



Focus on Carnegie Mellon University

Carnegie Mellon University's 5,800 undergraduates comprise just over half of the students working toward a variety of degrees at this Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, school which boasts that it has the second safest campus in the second safest city in the nation. It is an urban university, but it has considerable green space and is located right near the University of Pittsburgh and a lovely park with many trails that students use for jogging and hiking.

Carnegie Mellon is probably most well-known for its programs in Engineering, Science, Business, Drama, Music, and Art. The typical CMU student is said to have both a deep passion for his or her field of study and an appreciation of other fields as well.

Although twenty-five percent of the undergraduates currently major in Engineering at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, interdisciplinary study is a hallmark of the university. Candidates apply to one of the six colleges but may take up to one-third of their courses outside of their own college and even minor in a college other than the one where they are majoring.

The Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences is the largest of the colleges. Here students have until the end of sophomore year to choose a major for either a B.A. or B.S. degree. Several interdepartmental majors are offered, among them Economics and Statistics, Environmental Policy, and Ethics, History and Public Policy. The English department has highly regarded programs in Creative Writing, Professional Writing, and Technical Writing and Communication.

Engineering students are required to experience a variety of types of Engineering during their first year regardless of whether they enter with a specific concentration or "undecided." Undecided students must commit to a concentration by the end of freshman year. Electrical

Engineering and Computer Engineering are the most selective, so students who apply to one of these programs directly from high school may be admitted to the College of Engineering but rejected from the specific program and told in their acceptance letter not to count on having an opportunity to enter it later either. Once students are in their programs however, the academic experience is much more collaborative than cut-throat.

College of Science students complete general requirements before declaring a major, also at the end of their first year. Many of the majors in the College of Science actually combine fields. One of the offerings, for instance, is Computational Biology, which is being used increasingly in Medicine. Another, Computational Finance, combines studies in Math, Computer Science, and Finance. The Mellon College of Science is also known for providing strong pre-medical preparation and for encouraging research, which 60% of the undergraduate students engage in. An Office of Undergraduate Research provides \$3,500 grants to support many of them.

The offerings at the School of Computer Science in some cases overlap or combine with offerings in other colleges. For instance, they have their own major in Computational Biology, and also offer degrees in Human-Computer Interaction, Music and Technology, and Information Systems, as well as Robotics and basic Computer Science.

At the Tepper School of Business everyone earns a B.S. in Business Administration although students choose from among multiple tracks. Regardless of the track, the program is strongly quantitative, requiring three semesters of Math. In addition, students have many opportunities for hands-on work on real-world projects.

The College of Fine Arts is home to the Art and Design program as well as conservatory programs in Music and Drama, all of which confer the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. It also offers a Bachelor of Architecture. This school prides itself on having offered the nation's first major in Industrial Design. Its newest major is Environmental Design, which explores the ways in which people interact with their environment.

Admission to the Music and Drama conservatories is based most heavily (80% to 90%) on the audition, and applicants are invited to audition only after an off-campus pre-screening. Admission for Art and Design is based 50% on the portfolio. Applicants may schedule auditions and portfolio reviews beginning October 1st, provided they have already submitted the Common Application. Writing samples are recommended but not required of applicants to the Creative Writing program.

Regular Decision applications for Fine Arts must be submitted by December 1. For all other students, the regular decision deadline is January 1. A November 1st binding Early Decision option is also available.

Students whose early decision application to one school is rejected may then apply regular decision to another one, but they will have to write the supplement again to convince the admissions office that they genuinely desire the program to which they are applying secondarily. It is possible, but not likely, that they may gain admittance their second time around.

CMU does not offer score choice; they require applicants to submit all of their standardized test scores. Two SAT subject tests in addition to the SAT or ACT are required of anyone who doesn't audition or submit a portfolio, and applicants are advised to take them in the junior year, not before, because they are used for placement purposes.

