



Focus on The University of Vermont

The 10,000 undergraduates who attend The University of Vermont are noteworthy for being friendly, inclusive, and diverse in many ways. Although fully two-thirds of them are from out of state, the campus vibe is consistent with what one would expect in Vermont. Students tend to be active, outdoorsy, and socially conscious. The largest campus organization is the Outing Club, which organizes hiking, camping, and rock-climbing trips, and the second largest is the Ski and Snowboard Club. Sustainability and social justice issues garner lots of attention. Yet, for the many students whose interests lie elsewhere, the school has much to offer as well. For instance, music, theater, dance and visual arts play a role in the lives of many students too, for credit or recreation, and pottery and photography co-ops make workspace available to anyone who wishes to join.

Applicants indicate a first and second choice of major, preferably at different schools within the university: Agriculture and Life Sciences, Arts and Sciences (where 50% are matriculated), Educational and Social Services (slightly easier to get into than Arts and Sciences, and easy to transfer from subsequently), Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (where one can enter undecided as to the type of engineering), Nursing and Health Sciences, Business Administration, and the Rubenstein School of Natural Resources. The Business and Nursing schools are the most selective, so applicants to those schools are advised to put down a second choice major that's in a different school. Students who perform well enough in Arts and Sciences can transfer into the Business school a year later.

Each school has its own set of distribution requirements. In addition, UVM has a few "diversity and sustainability requirements" across all the schools, with a variety of courses that can be taken to satisfy them. It's easy to major and minor in two different schools although it's difficult to double major in two different ones and still graduate on time due to their differing requirements.

UVM offers "challenge by choice," in the words of an admissions officer. With undergraduates on campus vastly outnumbering the 2,000 graduate students,

opportunities abound for undergraduates who take the initiative to go after them. Eighty percent of classes have fewer than 40 students, and only 5% have over 100, with the largest lecture hall seating 295. Professors are said to be accessible even to students unable to make it to their office hours, and students in Arts and Sciences may take a "TAP" (Teacher Advisor Program) course in the first year, the professor for which will become their first year advisor. TAP courses are offered on a wide variety of topics as quirky as "The Art of Cheese-making."

UVM has an office whose sole purpose is to connect students with research and internship opportunities, and a Living-Learning Complex that houses a multitude of other student services in a single location. These include the Office of International Education which oversees study abroad (now done by 40% of students), ACCESS (the Student Disabilities Service), a Learning Co-op which offers free peer tutoring in all subjects, a Career Center, and an Office of Wellbeing that provides services ranging from flu shots to de-stressors like a therapy dog. There is also a Writing Center located in the library.

On-campus housing is presently guaranteed for freshmen and sophomores, but with the completion of a new residence hall in 2017, housing will be guaranteed for all four years. The residence halls come in all styles, and students may choose theme houses like the House for Civic Engagement where everyone does community service together or the Wellness House where students cook and do yoga together.

The 150 clubs and organizations organize a wide variety of social events that provide an alternative to the party scene, which is strong as well. Events that have taken place include a murder mystery dinner and a sunset cruise on Lake Champlain. While only eight percent of students belong to fraternities and sororities, these organizations are quite active. They recruit formally in the fall and informally again each spring.

Division 1 athletics attract a loud and passionate following, particularly for hockey and basketball. Tickets are free for students, and the stands fill to capacity. Theoretically the tickets are available to students at Champlain College across the street too, but they complain that they can seldom get them for hockey games because UVM students snatch them all up first.

The campus can be walked end-to-end in about twenty minutes, but a shuttle bus also takes students all around it and into the city of Burlington, which has restaurants and a few bars. In addition, UVM students may travel on the city busses for free.

Students who apply ahead of the November 1st Early Action deadline will receive a decision between the beginning of November and mid-December, or they may be deferred and reconsidered once their first semester grades have been received. All three sections of the SAT and all subsections of the ACT are considered as part of a holistic review process, with slightly lower scores forgiven for applicants with high

GPA. Applicants are encouraged to take a proactive approach to demonstrate their interest in the school.

For the class that entered in Fall 2013, median SAT scores were 560-670 (CR), 560-670 (M), and 560-660 (W). Median ACT scores were 26-31.

Approximately 200 top students across all the divisions are invited into the Honors College each year. They typically have SATs of 2100 or higher or ACTs of 32 or higher. Housed together, they take at least two multi-disciplinary seminar courses freshman year, engage in research sophomore year, and conclude their studies with a senior thesis or project.

Merit scholarships are offered automatically based on GPA, class rank, and SAT or ACT. Students who retake the standardized tests and score higher after they have already been admitted to UVM are encouraged to submit the higher scores for this reason. Additional scholarships are awarded for community service and impact, also without requiring a separate application.

