



Focus on the University of Hartford

The University of Hartford, which is not actually in the city of Hartford, Connecticut, but rather in the fairly affluent suburb of West Hartford, is home to 4,800 undergraduates and 2,200 graduate students. The courses of study offered at Hartford are diverse, as the university is comprised of the Barney School of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, Nursing, and Health Professions, the College of Engineering, Technology and Architecture, the Hartford Art School, the Hartt School for Music, Dance and Theatre, and Hillyer College. Hillyer offers a two year structured program with small classes leading to an Associate's degree with a concentration of the student's choice, after which 90 percent of the graduates enter one of the other divisions of the university to pursue a Bachelor's degree.

All applicants apply to the University first, and then, if they make the first cut, the music and art schools require an audition, portfolio or interview, depending on the particular program they're applying to. Admissions are considerably more selective for these programs than for the College of Arts and Sciences. In fact, the Hartt School is widely regarded as among the best in the nation for classical training in music, dance and theater.

Interdisciplinary study across the different divisions abound, making for some unusual opportunities like the major in Acoustical Engineering and Music that is the only one of its kind in the country. Other noteworthy opportunities available at Hartford include a seven year program leading to a doctorate in Physical Therapy and a five and a half year program leading to an M.S. in Prosthetics and Orthotics.

Communications, which includes Journalism, is the most popular major, and the school has one television and two radio stations that are student run. Hands-on learning is emphasized, with many of the programs throughout the university requiring or strongly encouraging students to do internships. Among the places they intern are Clear Channel, ESPN, Saint Francis Hospital, Otis Elevator, and the numerous insurance companies in the vicinity. Education majors are required to begin work in the classroom from their very first semester, and there are both an elementary school and a high school right nearby.

The Business School is accredited and has five majors: Accounting, Economics & Finance, Economics & Insurance, Management, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship. A minor in Actuarial Science is also available. Required internships get students involved in real-world learning and help them attain employment upon graduation.

Applicants to Hartford who believe they would benefit from Hillyer's personalized approach (classes of fifteen to eighteen students and a faculty adviser who is also one of their teachers) may apply directly to Hillyer, or they may be recommended for the program.

"Learning Plus," the school's support services for students documented to have moderate learning differences, provides weekly 45 minute sessions with learning specialists. However, applicants are requested not to submit the necessary documentation until after they have been accepted to the university so as to ensure that the admissions process is not influenced by it.

Hartford has Division 1 sports, Basketball being the highest profile one thus far because there has not been a football team. However, a football program is coming to the university in September 2013, with a walk-on team. Eleven percent of the students are in fraternities or sororities, but these have no houses. A variety of campus activities including sporting events and performances in the Performing Arts Center keep the students on campus on weekends.

Students who apply between Oct. 1st and November 15th will receive a non-binding response within two weeks. Interviews are optional but are encouraged for students who feel they can't convey everything they want to in the application. The average GPA for accepted students is a 3.0, the average combined Critical Reading and Math SAT is 1070, and the average ACT is 27. Students applying for non-math related programs should have taken math through Algebra 2, but the programs in Business, Engineering and Architecture require more advanced math preparation.