Agent guide to Simmons University

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Last updated: August 12, 2021
About Simmons University

Address:
300 The Fenway, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA

Year founded:
1899

Type:
Private institution
Women-centered at undergraduate level, co-ed at graduate level

Setting:
Small, urban, campus-based school

Student-faculty ratio: 8:1

Campus map: www.simmons.edu/maps-directions/campus-maps
Location: The Fenway neighborhood is near the center of Boston. The area is home to 300,000+ students and there are 15 other colleges within walking distance.

Previous name: Simmons College, until 2018
Student population: 1,750+ undergraduates (and 4,750+ graduate students)
International students: 5% of undergraduate students are international (11 countries represented)
Faculty: 243 full-time faculty (74% are women)
Average class size: 15
Athletics: Simmons teams, known as “Sharks”, compete in NCAA Division III

COVID-19 update

Is campus open for the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semester?
Yes, Simmons has announced that they will re-open for on-campus instruction for the 2021/2022 academic year. They are requiring all students to be fully immunized against COVID-19.
You can find further information about the campus re-opening here.

Will Simmons require all students to be fully vaccinated before they arrive on campus?
Yes. Students should receive COVID vaccine shots before they arrive on campus. Further information here.

Is there virtual learning available for students outside the USA?
No. Simmons will work with each international student on a one-on-one basis to land on the best strategy for those who are unable to make it to campus in time for the start of the semester.
Rankings

U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges, 2021
- #133 in National Universities
- #31 in Best Value Schools
- #80 in Top Performers on Social Mobility
- #308 in business programs (undergraduate)
- #11 in Library and Information Science program (graduate)
- #36 in Social Work programs (graduate)
- #83 in Physical Therapy programs (graduate)

QS World University Rankings, 2022
- Boston is #1 Best Student City in the USA
- #37 for Learning Experience in the USA

Wall Street Journal / Times Higher Education’s US College rankings, 2021
- #3 Best Universities in Boston
- #129 in the USA (based on THE’s annual US Student Survey)

College Choice, 2020
- #6 Best Women’s college in the USA

Kiplinger’s Best College Values, 2019
- #77 private college
- #230 overall university in the USA

College Factual, 2021
- #13 Best college for Nursing in the USA (#1 in Massachusetts)
- #32 Best college for Health Professions in the USA
- Top 15% Business Administration and Management

Academics

Degree list on Simmons’s website: [www.simmons.edu/undergraduate/academics/majors-minors](http://www.simmons.edu/undergraduate/academics/majors-minors)

Kaplan has a contract to recruit first-year and transfer students for all Simmons undergraduate majors across their 4 colleges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College of Natural, Behavioral, and Health Sciences</th>
<th>College of Organizational, Computational, and Information Sciences</th>
<th>College of Social Sciences, Policy, and Practice</th>
<th>The Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts, and Humanities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BS Biochemistry∞</td>
<td>BSBA Accounting</td>
<td>BA Economics</td>
<td>BA Africana Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS Biology∞</td>
<td>BSBA Business Management</td>
<td>BS Economics and Mathematics∞</td>
<td>BA Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS Chemistry∞</td>
<td>BS Computer Science∞</td>
<td>BA International Relations</td>
<td>BA Arts Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS Chemistry Management∞</td>
<td>BS Data Science and Analytics∞</td>
<td>BA Political Science</td>
<td>BA Asian Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS Environmental Science∞</td>
<td>BSBA Finance</td>
<td>BS Public Health∞</td>
<td>BA Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS Exercise Science∞</td>
<td>BS Financial Mathematics</td>
<td>BSW Social Work</td>
<td>BA Communications (Graphic Design)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS Neuroscience and Behavior∞</td>
<td>BS Health Informatics∞</td>
<td></td>
<td>BA Communications (Journalism)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSN Nursing†</td>
<td>BS Information Technology∞</td>
<td></td>
<td>BA Communications (Media Arts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS Nutrition and Dietetics∞</td>
<td>BSBA Marketing</td>
<td></td>
<td>BA English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS Nutrition and Food (Food Service Management)∞</td>
<td>BS Mathematics∞</td>
<td></td>
<td>BA French and Francophone Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS Nutrition and Food (Nutrition, Wellness, and Health Promotion)∞</td>
<td>BSBA Retail Management</td>
<td></td>
<td>BA History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS Physics∞</td>
<td>BS Statistics∞</td>
<td></td>
<td>BA Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA Psychology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BA Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BA Public Relations and Marketing Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BA Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BS Web Design and Development∞</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

∞ STEM designated degree (graduates are eligible for a 24-month OPT extension).
† Fall start only for these programs.
Engineering dual-degree with Columbia University

5-year program*: 3 years at Simmons + 2 years at Columbia.

