (10)
Dartmouth College (5)
Davidson College (2)

American University (2)
Amherst College (3)
American University (1)
Amherst College (2)
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Bates College (1)
Beloit College (1)
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Bryn Mawr College (1)
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College of Wooster (2)
Colorado College (4)
Columbia University (7)
Connecticut College (1)
Cornell University (10)
Dartmouth College (5)
Davidson College (2)

Denison University (3)
Dickinson College (3)
Drexel University (2)
Duke University (2)
Earlham College (1)
Elon University (2)
Emory University (2)
Eugene Lang College (3)
Fashion Institute of Technology (1)
Franklin & Marshall College (3)
Full Sail University (1)
George Washington University (7)
Georgetown University (6)
Gettysburg College (1)
Goucher College (1)
Guilford College (2)
Hamilton College (7)
Hampshire College (3)
Harvard University (6)
Hofstra University (1)
Indiana University (1)
Ithaca College (1)
Johns Hopkins University (6)+
Johnson and Wales University (1)
Kenyon College (6)
Lafayette College (1)
Lehigh University (5)
Macalester College (1)
Manhattanville College (1)
Maryland Institute College of Art (2)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1)
McGill University (2)
Middlebury College (3)
New York University (10+)
Northeastern University (3)
Northwestern University (6)
Oberlin College (12)
Occidental College (1)
Oxford College of Emory (1)
Parsons The New School for Design (1)
Pitzer College (6)
Princeton University (4)
Purdue University (1)
Queens College CUNY (1)
Quinnipiac University (1)
Reed College (3)
Rhode Island School of Design (1)
Rice University (1)
Rutgers University, New Brunswick (1)
San Francisco Art Institute (1)
Santa Clara University (2)
Sarah Lawrence College (2)
Scripps College (1)
Skidmore College (5)
Smith College (2)
Spelman College (1)
Stanford University (1)
St. John’s University (1)
SUNY Buffalo State (1)
SUNY New Paltz (2)
SUNY Purchase (1)
Susquehanna University (1)
Swarthmore College (2)
Syracuse University (9)
Trinity College (2)
Tufts University (11)
Tulane University (8)
University of Alabama (1)
University of California at Berkeley (1)
University of California at Los Angeles (1)
University of Chicago (8)
University of Connecticut (1)
University of Delaware (2)
University of Edinburgh (2)
University of Maryland (3)
University of Massachusetts-Amherst (1)
University of Michigan (9)
University of Missouri (1)
University of New Haven (1)
University of Pennsylvania (4)
University of Pittsburgh (2)
University of Richmond (1)
University of Rochester (6)
University of St. Andrews (3)+
University of Southern California (4)
University of Vermont (2)
University of Wisconsin (2)
Vassar College (9)
Villanova University (2)
Wake Forest University (1)
Washington University (8)
Wellesley College (1)
Wesleyan University (16)
Wheaton College (1)
Whitman College (1)
Williams College (5)
Yale University (9)

+A 2015 graduate has deferred enrollment until the fall of 2016.
**Introducing Packer’s Advanced Topics Curriculum**

Beginning in 2015-16, a new program for advanced study has replaced AP courses.

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**Advanced Topics in English (AT English)**

While all English classes at Packer are taught at a high level, AT English engages students who wish to delve into more complex, nuanced, and sophisticated texts. The focus of this course will be on literature that departs from the conventional with particular attention to poetry, plays, and novels that break new ground, experiment with structure and storytelling, and offer multiple perspectives. Students will immerse themselves in advanced components of research, including author interviews, scholarly journals, and critical reception.

**Advanced Topics in American Government (AT American Government)**

This course explores the philosophical and constitutional underpinnings of the U.S. political system. Since we live in an interdependent world, an important objective of the course is to situate our government in a global context. Through an examination of politics in the U.S. and case studies of government in other countries, students will develop a vocabulary and conceptual framework that will enable them to better analyze political developments at home and abroad. As a culminating project, students will also conduct and present scholarly research on an urgent public policy issue of their choice.

**Advanced Topics in European History (AT European History)**

Tracking the evolution of Western society from the Renaissance to the 21st century, students will mine the raw material of the historian — journals, letters, physical artifacts, literature, and art — in order to reconstruct the world of the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, and the French Revolution. Students will also conduct a long-term research project on World War II.

**Advanced Topics in Conducting Scholarly Research in the Archives (AT Archival Research)**

In this course, students will conduct original research to gain insight into history by using materials held in The Packer Collegiate Institute’s archives, located at the Brooklyn Historical Society. Students will present their research in two forms: first, in the composition of a scholarly essay suitable for submission to *The Concord Review* or comparable journals that publish high-quality work by high school students; and, second, in a public presentation at a research seminar held at the end of the year.

**Advanced Topics in Differential and Integral Calculus (AT Calculus I and AT Calculus I/II)**

AT Calculus I and AT Calculus I/II explore much of the content typically covered in the first semester and first year of college, respectively. Learning will be discovery-based and will emphasize a multi-representational approach to calculus, in which students learn to express concepts graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Abstract thinking, mathematical modeling, and original research will be key components of the class. The accelerated pace of AT Calculus I/II allows students to explore polar and parametric functions, sequences and series, integration by parts, partial fractions, and Euler’s Method, in addition to the topics covered in AT Calculus I.

