



## Focus on S.U.N.Y Albany

The University of Albany is one of the New York state university system's four research universities, the other three being Binghamton, Buffalo, and Stony Brook. At present only seven percent of Albany's students come from outside of New York, mostly from New Jersey, but the university is actively recruiting students from all over the U.S. as well as overseas with the goal of increasing that percentage. The current undergraduate population is 12,779, but plans are in the works to grow the freshman class. Although the international population is currently tiny, the great cultural diversity at Albany is cited by many students as one of their favorite aspects of the school.

Many students choose Albany for its highly regarded science programs and the extensive research opportunities in medically related fields. Opportunities to engage in science research are available not only with professors, but also at Albany Medical Center and the nearby Wadsworth Center of the New York Department of Health.

The unusual undergraduate degree program in Atmospheric Studies is another draw for students from all over. This, like the more conventional science programs, is in the College of Arts and Sciences, where 70% of the undergraduates study, but there are eight other colleges as well. The newest of them is the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering which first opened to undergraduates four years ago (although it offered graduate degrees for several years before that). It boasts of exceptional facilities and a ranking as number one in the world.

The School of Criminal Justice, too, boasts of its ranking in *U.S. News and World Report* as the second best such school in the nation. It offers a Ph.D. as well as a Bachelor's degree, but the majority of its undergraduates go on to attend law school. Over the next few years, the school will be adding a program in Forensics.

The popular School of Business will have a new building in September 2013. Students may apply to this division directly although it is more selective than the College of Arts and Sciences. If they are not admitted initially, they may apply to transfer in at the end of their sophomore year.

The other divisions are the School of Education, where undergraduates may minor but not major, the College of Computing and Information, which offers a new major in Financial Market Regulation, the nationally recognized Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, and the Schools of Social Welfare and Public Health.

The nineteen sports teams which became Division 1 fifteen years ago have become a catalyst for tremendous school spirit, and the football team is about to get a new stadium. Three hundred clubs and organizations and lots of guest performers and lecturers make for a lively campus life for students of all kinds.

The median GPA for students currently being admitted is 91.4, and the median combined critical reading and math SATs are 1100 to 1260. Students who apply Early Action may receive a decision by the first week in January or else be deferred for consideration with the later applicant pool. For students whose numbers are marginal, additional materials are welcomed by the admissions staff who say they read everything and that the additional information can make all the difference, especially for out-of-state students.

