

Class of 2026 Senior Statistics

Class Information and Admission Information

- The 70 Members of the Class of 2026 were admitted to 113 colleges in 29 states, the District of Columbia, and France.
- They will attend 31 colleges in 16 states.
- 59% percent will attend in-state while 41% percent will attend out-of-state colleges and universities.
- Class members were admitted to numerous highly-selective schools, including UCLA, MIT, Claremont McKenna, UVA, Swarthmore, Michigan, Duke, Harvard, NYU, Emory, Georgetown, UNC, Northwestern, Davidson, Washington and Lee, and the United States Air Force Academy.

Scholarships

- Two members of the class were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as National Merit Commended Scholars and four students were named National Merit Finalists.
- One student was selected as a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, one of the nation's highest academic honors.
- 31% of the class met the qualifications to be named South Carolina Palmetto Fellows, the state's highest lottery funded scholarship award.
- Members of the Class of 2026 were offered \$12.8 million dollars in academic scholarships, including full cost of attendance scholarships to the Air Force Academy, Clemson, Duke, Emory, UNC, and Wofford.

Testing and Grades

- The average SAT score for the class was 1290, and the average ACT score was 28.3.
- 67 students completed 441 AP and Post-AP courses.
- 34 students earned GPAs of 4.5 or higher and were awarded the designation of Honor Graduate.

But in true Hammond fashion, the Class of 2026 has been quick to invest themselves outside the classroom and in life beyond our gates.

This class is deeply service-minded – They've created service clubs on-campus, set Dance Marathon records, and candy striped at hospitals. Some have coached youth sports, assisted differently abled athletes in Special Olympics, taught creative writing and poetry to children, and served as camp counselors to children vulnerable to homelessness. They have volunteered at a refugee camp fed by an organic farm in Greece, completed medical mission work in Vietnam, built homes in South Africa and Mozambique, cleaned coral reefs in Thailand, and cultivated

farmland in Ecuador and Galapagos.

These lass members are creative, compelling artists – Among them are character artists, instrumentalists, clothing designers, 3D printers, accomplished competitive dancers, and content creators – one with over 46,000 subscribers. They've studied character design at some of the best art schools in the country, were featured in documentaries, sang in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and Austrian fortresses, and wowed us countless times in the Bank of America Theater.

Our graduates have explored incredible places – Three students have traveled to over 20 countries. Others have SCUBA dove in Bonaire, studied on Hammond Abroad in England and Italy, and piloted solo cross-country flights. Some adventurers have free-dived shipwrecks, scaled waterfalls, rappelled cliffs, skied black diamonds, climbed the Eiffel Tower, polar plunged in Norway, and camped with an indigenous community in the Darien Rainforest to see a harpy eagle nest.

This class sought and discovered new knowledge – They've completed yearlong projects studying social media's impact on language, the American power grid, air quality in low-income communities, type 2 diabetes in adolescents, human trafficking, eating disorder healing and relapse prevention, US pesticide policy, weaponizing water in the middle east, and linguistics justice. They've researched and written papers on aviation takeoff safety procedures and peanut allergies in children. They've worked under faculty to study stem cell development in Oxford, biomedical sciences in Greece, and vector-borne diseases in one of the biggest epidemiology labs in the country, which happens to be at President Amiridis's own USC.

Their athletic accomplishments are great – Six student-athletes will continue their careers on the collegiate level in cheerleading, football, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, and track. Too many to count were all-region and all-state, a few are Hammond record holders, and some are even multi-year SCISA individual state champions. Among them are volunteer coaches, triathletes, and All-American Players.

Our graduates have also carefully considered their future goals – They've completed internships for US Congressmen and Senators, and in financial planning firms, commercial real estate companies, vet clinics, engineering, design, and architecture firms, and our own Lower School. They have worked in Michelin reviewed and James Beard nominated restaurants, and one student started her own sourdough bread business. Students were elected as Mayors at Girls State, completed the US Senate Page Program, and started Hammond's Mock Trial team. One particular entrepreneur runs his own social media consulting firm coaching

influencers who have over 35 million combined subscribers, and another owns a limited-edition luxury streetwear clothing line.

And above all, this class cherished being Skyhawks – Among their most memorable experiences are Early Tech Week, State Championship Wins, the Tree Lighting Ceremony, Costa Rica, Senior Speeches, and developing friendships with our youngest classmates through the 12th grade and Pre-K pairings. They are grateful for the experiences Hammond has afforded them, most especially the unwavering sense of community and the teachers who have poured into their education and personal development. One student talked about her gratitude for her teachers whom she sees as role models. She said, “I have always looked up to my teachers who have supported and advocated for me and will always remember that about Hammond. These special relationships have undoubtedly shaped how I see the world and motivated me to want to make an important difference in it, but more importantly they have inspired me to strive to be a genuine and kind person just like they have been to me.”

The Class of 2026 is a talented group of students with myriad passions, diverse experiences, lasting impacts, and genuine goodness. Graduates, you have proven that you are ready to chart your own course and apply your talents in any way you wish. We can't wait to see what you'll do next. Congratulations.