



Focus on Ithaca College

Learning by doing is a hallmark of the education offered at Ithaca College, which has approximately 100 degree programs in the following six divisions: Business, Communications, Health Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences, Music & Performing Arts, and Science, Technology & Mathematics. With roughly 6,000 undergraduates and 4,000 graduate students, the school boasts of being small enough to feel like a liberal arts college but large enough to provide many more resources.

Originally founded as a music school, Ithaca offers a conservatory-style education in the performing arts that includes some less common majors like Sound Recording Technology and Theater Arts Management.

Some of the college's highly regarded programs in Communications and the Health Sciences are especially noteworthy too. With a television station and two radio stations, Ithaca College attracts students interested in broadcasting as well as all aspects of the journalism and emerging media industries.

Among the sixteen majors in the division of Health Sciences are Exercise Science, Outdoor Adventure Leadership, Speech-Language Pathology, and a six-year dual-degree program leading to a doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Sport Management is a popular major in the Business division, which also offers programs in Accounting, Finance, International Business, and Health Care Management, among others.

Although three-quarters of Ithaca College students enter with a major declared, it is easy to change majors once there, and incoming freshmen have an exploratory option as well. Advisors work closely with all students to help them plan their curriculum – and to change their plan later if they so desire. Students can even create their own majors with faculty guidance, and an effort is made to provide students with exposure to multiple options early in their academic careers. For instance, a math course taught by a different professor each week is designed to help students figure out which of 14 different types of math interest them most.

Ithaca's integrated core curriculum (ICC) requires students to select a theme to explore through the perspective of four academic disciplines, one in each of the following categories: Creative Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences. The themes are: Identities; Inquiry, Imagination & Innovation; Mind, Body, Spirit; Power & Justice; The Quest for a Sustainable Future; and A World of Systems.

Students must also take interdisciplinary seminars to aid in their transition to college and learn about the importance of the liberal arts, writing and quantitative literacy courses, and a course in diversity. At the end of their four years, they must have completed a capstone project and produced an electronic learning portfolio.

Internships are required in some majors and encouraged in others. The college offers its own programs in London, Los Angeles (attractive especially for Communications internships), and New York City (attractive especially for both Business and Communications internships). Students may receive credit for participation in other study abroad programs as well.

The city of Ithaca has much to recommend it too. Cornell University's location there helps to bring all sorts of famous people to the region, and virtually every weekend some kind of festival takes place in the center of town. Furthermore, Ithaca College's own campus is alive with activity, including well-attended athletic events and music and theater performances of all kinds.

Students across the various divisions describe Ithaca College as a friendly, welcoming place. The student-faculty ratio of 11:1 and average class size of 17 make it easy for students to form close relationships with their professors. A First Year Residential Experience facilitates the initial social adjustment, and most students ultimately find their social niche through their academic and extra-curricular activities. Although there are no fraternities or sororities, there are more than 200 student clubs and organizations, and all the many student productions are open to anyone who wishes to audition.

Ithaca College ranks high among LGBTQ-inclusive schools, with an exceptional number of outreach programs throughout the year and transgender housing easily obtained in the residence halls, which are gendered by room rather than hall.

Admission is based primarily on applicants' high school records, as Ithaca does not require standardized tests for either admission or scholarships. Applicants are therefore encouraged to submit SAT or ACT scores only if they think these accurately reflect their abilities.

The majority of Ithaca students enter under the non-binding December 1st Early Action plan although the school also offers a November 1st Early Decision option as well as Regular Decision, which is December 1st for the Music and Theatre Arts programs (that also require an audition) and February 1st for all other programs.

Ninety percent of Ithaca students receive financial aid. Merit-based scholarships are mostly offered automatically at the time of admission, but a few scholarships that students must apply for entail an obligation to do something like community service.

Once accepted to the college, students deemed potentially eligible for the Honors College will be invited to apply via an additional application. Honors College students have their own Honors Freshman Seminar and then are eligible for special honors classes. They also work together to put on a variety of events.

