



Focus on Oxford College of Emory University

Oxford College of Emory University, on an attractive rural campus about 45 minutes outside of Atlanta that once held the entire university, offers an alternative route into Emory. It is for students who want a smaller, more supportive environment for their freshman and sophomore years before they transition onto the larger Atlanta campus. Approximately 450 students enter Oxford's two year program each year, and 98.5% of those who finished their second year there last spring are now enrolled as juniors in one of the Atlanta divisions.

Applicants may apply to begin their freshman year on one or both campuses of Emory, and must explain on the application their reasons for being interested in Oxford specifically if they would like to be considered for admission there. Admissions requirements are a bit more lenient for the Oxford campus than the Atlanta one, but last year Oxford experienced a 40% increase in applications and a large increase in the international student population. It is currently the most geographically and racially diverse division of the University even though it is the smallest.

Students who thrive at Oxford are those desirous of the much smaller, more intimate classes and the closer contact with advisors available there. Oxford professors are all teachers first, and although some are engaged in academic research, it's not required of them. The curriculum, which is a bit more flexible than at Emory, incorporates popular interdisciplinary "Ways of Inquiry" classes that are growing in number. Courses are offered up to the 300 level

so students won't run out of options. Still, there are a few majors like music or some foreign languages that might be easier to start at Emory than at Oxford.

Oxford students are quick to explain that one of the benefits to beginning an Emory education on their campus is the opportunity for leadership experiences early on. After all, as my tour guide pointed out, the numerous campus organizations and clubs rely on sophomores and sometimes even freshmen to lead them. In fact, with so many options for the 900 students here, most are involved in a multitude of extra-curricular endeavors. Volunteering is particularly common among students at Oxford, and some courses like a popular one on gerontology actually incorporate it into the curriculum.

A shuttle runs three to five times per day between the Oxford and Emory campuses, and students are allowed to keep cars at Oxford. They may rush the Emory fraternities and sororities while in their last semester at Oxford if they don't want to wait until the beginning of junior year to do so, but most of the social life for Oxford students is on their own campus. They even have social clubs similar to Greek organizations but run by staff.

Oxford also has NJCAA men's basketball, men's soccer, and men's and women's tennis teams, for which the coaches do their own recruiting. Once they become juniors on the Atlanta campus, the athletes who wish to do so may compete on the Emory teams.