

Tell us about a topic or issue that sparks your curiosity and gets you intellectually excited. How do you think the environment at Haverford and the framework of the Honor Code would foster your continued intellectual growth (max 250 words)?

While finalizing college applications, I proclaimed I am a “research alcoholic.” Through laughter, my mentors corrected me: “No, Caleb, you are a research-aholic.” It’s true, and though I intend to focus my college studies on engineering, I have a passion for history. Specifically, I am interested in the rise and fall of empires. From ancient Rome to Mongolia and Persia to Great Britain, it seems no matter how powerful the empire, it will inevitably topple. I am fascinated by the fact that, given enough time, humans will destroy what they have spent centuries building, even though they could learn from the failed nations before them. We are like children demolishing Lego cities. This trend makes me wonder if humans can learn from mistakes or if we are literally born to repeat them. These questions make for rich conversation. At Haverford, an emphasis on Academic Freedom will allow me to learn as much from my peers through critical discourse as from my professors through lecture. I appreciate that the principle of Student Agency trusts students to own their studies and capstone projects. Relinquishing academic control to students is a worthwhile risk that, for me, will lead to learning I am much more invested in. Finally, safety is as important to learning as are academic offerings. As a first generation college student of color, I am reassured by Haverford’s focus on Community. At Haverford, I will not only grow academically but be safe to be who I really am.

Please tell us what motivated you to apply to Haverford and what excites you most as you imagine your Haverford experience (max 150 words).

I am most excited about Haverford's academic and extracurricular offerings, but it was the words in its Honor Code that motivated me to apply. The honor code emphasizes academic freedom, autonomy, community and intellectual curiosity. Instead of assuming the worst of students, Haverford encourages students to demonstrate their best. This spirit of trust, with high expectations, is unheard of in high school. Haverford's academic and extracurricular programs are numerous. If I choose to join the 4+1 program I'll receive a broad liberal arts curriculum and also get a Master's degree in engineering. I was also drawn to its membership in the Northeast Participation Group. This group of small schools involved with the Astrophysical Research Consortium is something unique in the landscape of liberal arts schools. I love astronomy and am excited to study broadly in the fields of science, mathematics, and engineering.