



Focus on Trinity College

Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, despite its name, is a liberal arts college with no religious affiliation. It boasts an idyllic campus of more than one hundred acres filled with gothic buildings. Since its founding in 1823, it has maintained a reputation for academic rigor and the promotion of free intellectual inquiry. With just over 2,000 undergraduates and only a handful of graduate students, it is known for discussion-based classes, close interaction among students and faculty, and a high degree of student engagement with issues both intellectual and practical.

The area of Hartford where it is located is somewhat depressed, but the school has made a great effort to reach out and be a good neighbor to the surrounding community rather than just retreat behind its walls. For example, Boys' and Girls' Clubs staffed partly by student volunteers meet right on the campus, and students run a center on campus where they provide free instruction in computer skills and English as a second language to Hartford residents.

Trinity is proud of having been the first school to offer a major in Human Rights. Next fall a new major called Urban and Global Studies will enable students to focus on the problems, politics and demographics of cities. They will study Hartford, specifically, as well as cities around the world.

Among the more unusual offerings available to select students are four "Gateway Programs" which enable them to engage in research and special projects beginning freshman year. These are The Guided Studies Program: European Cultures, The Cities Program, The Interarts Program, and The Interdisciplinary Science Program.

A four year Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering is also available.

Real world learning is emphasized across the curriculum, with many internship as well as community service opportunities in and around Hartford, and study abroad opportunities on

Trinity's own campus in Rome and affiliated sites in Vienna, Buenos Aires, Paris, Cape Town, Barcelona, Shanghai, and more.

The Trinity campus culture is in the midst of some significant changes. Once known for being fairly homogenous and "preppy," the school has worked hard to increase the diversity, resulting in a student body that was 23% persons of color during the 2011-2012 year. Where the students previously came primarily from private or prep school, fifty percent now come from public school.

Also, fraternity and sorority sponsored parties have traditionally dominated the social scene, but that is about to end in the fall of 2014 due to a number of new policies. All fraternities and sororities will be required to accept both men and women (and will be disbanded if their national charters prohibit their doing so), rushing will be prohibited, and a Residential College system will be implemented to replace the Greek system as the source of social programming. Groups of six hundred students from all four classes and some faculty members will be housed together in each residential college. (Franklin and Marshall successfully implemented such a system a few years ago for similar reasons.)

For this year's freshman class, the median SAT was 1950 and the median ACT was 29. The school is "Test Flexible," though, meaning that they will accept a combination of SAT Subject tests or A.P. tests in lieu of the regular SAT or ACT. Most admitted students have a B+ average in a program with A.P., I.B., or Honors courses. The admissions office does not re-calculate grades, but they do look at applicants' courses in the context of what was available to them, and they want to see that students are accustomed to reading and writing-intensive classes.

Two recommendations from junior or senior year teachers in addition to the counselor recommendation are important components of the evaluation process. Trinity uses the Common Application and has not had a supplement, but supplementary materials are welcomed and will be read by the admissions officers.

Trinity has two Early Decision (binding) deadlines, November 15th and January 1st. The regular decision deadline is January 1st as well. This past year, approximately one-third of the class came in under an early decision option.