



## **Focus on Drew University**

Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, provides its 1,350 undergraduates with small classes, committed and accessible professors, hands-on learning experiences, and easy access via train to New York City just 30 miles from its lush campus. The arrival of President MaryAnn Baenninger in 2014 and several other new people at the university's helm has energized the campus. Both students and faculty speak with great enthusiasm about the quality of its education and the friendliness of its tight-knit community.

While fifty-six percent of Drew's students now come from New Jersey, the percentage has been decreasing steadily as the school is actively seeking students from all across the country as well as abroad. The student body is currently 11% international, and includes students from 39 states.

Drew attracts a diverse group of students in terms of interests too. While the most popular majors include Economics, Business Studies, and Political Science, the Theater major is ranked among the top 10 in the country (although it does not require an audition), and the science programs are noteworthy as well.

The Research Institute for Scientists Emeriti (RISE) gives laboratory space in exchange for their mentoring of Drew students to prominent scientists who have retired from industry. Under their direction, Drew undergraduates have conducted

research, published papers, and won impressive awards for work in such hot research fields as Alzheimer's disease and Epigenetics.

The university is thrilled that one of their RISE scientists, Dr. William Campbell, won a 2015 Nobel Prize (for work done during his previous tenor with Merck), but more importantly, the experiences of undergraduates working with the RISE scientists have led many of them to coveted employment and graduate and professional school opportunities upon graduation.

The "Semester in the City" programs are four other unusual opportunities available to Drew students. Twice a week the students in these courses take the train into New York City for morning classes taught by Drew faculty followed by afternoon experiences in the field. These city courses are offered in Contemporary Art (students work with gallery owners, museum curators, and artists), Communication and Media (students work at digital and print publications, radio stations, news companies and public relations firms), the United Nations (students meet with diplomats and sit in on meetings), and Wall Street (students meet and work with economists, investment bankers and brokers).

Some type of experience outside of the classroom is required for all Drew students, and besides taking "City Semesters" and research internships at RISE, another extremely popular way to fulfill this requirement is through study abroad. Opportunities for the latter range from semester-long experiences in Europe to two or three-week trips led by Drew faculty to study, for example, marine ecology in Belize, business in Milan, and health and human development in South Africa.

When on campus, most Drew students stay there on weekends. Twenty-three percent are varsity athletes participating in the Division III sports, which include Equestrian and Fencing. Soccer and Lacrosse are the most popular. In addition to club and intramural sports and club-sponsored events, numerous theater and dance productions in both the black box theater and the professional Shakespeare Theater on campus make for a variety of recreational options.

Admission to Drew is based on a holistic review of each application with attention given to the rigor of the secondary school and the applicant's own program of study. Demonstrated interest is also extremely important, and applicants should make plans to interview with their regional admissions officer either on campus or when the admissions officer is on the road.

The average GPA for admitted students is 3.5. Drew does not require applicants to submit standardized tests, but approximately 85% still submit either the SAT or ACT. For those, the median SAT range is 1,000 to 1220 (out of 1600) and the median ACT range is 22 to 28.

One reason so many students submit test scores is to be eligible for the top merit scholarships. In recent years a large portion of the class has received some merit

money. The top ten percent (with GPA's of about 3.75 and SATs of at least 1220) have been invited into the Baldwin Honors Program and awarded \$25,000 per year. The Presidential Scholars (with around a 3.5 and high 1100's) have received \$20,000 per year. Dean's Scholars have received 15,000 per year. However, the policy is changing to begin awarding more grants based on need rather than merit in the future, so while these merit scholarships will continue to exist, they will be awarded to fewer students and needy students can anticipate greater generosity in the form of grants.

Civic engagement is much valued at Drew, and each year a select group of students are designated Civic Scholars. They engage in special programming, receive \$2,500 scholarships each of their four years, and are eligible for additional fellowships of up to \$5,000 to support their service projects.

