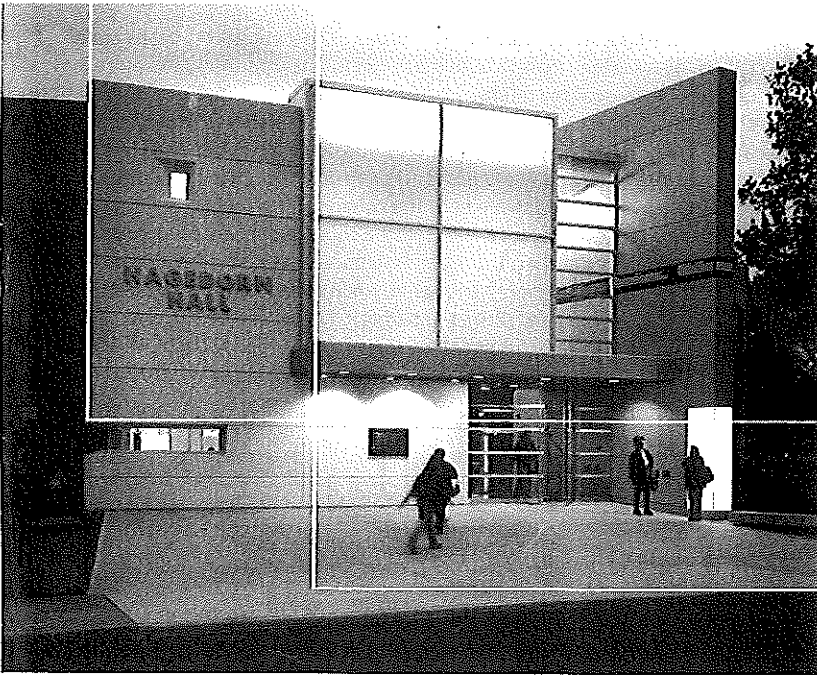


Great places to learn in



New York



Hagedorn Hall at Hofstra University

John McKeith

By any measure, higher education in New York is a vast enterprise. The state's 311 colleges and universities include two Ivy League schools, two of the original Seven Sisters, and the nation's largest urban university and state system. Collectively they enroll more than one million students — that's about 1 in every 15 students found on America's campuses.

Choices abound. New York's colleges come in every shape and form: public and private, nonprofit and for-profit, residential and virtual. You can opt for a sprawling research university or a cloistered liberal arts college, the urban jungle or a rural enclave, and just about everything in between. You can pick among institutions larger than some cities and those smaller than most high schools. And you can earn an associate's, bachelor's, master's or doctorate in practically any field of study while attending full-time or part-time. To rephrase a line from Ol' Blue Eyes, if you can't find it here, you can't find it anywhere.

But regardless of your intended degree or major, how might you choose among this dizzying array of options? You could refer to popular rankings, but rankings provide only a statistical portrait, not a subjective flavor. Each college and university is distinct, with its own culture, traditions and academic strengths. Numbers tell but one part of the story. Finding the right college, the right program the right *fit* requires a closer look.

Curious? Then join us on a tour of the educational opportunities New York has to offer.

Julie Buyon Sarah Lawrence College

Eplphancies come in many forms and can strike at any time. Julie Buyon's followed a life-threatening disease.

In the late 1990's, Buyon was diagnosed with cancer. Her mom had died just over a year before, only eight months after being diagnosed herself. At the time, Buyon was a stay-at-home mom raising kids aged 4 and 6. To her surprise, Buyon discovered she wasn't afraid of dying. She was, instead, afraid of what might happen to her kids.

Yet something else occurred to her during her recovery. She had achieved a positive outcome in part because she benefited from a strong support system. She had good medical care, reliable insurance, a support system and an education that enabled her to understand what she was facing and how she might cope. But what about people without such support? How might they cope?

After some soul-searching, Buyon headed for Sarah Lawrence's master's program in health advocacy. It was just

the catalyst she needed. "I felt the program would provide me with a way of helping people navigate those journeys," Buyon said. "And it also provided me with a meaningful way of responding to these events in my life."

Over the last few years, Buyon has become an advocate in the White Plains school system, leading a coalition of parents, teachers and system administrators in a crusade to improve food service and nutrition. Her efforts stem from a class project she undertook at Sarah Lawrence. After graduating, Buyon hopes to become a patient representative at a hospital, helping patients who can't always speak for themselves.

"At this stage of my life, this has become my passion," Buyon said. "I want to take this degree and do something good for somebody."



