



Focus on Miami University of Ohio

Known since the 1980's as one of the so-called "public ivies," Miami University in Oxford, Ohio (about 35 miles from Cincinnati) has a lovely traditional-looking walking campus in a quintessential college town. In fact, Oxford was recently designated one of the best college towns in the nation by Forbes magazine. Nearly one-third of the approximately 15,000 undergraduates are from out of state. Including graduate students, the university has a total of almost 18,000 students, who dominate the town that otherwise has only 8,000 full-time residents.

Undergraduates enter one of Miami's five divisions, the most selective of which is the highly ranked Farmer School of Business.

A portfolio is required for admission to the College of Creative Arts, which houses nationally recognized programs in Architecture and Interior Design as well as new interdisciplinary programs in emerging technology.

Approximately half of the entering freshmen enroll in the College of Arts and Sciences, including anyone not yet ready to declare a major. Here the focus is on developing transferrable skills, and students pursue a broad liberal arts education.

The other two divisions are the College of Education, Health and Society and the College of Engineering and Computing. Internal transfer between divisions is relatively easy for students who wish to change their path after they matriculate.

Much smaller than many other public institutions, Miami U. has a focus on the undergraduate experience and many opportunities for undergraduates that are more commonly found in liberal arts colleges. Faculty are hired for their teaching, not just their research, and for the past five years U.S. News has ranked Miami U. along with the College of William and Mary # 1 for quality of teaching in a public university.

Experiential learning is emphasized, and 70% of students do internships, with many Business students working at Fortune 500 companies. Research opportunities are

available for students as early as the beginning of freshman year, and 2,000 undergraduates receive funding to engage in academic research through one of several Honors programs.

A global perspective is nurtured as well, with 44% of students participating in Study Abroad opportunities of various lengths. Miami U. has programs on all continents as well as its own campus in Luxemburg. A program in China enables Business students to learn the Chinese language as part of their study of International Business.

On campus, Miami students enjoy a strong sense of community. Ninety-eight percent of them live in student housing their first two years, many beginning in one of thirty living-learning communities together with classmates who share their interests. The university is in the process of adding housing, but even the off-campus housing is mostly within a two-mile radius. The new Armstrong Student Center, opened in 2014, serves as a hub of student life. Students also enjoy the Division 1 athletic program, with hockey being the most popular and successful sport, and more than 475 student clubs and organizations.

Applications have increased more than 62% over the past six years, driven in part by word that the school ranks high for return on investment. Miami's four year graduation rate (71%) puts it among the top ten for U.S. public institutions other than the service academies, and the median amount of time it takes students to graduate is 3.7 years because so many enter with A.P. credits. Students also benefit from the large numbers of employers brought to campus for career and internship Expos held several times a year.

The admissions process is holistic, with GPA considered in the context of the applicant's curriculum, being most important. For the creative programs the portfolio is of paramount importance as well. The admissions office does not recalculate G.P.A.'s, but uses either the weighted or un-weighted one, whichever is higher. For the class that entered in 2014, the mid 50% ranked in the top 26% of their high school class, and median ACT's were 26-31 and median SAT's were 1170-1340. For the class entering in 2016, Admissions will super-score the ACT as well as the SAT. Miami U. is on the Common Application with no supplement and no separate application for scholarships.

Miami U. offers three application options: Early Decision (binding) due November 15th, Early Action due December 1st, and Regular Decision due February 1st. The overall acceptance rate has been 65%, with the rate for Early Decision applicants closer to 75%.

