

Albright College Profile

Founded in 1856, Albright College is a small private liberal arts & sciences institution located in Reading Pennsylvania. The school itself is situated geographically in the suburban neighborhood of Hampden Heights within the City of Reading. The footprint of the site is split into 2 facilities, one being the main campus on the eastern edge of the site, and the second being the massive sports facility on the western edge. 13th Street separates both sides of the campus with Rockland, and Union Streets maintaining the north and south borders. Albright College is unique because it has a small private school feel to it, while still being big enough to support several large sports facilities. The school is relatively large geographically for a private institution but it feels smaller than the observed landscape.

The college has a relatively large footprint of approximately 118 acres of property within a short driving distance to the City of Reading. The physical layout observes several historic buildings shared by students, and local residents. The campus itself has approximately 36 buildings including lecture, residential, research, and dining facilities. Albright also has a sports pavilion on the western edge of campus that houses several fitness centers and team facilities. The overall campus map is typical for a university setting with wide sidewalks, grass field meeting places, and park like benches. The pedestrian flow of traffic within the facility was centered around the Gingrich Library, and the Campus Center during my daytime visit.

Students were also observed on 13th Street, and Bern Street walking toward several facilities including the Bollman Fitness Center, and the residence halls on the northern side of campus. My tour guide told me that students enjoy several areas of the campus including the green areas outside the Science, and Masters Halls during comfortable weather days because they can run around Science Field and still study with the help of small blackboards. The Center for the Arts also becomes a notable outside meeting place within the campus with students enjoying the landscape in all weather conditions. These areas of the campus get busy at all hours of the day when school is in session according to my student guide.

The campus buildings and open spaces were clean and well maintained during my observations. These open spaces allow students the ability to interact with each other in a non-educational manner due to the high number of observed meeting places on campus. Albright students, faculty, and employees enjoy a community, within a community lifestyle in regard to on, and off campus activities and resources. The college also provides several critical student resources including student housing on campus for all 4 years, which helps students connect with each other throughout the year.

The published demographic information for the college describes a culturally diverse student population with students from all across the world. Albright College has developed a large campus community to offer students a Liberal Arts and Science, and Engineering educational format to enhance it's commitment to different types of career endeavors.

Albright College: The college is home to relatively small campus population of approximately 662 male, and 961 female full, and 235 male, and 307 female part-time students. The school has 23 male, and 55 female students enrolled in graduate school programs. The average age of a freshman is 18 years old. 63% of students are from Pennsylvania. Others are from 26 states, and 28 foreign countries. Students on campus provide a diverse multi-cultural makeup including 76% of students are white, 2% Asian Americans, 8% are Black, 5% are Hispanic, and 9% the race is unknown.

Published Academic Standards for Admission Programs

Albright has a large educational system for a small private school, which offers Liberal Arts, and Sciences, and Engineering programs. Below is a specific list of under graduate admission requirements.

Albright College: Freshman Class: 3,353 applied, 2,595 accepted, 512 enrolled. SAT Verbal 500, SAT Math 510. Application Deadline: Is Open

Faculty/ Classroom: 52% of faculty is male, 48% female. All both teach Undergraduates. The average class size in an introductory lecture is 25; laboratory, 15; and in a regular course, 18.

Student / Faculty Ratio: 15 to 1

Retention Rate: 21% do not continue beyond 1st year, 59% remain to graduate.

Campus Footprint: An observation of the internal campus setting provides students and employees with several types of student services including physical fitness, residence, library services, and cultural meeting places and dining halls. I observed heavy pedestrian traffic from this area of the campus due to the location of the dining hall, and the time of day. The internal design of the school is shaped like an oval with students reading, eating, and talking to each other in the middle of several campus Quads. This an interesting point to make in regard to the school's location within a combination rural/ suburban community. When you walk onto the Albright campus you forget where you are for the moment, the campus landscape is active.

The college's observed focal point of reference during the campus tour was the area in, and around Memorial Hall, which is the center of the campus. Student pedestrian sidewalks all converge at this point from several locations around the campus including the academic, and residence halls. When you look at the campus map you can easily observe the main focal point. My tour guide told us that students come to the grassy areas around the student center to relax and talk about school and life.

The design and physical setting of Albright isn't unique for a suburban campus situated within a small Pennsylvanian city. The physical security footprint of the college has a combination of exterior metal fencing, along with physical landscaping around the school's perimeter to give it a welcoming, and private community feel to it. These physical barriers provide access control to several vehicle, and pedestrian entrances, which requires I.D. for access control in the day, and night as well. The internal campus

landscape is unique because the school is split into 2 parts, including several mixed use sporting facilities along the northern, and western edge of the campus that has several residence, and student services halls in close proximity to this busy area. All the college's buildings are relatively close together including the performing arts, and recreation facility for easy access from all points of the campus.