Matt Carr



Fashion Institute of Technology

Matthew Septimus

■ ■ Tradition, meet opportunity

Want something a tad more conventional? Try Manhattan College. The name basically says it all: Manhattan. College. What more can you say about the place? Well, plenty.

Despite the name, the college calls the Bronx home, and its Riverdale campus offers an almost suburban feel. This 150-year-old Catholic institution embraces the traditions of the liberal arts, but it built its reputation largely on the success of its engineering graduates. "You probably won't find a major building project in the city that doesn't have a Manhattan College graduate in the mix," said President Thomas Scanlon.

It should come as no surprise, then, that Manhattan College fingerprints are all over the 9/11 recovery efforts. According to Richard Heist, dean of the engineering school, Manhattan students and alumni have been particularly active at Ground Zero. Leading the charge early on was Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Class of '65.

Manhattan's 3,000 students choose from among 48 majors in five schools. Undergirding all of these choices is the college's extended classroom: New York City. Education students teach in the city's elementary schools. Business students intern at Fortune 500 companies. Engineering students get their hands dirty on all kinds of projects. In fact, some 40 percent of Manhattan students benefit from city internships, while others find additional opportunities a subway ride away. "You can hop on a train and be in Times Square in 30 minutes," Dean Heist said. "Everything is literally on your doorstep. If you can't find it in New York, it doesn't exist."

Another point of pride is Manhattan's basketball team, which has experienced great success in recent years. But what, exactly, is a Jasper? "The name comes from Brother Jasper, a former faculty member," Provost Weldon Jackson explained. "Legend has it that he introduced the seventh-inning stretch to baseball." Talk about your civic contributions.



Fashion Institute of Technology

Matthew Septimus

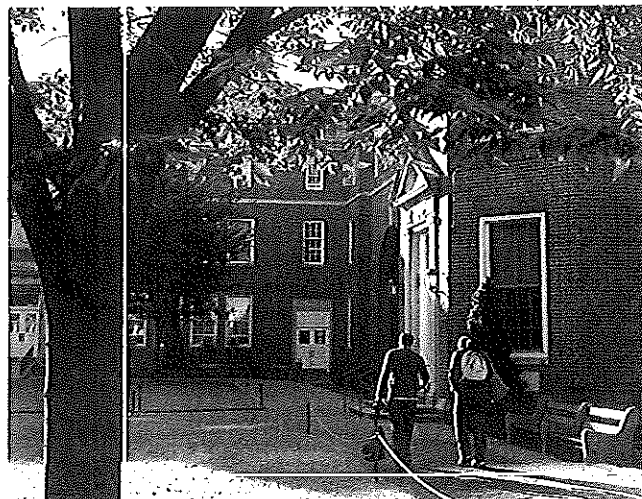
But what if you're in the market for cache with a splash of pizzazz? What if your goal is to land at the crossroads of commerce and creativity? You'll find it at Seventh Avenue and 27th Street. Look up and you'll see the entrance to the funky and eminently fashionable Fashion Institute of Technology.

Most people can guess FIT's mission simply by its name, but fewer know that it's part of the SUNY system, a public institution with public school tuition. And it's not small, enrolling 12,000 students and offering 30 majors in everything related to design or the business of design.

Given the school's location in the heart of it all, it's able to connect with dozens of fashion and design companies. Industry professionals often spend time with students and critique their work. Internships abound, often leading to permanent employment.

The school's curriculum continues to grow and evolve in response to emerging demands. This fall they launch a new master's degree program in global fashion management, a unique program involving people and companies on three continents. Next fall, FIT will debut a master's degree in illustration. The part-time program will feature drawing, painting and digital media, and will examine the ways illustration reflects cultural trends through imagery. "There's always plenty of work for illustrators," said the program's director, Melanie Reim. "Everything starts with a piece of paper and pencil."

Manhattan College's quadrangle



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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

The Jaspers might find stiff competition over in Queens, at St. John's University. Every winter, throngs of rabid students fill Madison Square Garden with chants of "We ... are ... St. John's!", cheering the Red Storm to another Big East basketball victory. But who and what is St. John's?

For starters, it's the second largest catholic university in the country, after DePaul in Chicago. Its 18,000 students populate campuses in Queens, Manhattan and Staten Island, as well as graduate outposts on Long Island and in Rome, Italy.

St. John's has been around for over 130 years, but only for the last five has it been a residential campus. For most of its existence it was exclusively a commuter school serving New Yorkers, particularly first-generation college students, minority populations, and sons and daughters of immigrants. Now it recruits from across the nation and around the world, but it still clings to its historical mission. "We've always had a national reputation," said Glenn Sklarin, vice president for enrollment management, "and now we're getting a



Students outside Century Hall at St. John's University

national student body to reflect that reputation."

