

Waldorf High School Graduates Fact Sheet (Based on AWNSEA and Waldorf Research Institute Data)

Waldorf graduates are well prepared to pursue higher education and professional degrees. They are accepted and matriculate from the top colleges and universities in North America, including Stanford, UC Berkeley, Harvard, Yale, and Brown. SAT scores from Waldorf High Schools range from average to the National Merit Scholar category. Waldorf graduates reflect a wide diversity of professions and occupations including medicine, law, science, engineering, computer technology, the arts, social science, government, and teaching at all levels.

The Research Institute for Waldorf Education in Wilton, Mass recently researched what Waldorf high school students did in the year following high school graduation. The vast majority of Waldorf graduates attend an enormous range of colleges and universities. Some take a year off to explore the world or go directly into a trade that feels meaningful to them. The authors of this study concluded: “These results suggest that Waldorf education does in fact produce free-thinking individuals with a broad range of interests.” (The full article is available at <http://www.waldorfresearchinstitute.org/waldorfed.html>)

Researchers collected data for this study from all 27 Waldorf high schools that graduated a class in 2004¹ in the U.S. and Canada, reporting on graduates from the years 1994-95 to 2004-05. Ten of those schools graduated their first classes between the years 2000-2004. Specific findings include:

- A large number (717) and diverse type (18 of 20 categories) of accredited colleges and universities accepted Waldorf grads;
- Accepting schools were often in the same geographic region as the Waldorf grad, e.g., the top 10 schools accepting Pacific region grads were on the West coast;
- Age of the school did not impact acceptances, e.g., the top 3 schools accepting grads from mature² Waldorf schools (UC-Santa Cruz, Oberlin College and Bard College) appear also in the top 12 accepting schools for medium aged and young (“pioneering”) Waldorf schools;
- In 2004, 438 grads chose to attend 201 different colleges, the most popular being small liberal arts schools, but 4 of the top 10 being large universities;

¹ In 2004, when this study was done, there were eight Waldorf High Schools that had not yet graduated a class. A full list of Waldorf high schools is available on the AWNSEA Alumni Information page (<http://www.awnsa.org/alumni-facts.html>).

² For the purposes of this study, “mature” schools graduated their first classes in 1994 or earlier, “medium” schools 1995-1999, and “young” from 2000-2004.

- Thirty-two percent of grads went to universities that contain Masters or Doctoral programs, 27% attended liberal arts baccalaureate colleges, and 4% attended specialized institutions of art, music or design;
- Four of the top ten colleges accepting Waldorf high school students in 2004 are not on the aggregate top 10 list³. This may reflect the growing number of Waldorf high schools and their location around the country, as well as colleges' increasing knowledge of Waldorf schools and experience with Waldorf high school graduates;
- Between 1994 and 2004, 23% of Waldorf grads did not go directly to college. The number of graduates who do not go directly to college has been growing over time, and a higher percentage of students from young schools decide not to go directly to college. The greatest percentage of these students deferred admission to college for a year to travel or pursue alternate plans. (For a full list of alternative choices to college, please refer to Appendix F of the study.)

Phase Two of this study, which will look at career choices, how Waldorf graduates are perceived by their professors and employers, and how well Waldorf education prepared them for life and challenges of today's world is well underway and scheduled for publication in the Winter of 2006.

Preparation for life includes the development of the well-rounded person. Waldorf Education has as its ideal a person who is knowledgeable about the world and human history and culture, who has many varied practical and artistic abilities, who feels a deep reverence for and communion with the natural world, and who can act with initiative and in freedom in the face of economic and political pressures.

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Renewal Magazine, Spring/Summer 2003

³ The top 10 colleges accepting Waldorf High School Graduates, 1995–2004, inclusive, are: Oberlin college, Bard College, U.C. Santa Cruz, University of Colorado, Hampshire College, Lewis and Clark College, Earlham College, Sarah Lawrence College, Skidmore College, and Capilano College (Canada).