Smith College is committed to remaining affordable to outstanding students from all backgrounds. Smith has pledged to meet the full demonstrated financial need of every admitted student, charging each only what she and her family can reasonably afford. This is an expensive but necessary endeavor that ensures a diverse and opportunity-rich educational environment for talented and ambitious women from around the world.

ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY, 2013-14

- Smith spends 22 percent of its budget on financial aid.
- 64 percent of Smith students receive financial aid, an investment totaling $60 million ($57.5 million in institutional aid plus $2.5 million in federal and state aid).
- 24 percent of Smith students receive federal Pell Grants.
- 17 percent of Smith students—including 94 women in the class of 2017—are the first in their families to attend a four-year college.
- The actual cost of educating each Smith student exceeds the comprehensive fee by more than 20 percent. Endowment earnings and philanthropic support make up the difference, providing a “hidden scholarship” of more than $16,000 for every student.
- A pilot program developed by Smith faculty—known as AEMES (Achieving Excellence in Mathematics, Engineering and Sciences)—has shown remarkable success. First-generation students and students of color in AEMES achieve higher GPAs in gateway STEM courses than their peers not in the program and nearly match the GPAs of majority students. The cornerstones of AEMES are peer mentoring, personal attention, early research projects with a faculty member and skills development.

RECOGNIZED LEADERSHIP IN ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

- According to a recent Chronicle of Higher Education survey, Smith has the second highest percentage of students receiving Pell Grants among U.S. colleges with the 50 largest endowments.
- In a 2011 U.S. News survey of the top 25 ranked liberal arts colleges in the country, Smith had the highest percentage of students receiving federal Pell Grants.
- Smith is one of 10 prominent schools that recently joined the Say Yes Higher Education Compact, part of a national nonprofit organization that helps make higher education accessible and affordable, assuring that the neediest students are eligible, at a minimum, to attend college tuition-free.

A COMMITMENT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

- The centerpiece of Smith’s current $450 million fundraising effort, Women for the World: The Campaign for Smith, is a $200 million goal for financial aid.
- New endowed funds from the campaign will yield approximately $9.5 million per year in additional funding for financial aid.
- Smith is joining the Posse Foundation’s STEM program to recruit and support low-income students in science, technology, engineering and math. Beginning in fall 2015, Smith will provide full scholarships for 10 Posse students from New York, as well as faculty mentoring and a summer enrichment program.