



Focus on Marist College

Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, has 4500 undergraduates who describe themselves as “the Marist family” to convey their strong sense of community. It is a non-sectarian school, having long ago severed its affiliation with the Marist Brothers who founded it, and it has a non-denominational campus ministry and even a Hillel, although the Catholic presence is more visible due to the priest on campus who offers a daily mass and the fact that some Marist brothers continue to teach and mentor students.

Seventy percent of Marist applicants apply directly to a particular program, although the remaining thirty percent may take until the end of sophomore year to declare a major. The most popular programs are in the Communications division, which recently introduced a new major called Media Studies and Production. It includes Film and Television and Interactive Media and Game Design and uses a brand new facility. Other offerings in the division include Advertising, Journalism, Public Relations, and Sports Communication.

The Business department is second in popularity to Communications, especially the program in International Business due to the school’s strong study abroad program. Fifty percent of Marist students study abroad at least once.

Next in size and growing quickly is the program in Technology and Computer Science, which is housed in a beautiful two year old building and boasts one hundred percent job placement across all its majors.

Fashion Design and Fashion Merchandising are highly selective, topnotch programs that require a portfolio or project as part of the application. Their uniqueness lies in the fact that they are comparable to programs in pure fashion schools but are available at Marist within the context of a liberal arts education.

A campus in Florence, Italy, that the college acquired several years ago also affords unusual opportunities. At any given time, several hundred Marist students are studying there, be it for their entire college career or a single semester or year. Incoming freshmen may apply to spend their first year on this campus, where a variety of core courses are offered as well as courses in Art, Fashion and International Business. They must, however, go through an additional selection process once they are granted admission to the college.

Lots of school spirit is engendered by the Division 1 sports, not just the football team, but also a women's basketball team that has repeatedly won championship titles. However, social life revolves around a plethora of other activities too, including many campus events and monthly all-inclusive subsidized trips by bus to Broadway shows and other exciting events for a mere \$25.

Marist is widely recognized for its particularly strong support services, especially for students with learning differences. These include but are not limited to a comprehensive program, which students must apply to when they apply to the college and which carries an additional cost. The fifty students who are admitted to this program each year must remain in it throughout their freshman year. After that, it continues to be available to them but they may drop out if they feel they no longer need it. A writing center staffed by professors and tutoring in groups free of charge and individually for \$8 per session are available to everyone.

Marist is test-optional, meaning no SATs or ACTs are required. Admission is based on GPA (the median being 3.2 to 3.7), the program of study (admitted students averaging nine honors classes and four A.P. courses), the student's level of interest in attending, teacher recommendations and the application essay. Additional materials are welcome as well.