The physical setting of the university allows students to get away from classes to retreat to individual residence halls, which are located on both ends of the school. These types of structures enhance the campus lifestyle within the schools sprawling footprint. The buildings geographical design features form a large oval in which students can enter, and leave the campus from several locations. Parking resources is also a big feature on campus due to the limited number of parking permits issued to students and employees. Parking is a big challenge for public safety at Albright because the college is located in a suburban/rural community with a limited number of public transportation resources for students, employees, and visitors. Students at Albright are encouraged to share personal transportation resources to help limit the need for student parking permits.

The college is also linked together by several city streets within it's real estate holdings with virtually all of the college's lecture halls, arts & science pavilions, residence halls, and historic buildings tied within it's large real estate holdings. The layout of the college is unique because students can retreat to their residence halls, or they can walk, or drive on 13th Street to experience a small city environment. The drive to downtown Reading is approximately 15 minutes from the school for students who want a more active social lifestyle. These types of educational, and social resources enhance the overall campus community lifestyle within Albright because students can travel to different areas of the city in a relatively short period of time.

Finally, Albright has a classic historical northeastern campus feel to it because the school is located in a small factory city in central Pennsylvania. The community itself is relatively self-contained with several local restaurants, bars, and shops, which allows for additional social, and cultural opportunities for students to enjoy during the year. This area is filled with historic architecture including old factory buildings that were converted into mixed residential properties. The college takes up a relatively small portion of real estate within the overall area of Reading with 118 acres and over 36 buildings. I have mentioned a description of the real estate holdings because you are more likely to see an Albright public safety official than a local Police Officer from the Reading Police Department in the area of 13th Street.

Local weather: Weather is also an issue to consider for students preparing for a college experience. Reading enjoys all four seasons of weather including a large amount of snow. Northeast weather patterns sometimes allow for temperatures to drop below 32 degrees for a considerable amount of time during the winter. Pennsylvania also gets it's share of rain during the spring and summer months as well. A strong indicator of pedestrian traffic around the college can be identified by the northeast weather patterns. Student parking within close proximity to buildings and student shuttle services help reduce the exposure literally and figuratively.

Community Profile

Reading Pennsylvania has been described as a small city that was built around its Railroad Company and beautiful Pennsylvania Dutch countryside. The city also has a long industrial history due to its relationship geographically to Allentown and Lancaster Pennsylvania. Reading has also been described as a family centered residential community within driving distance to these, and several other cities including Harrisburg, and Philadelphia. Reading also has an intellectual side due to its historical neighborhood architecture and close physical relationship to Albright College. This suburban neighborhood is favorable to students and local residents because it offers local pedestrian walkways along 13th Street, which links students, and local residents to several restaurants and local shops on Route 222 within the city.

The Hampden Heights community has a small city feel to it when you are walking to neighborhood eateries on the southern edge of town. Residents and students also enjoy several social destinations when driving to downtown Reading including local eateries featuring hometown style food. You won't find that many national food, and consumer chains in the area. If you want these types of services you have to get back on Route 222 & 78 and drive through the Pennsylvania Dutch countryside where you will find national restaurant and hotel chains.

The City of Reading itself is located within the center of the state, which makes it convenient to several suburban communities and highway networks. Amtrak provides regional rail service along the Keystone Line which links to several large cities within the northwestern corridor. Reading also has several main roadways that connect the community to major state highways including Route 222, 78 and 476 that links to the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and Interstate 95. Shopping, restaurants, and hotel chains can be found within these major transportation networks after a short drive from the campus. Appendix #1 on the back page of this profile lists several of observed resources in close proximity to the school.

The following demographics for the town of Reading Pennsylvania describe a multi-cultural community within a total population of 81,183 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Albright College has strong relationship with the city because they share community services including public safety, and cultural resources. An example of this commitment can be observed through the college's community services handbook that describes educational, and health care programs and services.

A Census Bureau community survey highlights several characteristics to describe the population including: 48% residents are male, 52% are female. 59% of residents are white, 12% are African American, 27% is Hispanic or Latino, and 2% are Asian. The median age of population is 30.6 years old. 70% of residents are 18 years old or over, 65 % are over 21, and 12% of city residents is over the age of 65. The issue of housing in Reading is also interesting. 88% of all housing units within the city are occupied. 49% of housing units are renter-occupied, while 51% of units are owner-occupied. 12% of total available housing was vacant.

