



### **Focus on University of New Haven**

The University of New Haven, actually located in suburban West Haven, Connecticut, now draws two-thirds of its 4,500 undergraduates from out of state. Due to a highly successful fundraising campaign, the school has recently grown both its student population and its facilities. After acquiring a number of surrounding properties, the university is currently constructing new dormitories to accommodate a growing demand. Students this year are enjoying two new turf fields, and a new research facility for the Marine Biology program is scheduled to open in the fall of 2013. The school's growth accompanies a significant upsurge in applications over the past two years alone, making admission increasingly competitive. For this year's freshmen class, the average high school GPA was 3.45, combined critical reading and math SAT was 1070, and ACT was 24.

The university prides itself on being a leader in experiential learning, meaning that students routinely engage with real world problems all across the curriculum, and many courses incorporate a service component. To graduate, students must participate in at least two of the following: internships, research, study abroad and service learning.

Among the programs that particularly draw students to the school are those in Marine Biology with its ten concentrations to choose from and on-site learning on Long Island Sound.

The College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, the largest of its kind in the U.S., is also a major attraction, with its programs in Fire Science and Legal Studies in addition to the usual programs found in such schools. Its facilities are so state-of-the-art that Connecticut State Police use them for their training center.

The Colleges of Business and of Engineering are popular as well. Business offerings include Entrepreneurship, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Music Business, and Sports Management in addition to more conventional majors. A fast track is available that enables

some Business students to earn their Bachelor's degree in three years and an MBA in the fourth.

All twelve Engineering programs are ABET accredited. With average classes of 14 students, engineering students do much of their learning through group assignments to tackle real-world industry challenges. Additionally, they are required to do a senior thesis, and they regularly participate in a variety of competitions where they have been highly successful.

Many combined degrees are offered as well, for instance in Business and Engineering.

The university recently opened a campus in Tuscany, Italy, where students are taught by both New Haven professors and native Italian ones. Core courses are offered there and also courses with a different specific focus each year. Last year 45 students attended when the focus was on Criminal Justice. This year 65 students will take courses there focused on music, and next year the plan is to focus on Engineering.

When home in Connecticut, University of New Haven students enjoy playing a large number of intramural and club sports, cheering the many victories of their seventeen Division 2 teams, and participating in Greek life if they so choose. The atmosphere on campus is unusually friendly, and the school makes a great effort to ensure student success. Living-learning communities which enable freshmen to live together with others they are taking classes with have been hugely popular and successful at increasing the retention rate from freshman to sophomore year. Strong support services are available for students with learning differences.