

April 7, 2022

Kristine M. Johnson
Spencer Stuart Los Angeles
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(310) 209-0610

Re: Harvey Mudd College Presidential Search Information

Dear Ms. Johnson,

As a lead participant in the search for a new Harvey Mudd College President (<https://www.hmc.edu/about-hmc/presidents-office/presidential-search/>), I request that you show the presidential candidates the attached pages. They accurately describe the current Harvey Mudd College (<http://scientificintegrityinstitute.org/HMCPresSearch040722.pdf/>). Please acknowledge receipt of these pages and indicate if you are willing to speak with me about the presidential search.

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
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<https://www.thecollegefix.com/premier-stem-college-faces-accusations-of-a-dumb-downed-education-to-advance-equity/>

The College Fix February 24, 2022

Premier STEM college faces accusations of a dumb-downed education to advance equity

[Daniel Nuccio - Northern Illinois University](#) • February 24, 2022

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ANALYSIS: Is Harvey Mudd College sacrificing high standards for diversity, equity and inclusion?

Harvey Mudd College, long recognized as one of the premier STEM colleges in California, if not the United States, has been the subject of growing criticism from some alumni claiming the private institution, fueled by a relatively new commitment to woke ideology, has sacrificed high standards and a rigorous curriculum for fashionably equitable outcomes in admissions and graduations.

Chartered in 1955 by individuals who recognized the undeniable role science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM, played in ending World War II, and the central role those fields would have in ensuring America's triumph over the Soviet Union in the space race and Cold War, Harvey Mudd College has long been a place for some of the most talented and dedicated aspiring young scientists.

But a [report](#) published by the organization [Alumni Donors Unite](#) titled "The Examination of Woke at Harvey Mudd College" argues that "few institutions have done a woke transformation better over the past 12 years than HMC."

The report argues admissions have been changed to alter student demographics, and that “had the adverse impact of reducing the standards of excellence.”

“Eventually HMC saw a turning away from a focus on merit to one of diversity and eventually DEI. Woke install has progressed such that all institutions and programs at HMC have DEI in mind,” it argues.

In response, some scholars defend the college, acknowledging admissions and curriculum have evolved over the decades, but arguing the school continues to maintain very high standards.

“In the almost 15 years that I’ve been at HMC, I have not seen a drop off in the performance in the classes I teach,” said Eliot Bush, an Harvey Mudd College biology professor, to *The College Fix* via email.

‘No longer provides a rigorous STEM education’

[Alumni Donors Unite](#) describes itself as working to combat the stranglehold identity politics has on higher education and the subsequent erosion of free speech and critical thinking on college campuses.

James Enstrom, who graduated from Harvey Mudd College in 1965 and went on to a career as a researcher in epidemiology at UCLA, said a talk he gave last summer inspired a member of the alumni group to write the un-bylined report on Harvey Mudd College.

Enstrom is the leading vocal critic of the school.

“HMC no longer provides a rigorous STEM education because of its DEI [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion] and SJ [Social Justice] focus and its lowering of student qualifications,” Enstrom wrote in a Nov. 29 [letter](#) sent to selected college admissions counselors.

“In betrayal of its conservative and patriotic founders, every aspect of HMC has become ultraliberal,” he wrote. “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.”

Speaking to *The College Fix* in a phone interview, Enstrom said things have changed from the time he was an undergraduate at Harvey Mudd College.

“It was really based on merit, where you had to be a successful high school student in terms of your STEM training in order to be admitted, and then to go through what was a rigorous education process — and it was not easy,” he said.

In his class, Enstrom noted, “We went from approximately 100 admitted in 1961 and only 52 graduated in 1965.”

The impetus behind these changes, in Enstrom's view, is the college's current president, Maria Klawe, who took the helm in 2006.

'Maria Klawe has succeeded where many others have failed'

Klawe repeatedly has been lauded for the growing diversity of HMC's student body, with special note of the increased number of women admitted to and graduating from the school.

A 2017 [article](#) from *Inc.*, for example, declared: "Maria Klawe has succeeded where many others have failed. At Harvey Mudd College ... a full half of students who graduate with degrees in computer science, engineering, and physics are women."

