



## Focus on Rider University

Rider University and its affiliate, the Westminster College of the Arts, provide a traditional college experience for 4,000 students pursuing a wide range of majors in Liberal Arts, Business, Education, Music, Fine and Performing Arts, and Arts Administration.

Rider's main campus in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, is a two minute drive from the College of New Jersey and ten minutes from its Westminster campus in Princeton, where approximately 300 students study Music, Music Education, Organ, Piano, Sacred Music, Theory and Composition, and Voice Performance.

Business is the most popular major on the Lawrenceville campus, with concentrations in Finance and Accounting attracting the most students, some of whom double major in the two.

A new and growing program in Global Supply Chain Management has garnered national recognition and boasts a 100% job placement rate for the past 3 years in a row. This success is attributed to the program's having been developed in conjunction with a number of local corporations, so students have access to practical experience through co-ops and internships with firms like General Mills, Johnson & Johnson, and L'Oreal.

A new Sport Management major is slated for fall 2014, pending state approval this summer. It will incorporate classes in Accounting, Marketing and Advertising, and Human Resources.

A topnotch Musical Theater major is a Rider hallmark, attracting serious talent with its conservatory-quality training while affording students a traditional college experience.

The Education Department, celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, is particularly strong too. All Education majors must double major. Nonetheless all do their student teaching during their senior year and graduate fully eligible for employment at the end of four years. Education

majors have the option to stay a fifth year to pursue a Master's degree, but unlike at many other schools, they need not do so here in order to complete the requirements for certification.

Regardless of their major, all students take the same liberal arts core courses and enjoy the tight-knit community and school spirit focused around the Division 1 athletics, especially Basketball. They also all enjoy classes that average 22 students and have opportunities for close relationships with faculty who help them secure internships and co-ops.

Applicants apply directly to a major or else to the General Liberal Arts and Sciences Studies (GLASS) Program, which is becoming increasingly popular. GLASS students have two years before they must select a specific course of study, but right from the beginning they are assigned both faculty and peer advisors tasked with guiding them toward courses that will help them figure out an appropriate major as quickly as possible.

Each year more than 2,000 internships and co-ops are made available to Rider undergraduates, and each year approximately half of the undergraduate students participate in one. Many of these placements are right in the Princeton area where the biggest four accounting firms all have offices.

Another way Rider is somewhat unusual is in its commitment to helping students graduate in four years even when they do co-ops or study abroad. Study abroad opportunities range from two weeks to a semester, and when students study abroad for a full semester, their financial aid goes with them.

All applicants are automatically considered for merit based awards which range from \$8,000 to \$21,000 per year. This aid is awarded based not merely on grades and standardized tests, but on a more comprehensive review of the applicants. Ninety-eight percent of Rider students receive financial aid, and for 96% the aid is entirely institutional. The average package is \$29,000, including Perkins and Stafford loans. Applicants are encouraged to contact the school if they have questions or concerns about their awards or wish to make an appeal.

Applicants who apply Early Action by 11/15 receive a decision by 12/20. After that, admissions are rolling. The average GPA for admitted students is 3.3, average SAT is 1070 (Critical Reading and Math only), and average ACT is 23. Auditions are required for applicants to the programs in Fine Arts, Music and Performing Arts. For specific requirements, see [www.rider.edu/ugauditions](http://www.rider.edu/ugauditions). Interviews with a faculty member are required for applicants in Arts Administration. For everyone else, optional interviews with their regional admission officer are offered on campus and when he or she is on the road in the student's own area.