



## Focus on Stevens Institute of Technology

Stevens Institute of Technology, located on a bluff in Hoboken, New Jersey, with a magnificent view of the New York City skyline, competes for students with some of the nation's top programs in Engineering, Science, Computer Science, and Business. It's a school for students who are interested in technology even when they major in fields like Business or Economics or are headed for medical or law school. The 2,400 undergraduates (who share the facilities with 3,200 graduate students) enjoy an average class size of 25, easy access to their professors, and a strong sense of community. Although students have easy access to both Hoboken and New York City, their social life is mostly on campus. The school has over 26 Division III varsity sports (although no football), some of which are quite strong, club and intramural sports, over 100 clubs, and lots of programming of all sorts.

Engineering is the most popular major, followed by Business, but all students are required to take Humanities classes that emphasize communications skills and cultural knowledge. Many double major or take minors outside of their field, and interdisciplinary opportunities abound. Students apply to their particular division, but they may enter Engineering and Business undecided as to which branch they will focus on. They have three semesters to decide.

Engineering students all begin with the same classes and are all required to take 8 Design classes, one each semester. In reflection of the greater breadth of the program, they earn a Bachelor of Engineering degree (B.E.) as opposed to a Bachelor of Science.

A variety of somewhat unusual majors are offered, ranging from Music Technology to Visual Arts and Technology, to Game Design, to Naval Engineering. Additionally, Stevens was among the first schools in the nation to teach Cyber Security. One of its newest undergraduate majors, Quantitative Finance, has until recently been only a graduate program. Blending Computer

Science, Math, Statistics, and Finance, this last prepares students to create the models used by the banking and insurance industries to evaluate risk.

Stevens boasts of its graduates' high employment rate and salaries. Payscale.com ranked it 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation for return on investment, and CNNMoney.com ranked it 12<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation for mid-career salaries. Ninety-four percent of last year's graduates had jobs within 6 months of graduation, 50% even before they graduated. This is attributable in part to the structured co-op education program. Approximately 40% of students do co-ops, earning credit for their work in industry. Co-ops start the summer after the first year, and individuals may do three, four, or five before completing the 5 year program. Co-op students pay for only 4 years of tuition but are guaranteed housing all 5 years.

Business students don't do co-ops, but approximately 90% of them do internships. The Career Development Office, which handles both internships and career placement, holds three annual fairs where students meet with employers who are actually hiring. A separate Co-Op Office brings employers to campus, too, and provides the venue for a first round of interviews. The university maintains ties with more than 50 companies.

A Scholars Program enables top students to apply their engineering and design knowledge to mentored research projects during a full academic year and two summers. An Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summer Research Program is available to select students as well, as are numerous combined degree programs whereby students can earn both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in just four years. Additionally, an accelerated medical program is available in conjunction with U.M.D.N.J. and an accelerated law program with Seton Hall.

Although only 32% of Stevens undergraduates are female, the women report having a strong network of support and a strong presence on campus, as evidenced by the fact that the president of the student government is currently a woman.

Stevens offers Early Decision 1 (11/15), Early Decision 2 (1/15), and Regular Decision (2/1). A supplement to the Common Application is required only for the Accelerated Medical Program, but everyone is encouraged to file both the FAFSA and C.S.S. Profile, as these are used to award merit as well as need-based financial awards,

The median SAT is currently 1390 out of 1600 (Critical Reading and Math), and the median ACT range is 27-32. Applicants are evaluated holistically, and an interview is highly recommended, preferably on campus although it may also be done via Skype or telephone. For those applying under one of the Early Decision plans, the admit rate is approximately 60% as contrasted with approximately 30% for those who apply Regular Decision.