The secret to her success appears to be several alterations in curriculum and pedagogy, some of which were already taking place prior to her arrival.

For example, according to the *Inc.* article, prior to Klawe's arrival, the school's computer science department had been working to redesign its curriculum. The department began dividing introductory students by experience, and, to some degree, by academic interests. Subsequently, true introductory students with little to no coding experience were better able to catch up to their more experienced peers — although this arguably also prevented the more advanced students from getting further ahead.

After becoming president, Klawe helped further these kinds of curricular modifications, and related pedagogical ones, like encouraging creative and collaborative problem solving using concrete, real-world problems. According to an *Inside Higher Ed* [article](#), this entailed introducing more hands-on components to some classes, such as having students in an engineering course build underwater robots.

Additionally, according to Klawe's statements to *Inc.*, she pushed several changes in pedagogy that attempted to help struggling students feel more comfortable asking for assistance, dispel notions of innate ability, and eliminate "macho behaviors" such as the domination of class discussion by a limited number of students.

According to critics, however, some of these changes raise questions of whether Klawe and Harvey Mudd College hamper the excellence of exceptional students to ensure the mediocrity of lesser ones, some of whom may have been considered unqualified even to enter HMC in previous years.

Enstrom cites the school's [Common Data Set](#), which shows that, year after year, the college has had a much higher admission rate for women compared to men, consistently resulting in a roughly equal number of incoming male and female students.

The Common Data Set, however, does not offer any insight into the reason for these trends or provide the same level of detail for the acceptance rate of applicants by race.

The College Fix reached out to President Klawe for comment, but she did not respond.

‘Few if any colleges worth their salt have remained stagnant’

Not everyone associated with HMC share Enstrom’s complaints about the school or his opinions of Klawe.

Groups of students in recent years have called out Klawe and the HMC administration for not being woke enough on [mental health](#) and on [race](#).

A document often referred to as the [Wabash Report](#), commissioned in 2015, disseminated to faculty in 2016, and [leaked](#) to a student newspaper in 2017, revealed many students found the college’s curriculum to be quite overwhelming and felt they had to sacrifice other interests and personal relationships just to pass muster at the school.

Although many faculty quoted in the document dismissed these concerns by students, or expressed concerns similar to Enstrom’s that the school’s students were not as motivated, qualified or capable as those in years past, Professor Bush did appear to affirm some of the accounts of students in the report in his email to *The College Fix*.

“We have made some recent changes in the core curriculum with the goal of reducing the workload,” Bush wrote. “In the past the core could be quite overwhelming, and I think the changes are a positive. However I can see where some alumni might see that as weakening or diluting the core.”

Perhaps providing greater perspective after spending much of his life at HMC until retiring in 2005, Thomas Helliwell, a professor emeritus of physics, said times change.

“[C]hanges in the curriculum have not been exclusively a recent event, but have been ongoing since the college was founded,” he said in an email to *The College Fix*. “I was an active participant in some of those changes. My opinion is that there are very few if any colleges worth their salt that have remained stagnant while the world is changing around them.”

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About the Author

[Daniel Nuccio](#)

College Fix contributor Daniel Nuccio holds master's degrees in both psychology and biology. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in biology at Northern Illinois University where he is studying the impact of social isolation on host-microbe interactions and learning new coding techniques to integrate into his research.

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

From: **James E. Enstrom** <jenstrom@ucla.edu>
Date: Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 3:05 PM
Subject: Request re October WSCUC Reaccreditation Visit to HMC
To: James C. Bean <jbean@g.hmc.edu>

September 28, 2021

James C. Bean, PhD
HMC Class of 1977 BS Math
Chair, HMC Board of Trustees
jbean@g.hmc.edu

