



Focus on McDaniel College

Students at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland, enjoy close relationships with faculty, outstanding research and internship opportunities, diverse perspectives, and a D-3 athletic program that generates lots of school spirit despite the college's comparatively small size. In addition to being among the 40 schools included in *Colleges that Change Lives*, McDaniel also appears on several lists of "Best Value" schools including Washington Monthly's "Best Bang for the Buck" list for liberal arts colleges. This is because of both McDaniel's generous merit and need-based financial aid and the highly personalized education and opportunities the school provides.

Although Westminster is a small town, there is nothing provincial about the education students here experience. The student population has considerable socio-economic diversity, and 40% are currently first generation college students.

A growing Global Fellows program brings 80 foreign students to study alongside their American peers in classes designed to provide global perspective on a variety of issues, and American McDaniel students can join foreign counterparts for a semester or two of study at the college's other campus, which is located in Budapest, Hungary.

Many additional study-abroad options and exchange programs are available too, and nearly 10% of the faculty are international, as McDaniel has declared the promotion of global awareness to be one of its missions. To this end, a regularly occurring Global Issues Colloquium is held where students present and discuss analyses of difficult issues like refugee migration.

The faculty at McDaniel, who all hold the highest degrees in their field, are heavily invested in getting to know the 1,600 undergraduates and mentoring them toward

future success. As a result of the flexible curriculum, many students double or triple major. Their advisors help them design a program tailored to their specific interests and goals. Classes average 16 students, and nearly 350 students each year work with faculty on academic research, much of it culminating in the students' publishing and presenting papers at professional meetings by the time they graduate.

The Center for Experience and Opportunity that handles all internship and career services engages students beginning freshman year and every year thereafter. The easy accessibility of Washington, D.C. and Baltimore from the campus is an asset in this regard.

For students interested in entrepreneurship and innovation, the Encompass Distinction program offers a full plan of study and runs a "Shark Tank" style competition to help them obtain start-up money.

McDaniel offers more than 70 majors, among the most popular of which are Exercise Science, Psychology, and Deaf Studies. The last has been ranked #2 in the nation, second only to the program at Gallaudet College, a school for hearing-impaired students.

Five-year combined Bachelors and Masters degree programs are available in a variety of fields including Music Education, Psychology/Gerontology, and Special Education. McDaniel also offers pre-professional programs for pre-med, pre-law, pre-engineering, and pre-deaf education.

In their leisure time, McDaniel students can take a van to a variety of destinations, but they mostly enjoy a traditional campus experience. Tailgating at games is huge here. In fact, I was told that the tailgating scene was ranked among the top ten in the nation, this being the only college to make the list that has a Division 3 program. It's common for students to drag onto the field couches they have procured from Goodwill. Approximately 50% of the students participate in athletics at some level, and approximately 20% join fraternities or sororities, which have no houses but do have their own floors in the dormitories.

For the class of 2019, the average high school GPA was 3.46. (For the Honors Program it was 3.92.) Twenty-four states and 18 nationalities are represented in the class, which is 49% male and 51% female. The 157 multicultural students comprise 36% of the class. Extracurricular involvement played a significant role in the profiles of the admitted students, with 78% having participated in athletics, 60% in community service and 51% in leadership.

The Student Academic Support Program (SASP) works to meet the needs of students with learning differences, with the aim to wean them off support and make them independent.

Note: students with a parent who works in any capacity in a K-12 school should apply for the Educator's Legacy Scholarship. Four years of service by a parent in any school district translates to \$25,000 per year in scholarship money for his or her child.

