



Focus on Emory University

Emory University's undergraduate College of Arts and Sciences draws a very diverse population of students from throughout the U.S. and abroad to its pretty, self-contained campus in a lovely, safe neighborhood of Atlanta, Georgia. In fact, Emory's campus has been ranked among the safest anywhere, and eighty percent of the 5,500 undergraduate students live in the appealing student housing all four years.

All students must meet fairly flexible general education requirements in seven categories during their first two years before they declare a major. At the end of their sophomore year, they also have the opportunity to apply to the Goizeta Business School or the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. These are both highly prestigious divisions of the university, but most of the Nursing students transfer in from elsewhere, so the University is looking to draw more of them from its own Arts and Sciences program in the future. The acceptance rate to the Business Schools is approximately 75%, not because of limits on the number of students they can accommodate, but rather because applicants must do well in five pre-requisite courses. Nonetheless, students say that the general atmosphere at Emory is more collaborative than competitive.

At present the most popular undergraduate major at Emory is Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology, which provides an interdisciplinary course of study. It is followed by Business, but within that school are a variety of concentrations, the newest of which are Arts Management and Environmental Sustainability. Next in popularity come Political Science, Chemistry, and Economics. Approximately 50% of Emory students double major.

Three majors no longer offered at Emory are Journalism, Visual Arts, and Educational Studies. In general, Emory students are an active sort, proud to say they maintain "balance" in their lives by engaging in much more than just school work. They're involved in a multitude of clubs, organizations, and activities that take them off campus. Approximately 30% of the students go Greek, but they don't rush the fraternities and sororities until their second semester so they have a chance to settle in and make friends before they do so. Opportunities abound for engagement in academic research as well as for internships in Atlanta, which boasts that three-quarters of the Fortune 1000 companies have headquarters there.

With a new Dean of Admissions in 2012, admissions policies have changed somewhat. Most notably, demonstrating interest by making a visit to the campus is no longer going to give students who live a plane ride away the advantage that it used to. Instead, admissions officers will be looking closely at the “Why Emory?” essay on the application, and they encourage students to explain what they see themselves doing once on campus, how they see themselves getting involved. Also new is the requirement for two teacher recommendations, from whichever teachers know the applicant best. The GPA will be evaluated both weighted and un-weighted, using all courses, not just the academic core. The ACT and super-scored SAT will be used as well. SAT Subject tests are not required but can be an asset if the student did well on them.

Median SATs for the Class of 2012 are 2020 to 2240 and median ACTs are 30-33. The acceptance rate was 36% for students who applied either Early Decision 1 or Early Decision 2, and 25% for those who applied regular decision.