Re: Request re October WSCUC Reaccreditation Visit to HMC

Dear Chair Bean,

Because of the upcoming October 13-15 WSCUC Campus Visit to HMC for Reaffirmation of Accreditation (<https://www.hmc.edu/institutional-research/accreditation/2021-wscuc-re-affirmation/>), I emailed WSCUC the following two detailed Third-Party Comments regarding HMC: (<http://www.scientificintegrityinstitute.org/WSCUC1HMC092121.pdf>) and (<http://www.scientificintegrityinstitute.org/WSCUC2HMC092121.pdf>). The basis for my comments is as follows: "HMC was founded in 1955 by conservative and patriotic Trustees, including Founding President Joseph Platt, in order to help fill the national need for STEM (science-technology-engineering-mathematics) expertise during the Cold War against the Soviet Union. Since 2006, current President Maria Klawe has dramatically changed the HMC Mission from Excellence in STEM to Diversity-Equity-Inclusion with an emphasis on training female computer scientists. HMC no longer provides a rigorous STEM education because of its Social Justice focus. HMC is now an ultraliberal college that lacks academic freedom and political diversity. These changes are damaging STEM education and scientific integrity in the US in the face of strong competition from China, which has maintained very high STEM standards. These recent HMC changes must be clearly understood by current high school students, current and potential donors to HMC, employers interested in HMC students, and especially the WSCUC Review Team. "

I understand that this upcoming WSCUC Campus Visit to HMC does not provide an opportunity for input from HMC Alumni other than by Third-Party Comment. Thus, I request that you make it possible for HMC Alumni to have direct contact with the WSCUC Team at some point during the Campus Visit, possibly via Zoom or teleconference for one hour or less. If direct contact with WSCUC Team is not possible, I request that you make it possible for interested HMC Alumni, such as, myself, to have direct contact with you sometime soon.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Enstrom, PhD, MPH
HMC Class of 1965 BS Physics
jenstrom@ucla.edu
(310) 472-4274



Harvey Mudd College

301 Platt Boulevard, Claremont, CA 91711 | (909) 621-8000

#28 in National Liberal Arts Colleges

2022 QUICK STATS

User Reviews and Ratings	3.2 / 5 (5 reviews)
Questions Answered	N/A

- Overview
- Rankings
- Photos
- Admissions
- Academics
- User Reviews**
- Student Life
- Tuition & Financial Aid
- Questions & Answers
- Campus

Harvey Mudd College User Reviews and Ratings

See reviews and ratings of this school from students, alumni, staff and others. These reviews are not written by U.S. News and have no impact on any of the Best Colleges rankings. Read an explanation of user ratings.

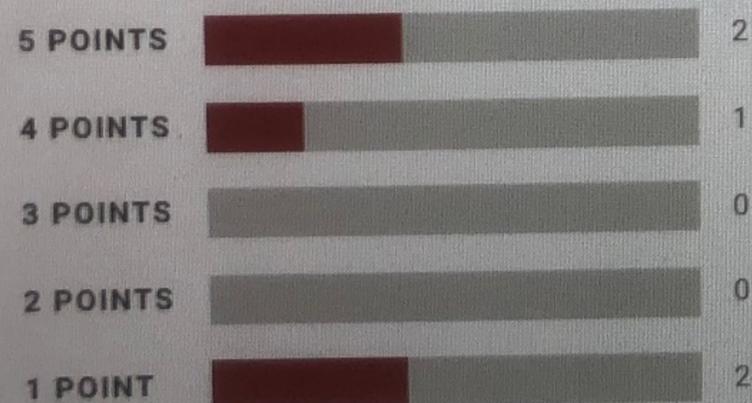


3.2

5 Reviews

[Write a Review](#)

60% of respondents would recommend this school to a friend



Reviewed by 5 users

Most Recent

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RECENT REVIEWS

- Go Leslie wrote a 5 point review for Lesley University 3 days ago.
- Former neighbor to AS wrote a 4 point review for Agnes Scott College 3 days ago.
- R wrote a 5 point review for Miami University--Oxford 3 days ago.
- Frequent flyby wrote a 3 point review for University of Delaware 3 days ago.
- Respectful wrote a 3 point review for University of California--Los Angeles 3 days ago.