Campus Life

Albright College is a multi-cultural campus environment that provides students with a relaxed social, and educational atmosphere. The admissions demographics paint a picture of a very diverse community with students from all over the world. The local community of Reading only adds to the college's international status because the community has multi-cultural roots as well. The Albright campus has also been going through a growth period with new campus facilities for students, administrators, educators, and local residents to enjoy. The college is in the process of upgrading its academic facilities including a total renovation of Merner-Pfeiffer's Hall of Science that highlights the school's commitment to higher education now, and in the future.

The emotional climate of the campus community is positive because students are involved with local community, and campus groups. An observation of this positive emotional climate can be found by looking at the student flyers posted within several common areas of the school. These flyers describe upcoming activities and they invite all students to enjoy the clubs, performing arts, and public discussions on world events. Albright students went as far as hanging banners inside the student, and fitness centers to invite students to attend social events on campus, which was very nice to see.

This issue of school culture and emotional attachment is also a very important part of campus life because everyone wants to have a connection and emotional fit to their new school and community. Albright has done a good job developing positive social systems with its students by providing a series of coordinated programs including workshops and seminars for freshman students. This type of process provides a foundation for learning and personal growth providing over 70 academic clubs, student organizations, and 7 intramural sports activities for men, and women. Albright also has a Greek presence on campus with 28% of male students belonging to 3 national fraternities, and 32% of female students involved with 3 national sororities.

Campus life at Albright can be considered very active due to several notable student venues including the numerous sports venues and fitness centers. The college also has a student run performing arts venue within the Center for Performing Arts. These on campus facilities allows students to enjoy more than academic excellence, it gives them the opportunity to experience school sports, fraternities, performing arts, history, cultural events, restaurants, and local museums.

Finally, Albright has several global education centers on campus for students to learn, and gather information about volunteering in the community, studying abroad, and applying for externships in corporate America, which a lot of students do according to my student guide. Students can also enjoy big campus sports events on several fields around campus including the school's stadium in the middle of the school map. Albright students enjoy watching, and participating in 11 NCAA Division III Varsity Sports for Men, and 11 for women within the highly competitive Centennial Conference.

Student Housing: The purpose of student housing is to provide safe and reasonable accommodations for students living away from home. The issue of housing and dormitory life is a critical element of overall campus life because students spend a large amount of time in their rooms. Student housing units historically come in 3 different styles including traditional corridor, suite, and apartment style units.

Albright guarantees on campus housing for all four years of campus life. Students who have filed their intent to reside on campus by the stated deadline and who have continuously registered as full time students receive housing. The school has started upgrading housing resources for all students through it's capital improvement initiatives. Albright also has a unique way of providing housing for students. The college doesn't have freshman dorms; it has upper classmen living on the floors above, and below so new students can learn, what they need to learn about the school in a more relaxed fashion. Information about housing can be found on the quick links page of this document.

Off Campus Housing: Albright has been described as a small private college within a small residential community. The reason I have mentioned the overall community is to re-assert the point that Albright's network of facilities has encapsulated it's real estate holdings within the suburban Reading area of Hampden Heights. The campus footprint allows every student to have housing within walking distance to college facilities. The issue of off campus housing has a different feel to it compared to other college housing demands. The college itself has 69% of it's student population living on campus which helps reduce the need, or demand for off campus housing. Students who want off campus housing can find information about available resources on the quick links page.

Public Transportation: Campus transportation resources for Albright's students are available through the college's shuttle system, which provides van service for daily classes, student activities, and links to local shopping and restaurants. This service is crucial to students who don't have cars because it provides transportation services to the entire college community. The school's van service provides reliable transportation to students who don't, or can't have vehicles on campus. The college also has a very large number of out of state students who don't know the streets and highways very well. Knowing the area is key because students who come from local states may know the area better and may be able to walk or drive to local destinations.

Description of Campus Public Safety Plans & Procedures: Campus communities are unique places due to their populations and physical layouts. In some areas of the United States you really can't tell where a campus begins or ends because people walk through, drive through, and take campus transportation through all areas of the campus footprint. Albright College has developed public safety plans and procedures to keep students, and employees safe. The school's general public safety plans and procedures can be found in the document " Emergency Preparedness Plan " which gives students and employees a list of instructions, procedures, codes of conduct, and response strategies to follow while on campus. This information can be found in the college's Annual Public Safety Report. The college emergency plan information can be found on the quick links page under On Campus Emergency Resources:

Crisis Management Plans & Procedures Local Community: Historically, FEMA has identified risk factors within specific geographical areas of the United States. The western states have fires and earthquakes, the mid-west has tornados, the gulf, and eastern seaboard states have hurricanes. And finally, the northeast has a combination of snow and wind related weather events. Each area of the United States requires crisis management plans to help people recover from disaster events.