When these freshmen from faraway places arrive on campus, they'll take a required course called "Discover New York," an introduction to the core of the Big Apple. The point is to familiarize students with what the city has to offer. "All freshmen must discover New York," said Willard Gingerich, vice provost for graduate studies and research, "and discover themselves in New York. The city is a lab for us, and we try to make use of it in the curriculum."

Whatever their major, St. John's students find at least one point of common ground: the aforementioned basketball team. It's fair to say that the success of the team (along with former coach Carnesecca's flamboyant sweaters) has contributed to the university's widespread name recognition. "It's good to have standards of excellence in everything you do on campus," said Gingerich. "If college basketball gives us a prominence in New York, that's wonderful. And college basketball in New York is St. John's."

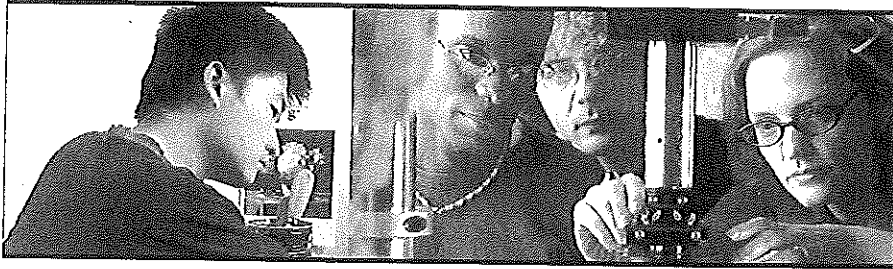
The Jaspers might see things differently, so let the conversation begin.



Students at St. John's University



BRIGHT PEOPLE

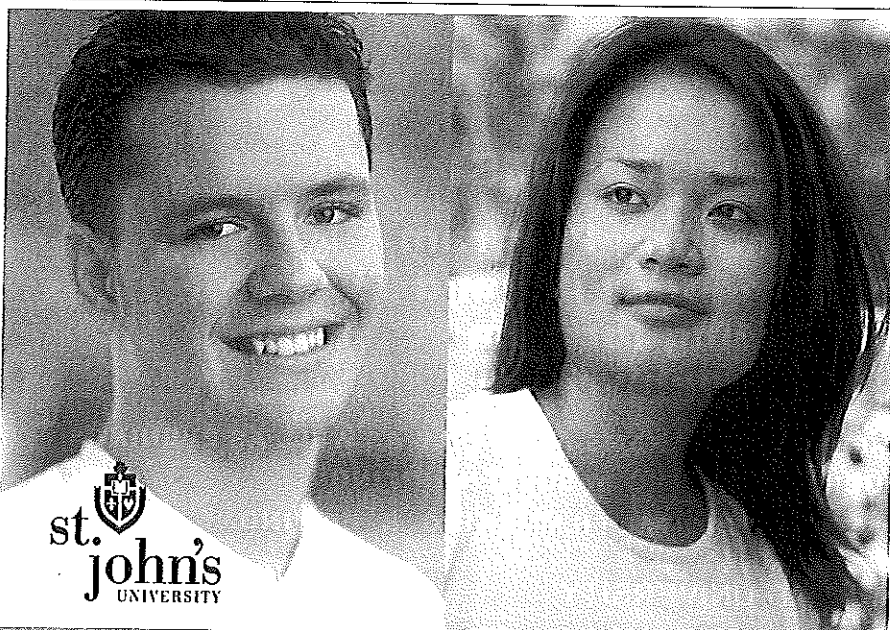


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Meanwhile, as that debate rages, let's check in with **Fordham University**. Unlike St. John's and Manhattan, Fordham derives from the Jesuit tradition. It's one of only 28 Jesuit colleges in the nation, and it's the only one in New York.

Most undergraduates choose either the Rose Hill or Lincoln Center campus. The choice depends largely on one's major, but it also hinges on the kind of college experience a student prefers. Want to study science or politics and walk a few blocks to the Bronx Zoo? Rose Hill's your ticket. Want to delve into performing arts and stroll through Central Park? Lincoln Center's it. The business school calls Rose Hill home; the law school, Lincoln Center. Some disciplines are offered at both campuses, and no matter their major, students can take courses at either one. A Fordham shuttle will get you there in 25 minutes.

At Rose Hill, sciences are particularly strong. With classes numbering fewer than 20, students get to work closely with faculty on research projects and lab experiments. "Students here get involved in some pretty sophisticated research," said Barish Rubin, chairman of the biology department.