+ LOAD MORE

SEE ALL OF THIS SCHOOL'S QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Reviewed by 5 users

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Mission Change: 2006-2021

Submitted 6 months ago By Alum From USA

USN 2021 ranked Harvey Mudd College 2nd nationally among Liberal Arts Colleges in diversity, equity, and inclusion. The student body is 70% non-Caucasian; the Class of 2024 is almost 80% non-Caucasian. College diversity initiatives explore the use of education as a tool for protest and dismantling systemic racism. The Humanities & Social Sciences curriculum in particular increasingly embeds critical race theory, gender equity, and social and racial justice; few courses in Western Civilization or American history and literature are offered. In academic quality, Harvey Mudd fell to 25th in USN 2021, having ranked 12th four years prior. Engineering and Computer Science majors now comprise 80% of students and new graduates; biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics majors contribute only about 5% each to the student body. The Core curriculum (first two years) is being revised yet again, further decreasing student workload, ostensibly to improve student well-being. Core requirements being eliminated will include chemistry, physics, and math courses that for decades were hallmarks of the rigor of a Harvey Mudd education. Harvey Mudd may remain an excellent college in many respects, yet it is different in important ways from what it was in the past.

Bottom Line

No, I would not recommend this school to a friend

Was this review helpful to you? 15 26

[Flag this review](#)

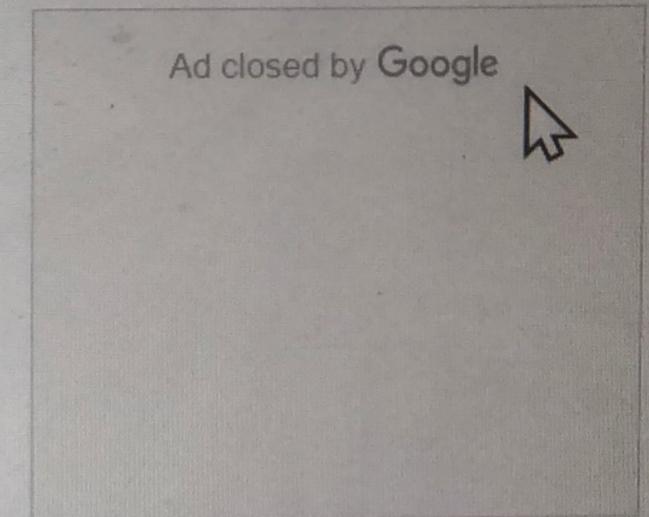


The Social Justice STEM College

Respectful wrote a 3 point review for University of California--Los Angeles 3 days ago.

+ LOAD MORE

SEE ALL OF THIS SCHOOL'S QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS »





The Social Justice STEM College

Submitted 10 months ago By Graduate from 1960s From California

HMC originally provided a very high caliber physics, chemistry, math, and engineering education and prepared its graduates to obtain advanced degrees and to become scientists and engineers who could benefit society. HMC is now devoted to 'diversity ueber alles' and to producing graduates who use their BS degree to obtain a high initial salary. There has been a dramatic decline in the commitment to rigorous science and engineering and a large increase in activist programs like 'HMC Offers Social Justice Focus,' 'HMC #shutdownSTEM,' and 'HMC BLM Admissions.' HMC is no longer the leading STEM college that it once was.

Bottom Line

No, I would not recommend this school to a friend

Was this review helpful to you? 24 41

[Flag this review](#)



Balanced tech education with humanities

Submitted 1 year ago By Alumnus From San Francisco Bay Area

This college offers a one of a kind balanced education that prepares students to be thoughtful, empathetic, and empowered individuals to make a positive impact in the world of tech and beyond. It offers a small college atmosphere with the accessibility to the wide academic course selections and social life of a larger college (given the partnership with four other undergrad colleges).

Bottom Line

Yes, I would recommend this school to a friend

Was this review helpful to you? 14 8

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A Has-Been STEM College Now Marred by Political Activism

Submitted 5 days ago By An Alum from the 1990's From California

I am a Harvey Mudd College graduate from the early 1990's. During that era as well as the ones before it and shortly after it, HMC was a top notch engineering college that consistently ranked #1 in the USA & World Report's Engineering College category. It was a time of serious scholarship at HMC. The curriculum was untouched by political agendas and as a result we received a stellar STEM education. I am grateful to have attended HMC during that time. Unfortunately, it is disappointing to see that what was once a top notch STEM college, has now taken a hard left turn and instead of focusing on providing students with an objective STEM education, HMC promotes political agendas. At the expense of providing a high quality STEM education, HMC is far more concerned with diversity, Black Lives Matter and Critical Race Theory. Given HMC's current direction, I do not recommend that a student serious about studying science or engineering attend here.

