Pomona College

**Campus**

Pomona’s campus is located in Claremont, California, **covering an area of 140 acres (incluye una superficie de más de 550.000 m2)**. It includes **59 buildings**, including **12** [**residence halls**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Residence_halls) **(residencias estudiantiles/dormitorios)**. The campus in Claremont originally began with the donation of an incomplete hotel—what would become **Sumner Hall**. It quickly expanded from 7 buildings in 1909—the time [James Blaisdell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_A._Blaisdell) took over as President. He had the foresight to purchase the empty land around the College while it was still available, securing the College’s future and allowing for expansion for years to come.

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bridges_Auditorium,_Pomona_College.JPG)Currently, First Street borders the campus on the south, Mills and Amherst Avenues to the east, Eighth Street on the north, and Harvard Avenue on the west. [Claremont Graduate University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claremont_Graduate_University), [Scripps College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scripps_College) and [Claremont McKenna College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claremont_McKenna_College) are adjacent to Pomona’s north, from west to east respectively. **Pomona is divided into North Campus and South Campus (Pomona se divide en el Campus Norte y campus Sur)**, casually divided by Sixth Street, with a few exceptions. Many of the earlier buildings were constructed in the [Spanish Renaissance Revival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Renaissance) and [Mission Styles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_Revival_Style_Architecture), usually only one or two stories in height. **Bridges Hall of Music**, designed **(diseñado)** by Pasadena architect [Myron Hunt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myron_Hunt), is an example of these styles combined. Later buildings have taken inspiration from these styles, with usually three or fewer stories and [stucco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stucco) walls.

South Campus consists of mostly first-year and sophomore housing and academic buildings for the [social sciences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_sciences) and [humanities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanities). Among the notable **dormitories are Harwood Court**, originally a women’s dorm constructed in 1921, and **Oldenborg Center**, a foreign language housing option for sophomores that includes a foreign language dining hall. **Also of note is Sumner Hall**, Pomona’s first building, **Bridges Auditorium (“Big Bridges”)** —used for concerts and speakers with a capacity of 2,500—**Bridges Hall of Music (“Little Bridges”)**, a concert hall built in 1915 with seating for 600, and **Carnegie Building**, which houses the [Politics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics) and [Economics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economics) departments. It was originally built in 1929 as a library for the College. **Marston Quadrangle** is located between Carnegie Building and Bridges Auditorium, one of two [quadrangles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quadrangle_%28architecture%29) on campus. **The** [**Pomona College Organic Farm**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pomona_College_Organic_Farm) is hidden behind The Wash on the southeastern corner of campus.

Bridges Auditorium across Marston Quad

North Campus is also a mix of residential and academic buildings. Most of the academic buildings house science departments. Among the notable buildings are the **Richard C. Seaver Biology Building (“Seaver West”)**, built with [environmentally friendly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmentally_friendly) features, completed in 2005, and the **Lincoln and Edmunds buildings**, both completed in 2007.

The Lincoln and Edmunds buildings were the first buildings in Claremont to garner a gold certification award from the U.S. Green Building Council’s [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leadership_in_Energy_and_Environmental_Design) (LEED) Program. The two new academic buildings also house the first publicly accessible Skyspace art installation by renowned alumnus [James Turrell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Turrell) '65.

North Campus dormitories house mostly juniors and seniors. Of interest is Smiley Hall, the oldest dorm West of the Mississippi, constructed in 1908. While it is south of Sixth Street, it is still considered a North Campus dorm. **Frary Dining Hall**, one of two dining halls on campus, is the location of the murals **“Prometheus”** by [José Clemente Orozco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_Clemente_Orozco), his first work in the US, and **“Genesis”** by [Rico Lebrun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rico_Lebrun).

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:San_Gabriel_Mountains,_Pomona_College.JPG)Also located along the south side of Sixth Street are buildings central to the campus. **Smith Campus Center** is home to many student services, including a mailroom, The Coop student store and two restaurants; **Alexander Hall** houses administrative offices. Athletic facilities are located to the south of Sixth Street and to the east of Smiley Hall. **The Rains Center** is the main athletic facility with a fitness center, gym and locker rooms. Adjacent to Rains Center is Merritt Football Field, Alumni Baseball Field and Haldeman Pool. Other Pomona facilities of note include the student group and lounge in **Walker Hall** known as the [Women's Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Women%27s_Union&action=edit&redlink=1), **the Sontag Greek Theatre**—an outdoor amphitheater, as well as [**The Farm**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pomona_college_organic_farm), an experiment in [sustainable farming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_farming) and the **Seaver Theatre Complex**, built in 1990 with a 335-seat auditorium, 100-seat experimental theater and several other studios and rehearsal spaces.

[San Gabriel Mountains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Gabriel_Mountains) from South Campus

The campus lies less than **five miles (8 km) south of the** [**San Gabriel Mountains**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Gabriel_Mountains), on top of the [alluvial fans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alluvial_fans) that have come from nearby San Antonio Canyon. The campus is relatively flat, with a slight uphill grade from south to north, because of this. [**Mount San Antonio**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_San_Antonio) **(also known as Mount Baldy)** is 14 miles (22 km) north of the College and is visible from the campus. The [Mount Baldy Ski Lifts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Baldy_Ski_Lifts) is a popular spot for students to ski in the winter because of its convenient location. On clear days, the Chino Hills are visible to the south and [San Bernardino Mountains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Bernardino_Mountains) to the east.