Earn a Bachelor of Science from Simmons University (usually in Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, or Biology) and also earn a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Columbia University (in Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Earth & Environmental, Electrical, Materials Science, or Mechanical Engineering). Get the dual degree flyer here.

Please note:
- If students do not meet Columbia’s requirements, they still graduate with a Bachelor of Science from Simmons.

Accelerated bachelor’s + master’s degrees

3+1 programs*†
- BA Political Science, BA Economics, or BA Sociology + MPP Public Policy
- BS Computer Science or BS Information Technology + MS Library and Information Science
- BS Social Work + MS Social Work

4+1 programs†
- BS Exercise Science, BS Public Health, or BS Nutrition + MS Nutrition
- BS Nursing + MS Nursing

* Students only receive the 50% Simmons Kaplan scholarship for the 3 years of undergraduate study at Simmons.
† STEM designated degrees (graduates are eligible for a 24-month OPT extension).
† Fall start only for these programs.

Pre-professional advising programs

Pre-Law (extra-curricular activities of interest to prelaw students: lectures, meetings with lawyers who are Simmons alumnae, and field studies or internships related to law. Also help with Law School applications.)

Pre-Health (strong preparation for admission to medical, dental, optometry, podiatry, veterinary, and physician assistant programs)

Honors Program

Simmons Honors Program is an interdisciplinary 4-year academic enrichment program for all majors. Honors students receive an extra $1,000 per semester scholarship, and benefit from a mentorship program and leadership opportunities. Students admitted into this highly selective program graduate near the top of their high school class and have a solid record of honors, AP, or IB courses.

Available to incoming first-year undergraduate students, applicants have earlier deadlines and additional essays to submit. Apply through the standard Kaplan Simmons application form.

Entry requirements

Academic criteria

High school GPA: minimum 3.0 is needed to be considered by Simmons – not a guarantee of admission.

Minimum grade for international equivalencies to a 3.0:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By country</th>
<th>By qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Azerbaijan – 4</td>
<td>• A levels – minimum score of 5 or minimum grade of C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bahrain – 77</td>
<td>• Al Thanawiya (General Secondary Education Certificate) – 80 or above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• China – 80</td>
<td>• O Levels – minimum score of 5 or minimum grade of C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ecuador – 15</td>
<td>• IGCSE – 11 years with minimum score of 5 or minimum grade of C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Egypt – 65</td>
<td>• Levels – minimum score of 5 or minimum grade of C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hong Kong – HKDSE 3333</td>
<td>• Nigeria – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• India – 50</td>
<td>• Peru – 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Kenya – 60</td>
<td>• Russia – 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Korea – 7.0 with average Rank 5</td>
<td>• Singapore – A levels: BBBBB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Malaysia – 10</td>
<td>• Taiwan – 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nepal – 10</td>
<td>• Thailand – 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pakistan – 10</td>
<td>• Ukraine – 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Philippines – 10</td>
<td>• Vietnam – Grade 12: average 7.0 out of 10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
English proficiency

English test scores for direct** admission:

- TOEFL / KIBT 89 (including MyBest TOEFL scores)
- IELTS 6.5
- PTE 60
- Duolingo 105
- Kaplan International English – Advanced level

** Conditional admission offered for students with lower English levels (more details below)

English test waiver for applicants:

- (in 2021 only) who have completed 2 full-time years of high school or college coursework conducted in English, without ESL/ELL coursework.
- whose first language is English with an SAT/ACT score or a Duolingo English test.
- who completed their junior and senior year in the US with SAT EBWR score of 550 and/or ACT English score of 21.
- who have completed 4 years of high school in a US high school must meet the same competency requirements as domestic students
- holding a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited US college or university

Eligibility

Green card holders and US citizens cannot apply through Kaplan.

Minimum age: 16 years by date of enrollment

Transfer admission requirements

Academic and English minimum requirements are the same for Year 1 and transfer students. Additionally:

- students must have a minimum of 17 credits to be considered a transfer student.
- students may transfer up to 96 credits for courses passed with a grade of C or better at an accredited institution.
- Students must be under the age of 24 when starting at Simmons and must not have a previous bachelor’s degree.

Application and admission

Submit application through Kaplan’s online form:
www.kaplanpathways.com/universities/simmons-university/application-form

Complete application consists of:

- Online application form
- Passport
- Official transcripts – pdf of transcripts for the last 3 years of education (with official English translations, if needed)
- English Test – pdf of official score report
- 1 letter of recommendation – from a teacher or high school counselor (college advisor or faculty for transfer applicants)
- Written personal statement (word count 250–650)
- Scholarship application video (max 3 minutes), essay or interview – ask/send to your Market Manager via WhatsApp.

Study Gaps – if a student has completed high school more than 3 months prior to the start of the intake, they should submit a written statement of what they have been doing. If transcripts available, must submit these also.

Admission decisions

On receipt of a complete application, Simmons will make an admission decision within 7 business days.

