



## **Focus on Colgate University**

The roughly 3,000 undergraduates at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, enjoy the benefits of a small liberal arts college coupled with the great school spirit engendered by its Division 1 athletic program. Although located in a town of merely 4,200 residents, Colgate also provides its students with an array of opportunities that help them attain their goals upon graduation, whether they are entering the workforce directly or going on to graduate or professional school. Almost 99% of graduates in the class of 2018 had a job or were in graduate school within ten months of graduation.

Given that the school offers no business major, it may come as a surprise that business management and finance are among the most popular fields Colgate graduates enter and that the top employers include Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, and Morgan Stanley.

Opportunities to shadow local physicians and study at the National Institutes of Health are part of the reason Colgate graduates who apply to medical school are accepted at twice the average national rate. And for students who wish to pursue careers in Engineering, Colgate offers a 3 + 2 program whereby they can transfer to an Engineering school after three years to earn a second Bachelors degree. Pre-engineering advisors help them plan out this course of study, much as a pre-architecture advisor guides students in the architectural studies program to obtain internships and acceptance to graduate programs in architecture. A committed group of alumni are involved in on-campus programs preparing students for job interviews and serving as year-long mentors for those in the Entrepreneurship Club.

Since Colgate is an undergraduate institution (apart from 4 graduate students in the M.A.T. program) with an average class size of just 17, students feel a strong sense of

community and become close with their professors, whose office doors tend to remain open and who are known to invite them home for dinner.

Students have the opportunity to create their own courses and develop their own research projects under faculty mentorship. In fact 83% of them do some type of meaningful research in the course of their four years, and university funding enables 200 students to engage in research and live on campus each summer.

Besides taking approximately one-third of their courses in their major, Colgate students are required to fulfill distribution requirements consisting of two classes in social sciences, two in natural sciences, and two in humanities. They also take a mandatory core curriculum designed to expose them to five “areas of inquiry.” These are: Legacies of the Ancient World, Challenges of Modernity, Communities and Identities, Scientific Perspectives on the World, and Global Engagement.

Generally speaking, Colgate students are well-informed citizens who care about what is going on in the world and hold a diverse set of opinions. The administration works to ensure that everyone’s voice is heard and everyone also has a place to go with others who share their views. The goal is to ensure that students learn to listen with an open mind to different perspectives and to be respectful when expressing disagreement.

Study-abroad options abound in every major, among them twenty faculty-run “study group” trips. Approximately 64% of the students study off campus for a full semester.

Approximately 30% of students are involved in fraternities and sororities; however they are not allowed to join until sophomore year, so 40% of those who are eligible actually do so, giving Greek life a significant although not overwhelming presence on campus. Juniors and seniors may live in the Greek houses, but freshmen and sophomores are required to live on “the hill.”

Two hundred student clubs and organizations provide additional social opportunities. With twenty of them being service clubs, community service in the local area is very popular.

Colgate offers Early Decision I and II in addition to Regular Decision. Among students accepted in the fall of 2018, the average GPA was 3.82 out of 4.0, median SATs were 1400-1510, and median ACT was 31-34.