- What best describes you?** Alumni
- Activities & Social Life 1
 - City & Setting 3
 - Classes & Teachers 1
 - Dining & Food 3
 - Dorms & Housing 3
 - Health & Safety 3

Bottom Line
No, I would not recommend this school to a friend

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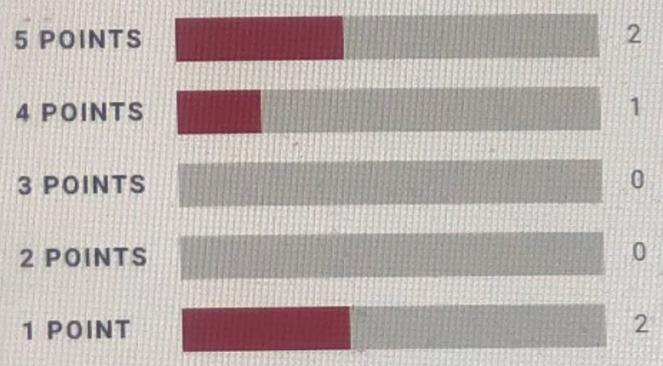


3.2 5 Reviews

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60% of respondents would recommend this school to a friend



- Activities & Social Life 4
- City & Setting 4.7
- Classes & Teachers 4.7
- Dining & Food 4.3
- Dorms & Housing 3.3
- Health & Safety 4.7

RECENT REVIEWS

- Fair Balance wrote a **4 point** review for **University of Georgia** a day ago.
- Anonymous wrote a **4 point** review for **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University--Prescott** 19 hours ago.
- NBGS_1989 wrote a **5 point** review for **Rutgers University--New Brunswick** 2 days ago.
- Trece wrote a **5 point** review for **Clark Atlanta University** 2 days ago.
- C. Class of 2020 wrote a **5 point** review for **University of California--Santa Barbara** 2 days ago.

[+ LOAD MORE](#)

[SEE ALL OF THIS SCHOOL'S QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS »](#)

Reviewed by 5 users

Most Recent



My experience

Submitted 5 days ago By Bob From Los Angeles, CA

I am a graduate from the late 1960's I received a great education. Rigorous exposure to chemistry physics mathematics and engineering through the Core. Unfortunately the Core has been eroded and the number of courses taken each semester reduced. More alarming is the concentration on diversity equity and inclusion. A concern is the dumbing down of the curriculum and standards. I have been involved and have heard of this first hand. The HMC that I experienced is in the past.

What best describes you? Alumni

Bottom Line

No, I would not recommend this school to a friend

American Mind September 10, 2021

Burying Standards

Harvey Mudd College has acceded to the worst impulses of the diversicrats.

[Christopher Sanfilippo](#)



Harvey Mudd College, in Claremont, California, ranks among America’s best STEM schools. Like most other elite academic institutions, the school has committed itself to diversity and social justice. It’s a commitment that has had questionable results.

In 2017, the College capitulated to student [demands](#) “to funnel more money into counseling services, specifically geared toward students of color, and to prioritize minority student groups with funding and other perks.” Last summer, angry students [forced](#) President Maria Klawe to release an official [statement](#) in which she affirmed that “*Black Lives Matter*” and that HMC must combat systemic racism with “anti-racism.”

An obsession with “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” (DEI) initiatives grips American universities. These initiatives aim to make universities more diverse and more accessible to the less privileged, but this obsession—and the worldview behind it—undermines education in both the classical and everyday senses of the term. It allows radical politics to stifle dissent, encourages activism over learning, and lowers standards. Harvey Mudd College has embraced the illiberal and anti-intellectual dogmas that dominate today’s left. Recent events exemplify this trend.