Applicants whose English level does not meet Simmons proficiency requirements may be conditionally admitted:

- offer expires after 1 year.
- students can choose to study at a Kaplan International Language school in Boston (or elsewhere in the US) or submit a qualifying English language score.
- deadline to submit a new English score is the I-20 deadline, each intake.
2022 dates and deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Spring 2022</th>
<th>Fall 2022*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honors Program application deadline</td>
<td>November 1, 2021</td>
<td>February 1, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General admission application deadline (in- and out-of-country)</td>
<td>December 1, 2021</td>
<td>July 7, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-20 request and deposit deadline</td>
<td>December 10, 2021</td>
<td>July 19, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>Mid-January (tbc)</td>
<td>Late August (tbc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes start</td>
<td>January 18, 2022</td>
<td>September 6, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam week ends</td>
<td>May 14, 2022</td>
<td>December 20, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Dates are tentative and subject to change

Tuition and costs

2021–2022 tuition rates

Most undergraduate programs: $41,872 per academic year
BSN Nursing: $45,880 per academic year

Standard tuition after scholarship: $20,936 (see below)

Cost of attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee type</th>
<th>Cost for the academic year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate full-time tuition</td>
<td>$41,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-campus room and meals</td>
<td>$15,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Fee / Health Center Fee</td>
<td>$1,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>$4,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and supplies</td>
<td>$1,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and personal expenses</td>
<td>$4,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost</td>
<td>$68,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>–$20,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost after scholarship</td>
<td>$47,939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scholarship

The Simmons Kaplan Women’s Leadership Scholarship

Award: 50% of undergraduate tuition, renewable annually. Access the scholarship flyer [here](https://kaplanpathways.com/simmons).

Total amount: worth ~$80,000 over 4 years

Criteria: High achieving female international students with these attributes
- Open minded
- Intellectually curious
- Leadership potential
- Community involvement
- Passion and drive

To apply: To be considered, applicants should choose ONE of the following ways to describe their interest in women’s leadership:
- record a video (no longer than 3 minutes)
- write an essay
- attend a 15-minute online interview (with a Kaplan market manager)

Renewal eligibility: Maintain full-time enrollment and good academic standing.
Acceptance and pre-arrival

Deposit $1,000 to confirm acceptance; $500 for housing
I-20 request Funding amount required (after scholarship has been deducted): $47,939
Proof of Finances Complete the International Student Supplement Form (ISSF):
www.simmons.edu/sites/default/files/2020-02/ISSF%20%28UG-General%29%20ALM%20Accessible.pdf
(Note, there is a separate ISSF for BSN Nursing).
The form must be submitted along with proof that the applicant has sufficient financial support to cover the total cost of attendance for 1 academic year. This may include:
- Copy of scholarship award letter from Simmons.
- Personal bank statement or bank letter
- Private or company sponsor letter / bank statement
- Home government funding or loan

Health forms
Forms must be uploaded to the student health portal. Review the health requirements for new students:
www.simmons.edu/sites/default/files/2019-03/Portal%20Instructions%20for%20New%20Students.pdf
For Fall intake, the deadline is July 15; for Spring intake, the deadline is January 10:
https://www.simmons.edu/your-simmons/student-support-resources/health-center/portal

Student life

Housing
Requirement: On-campus housing is compulsory for first year students.
Location: Simmons Residence Campus, a short walk from the main campus, has 9 residence halls, as well as Bartol Dining Hall, the Holmes Sports Center and the campus health center
First-year residences: First-year students live in one of 4 halls sharing with first-year roommates (usually in double or triple rooms):
Meswick Hall
- Houses first-year and second-year students
- Home to the Foodie Floor
- Contains double rooms and one quad room, with community bathrooms on each floor
- Kitchens, smart classroom, computer lab, laundry, and vending machines
Morse Hall
- Houses first-year students only
- Home to the Arts Floor
- Double and triple rooms, with community bathrooms on each floor
- Piano, laundry, large living room, kitchens, and vending machines
Simmons Hall
- Largest residence community
- Houses first-year students only
- Home to the Sports Pride Floor and Substance Free community
- Double and triple rooms, with community bathrooms on each floor
- Large living room with TV, piano, laundry, computer lab, vending machines, elevator, and kitchens
South Hall
- Mix of first-year, third-year and fourth-year students
- Single, double, and triple rooms, with community bathrooms on each floor
- Home to the Wellness Community, and next door to the Holmes Sport Center
- Laundry, lounge, and kitchen

Housing FAQ: www.simmons.edu/undergraduate/student-life/housing/residence-halls/residence-hall-faqs
Dining

First-year students receive a Meal Plan as part of their room and board package. Simmons Dining Services offers flexible Meal Plans. Students can choose from a wide variety of dining options, including vegan, vegetarian, made without gluten and authentic ethnic menu offerings.