## Unique traditions

**47**

The number "[47](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/47_%28number%29)" has held mystical importance for Pomona students for forty-eight years. Two different stories about its roots exist. Campus lore suggested that in 1964, Pomona math professor Donald Bentley produced a convincing mathematical proof that 47 was equal to all other integers, and that other faculty members and senior students could not disprove his equation at first sight. Another version holds that two Pomona students on a summer grant project in 1964 hypothesized that 47 occurred far more often in nature than random number distribution would explain. Pomona College is also located off exit 47 on [Interstate 10](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_10).

This tradition is endorsed by the college, as seen in Pomona College's official website's explanation of the "**mystique of 47**".

**[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Pomona1.jpg)Ski-Beach Day**

Uniquely situated in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, Pomona College takes advantage of its location to host an annual **"Ski-Beach Day"** each spring. While the origin of this tradition is unclear, professors and various campus staff have noted that it has been around for at least twenty years. Some hypothesize that the day is a salute to other liberal arts colleges, as most of them are on the relatively frigid East Coast or in the Midwest.

Pomona College in winter

Students board a bus in the morning and are driven to a local ski resort where they ski or snowboard in the morning. After lunch, they are bussed down to an Orange County or Los Angeles County beach for the rest of the day.

**'Mufti'**

Rooted somewhere in the mists of the 1940s, originally the outgrowth of an unhappy group of women students protesting on-campus policies, Mufti is a secret society of [punsters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pun)-as-social-commentators. Periodically their 3.5"x8.5" sheets of paper are glued to walls all over campus, with double-entendre comments on local goings-on: when beloved century-old Holmes Hall was dynamited to make way for a new building in 1987, the tiny signs all over campus announced "BLAST OF A CENTURY LEAVES THOUSANDS HOLMESLESS."

**Academics**

**The Claremont Colleges**

Pomona is a member of the [**Claremont Colleges**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claremont_Colleges), and most social activities revolve around the five colleges, or "5-Cs." **Pomona College,** [**Claremont McKenna College**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claremont_McKenna_College)**,** [**Scripps College**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scripps_College)**,** [**Pitzer College**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pitzer_College) **and** [**Harvey Mudd College**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvey_Mudd_College) share dining halls, libraries, and other facilities throughout the contiguous campuses. All five colleges, along with [Claremont Graduate University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claremont_Graduate_University) and the [Keck Institute](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keck_Graduate_Institute_of_Applied_Life_Sciences), are part of the [**Claremont University Consortium**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claremont_University_Consortium).

Any student attending Pomona **can enroll in up to half of his classes at the other four colleges** and can major at any of the other four schools so long as the requested major is not offered at Pomona. This policy is similar across the Claremont Colleges; it is meant to give students the resources of a larger university while maintaining the positive qualities of a small liberal-arts college.

Over the years, a rivalry has formed between the opposing sports teams: Pomona-Pitzer (P-P) and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (CMS). In reality, these teams consist mostly of students enrolled at either Pomona or Claremont McKenna, respectively, which has intensified the rivalry between these particular neighbors.

**Admissions**

In 2007, **16.3% of applicants were admitted** to Pomona, the lowest acceptance rate in the college's history. The Class of 2011 has median scores of **750 on the** [**SAT**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SAT) critical reading section (IQR of 700-770), **750 on the math section** (IQR of 700-770) and **740 on the writing section** (IQR of 690-760). The **median** composite **SAT was 2240**. The average [ACT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ACT_%28examination%29) score is 32. Eighty seven percent of this incoming class (of those from schools that officially rank students) graduated in the top [decile](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decile) of their [high school](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_school) classes, with 15% being valedictorians.

The body of about **1,550 undergraduate students** hails from 47 [U.S.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) states, the [District of Columbia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/District_of_Columbia) and 26 foreign countries. It is composed of 7% [African American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) students, 16% [Asian American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_American), 11% [Latino American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispanic) and 1% [Native American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States), according to a self-identification survey.

Pomona has both [need-blind admissions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Need-blind) and [need-based financial aid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Need-based_financial_aid) policies. In the 2006-2007 academic year, **53% of students received a financial aid package**. The average award in 2005-2006 was about $29,700; $24,700 of scholarship and $5,000 of [work study](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Work_study) and loans. As of December 13, 2007, the College announced it will be among the first colleges nationwide to eliminate loans in favor of grants in financial aid packages. The total cost of [tuition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuition), [room and board](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Room_and_board) and other fees will be about $43,155 in the 2006-2007 school year. The College’s [endowment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_endowment) stands at $1,762,680,000 for the 2006-2007 academic year; it was ranked 39th in American institutions in 2005. Its endowment per student in the 2007 fiscal year was $1,138,888, ranked 6th in U.S. institutions and first among liberal arts colleges.