

From: **James E. Enstrom** <jenstrom@ucla.edu>
Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 9:00 AM
Subject: Do Not Recommend Harvey Mudd College for a Rigorous STEM Education
To: James E. Enstrom <jenstrom@ucla.edu>

November 29, 2021

Re: Do Not Recommend Harvey Mudd College for a Rigorous STEM Education

Dear College Admissions Counselor,

I am writing because you counsel high school students on college admissions. Please inform those students who are interested in attending a STEM college about the recent Woke radicalization that has occurred at my alma mater, Harvey Mudd College (<https://www.hmc.edu/>). HMC was founded in 1955 by conservative and patriotic Trustees in honor of distinguished mining engineer Harvey Seeley Mudd. Its goal was to help fill the national need for STEM (science-technology-engineering-mathematics) expertise during the Cold War against the Soviet Union. Since 2006, current HMC President Maria Klawe has dramatically changed the HMC Mission from Excellence in STEM to Diversity-Equity-Inclusion (DEI) and Social Justice (SJ), including a major effort to train female computer scientists.

HMC no longer provides a rigorous STEM education because of its DEI and SJ focus and its lowering of student qualifications. In betrayal of its conservative and patriotic founders, every aspect of HMC has become ultraliberal: trustees, president, administration, faculty, students, and alumni association. These changes have weakened STEM standards at HMC at a time when America faces strong competition from China, which has maintained very high STEM standards. Current high school students must clearly understand these changes and they should not attend HMC if they want a high quality STEM education that includes academic freedom and academic diversity.

Students interested in STEM need to be aware of these facts about HMC:

1) HMC has shifted from training students in its original four STEM fields of engineering, physics, chemistry, and math to training students primarily in engineering and computer science. The portion of HMC graduates who are physics and chemistry majors has declined dramatically from 46% in 1965 to 8% in 2021. The portion of HMC graduates who attend graduate or professional school has declined from 65% in 1965 to 26% in 2021. The apparent goal of many current HMC students is to use their BS degree to become a computer expert with a high salary at Big Tech or other progressive companies, rather than to become a distinguished scientist or engineer with an advanced degree.

2) Based on several measures of political activism, HMC professors can be classified as follows: 10% extremely liberal, 70% very liberal, 10% liberal, 10% moderate. There are effectively NO conservative professors at HMC. Not one HMC math professor has signed the Independent Institute Open Letter supporting traditional math (https://www.independent.org/news/news_detail.asp?newsid=2292). HMC now preferentially selects female and minority faculty and students in order to promote DEI and SJ instead of academic excellence. The current campus environment is particularly bad for white males, who have declined from about 90% of students during the 1960s to less than 15% now.

3) The current Woke emphasis of HMC is clearly described in the August 2021 HMC Institutional Report “Healthy Excellence” (<http://scientificintegrityinstitute.org/HMCHately102821.pdf>). HMC now has priorities like “climate change,” “the intersection of science and social justice,” “Black Lives Matter,” “Racial Equity Scorecard,” and “Justice, Education, Diversity, and Inclusion.” These priorities do not prepare HMC graduates to successfully compete against Chinese STEM students, as explained in this August 2021 article by three distinguished US math professors “As US Schools Prioritize Diversity Over Merit, China Is Becoming the World’s STEM Leader” (<https://quillette.com/author/percy-deift/>).

4) The US News National Liberal Arts College overall ranking of HMC is currently #28 (<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-liberal-arts-colleges>), down from #21 in 2016. By historical comparison, the 1973 College Rater ranked HMC #13 among all colleges and universities. Haverford and Swarthmore were the only colleges ranked higher than HMC and Caltech and Stanford were the only California universities ranked higher than HMC.

5) During 2021 US News removed without explanation four very negative User Reviews that did not recommend HMC: “A Has-Been STEM College Now Marred by Political Activism,” “The Social Justice STEM College,” “Mission Change: 2006-2021,” and “My Experience” (<http://scientificintegrityinstitute.org/HMCReviews112521.pdf>). Four positive User Reviews of HMC are the only ones currently posted. This bias raises questions about the validity of US News User Reviews.

For additional details about the radical changes that have occurred at HMC, please watch my August 2021 DDP lecture “The Corruption of STEM Education: Harvey Mudd College→Marie Klawe College” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzhelKjM9mg>). Also, read my September 2021 email message to HMC Trustee Chair James Bean, which cites 100 hundred pages of academic criticism of HMC (<http://scientificintegrityinstitute.org/JEEBean092521.pdf>). Finally, read the November 2021 Alumni and Donors Unite Report “Harvey Mudd College: The Case of the Woke Takeover” (<https://www.alumnianddonorsunite.org/HMC/?index.html>).

Any high school student who is interested in HMC needs to be informed of the above facts and then needs to determine if he or she wants this type of STEM education. Also, the student needs to compare HMC with STEM colleges like Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, US Naval Academy, US Military Academy, and US Air Force Academy, and STEM universities like Caltech and MIT. In addition, the student needs to examine top liberal arts colleges with excellent STEM resources, like Claremont McKenna College, which has the Keck Science Department. Each of the comparison colleges has a US News ranking that is higher than HMC’s ranking. In addition, CMC is ranked #1 in the Campus Free Speech Rankings (<https://rankings.thefire.org/>), while HMC is unranked.

Finally, I welcome you and any student who wants to discuss HMC to contact me directly.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Enstrom, PhD, MPH, FFACE
Co-Valedictorian, HMC Class of 1965
Retired UCLA Research Professor (Epidemiology)
President, Scientific Integrity Institute
<http://scientificintegrityinstitute.org/>
jenstrom@ucla.edu