

Mimi Fuchs, Haverford '13

Astrophysics Major (HC) & History Minor (BMC)

You are entering the Haverford community. Haverford College has a pretty unique environment where trust, concern, and respect are valued tenants of the community. Students tend to look out for each other and to see one another as equals. The academic environment is both rigorous and non-competitive.

The Honor Code has both academic and social rules and implications; there is no need to “police” students when giving out exams or assigning papers. While the Honor Code may be unfamiliar to many of you, it truly is the foundation of the Haverford community. Read it when you get a chance!

Go over expectations during the first week of classes. State the type of work and participation you expect from the students, and allow them to express their expectations and what they want to get out of the course.

Students come to Haverford looking for close relationships with professors. Get to know your students, inside and outside of the classroom.

Be mindful and aware of learning differences. Even though this is a top-tier liberal arts college, be sensitive to the fact that many students are working through learning disabilities in order to succeed here. Whether they need extra time, or have different learning styles, be aware that each student is going to approach their coursework in a unique fashion.

Host regular open office hours, and encourage students to stop by. These are the informal times outside of class sessions where you can get to know your students. Make an effort to really be available and at your office during these times.

Haverford is a wonderful place. We're excited that you've joined our community!