



## **Focus on University of Cincinnati**

While the University of Cincinnati may not be on the radar of many high school students outside of Ohio, there are many reasons it should be. A public research institution, it has three campuses, its main or “uptown” one home to approximately 24,500 undergraduates, making it much smaller than Ohio State and giving it a more intimate feel. A mile and a half from downtown Cincinnati, which Fortune Magazine recently ranked one of the top five up-and-coming downtowns, this division of UC has a traditional green campus with walking paths and is easy to get around entirely on foot. Furthermore, U.S. News and World Report ranked it number three in its list of “Up and Coming Universities.”

Co-op education (like that found at Northeastern and Drexel) actually originated at University of Cincinnati as long ago as 1906. Initially just for engineering students, it has become a hallmark of the business program as well. After completing their freshman year on campus, students who opt to do co-ops rotate between jobs in their field and coursework on a schedule that allows them to have 18 months of professional employment by the time they graduate after a total of five years. They still pay only four years of tuition and nearly all their co-ops are remunerated well enough for them to earn \$30,000 to \$60,000 even before receiving their Bachelors degree. When they enter the job market after graduation, their work experience makes them strong candidates, often able to bypass entry-level positions.

Experiential learning is an important component of a UC education for all students, as everyone is required to engage in at least one such experience in the course of their four years, and most do more than one. Both paid and unpaid internships are

popular with students who may do them while simultaneously taking courses. Cincinnati, with its nine Fortune 500 companies, many hospitals, professional sports teams, and arts and cultural institutions, affords extensive opportunities for internships and co-ops, but students are not limited to these. Overseas opportunities are available too, as is the option for students to take jobs closer to home.

With eleven colleges and over 300 programs of study, UC is nonetheless able to boast that 70 % of its classes have fewer than 30 students. An integrated core requires all students to study writing in their particular fields as well as to do a capstone project. Support is plentiful and widely used. The Learning Assistance Center provides free one-on-one tutoring by trained students for anyone who wants help in more than 300 courses. Also available free of charge are the Academic Writing Center, Math and Science Support Center, and academic coaching.

For students with diagnosed learning disabilities, additional services are provided. Two fulltime coordinators and two intake coordinators serve approximately 900 students each year, with an active caseload of 150 to 300 students at a time.

Freshmen coming from more than 50 miles away are required to live on campus, and 80% of all freshmen do so. The residence halls offer a wide variety of options, and although many sophomores leave campus for apartments in the surrounding area, juniors and seniors frequently return to campus housing. Seven percent opt to live in Learning Communities associated with specific majors. These residences enable the students in them to network and be mentored by people in their own field.

The campus is lively with activity, especially a beautiful and expansive new Student Recreation Center. Division 1 sports make for lots of school spirit, and students receive free tickets for the games. Club and intramural sports are also popular, and are among the more than 400 student organizations on campus.

Admission is by major although undecided students may be admitted to a Center for Exploratory studies. Some majors are more competitive than others. Among these are the programs in Architecture, Environmental Engineering, Industrial Design, and Nursing. UC boasts of over 50 programs that have been ranked in the top 50 in the nation, including Co-Op, Music, Interior Design, Creative writing, Speech Pathology and Audiology, and Criminology.

New programs include a Medical Sciences major and minors or certificates in Applied Communication, Art Therapy, Cyber Security, Innovation Transformation, and Medicine, Health and Society.

The median GPA for admitted students is 3.46 un-weighted, median ACTs are 23-28, and median SATs (Critical Reading and Math only) are 1040-1290. Applications are read holistically, the essay being an important component. Applicants are required

to submit at least one recommendation from a teacher or school counselor, but are welcome to submit as many more as they wish.

The December 1<sup>st</sup> Priority (Early Action) deadline is required of applicants who wish to be considered for scholarships or the Honors program. Admissions are rolling.