Among the highlights at Lincoln Center is the joint program with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Through this program, Fordham students earn a bachelor's degree in fine arts in dance and benefit from associating with the renowned studio.

Cutting across both campuses is the university's undergraduate core curriculum. Reflecting the Jesuit tradition, this common set of courses requires philosophy and theology, and stresses the ethical dimensions of education, character formation and service.

"Our curriculum is designed to educate the whole person," said Dominic Balestra, dean of the arts and sciences faculty, "not just the intellect. We want both the intellect and the spirit to live at a sophisticated level."



David Kattan
Fordham University

David Kattan puts a spin on the term "doctor of philosophy." The recent Fordham grad, now in his second year of medical school at Northwestern University in Chicago, found intellectual stimulation in a philosophy minor.

"At Fordham, you take a core curriculum regardless of your major," Kattan said. "Through the core, I took a few philosophy courses and really enjoyed them. They taught me a lot about how people think about different issues and the mysteries of life. Plus, it was a nice diversion from the hardcore sciences courses."

That curriculum and, more broadly, the academic philosophy that defines Fordham, drew Kattan from his home in Phoenix. He sought an urban atmosphere for his college years and wanted an institution that continued the Jesuit tradition he experienced in high school. Fordham was just the ticket.

"This tradition really sets Fordham apart," Kattan said.

"There's an element of social conscience interwoven throughout the curriculum, across every major. We're taught to take academics seriously along with our societal obligations. We respect not only things to be learned but things to be done."

Now Kattan is in a new city with new challenges, but at least he's well-equipped to manage them. "Fordham's academics are extremely rigorous and challenging, and I honed my study skills. My four years there truly prepared me for medical school."

So does **The College of New Rochelle**, which features an all-female student body. The institution traces its roots back 100 years, when it was established as the first Catholic women's college in New York State. It comprises four schools enrolling 6,800 students on six campuses; the main campus lies 16 miles north of the city.



On the campus of The College of New Rochelle

Technically, only the college's undergraduate School of Arts and Sciences is all-women. Its other schools and graduate programs are coed. Over all, about 90 percent of the college's population is female.

"We're a women's college in terms of our atmosphere, not just our headcount," said President Steven Sweeny. "We incorporate into our teaching and learning a sensitivity, a respect for the educational experience of women. And we make sure that, institutionally, we behave in ways that are profoundly geared to empower women."

Like its Catholic and Jesuit neighbors, The College of New Rochelle aims to educate the soul along with the mind. The college's tagline, "Wisdom for Life," offers a dual meaning that's hard to miss. "We hope that students

come here not simply for a degree or a course or a job," Sweeny said. "We want them to distill wisdom, something that's hard to define but related to the ability to make good choices and to attain a certain quality of life."

Education never stops for a city that never sleeps

Decorating dorm rooms and trying out for the drama club might occupy many a student's time, but increasingly a typical challenge involves scurrying to an evening class after a hard day's work. On college campuses across America and throughout New York, the traditional student — aged 18 to 22, attending full time and living on campus — is being replaced by the new breed: 30-something professionals juggling jobs, families and educational ambitions, commuting to campus or exercising distance-learning options, and attending part time.

Some institutions are well-equipped to meet the growing demand. For 70 years, working adults seeking academic enrichment and career advancement have turned to **New York University's School of Continuing and Professional Studies**. The school educates more than 50,000 people a year with 1,500 courses, seminars and conferences in 125 fields of study.

In a bulletin resembling the Manhattan phone directory, the school enumerates its smorgasbord of courses. Want to study Web design? the geopolitics of oil? tango? real estate? DJ scratching? It's all here, all the time. "We see ourselves as a school of transformation," said Ken Brown, director of public relations. "People come here for career change and life change." In addition to offering the more traditional disciplines, NYU continues to develop

