



Focus on Connecticut College

Connecticut College is home to 1900 undergraduates on a beautiful rural campus in New London right by the Thames River. Students speak enthusiastically of the friendly, collaborative intellectual community and the atmosphere of respect and trust that is both engendered and made possible by the school's honor code governing all aspects of academic and social life.

Under the honor code, for instance, final exams are self-scheduled and un-proctored. Academic infractions are almost unheard of, and social ones are rare as well. Any reports of infractions are investigated and adjudicated by a student board, after which the accused may request an appeal to a faculty board. Mostly, though, students report that people are honest due to the closeness of the community where freshmen are mixed in with everyone else in their housing, and classes average 15 to 18 students.

According to one admissions officer, Connecticut College is a good fit for the undecided student with multiple interests. Students here are encouraged to explore a multitude of disciplines, and forty percent end up double majoring. Five interdisciplinary academic centers allow students to take classes, attend symposia and receive funding for internships and senior projects in: International Studies and Liberal Arts, Community Action and Public Policy, the Environment, Arts and Technology, and Race and Ethnicity.

The Career Center has been named one of the top ten in the country due to the Career Enhancing Life Skills (CELS) four year program of workshops, seminars, funded internships, and an honors thesis. Seventy-seven percent of the class of 2013 participated in funded internships or academic research, giving them an advantage in the job market and with graduate and professional school applications. Fifty percent of last year's graduates went on to another degree program immediately following graduation.

Connecticut College is a test optional school, and twenty-five percent of those admitted in 2012 did not submit any standardized test scores. The admissions committee looks first at applicants' academic record and the rigor of their coursework. Then they look closely at the application essays and teacher recommendations in order to get a sense of each applicant's personality and how good a fit he or she will be for the school. The essays, they say, "don't have to be grand," but are most impressive when tailored to the school. Connecticut College

uses the Common Application and will always ask “Why Connecticut College?” on their own supplement.

Interviews are recommended. These may be with admissions officers on campus throughout the summer or on the road beginning in mid-September, or they may be with trained students on campus or alumni in the applicant’s own community.

Two early decision options are available. Approximately one-third of applicants are accepted over all.