Haverford College offers one of the finest liberal arts educations in the world and attracts bright and dedicated students from nearly every state and 40 foreign countries. Located just eight miles from the vibrant city of Philadelphia, life at Haverford is campus-centered and the community is close-knit. Haverford provides a rigorous and intensely personal undergraduate education and also features a broad-based athletic program with teams regularly contending for conference championships and competing at the NCAA Division III national championships. As an athlete at Haverford, you can compete and challenge yourself at the highest level without sacrificing your identity as a student, scholar, or community member.

For details about the admission process, interviews, and campus tours, visit haverford.edu/admission.

For more information about Haverford fencing, please contact: Christopher Spencer
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HaverfordMensFencing.com
TEAM HISTORY

The varsity team was established in 1935 with the arrival of Haverford’s first Maestro, Henri Gordon. Gordon was a protégé of the famous Yale coach Robert Grasson, and was Haverford’s coach for almost 50 years before passing the torch to Maestro James Murray (currently of UNC) for another 20 years. In 2002, when Olympian Dave Littell took the reins of the program, Haverford began its climb to the top of NCAA Division III, as the men’s team won the conference title twice under his leadership. Current coach Chris Spencer, a protégé of Soviet Olympic coach Pavel Zelikman, has since led the men to three conference titles.

The men’s team has won five MACFA Conference championships in the last 15 years. Recent victories against Brandeis, Brown, Boston College, Johns Hopkins, NYU, Sacred Heart, Stevens, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Vassar have helped the team establish itself as one of the best Division III programs in the country.

Haverford has been dominant in the epee since Roger Jones was an Olympic Alternate in 1956, most recently with a bronze medal at the 2011 Squad Nationals, and five Individual MACFA Epee Champions in the last 10 years—Eric Gardner ’17 being the most recent, winning twice. The current team is strong in all three weapons, with the saber squad leading the way with wins over Duke, UNC, Yale, N.J.I.T., and other top rivals in the 2017–2018 season. The sabrists also took home the gold at the 2017 MACFA Championships, the squad’s first since 2005.

COACH PROFILE

Christopher Spencer
Head Men’s and Women’s Fencing Coach

Coach Spencer is in his 12th season with the Haverford College fencing programs. Prior to his arrival at Haverford, Spencer served as assistant coach at Wellesley College from 2004–07. Spencer’s competitive career began in high school at Hopkins School, continued in the NCAA at Brandeis University, and concluded at the Boston Fencing Club, where, after representing them in USFA competition for many years, he transitioned to coaching. Building on the success of his predecessors at Haverford, whom he credits for the strong foundation of the programs, Spencer was selected EWFC Coach of the Year in 2010 and 2013, MACFA Coach of the Year in 2011, and World University Games cadre coach in 2017. He currently serves as a member of the NCAA DI Fencing Championships Committee, as a referee at National level competition for the USFA, and continues to develop youth and adult fencers with the Shakamaxon Fencing Club in Philadelphia.

Assistant Coaches

John Molloy
Coach John Molloy started fencing locally at age 11, first training with coach Pixie Roan and the Wallingford Panthers. Molloy continued his training with legendary Fencing Academy of Philadelphia coach and Olympic Silver Medalist Iosef Vitebsky. Under his tutelage for several years in both foil and epee, Molloy was recruited to fence epee for Penn State. A member of the 2007 and 2009 NCAA National Championship teams, he was also the 2008 Cherry Blossom Open Epee Champion and the 2011 USFA Division II Foil Champion. Coach Molloy excels as a tactical strip coach, and his love and enthusiasm for the sport are contagious.

Wang Yung

“The Haverford fencing team has definitely been a highlight of my college experience. Through winter training camps and the days of hard-fought competition, I’ve gotten to know some of the most motivated and thoughtful people that I have ever met, and I am always impressed by how my teammates always support each other both on and off the strip. I have so many amazing memories from my years with the team, and I am so grateful to be a part of it.”

—David Parker ’19

Russell Rivera ’20