



Focus on University of Pittsburgh

The University of Pittsburgh, recognized both nationally and internationally as a top research university, has 17,000 full time undergraduates and a total student population of 29,000 when graduate students and part time undergraduates are included.

Located in Oakland, the educational, medical, and cultural center of the city, it is just across the street from Carnegie Mellon and the 456 acre Schenley Park. Here Pitt students benefit from the advantages of being in a city while also enjoying a traditional campus and plenty of school spirit generated by the Division 1 football and basketball teams they support enthusiastically.

Ninety-five percent of freshmen live in on-campus housing, which is guaranteed for three years, and there is plenty of nearby off-campus housing available too, some of it filled 90% with students.

The campus is divided by a hill, with most of the residence halls on the upper portion and all of the classrooms on the lower one, so it never takes more than ten minutes to walk between classes.

The largest class at Pitt is Introduction to Psychology, which typically has 350 students, but English classes are all capped at 20 students, and 60% of the classes overall have 30 students or fewer. The advising program is robust, as students are required to meet with their advisors at least once each semester to register for their courses. These advisors help them obtain the courses needed in order to qualify for their majors and then later to complete those majors on time. The same advisors are also charged with providing guidance regarding internship and research opportunities.

The Career Center helps students from as early as freshman year on, sometimes even providing advice on the choice of major. It brings employers to campus for a variety of job and career

fairs, and recently started a program that guarantees an internship in the city of Pittsburgh for anyone who wishes to participate. The guarantee is facilitated by a strong network of alumni who remain in the city.

Freshmen are encouraged to take a course that teaches them how to make the most of both the school and the city, including how to navigate their way just about anywhere by bus or light rail, for which they pay discount rates. Freshmen are also encouraged to really get to know their professors and advisors just as they would on a smaller campus.

An Honors College provides more intimate living and learning experiences for those who qualify. Applicants with GPAs in the top 5% of their high school class and SATs of 1400 or higher (for critical reading and math) or ACTs of 33 or higher are invited automatically, but others may apply too by writing an essay. Once accepted into the Honors College, students may take as many or as few classes there as they wish. The classes are small and discussion-based and generally engage students with primary source material rather than textbooks. An Honors dorm is also available for those who wish to live in a quieter, more family-like environment than is typical of the other residence halls.

The largest of University of Pittsburgh's eleven undergraduate schools is the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, where many pre-professional students study, quite a few of them pursuing both a major and a minor or a double major.

A global perspective is promoted by the magnificent Cathedral of Learning, which boasts a room for each nationality represented at the university, and the University Center for International Studies, home to the Center for Latin American Studies, Center for Russian and East European Studies, and Global Studies Center, designated by the federal government as National Resource Centers. Among the top centers of this type in the country, it has brought many distinguished international figures to the campus.

Seventeen percent of Pitt students study abroad in a wide array of programs worldwide. In addition to 8 foreign language departments, the school has a Department of Less Common Languages, where a student might major, for example, in Farsi.

The Business, Nursing and Engineering programs are all somewhat more selective than the liberal arts programs. The College of Business Administration offers seven majors. The focus in all of them is career preparation, and it is common for students to have as many as three internships before they graduate. In some cases co-ops cause them to graduate a semester late, but while engaged in co-ops, they do not pay tuition and in many cases receive payment for their work.

Nursing is a direct-admit program with 110 spots in each class. Students get practical, hands-on experience right from the start, making use of more than 50 area hospitals. To be admitted in the fall of 2013, applicants had to be in the top 10% of their graduating class and have scores above 600 on each section of the SAT.

The Engineering School does not require students to apply for a particular type of engineering as all engineering students take the same courses freshman year. At the beginning of their sophomore year, they enter one of nine majors. Seventy-five percent of the applicants admitted to the Engineering school in 2013 were in the top 10% of their high school class and scored above 1350 on their reading and math SATs. The minimum math SAT accepted was 620.

A Bachelor of Science degree in Dental Hygiene is offered through the College of General Studies.

Pharmacy is a six year program available to students who do their first two years in Arts and Sciences. Sixty percent of the approximately 100 spots each year are promised conditionally to incoming freshmen from the top 10% of their high school class with reading and math SATs of 1300 or higher. The remaining spots are filled by students who apply during their sophomore year.

The following are all upper division schools, to which students may apply after two years in Arts and Sciences: Education, Health and Rehabilitation Science, Information Science, and Social Work.

Admissions are rolling, beginning October 1st.