Dining venues

On the residence campus:
- **Bartol Dining Hall** – all-you-care-to-eat dining facility with made-to-order meals, vegetarian options, salad bars, sautés, pizza, smoothies, and more.
- **Bartol Late Night** - snack bar and convenience store open late nights Thursday through Sunday.

On the academic campus:
- **The Fens Café** – quesadillas, pizza, deli snacks, salad bar, grab-and-go items.
- **Meyers Café** – Starbucks coffee, fresh pastries, sandwiches, sushi, frozen yogurt, snacks and bottled beverages.
- **Common Grounds Café** – hot drinks, fresh pastries, sandwiches, paninis and sushi.

On-campus dining video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwHpMvNu9x8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwHpMvNu9x8)

Student clubs

Simmons has over 80 different clubs and organizations for students, including:
- African Caribbean Student Union (ACSU)
- Asian Students Association (ASO)
- Black Student Organization (BSO)
- Collegiate Entrepreneur Organization
- Kababayan Filipino Club
- Model UN
- Multicultural International Student Organization (MISO)
- Organization Latino America (OLA)
- Simmons Islamic Society (SIS)
- Simmons University Dance Company
- South Asian Society at Simmons (SASS)
- Student Government Association (SGA)

Colleges of the Fenway

The Colleges of the Fenway is a collaborative of 5 neighboring Boston-based colleges and universities in the Fenway area:

1. Simmons University
2. Emmanuel College (liberal arts school)
3. Wentworth Institute of Technology (technical design and engineering)
4. Massachusetts College of Art and Design
5. MCPHS University (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences)

Simmons students may take up to 2 academic courses per semester at another participating institution, for no additional tuition costs. Students can also use the libraries, fitness facilities and other resources, and join shared student clubs at all participating institutions. [View the guide](http://www.colleges-fenway.org) for more information.

Collectively, the colleges represent 12,000 undergraduate students, more than 700 full-time faculty, and 2,300 course offerings: [www.colleges-fenway.org](http://www.colleges-fenway.org)
Outcomes

Simmons graduate work in fields like healthcare, media, business and finance, and human services.

- 100% of Simmons students complete internships, clinicals, fieldwork or research projects.
- 91% of Simmons graduates are employed or in graduate school within 6 months of graduation.
- 97% of Simmons graduates are employed in a field related to their major.

Graduate employers

Companies that recently hired Simons graduates:

- Amazon
- Walt Disney World
- Fidelity Investments
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Procter & Gamble
- Trip Advisor
- Hub Spot
- Wayfair
- Dell / EMC

Notable alumnae

Notable former Simmons students include:

- Gwen Ifill – managing editor of Washington Week (public affairs TV program), journalist, television newscaster, author.
- Denise Di Novi – film producer, whose work includes Edward Scissorhands and Crazy Stupid Love
- Nnenna Freelon – six-time Grammy Award nominee, jazz singer, composer, producer, and arranger.
- Princess Srinagarindra – member of the Thai Royal Family.
- Bertha Leticia Navarro Ochoa – Mexican entrepreneur who was Secretary of Tourism for Mexico, president of JAFRA Cosmetics, and held high rank positions in the Gillette company.
- Ann M. Fudge – former CEO of Young & Rubicam

General benefits of undergraduate women’s education:

- Women’s college students are twice as likely to go on to complete a graduate degree
- Women’s college students are 12x more likely to get a degree in mathematics or hard science
- 30% of Businessweek’s “Rising Women in Corporate America” are women’s college graduates
- 20% of women in the United States Congress are graduates of women’s colleges and universities
- 33% of the women on the boards of Fortune 1000 companies are graduates of women’s colleges or universities

Further reading and watching

Kaplan’s Simmons University webpage
www.kaplanpathways.com/universities/simmons-university/

Simmons University training slides

Simmons University brochure
Simmons-University-Brochure.pdf

Shape your future with Simmons Conference Sessions:

- 10 things you need to know about Simmons
- A Simmons alumna shares her story
- The cost of studying in the USA and how Simmons University supports students
- Dual degree in Engineering with Columbia University
- The Boston Advantage: from social life to career prospects

Simmons playlist on Kaplan’s YouTube channel:
https://kpln.org/2wnT4Xm

Simmons Digital Resources Pack
https://www.kaplanpathways.com?page_id=2&fileList=YToxOntpOjA7czo0OiI3MDYwLjIt9
Articles on the Kaplan blog:

- Benefits of Simmons’ women-centered education
- Simmons Leadership Conference for Women
- BSN Nursing at Simmons
- Earn a dual degree in engineering with Columbia University
- What are the Colleges of the Fenway?

6 Questions You’re Too Afraid to Ask about a Women’s College
https://vimeo.com/109258478

Times Higher Education profile:
www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/simmons-university