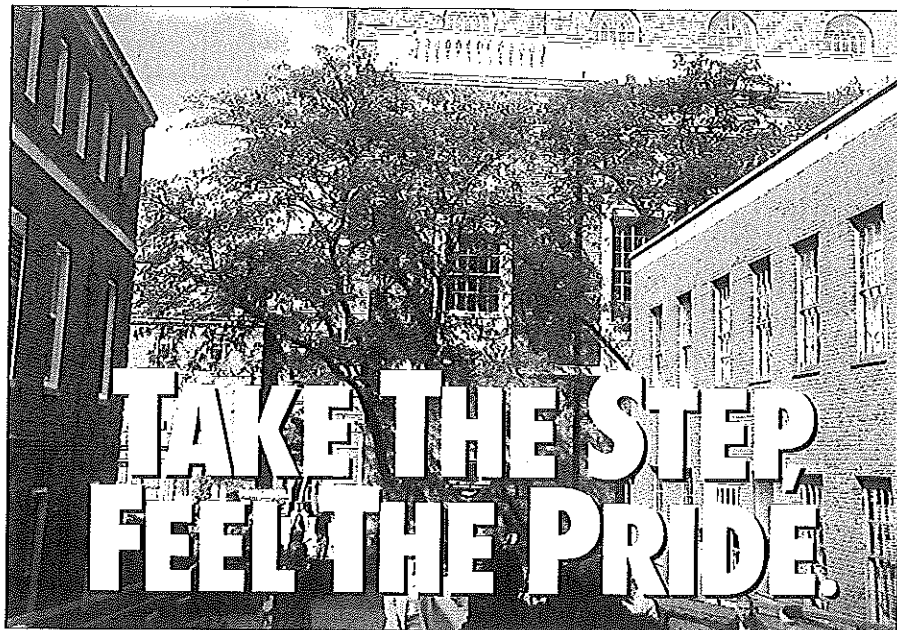
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new courses and programs in response to emerging needs. One such certificate program, debuting this fall, is in business continuity planning. It aims to enable private-sector executives to develop and manage plans for maintaining business operations in the midst of natural disasters or terrorist attacks.

"Corporations are increasingly forming business continuity plans," said Howard Greenstein, director of the Center for Management, which administers the program. "In emergencies, businesses need to know where their information is, where people should go and what their responsibilities are to business partners and shareholders."

On the heels of this program will come two related certificates in emergency management and homeland security. Beginning in spring 2005 and designed for public- and private-sector professionals alike, these certificate programs will focus on themes such as preparedness, risk assessment and mitigation. These programs will attract a diverse group of professionals from across New York, but NYU's perspective, like that of its host city, extends to the international arena. Cementing this commitment is the school's newly formed Center for Global Affairs.

With jobs constantly requiring new skills and adults seeking career advancement and change, continuing education is more in demand than ever. "Many people find themselves without a degree and therefore boxed out of a promotion and management-level jobs," said Dean David

Finney. "Even those with a bachelor's are discovering that a master's degree directly related to a specific career would be very useful."



Herbert M. Chain
NYU School of Continuing
and Professional Studies

Marine geologists dig deep below the surface to uncover hidden realities, just as professionals from other walks of life dig deep within themselves to find new callings, new passions, new beginnings. With the help of NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies, Herb Chain uncovered his.

A partner with Deloitte & Touche LLP for 16 years, Chain works with companies that manage other people's money. His Investment Management Services Group deals with clients from around the world, and Chain's 27-year career has brought him to the farthest reaches of the globe.

But Chain didn't originally embark on that path. He studied marine geology at Duke University and pursued graduate work in that field at another university before making the leap to the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of Business.

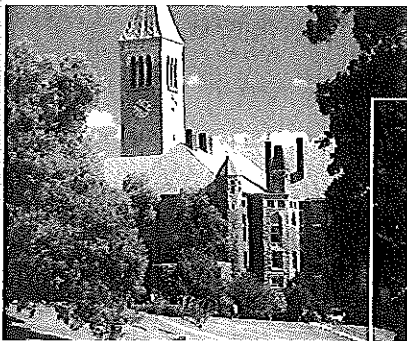
As his career with Deloitte & Touche progressed, Chain recognized that asset management was becoming a global industry, and emerging performance standards for the field were beginning to reflect this international focus. In turn, he began taking courses at NYU in international affairs, and six courses later he had earned a certificate. This fall he'll enter the new master's in Global Studies, eyeing an eventual career change.

"I have 10 years left until retirement," Chain said, "and I'll be looking for something meaningful to do. I want to become an adjunct professor of global studies and share with students the experience and knowledge I've gained. I knew I needed a master's specifically in this field, and NYU's program is spot-on with what I want to do."

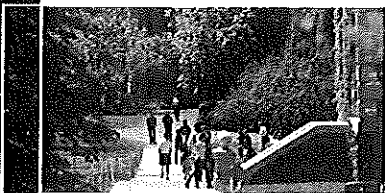
Adults might also consider what Cornell University has to offer. Based in Ithaca, Cornell maintains a strong commitment to service through extension programs located in six cities across New York. Its Manhattan campus, on 34th Street in midtown, is home to the **Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations**. The school offers courses, workshops and certificate programs in human resources, diversity management and equal employment opportunities, among other areas.

