

Academic Life

Pomona's curriculum provides a balance between the breadth of

a traditional liberal arts education and the depth necessary for advancement in a specific field. At Pomona, students find great educational rigor, but also the freedom to pursue their individual interests.

Classes are demanding, ensuring that students' intellectual capabilities are stretched. Readings are intensive; projects often require new ways of thinking and innovative methods of analysis. Part of the intellectual experience in this community involves listening to others and considering different points of view. Journalist Walter Lippman said, "Where all men think alike, no one thinks very much." At Pomona, bright, intellectually active students learn from one another in an environment that deliberately encourages collegiality, not competition.

At Pomona, no specific course or department is prescribed for graduation. Even the first-year seminars called Critical Inquiry courses offer first-year students a wide array of choices among classes with such titles as War and Art; Penguins, Polar Bears, People and Politics; The TV Novel; Stages of Conscience; and Living with Our Genes. Likewise, in place of specific course requirements, Pomona's Breadth of Study Requirements are designed to encourage exploration while providing sig-



nificant freedom of choice. Students take at least one course in each of five areas: Creative Expression; Social Institutions and Human Behavior; History, Values, Ethics and Cultural Studies; Physical and Biological Sciences; and Mathematical Reasoning. Whatever their fields of concentration, Pomona students explore widely among a variety of disciplines, not only to help them make informed choices about special areas of interest, but also to see their own disciplines in the broadest academic context.

For in-depth study, Pomona offers a choice of 45 majors, including all of the traditional disciplines of the humanities, fine arts, social sciences and natural sciences, as well as a variety of interdisciplinary fields. Majors at Pomona are not designed primarily to prepare students for specific careers, but rather to sharpen their ability to think critically and in-depth using the analytical methods of the discipline. As part of the overall Pomona education, however, all majors have been shown to provide an outstanding foundation for success in whatever follows graduation—whether it be further study or a career.