



Focus on Rowan University

Twenty minutes from Philadelphia and midway between New York City and Washington, D.C., Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, has recently been designated the second comprehensive research institution in the state after Rutgers. It now has the distinction of having two medical schools since July 2013 when Cooper Medical School became part of the university that already had a School of Osteopathic Medicine.

The research institution designation brings with it an influx of funds. The university maintains a commitment to retaining small classes taught by full professors for its undergraduates (the average class size is 21 students) even as they add eight new Ph.D. programs and twelve new Masters programs and anticipate that in the next ten years the total student population will grow from the current 12,000 to 20,000.

The undergraduate curriculum is being reconfigured to some degree in response to the growing focus on medical education, so there will be pre-medical programs available to students in all the colleges (for example, Dance Therapy and Music Therapy in the College of Performing Arts) as well as humanities programs that prepare students for careers in medicine.

Engineering has always been strong at Rowan, ranking 16th in the nation overall and 7th among public universities by *U.S. News and World Report*. The university was recently awarded a large grant from the state that financed the construction of a state-of-the-art Engineering building. The undergraduate degrees offered here are in Chemical, Civil and Environmental, Electrical and Computer, and Mechanical Engineering. Innovative integration of departments and lots of hands on experience for students are hallmarks of this college.

A School of Biomedical Science will open in 2014, reflecting a cooperative effort of the Engineering, Science and Math departments.

The Rohmer College of Business, which is also getting a new building, is proud of its ranking by Princeton Review in the top 300 Business schools among the nation's 1,876. The majors here besides the more common ones include Supply Chain Management and an Entrepreneurship program that has garnered national attention.

Auditions are required to enter the College of Performing Arts, where the music and jazz studies are top programs. Currently Dance is offered as a minor, but it is soon to be offered as a major, too.

The College of Communication and Creative Arts has majors in Advertising, Art (for which both B.A. and B.F.A degrees awarded), Communication Studies, Journalism, Public Relations, Radio-TV-Film, Graphic Design (B.F.A. only), and Writing Arts.

The College of Education has majors not only in Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education by subject, but also in Athletic Training and in Health and Exercise Science.

As Rowan has hit the radar in places it was little known previously, the average SAT scores have risen 50 points in the past two years, so the median is now 1250 for Critical Reading and Math. The median GPA for admitted students is 3.6. The aim of the university is not to become too exclusive, though. Instead, they want to support weaker students by admitting some of them part time and then providing programs that will facilitate their success.

New dorms are under construction to accommodate the growing student body, which is also becoming increasingly diverse. In fact, diversity at Rowan has increased 32% over the past two years, and the long-term goal is to have the school reflect the make-up of the state.

The sense of community has grown, too, as more activities are being scheduled on campus. Students must live on campus their first two years unless they are commuting from their parents' homes. After that, many move off campus into the surrounding area which is undergoing a boom in development. Just off campus, Rowan Boulevard is lined with a beautiful brand new apartment complex and retail space housing Barnes and Noble and Starbucks, among other businesses. A Marriott Hotel and Conference Center is also slated to open soon within walking distance of the campus.

As the government of New Jersey has made a commitment to develop the southern part of the state, Rowan University sees itself as playing an important role. For instance, Rowan is helping Lockheed Martin pay for a new building and engaging Engineering students in some of the planning. Overall, there is a belief that growth and enhanced opportunities are coming quickly to both the region and the university.