In addition to its nondegree offerings, the school features a master's of professional studies in industrial and labor relations. Students drawn to this program come from fields such as human resources, law and consulting. Designed for working professionals, the part-time program runs two years. Classes are held on Saturdays over four semesters, coupled with two two-week summer sessions on Cornell's Ithaca campus.

"We get people wanting to become involved in human resources or collective bargaining, or who want to work as mediators or arbitrators in dispute resolution," said professor Harry Katz. "Others are already working in these fields and want to move into more strategic roles."



left | McGraw Tower at Cornell
below | Cornell University campus



Cornell's Ivy neighbor also offers programs for nontraditional students. The Columbia University School of General Studies serves returning students who want to earn an undergraduate degree while attending full- or part-time, mostly during the day. Students attend classes along with traditional undergraduates. General Studies is therefore the choice for nontraditional students who want a traditional undergraduate Ivy League experience.

"Our mission is to provide an Ivy League education to men and women who wouldn't normally fit the Ivy model," said Dean Peter Awn. "These students are fully mainstream and aren't segregated from the rest of the student population."

The average General Studies student is 29, but Columbia welcomes recent high school graduates who for compelling reasons must attend part time. "Our student body varies enormously," Awn said. "We get people who had to work very hard as young adults and didn't have time for education early on. And we also get people who crashed and burned in previous attempts at higher education."

Like other continuing education programs, General Studies aims to create success stories, to fashion advantage out of disadvantage, to enable students to find a calling and a purpose through the power of educational opportunity.

Witness Heidee Stoller, General Studies class of 2002. A high school dropout at age 14, Stoller wandered the streets of Seattle, moving from one place to the next in an aimless existence. She managed to earn a GED and become something of an activist while trying to avoid trouble. In her late 20's she sampled a state college but found it unstimulating. Then she found Columbia. Three years later she was graduating as valedictorian, with a degree in economics, and heading to Yale Law School. "When I was younger, I didn't even know what the Ivy League was," said Stoller, who wants to pursue human rights or public interest law. "It wasn't on my radar. But I found

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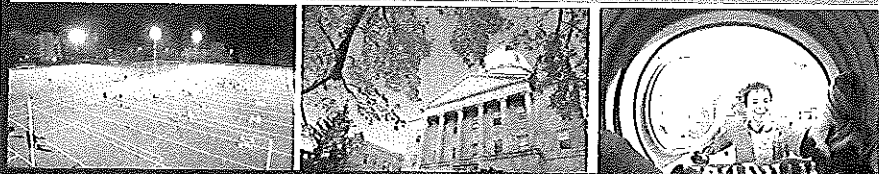
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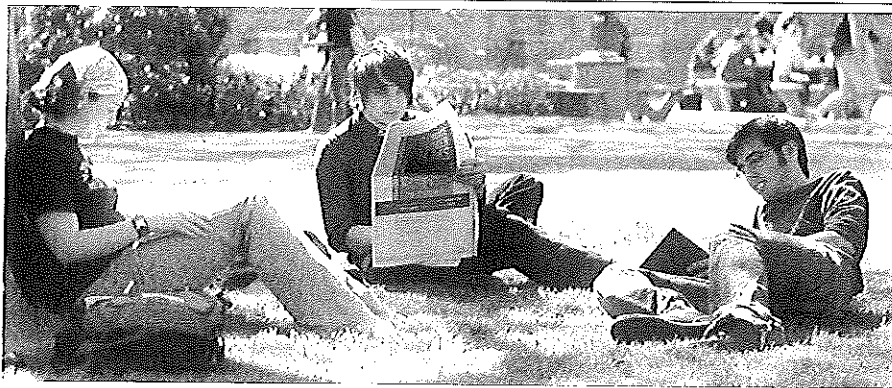
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General Studies fantastic. It's all about taking talented people and giving them access to opportunities they'd otherwise not have."



Students relaxing on the CCNY campus

■ ■ The honor roll call

As we've seen, New York doesn't suffer from a shortage of colleges for outstanding students of all ages. But what if you're looking to be challenged just a bit more, to be pushed to the fringes of your abilities and perhaps stretched beyond what you thought you could accomplish? If you count yourself among the most academically ambitious, consider an honors program.

The City University of New York (CUNY) has long been known for attracting some of the best and brightest, but only recently did it establish an Honors College. Once admitted to one of the seven campuses operating this program, students receive four-year scholarships covering tuition and fees. They also receive a free laptop computer and an academic expense account worth \$7,500 to cover the cost of studying abroad or conducting research. What's more, honors students receive a "cultural passport" providing discounts and free admission to museums and musical and theater productions.