Anup [Gampa](#), hired last year as a professor of Psychology, [describes](#) himself as a “Marxist-queer-feminist...interested in understanding and dismantling systems of oppression.” He [stands](#) “in full solidarity [with calls to] entirely abolish the police.” Gampa’s radical politics mandate him to turn the classroom into a venue for activism. The “last thing,” Gampa proclaims, “I want to do [in the classroom] is talk about this stuff but not help students fight an actively racist, sexist, misogynistic society.” Rather than teach, he indoctrinates.

Brian Shuve, who has taught physics at Harvey Mudd since 2016, co-authored the “Particles for Justice” [statement](#) that called on academics to fight “white supremacy” in academia and claimed that black Americans do not have the “right to survive.” He privileges diversity over merit to [support](#) race and sex quotas in physics admissions and hiring policies. Shuve perversely insists that “to maximize objectivity while studying such a universal field...the physics community should reflect the demographics of our society.” Scientific standards of “objectivity” are explicitly subordinated to politics. The physics department [celebrates](#) Shuve’s activism.

Every job [posting](#) for new faculty contains the line, “your written materials should address your interests, experiences, and future plans with diversity, equity and inclusion.” The College will only hire scholars who have accepted these leftist dogmas.

DEI now affects virtually [every](#) aspect of the College. New students will be greeted with “anti-racism” sessions during orientation. Applicants are no longer required to submit SAT subject tests—“a policy change that is expected to remove a barrier to applying to the College and help further diversify its student body.” President Klawe [discourages](#) the enthusiasm, or “macho behavior,” of white male students so that others feel safe.

Klawe [prioritizes](#) diversity above all. “I was surprised,” she said in 2017, “to find out the meme around Harvey Mudd was that we are a merit-based institution and bringing in more women or people of color would mean lowering our standards.” But then, last semester, a new Core curriculum was adopted which significantly eased requirements. To “reduce student stress,” the new Core [drops](#) Electricity and Magnetism (still [required](#) at peer institutions like MIT) and Differential Equations—an essential course for all STEM disciplines. In addition, the new Core will add an “Impact Course...which will address the intersection of STEM and society”; this new course will surely have a strong social justice orientation. Klawe maintains that the new curriculum is unrelated to diversity-focused recruitment efforts, but it’s widely understood to be the motivation.

Klawe and her administration seem more concerned with student comfort than excellence, more concerned about the diversity of graduates than their achievements. She denies that diversity and merit are at odds, yet the evidence suggests otherwise.

The case of Harvey Mudd College aligns with the national trend toward an obsession with DEI at the expense of rigorous education. This obsession inevitably leads to lower standards and a confused blend of activism and education. The actions of the administration implicitly condone the radical activity and beliefs of the faculty. The College portrays itself as a vehicle for social justice; following its lead, the professors promote activism in the classroom.

The students of Harvey Mudd College must resist the encroachment of DEI on their education. They should speak out about professors who use their authority to politicize the classroom and demand that the administration not lower standards of education. Current faculty must fight the dilution of standards for tenure and the imposition of quotas for new hires. Alumni should refrain from donating to the college as long as its focus remains on social engineering rather than educational rigor. Otherwise there is no hope for the future of Harvey Mudd College as a standard of excellence, nor for the future of standards generally.

The Corruption of STEM Education: Harvey Mudd College→Maria Klawe College

James E. Enstrom, PhD, MPH, FFACE

**Retired UCLA Research Professor (Epidemiology)
Co-Valedictorian of HMC Class of 1965**

President

Scientific Integrity Institute

Los Angeles, CA

**<http://www.scientificintegrityinstitute.org/>
jenstrom@ucla.edu**

**Doctors for Disaster Preparedness
Tucson, AZ**

August 1, 2021

HMC Illustrates Corruption of US STEM Higher Education

Conclusions:

Maria Klawe has systematically changed the original HMC Mission

HMC has replaced Excellence with Forced Diversity and Social Justice

Original Conservative Founders of HMC have been replaced with
Liberal Activist Trustees, President, Faculty, and Students

Current students must learn that the original HMC not longer exists
and serious STEM students, especially white males, must not attend

HMC illustrates the ongoing corruption of US STEM Higher Education

Harvey Mudd College must be renamed Maria Klawe College