



Focus on New York University

New York University, whose main campus in New York City is home to 25,000 undergraduates in 10 divisions, also has smaller campuses in Shanghai and Abu Dhabi and eleven “academic centers” on six continents.

Applicants to the main campus apply to up to three of the following divisions, noting their first, second and third choices: the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Liberal Studies, Stern School of Business, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, the School of Professional Studies, Meyers College of Nursing, and Tandon School of Engineering (located in Brooklyn).

The enormous number of majors NYU offers, some of which have corollaries that sound similar but are slightly different in different schools, makes it important for applicants to investigate their options carefully. While it is easy to change majors within a division, it is not easy to change divisions.

Although the admissions office does not report acceptance rates by division, they say that the overall rate is in the low 30% range, with Stern being a bit more competitive to get into than the others and admission to Tisch based heavily on the portfolio. However, applicants are advised that the College of Arts and Sciences always fills with students who identify it as their first choice, so applicants who put Stern or Tisch as their first choice should not try to use Arts and Sciences as a back-up.

All NYU undergraduates take the same liberal arts core curriculum, but beyond that and the requirements dictated by their majors, students have an enormous array of opportunities to choose from. Admissions officer David Kirban explains that the students who thrive here are “independent self-starters.” This is not a school for students who become overwhelmed easily or need to be told what to do, but he says that for students who want “an exciting, diverse, innovative education,” the opportunities available at NYU are “unmatched anywhere.”

Not only is Manhattan's Greenwich Village a neighborhood cultural center (where many of the faculty live), but the campus there also has more than 400 clubs and organizations and 23 varsity sports. Ninety percent of the first year students live on campus, some in special interest housing with others who share a common interest. All participate in the First Year Residential Experience designed to acclimate them to New York City. A Resident Advisor on each floor hosts "snacks" to help everyone feel part of a community and guides them in small groups to various venues around the city.

Housing is guaranteed all four years, and 50% of upperclassmen opt to remain in university-owned buildings. For all who study on the Manhattan campus, Washington Square Park functions as a quad would elsewhere, providing green space for congregating and informal sports. Students report that their social life is about 50% on campus and 50% in the city.

Students at Tandon School of Engineering have housing and their own clubs and activities on their Brooklyn campus, but are also welcome to take part in everything on the Manhattan campus a ten-minute subway ride away.

Despite NYU's size, 88% of undergraduate classes have fewer than 30 students. Every school has its own advisers, and there are also cross-school advisers to aid students pursuing coursework and even multiple minors in divisions other than the one where they are majoring.

Among the extensive resources on campus is Bobst Library. One of the world's largest, it has 33 subject-specializing librarians whom students can make appointments with or simply consult on a drop-in basis. Academic support and peer tutoring are available in the Academic Research Center, and a medical and counseling facility has nearly everything a student might need including a pharmacy, dental clinic, 24-hour hotline, and programs in relaxation and stress reduction.

NYU is a university without walls by design, and many of its students view the whole of New York City as their classroom. Eighty-five percent engage in some sort of community service in the course of their four years, and 97% complete at least one internship.

Additionally, each year 50 to 60% of NYU's undergraduates study abroad in programs of varying lengths, frequently but not exclusively at one of NYU's facilities around the world. Part of the school's mission is to prepare students for citizenship in a global community, and the broad reach of the University impacts even those who don't study abroad because many students from elsewhere spend time on the New York City campus. All told, the NYU community is 20% international.

The Wasserman Center for Career Development maintains a database with 6,000 job listings. This coupled with NYU's location and reputation can probably be credited with the school's receiving first place in Times Higher Education's rankings of graduate employability. As a side note, the nursing school boasts that their graduates have the highest starting salaries.

Admission is need-blind, and financial aid is primarily need-based. To be eligible, applicants must file both the FAFSA and the C.S.S. Profile by the deadlines listed on the website. Median SATs are 640-730 and median ACTs are 30-33, but NYU offers three alternative test options; in lieu of the SAT or ACT, applicants may submit three SAT Subject tests, three A.P. tests or three I.B. tests.

Applicants may choose from the following admission plans: Early Decision I (11/1), Early Decision II (1/1), or Regular Decision (1/1). Approximately 40% of the class is filled with Early Decision applicants, but the binding application confers only minimal advantage insofar as the admit rate is virtually the same as for Regular Decision applicants.