Established in 2001, the college attracts students who come mostly from New York but also hail from other states and countries. They're a talented bunch, with SAT scores averaging more than 1340. And they're diverse; about half are minority students, and two-thirds are immigrants or the children of immigrants. One in 10 applicants is accepted.

"We wanted to create a program that would tap into the full complement of the university's academic opportunities," said CUNY chancellor Matthew Goldstein. "By pulling all these campuses together for this program, we're generating a more robust, deeper intellectual experience for our most able students." Myra Cheng is one such student. Originally from China, Cheng is a senior majoring in psychology at Hunter College. She's pre-med and wants to become an emergency room doctor. Her summer internship enabled her to sharpen her research skills and test her emergency room acumen.

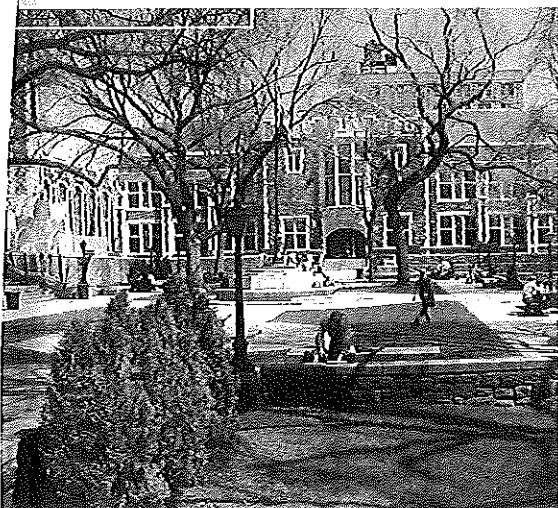
"I've loved every moment so far," Cheng said of her



An anthropology class at City University of New York

Honors College experience. "Students get so much attention, and advisors are always there for you. It's like a big family." But why emergency rooms, a place most people hope to avoid? "It fits my personality," she admitted. "I like the fast pace."

Her counterparts at the City College of New York, another CUNY school, can also participate in rigorous academic training. Founded to provide educational opportunity to underprivileged youth and new immigrants, CCNY has been a pathway to the American dream for five generations.



The heart of the City College campus

Although not small — it enrolls nearly 11,000 students — City College gives undergraduates a chance to work closely with faculty on research projects, even if they're not enrolled in the honors program. The college has built a strong reputation for creating research partnerships between students and faculty, so much so that it's won grant funding to support such efforts, particularly in the sciences.

"Close to half of our students wind up doing research," said Maria Tamargo, dean of science. "Most of these are upperclassmen, but the trend here is to interest students in research right as they arrive on campus."

Paul Thomson, a recent graduate, can attest to the powerful effects of this kind of experience. Thomson, from Jamaica, entered City College eyeing a career in medicine. But by the time he reached his senior year, thoughts of medical school had morphed into plans to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry at CUNY's graduate center. "For me, research just had a stronger attraction," Thomson said. "My time in the lab really opened my eyes to the different options I had." Thomson hopes to continue his work on DNA compounds and their potential for curing cancer. "As a doctor, I'd be helping one person at a time," he said. "This way, I can help a whole bunch in one shot."



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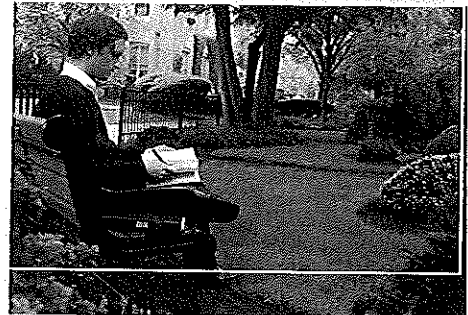
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Research opportunities also abound just to the east, at Hofstra University in Hempstead. This private university enrolls roughly 14,000 students, of whom 8,300 are undergraduates pursuing degrees in a whopping 130 fields of study. Undergraduates in the liberal arts can enroll in the more traditional arts and sciences school or opt for "New College," a smaller unit that offers purely interdisciplinary courses and concentrations.

In either case, the most academically gifted students can choose Hofstra's Honors College. Now in its fourth year, the college features its own curriculum and offers its own degree, which students earn in addition to their bachelor's in an academic discipline. Like some other programs we've seen, Hofstra's hinges on close interaction between students and faculty, often resulting in research collaborations and individual mentoring.

Heather Gibbons, a senior from Connecticut majoring in biology and political science, said the Honors College attracted her to Hofstra. "The draw is that you're living, studying and socializing with the same group of students," said Gibbons, who plans to become a pharmaceutical patent lawyer. "You actually feel like

you're in a small college, even though you're at a large university. The faculty and deans know everyone by name."



