



Focus on Wentworth Institute of Technology

Wentworth Institute of Technology is one of the Colleges of the Fenway, a five-school consortium in the heart of Boston, right near Northeastern University. The Colleges of the Fenway are all relatively small, but share clubs, organizations and social events and allow cross-registration and use of each other's dining and fitness facilities. Closest to Wentworth are Massachusetts College of Art and Design and Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, both with buildings across the street from Wentworth's. The others, also very nearby, are Simmons and Emmanuel.

For students interested in STEM careers, Wentworth offers a path to well-paid employment as assured as they're likely to find anywhere, with 98% of its graduates in fulltime jobs or graduate school within six months of graduation, a median starting salary of \$60,000, and a medium salary five years later of \$85,000.

Wentworth's most distinguishing feature is that it is a co-op school from which students graduate in four years. Every student does two full-time, paid co-ops for three or four months each, and depending on the major, still graduates in May or August of the senior year. This is possible because the school operates on a year-round calendar with students either taking courses or doing co-ops every summer. Approximately 60% receive a job offer from at least one of the places they did a co-op.

Nineteen majors are offered in three divisions: The College of Architecture, Design and Construction Management (Architecture, Construction Management, Industrial Design, Interior Design), The College of Arts and Sciences (Applied Mathematics, Applied Sciences, Business Management, Computer Information Systems) and The College of Engineering and Computer Science (Biological Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Networking,

Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Electrical Engineering, Electromechanical Engineering, Interdisciplinary Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering). Students may also minor in other disciplines ranging from Aerospace Engineering to Media, Culture and Communication Studies and even Performing Arts, this last offered through Colleges of the Fenway.

Wentworth is primarily a regional university although the administration's goal is to increase its reach nationally. Founded in 1904 to teach Mechanical Engineering, it was originally a commuter school for local students, but is now almost 90% residential and draws its 4,400 undergraduates from 39 states and 58 countries. Students are guaranteed campus housing all four years and are placed in apartment-style accommodations beginning sophomore year and a brand new residence hall junior and senior year. Although it's not immediately apparent to visitors approaching its main entrance, the university has a 31-acre campus and the largest privately owned green space in the city of Boston.

The ideal student for Wentworth knows what he or she wants to do and is eager to hit the ground running. Although the admit rate of approximately 85% sounds comparatively high, applicants must be serious about working hard, and to be admitted to the Engineering majors, they must have taken at least pre-Calculus in high school.

The library, which is open until midnight on weeknights and has floors for silent as well as collaborative projects, is a well-utilized space, but not the only place students can be seen working. For many Wentworth students, STEM work is a passion that they are happy to pursue all hours of the day, even in recreational spaces like the Student Center.

All classes are taught by professors and capped at 25 students, so students report plenty of one-on-one attention from the faculty. They also appreciate that the university is committed to investing continually in the newest industry-standard equipment, and that everyone gets to use that equipment right from the beginning of freshman year.

Innovation is encouraged, and students with ideas to launch a business can receive financial support as well as professional advice through the Center for Engineering, Innovation and Sciences. The building that houses it opened in January 2019, built with student input. That doesn't just mean that students presented the university with a wish list, but rather that they had a hand in the actual construction. In fact, a university policy requires all contractors building on campus to employ Wentworth students.

The student body at Wentworth is currently 79% male, so the admissions office maintains that female students get extra special attention and that their female graduates are in particularly high demand by employers.

For social purposes, everyone enjoys access to the other COF (Colleges of the Fenway) students, not to mention all the other students in Boston, a city with the distinction of having the highest percentage of college students of any in the U.S. The location also offers everything from the Museum of Fine Arts across the street, to Fenway Park three-quarters of a mile away and much, much more via an inexpensive and easy-to-use public transportation system called the "T."

Admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis beginning in early November, and applicants can expect to receive notification within four weeks unless a decision is made to wait for their senior year grades. Applicants' GPAs are recalculated using their grades in English, Math, Social Studies and any courses related to their proposed major, but not foreign language. These recalculated GPAs of admitted students average 3.1 to 3.4, and the SATs range from 1100-1300. No portfolio is required of applicants to the Architecture program, but for all applicants, extra-curricular involvement is deemed very important as proof that they are committed to their stated field of study and have a good understanding of what it entails.

Merit scholarships ranging from \$9,750 to \$14,500 annually are awarded based on grades, test scores and extracurricular activities.