**Advanced Topics in Statistics (AT Statistics)**

Students will learn how to understand the data and statistics that are pervasive in the world today and to draw their own conclusions. By examining how data and statistics are gathered, how they are analyzed, and what conclusions can and should be made, students will become statistically literate. Students will dissect headlines touting recommendations based on research and dig deeper with careful readings of scientific studies. Students will also study the designs of classic experiments from the field of psychology and behavioral economics and will design and implement their own statistical studies and experiments.

**Advanced Topics in Biology (AT Biology)**

This course will offer students both local and global perspectives of the living world and of all its interactions. Exploration outside of the classroom will include areas such as Brooklyn Bridge Park, the Gowanus Canal, and the Hudson River. Students will also design a capstone project to delve deeper into one of the areas of study in which they are most interested, such as ecosystems or genetics and how they relate to our local environment.

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The Advanced Topics (AT) program is defined by the following characteristics: intellectual rigor; authentic real-world work; demonstrations of mastery; performance-based learning featuring student-driven design, analysis and synthesis of varied texts, active scholarship, and original research. In accordance with Packer’s mission, AT courses will require students to think deeply, speak confidently, and act with purpose and heart.
Advanced Topics in Chemistry (AT Chemistry)
AT Chemistry is a survey of advanced inorganic chemistry incorporating intensive lab work. Topics will include, among others, kinetics, thermodynamics, and electrochemistry. The course will feature multi-stage labs that culminate in formal reports. Topics will be approached in a way that facilitates a complex array of engagement strategies, involving higher-level mathematics, theoretical modeling, and synthesizing existing knowledge to solve new problems.

Advanced Topics in Physics (AT Physics)
The emphasis of this course is on the scientific, social, and practical relevance of a deep understanding of physics. It will expose students to novel ideas and challenging concepts, as well as give them the opportunity and time to connect in critical dialogue, interactive experiential learning, and skill-building to further deepen their understanding of the physical universe. Part of the purpose of this course will be to educate students to become responsible members of the global community, in part by studying physics in its historical, cultural, and social contexts.

Advanced Topics in Chinese Conversation and Culture (AT Chinese)
AT Chinese is taught entirely in Mandarin and is designed to be the equivalent of a second-year college-level course in content and difficulty. Working with an array of literature, authentic texts, audio, and other materials, students will engage in an exploration of both contemporary and historical Chinese culture. Students are provided with significant opportunities to practice oral skills and develop the capacity to communicate effectively and appropriately in a variety of social, cultural, and practical contexts.

Advanced Topics in French Literature (AT French Literature)
Taught exclusively in French, this course will expose students to the social, historical, and cultural contexts of modern texts and will offer a rich interdisciplinary approach to the study of literature. In addition, poetry, visual art, and source materials (e.g., film, music, articles) will be used to establish the varying contexts and develop a deeper understanding of Francophone history and culture. The theme of this course — the notion of “the stranger” — will also help foster understanding and empathy with individuals or groups in society who may be considered outsiders.

Advanced Topics in Latin Poetry: Vergil, Ovid and Catullus (AT Latin)
In this course, students will discover the conventions, literary styles, and characteristics associated with Roman epic and lyric poetry. They will also explore the historical, cultural, social, and political context within which the literature was created, with an emphasis on the political perspectives and historical events that accompanied the transition from the end of the Roman Republic to the advent of the Empire. Special attention will be paid to the quasi-historical foundation myths of Rome, the notion of leaders and leadership, and the role of women in antiquity.

Advanced Topics in Spanish (AT Spanish)
In a course to be conducted entirely in Spanish, students will work to expand, refine, and put to use their already advanced Spanish language skills through the study of a series of thematic units exploring the issues, ideas, and attitudes most compelling to contemporary Spanish speakers in today’s world. Working with an array of authentic texts, audio, and other materials, students will study advanced vocabulary and grammar constructs across a variety of registers, using the context to help shape their comprehension. Students will focus on reading critically, investigating and questioning historical context, author bias, influences, and tone when tackling readings of various types. In addition, students will work extensively on writing essays that incorporate elements from multiple sources to support an original thesis.

Advanced Topics in Computer Science (AT Computer Science)
This advanced computing course will allow students to explore a variety of techniques in computer science through thoughtful manipulation, analysis, and synthesis of large-scale datasets. Students will write complex software solutions that involve building algorithms, data structures, and user interfaces. Students will also take real-world data and create studies centered on the methodologies taught in the course.

Advanced Topics in Studio Art (AT Studio Art)
With an emphasis on painting, printmaking, mixed media, and drawing, this course encourages students to discover, develop, and push their creativity. Students will create a portfolio which will place a strong focus on the development of personal voice, encourage creative thinking, and problem solving. Using New York City galleries and museums to inspire their own work, students will learn to be self-reflective and make connections with larger audiences.

Advanced Topics in Photography (AT Photography)
Through their creative efforts and their ability to “read” and analyze photographs orally and in writing, students in AT Photography are encouraged to push the limits of their creativity and conceptual understanding. Portfolios will be reviewed by a panel of professional photographers who will give formative feedback during the year as well as a summative evaluation at the end. Students will learn to read images with a more critical mind and eye by increasing their ability to observe with great care and to follow intuitive leads suggested by the content. The students’ approach to photography will be multifaceted, a melding of the cognitive, visual, and emotional.