A Hofstra student finds a quiet moment

Even more great places to learn

Still unsure about your choices? Haven't yet found the right fit? Then let's visit more institutions. Perhaps you're searching for a high-tech education with a strong career orientation. If so, look no further than the New York Institute of Technology, a private institution enrolling more than 11,000 students on three area campuses. Students learn the practical applications of science and engineering, and faculty help them make connections between the classroom and the real world.

"We focus on applied research and prepare students for work," said Heskia Heskiaoff, dean of the School of Engineering and Technology. "Our professors' main objective is to teach. That's why you'll never see graduate assistants teaching our classes."

Computer science enthusiasts and fans of police detective shows might find NYIT's new programs of particular interest. In response to growing demand for computer and information security experts, the School of Engineering has created bachelor's and master's degree programs in these areas.

For people hoping to take noncredit courses or to earn a certificate, NYIT offers ample choices through its School of Global and Extended Education. Many part-time adult learners take advantage of programs in fields as wide-ranging as interior decorating and culinary arts. Also, professionals can upgrade their résumés with licensure courses in areas such as architecture and engineering.

"Many people want to gain skills but don't want the burden of meeting all the requirements for a degree," said Dean Kenneth Thigpen.

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A rainy day on the Hofstra University campus

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If you're keen to gain skills in photography, graphic design, architecture or motion picture editing, consider the **Academy of Art University** in San Francisco, which offers degrees in 12 fields and boasts strong connections with leading studios such as Pixar.

Yes, it's based on the opposite coast, but the academy is everywhere, including New York. That's because you can take classes online at your convenience, choosing from among 277 courses.

Yet another academy focuses on the art of motion picture production. **The New York Film Academy** believes that a top-quality education in filmmaking should be available to anyone with the drive and ambition to make films. The academy occupies the historic Tammany Hall building in Manhattan and features campus locations across the country and in Europe. Only a dozen years old, it's already the world's largest independent film school.

"All we do is filmmaking," said Jerry Sherlock, the academy's director, "so we can devote our resources to instruction in film production and acting. And because we're small, we can be flexible in meeting the needs of our students."

Workshops last anywhere from a month to a year, typically running four or eight weeks. Designed for students with little or no related experience, workshops concentrate on the elements of visual storytelling that enable students to direct their own films. Faculty for these programs includes current filmmakers and producers. The goal here is for students to write, direct and edit their own films, and then to screen them and engage in constructive discussions and critiques with peers. "An example of your work is your best résumé," Sherlock said. "That's why people come here: to produce work."

Graduates follow various career paths around the world. Some direct commercials or music videos. Others seek employment with major studios. Still others attempt to produce their own independent films. Whatever they choose, they remain mindful of one overriding maxim: The film industry is a

tough business with no guarantees. "We can't teach talent," Sherlock said. "Filmmaking at best is a very difficulty profession, but if you do have talent and tenacity, you can rise to the top."

To be fair, few institutions absolutely guarantee that you'll enjoy your educational experience or that you'll find employment when it's all said and done. But **Pace University** is making one ironclad guarantee: Your tuition will not increase.

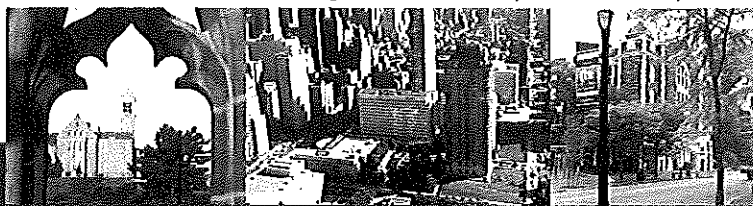
Starting this fall, Pace is guaranteeing full-time undergraduate students that their tuition will not rise for up to five years as long as they stay registered. Similarly, financial aid will remain stable as long as family circumstances and federal formulas don't change. What's more, Pace says all required courses will be available for students who want to graduate on time. "In an age of uncertainty, we think it will be nice to know some things don't change," said President David Caputo. "Students deserve predictability."

Of course, learning doesn't begin and end with higher education. It begins when we're children and continues for a lifetime. Along that journey, it's important to prepare for the rigors of college while in secondary school.

Thankfully, New York is blessed with great places to start. Among them is the **New York Military Academy**, in Cornwall-on-Hudson, which helps students sharpen their intellect, forge a strong character, develop themselves physically and learn leadership skills.

That just about concludes our brief tour of New York higher education. Whatever institution you choose and whatever path you follow, may you enjoy the learning experience.

left to right | Cornell University, Fordham University, CCNY



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