



Focus on Allegheny College

"Unusual combinations, extraordinary outcomes" is the mantra for Allegheny College, a liberal arts college that seeks students with a broad spectrum of talents and interests. For applicants who want a challenging academic experience, discussion-based classes and close relationships with professors, this school for 2,100 students about 45 minutes south of Erie, Pennsylvania, is an exciting place to consider. One of the most rigorous of the schools included in Loren Pope's *Colleges that Change Lives*, it was founded in 1815 and boasts some illustrious alumni (President William McKinley among them) and a large and active network of alumni who support the college and help current students obtain internships and employment.

All Allegheny students are required to have both a major and a minor, each in a different one of the three divisions of the curriculum: humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

Although there is no core curriculum, they must also take a sequence of courses beginning freshman year that are designed to develop their reading, writing, and public speaking skills and to prepare them step by step for the comprehensive research project they will all complete as seniors. These senior projects, written in a professional style and defended in front of five faculty members, are meant to contribute new knowledge to a field of study. Many are published or presented in professional venues, and all are archived on campus.

Students may design their own majors, subject to faculty approval, and a number of unusual majors and minors are offered, some of them interdisciplinary. The newest of these is Global Health, which encompasses studies in Biology, Economics, and Political Science. Values, Ethics, and Social Action is a popular department, whose courses require community service projects. Also noteworthy is the Environmental Science department with its international focus and a new building illuminated entirely by natural light where, among other things, students grow tilapia and hydroponic produce that is served in the cafeteria. The school has been recognized for its commitment to environmental sustainability.

The workload can be intense at Allegheny, which has proudly resisted grade inflation, but that

does not keep students from participating in a host of extra-curricular activities. A recent survey revealed that they average 12 to 15 hours per week of participation in outside activities, including community service, Greek life, and outdoorsy endeavors like hiking, kayaking on a nearby lake, and cross-country skiing.

Allegheny Gateway is the new incarnation of what was formerly called the Center for Experiential Learning. It will have a new building in the fall of 2014 to accommodate its expanded mission to engage the entire faculty in helping students to connect their classroom learning with real-world experiences and future careers.

A number of accelerated programs afford students the option to pursue an Engineering degree, Master's degree or Ph.D. elsewhere after completing three years at Allegheny.

Applications are evaluated holistically. For the class of 2017, seventy-five percent were in the top quarter of their graduating class, and the median SATs were 1100-1300 (critical reading and math only) and median ACTs were 24-30.

Early Decision 1 is November 15th, Early Decision 2 is January 15th, and Regular Decision is February 15th.

