Drew University

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STUDENTS SAY “…”

Academics

Located in Madison, New Jersey, Drew University is just a hop-and-a-skip away from the New York City universe, and the school takes full advantage of its proximity to industry hubs. The 1,500 undergraduates have access to more than fifty majors and minors and thousands of related internships, as well as lots of study abroad options. Drew’s six unique NYC semesters allow students to do coursework with professors and then commute into New York City to learn in the field (for example, on Wall Street, at the United Nations, or in the art, communications, social entrepreneurship and theatre scene). The science departments are standouts—one of its fellows won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2015—and its top-ranked theatre program is “comprehensive in such a way that every graduate of the program will have at least tried every single part of the theatrical process.”

The “incredibly engaging” professors go “above and beyond the role of just... teacher” and are “very much willing to assist in any way.” They “facilitate conversations so that you learn in a way that’s not just your average PowerPoint [presentation]” and “invest time in you academically and as a young adult looking for a career.” The university does an excellent job of fostering undergraduate student research, and professors “require a level of accountability that motivates a student to perform” both in and out of the classroom. Far and away the things that students appreciate the most about Drew are its small class sizes, which bolster the personal attention from teachers, almost all of whom have PhDs. (“There are no classes taught by TAs, which makes for better quality learning.”) This “mentorship with professors” is a lasting benefit to students, who say that “you really get to know your professors in an impactful way.”

Life

While the small, wooded town of Madison isn’t exactly hopping, students make the most of the “gorgeous” campus (where housing is guaranteed all four years; currently 87 percent of the student body lives on campus) and “tend to be proactive in creating their own recreational experiences.” People “are very involved in sports and activities, such as clubs and organizations,” and many have jobs or internships. New York City is a short 50-minute train ride away, and nearby Morristown also provides some flavor. Academics “take up a good amount of daytime, but life at school is “always manageable”; “classes are challenging enough and the workload isn’t overbearing” so “there is always time to relax if you’re responsible and manage your time well.” Tuesdays and Thursdays are dollar beer nights, so “many students take time out of studying to go out for a little,” but “most free time is spent in friends’ rooms, playing video games or watching shows.” Though school events aren’t terribly well-attended from time to time there are things which students make sure to have fun at, “such as Bingo night, the holiday ball, and Drewchella (a live music festival).” All in all, “there is a good balance of leisure and education.”

Student Body

While about half of the students are from New Jersey, the student body is diverse and includes a growing international student population. As a small school, “Everyone at least knows of everyone else and is friendly with them.” “Drew students are the type that see a $50 bill in the street and find the person who dropped it,” says one student of this group that is “attractive inside and out.” There’s a large percentage of people actively involved in both the arts and sciences, and the regular cliques—“jocks, theatre kids, science nerds”—all “blend together and overlap so that there are no definite lines separating people.” Drew is an eco-friendly campus, and “there is a fairly large number of gluten free/vegetarian students.”

SURVEY SAYS...

Students love Madison, NJ
Theater is popular
College radio is popular

STUDENTS

Quality of Life Rating 85
Fire Safety Rating 92
Green Rating 83
Type of school Private
Affiliation Methodist
Environment Village

Total undergrad enrollment 1,530
% male/female 40/60
% from out of state 36
% from public high school 63
% from public high school 90
% urban 80
% of fraternities 0
% of sororities 0
% African American 7
% Asian 5
% Caucasian 52
% Hispanic 15
% Native American <1
% Pacific Islander 0
% two or more races 3
% race or ethnicity unspecified 6
% international 11
% of countries represented 49

ACADEMICS

Academic Rating 81
% students returning for sophomore year 84
% students graduating within 4 years 57
% students graduating within 6 years 62
Calendar Semester
Student/faculty ratio 11:1
Profs interesting rating 80
Profs accessible rating 80
Most classes have 10–19 students. Most lab/discussion sessions have 10–19 students.

MOST POPULAR MAJORS

Biology/Biological Sciences, General;
Psychology, General; Business Administration and Management, General

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Admissions

Very important factors considered include: rigor of secondary school record, academic GPA, interview. Important factors considered include: application essay, recommendation(s), extracurricular activities, talent/ability, character/personal qualities. Other factors considered include: class rank, standardized test scores, first generation, alumni/ae relation, racial/ethnic status, volunteer work, work experience, level of applicant’s interest. SAT or ACT considered if submitted. ACT with or without writing accepted. SAT with or without Essay component accepted. High school diploma is required and GED is accepted. Academic units recommended: 4 English, 3 math, 2 science, 2 foreign language, 2 social studies, 2 history, 3 academic electives.

Financial Aid

Students should submit: FAFSA. Priority filing deadline is 1/1. The Princeton Review suggests that all financial aid forms be submitted as soon as possible after October 1. Need-based scholarships/grants offered: College/university scholarship or grant aid from institutional funds; Federal Pell; Private scholarships; SEOG; State scholarships/grants. Loan aid offered: Direct PLUS loans; Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans; Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans. Applicants will be notified of awards on or about 3/25. Federal Work-Study Program available. Institutional employment available.

The Inside Word

Drew takes a holistic approach to evaluating applications, so you definitely want to showcase more than just your GPA (though that’s also important). Drew’s applicant pool has grown significantly in recent years, so presenting yourself as not only a great student but also a great fit with the school will help you stand out from the pack. The university is test optional.

THE SCHOOL SAYS “…”

From the Admissions Office

“Launch is Drew's one-of-a-kind, leading-edge path to a degree that syncs career development with rigorous academics and powerful community. Drew guarantees two real-world, resume-ready experiences—like internships, New York City Semesters, hands-on research, etc.—and plenty of opportunities to earn professional credentials. A mentorship team—of faculty members, alumni, industry experts, etc.—supports and guides students throughout their four years.

“In 2018, Drew lowered its tuition by 20 percent, rolling it back to 2010, to provide even greater access to the benefits of a Drew education to even more families. In 2018–19, Drew offered $32 million in grants and scholarships and 80 percent of students received merit or need-based aid. The Princeton Review named Drew among their 200 Best Value Colleges and twice saluted it as one of fifty Colleges that Create Futures.

“Drew’s beautiful campus is located in a charming small town twenty miles from New York City, a region full of leading organizations. Drew students recently interned at employers such as CNN, Goldman Sachs, Michael Kors, the Red Sox, and the United Nations, among others. Ninety-four percent of recent graduates were employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation. They are employed at places such as Google, Bank of America, Lincoln Center, the U.S. Department of State, Morgan Stanley, and Prudential, and they attend graduate programs at Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, Oxford, and Columbia, among others.

“Drew students are part of a powerful community on a lively and diverse campus. Ninety percent live on campus, and housing is guaranteed for four years. Students are active in 100+ student-run clubs and 25 percent are Drew Ranger student-athletes. Community traditions include Halloweekend, 99 Nights, Drewchella, and Junior Senior Dance. Located within one hour are a wildlife refuge, ski resorts, beaches, the Meadowlands (home of the Giants and Jets), and the museums, concert venues, sports arenas, clubs, galleries, theaters, etc. of New York City.”