The State of Pennsylvania has developed emergency management resources to help residents to prepare, respond, and recover from a host of natural, and man made events. The state agency responsible for emergency operations is the Emergency Management Agency. Contact information for this state agency www.readypa.org

Innovative Emergency Communications: Albright has developed reverse 911 systems that send several types of emergency notifications through e-mail and phone text message systems. Campus alerts, and weather related information is sent through this system. The college also has active shooter protocols for students to follow during an emergency including lock-down, and lockout procedures.

Campus Access Control & Security Systems: The design, and physical setting of a particular institution has elements relating to the overall culture and social system on campus. Since college and university campuses are designed to offer (open) movement of people through it's borders, the issue of design, along with effective use of space can reduce both the incidence, and fear of crime. This design feature is called "Crime Prevention through Environmental Control." The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life. The issues of identifying formal gathering and high-risk areas within a campus footprint are also critical to public safety resources because manpower must be observed in these areas.

The design and physical setting of Albright College isn't unique for a suburban campus because the footprint is encapsulated within a small city in Pennsylvania. The campus footprint itself highlights several historic buildings, and large grassy areas, which form a large barrier around the main campus. These buildings, along with natural, and man-made landscaping form a large oval that's several city block long, and wide. These physical security design features seem to have enhanced the footprint by using natural, and manmade resources to limit access to the overall campus.

The college itself has several entrances and exits to maximize the pedestrian traffic flow within the facility, the issue of vehicle traffic on campus is higher than normal due to the rural setting and a limited number of public transportation resources. Albright's public safety department deploys officers to several access points around the campus during the day and night to reduce the number of people who may not have legitimate business on campus. Public safety also maintains visitor screening with clearly worded signage that directs visitors to a welcome area within Selwyn Hall (Admissions), visitors who wish to walk around the campus without an escort can, but only during daylight hours.

Formal gathering areas within the Albright's campus are situated in, and around several locations within the facility including the Campus Center, the Bollman Sports Pavilion, the Performing Arts center, Science Field, and the college's field house on game day. The exterior gathering areas included the Rockland Professional Center, and the Albright Woods Apartments on 13th Street. These areas are the main observed focal points of the campus with several large grassy areas in and around the lecture, and the campus center. The quad outside Alumni Hall is a textbook example of CPTED design because it allows for natural surveillance and open space for people to enjoy while still providing some type of ownership within the property. The college's quad outside Crowell Hall also has textbook CPTED security features.

The issue of high-risk areas on campus has been identified during annual risk assessments by security, and feedback by all intuitional stakeholders including public safety officials. The Public Safety Department maintains uniform patrol, fixed security posts, and high tech remote resources to highlight formal surveillance throughout the campus. The department also has security officers patrolling on foot in several high-risk areas including the student center, sports venues, residence halls, and the library. Albright's public safety officers also patrol the exterior of the college in several types of vehicles including 4-wheel drive trucks.

Albright College's public safety officers have received formal training from the Pennsylvania State Police, which gives them formal arrest powers. Public safety officials have the training, and experience to investigate criminal activity on campus. The school's public safety department has also developed enhanced lighting, and formal surveillance resources (CCTV) for perimeter areas because it helps with surveillance and gives students and visitors an enhanced feeling of safety and security. The campus high-risk areas including the residence halls require a higher degree of natural and formal surveillance for students and visitors. Albright uses HD style student card readers for the purpose of access control to residence hall facilities. This security technology identifies Albright's commitment to residence hall security.

Descriptions of Published Policies and Procedures to Comply with the Clery Act

The Clery Act. The Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires all postsecondary institutions participating in the Title IV student financial aid programs to disclose campus crime statistics, university violations and disciplinary data, and finally security information to the U.S. Department of Education on an annual basis. The legislation also describes several required policy statements that address public safety and security issues. Below is a sample list of Clery Act Policy Statements for colleges and universities to publish each year within their prospective crime report/audits.

Required policy statements include: addressing timely warnings, disclosure of crime statistics, reporting criminal offenses, confidential reporting, security and access control, arrest authority, security awareness programs, crime prevention programs, sex offenses, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, substance abuse programs, and general codes of conduct. Albright's Clery Act info can be found on the quick links page.

Caveat: Albright’s public safety officers have arrest powers; patrol supervisors also have State Police Special Officer Training that provides comprehensive resources in the public safety profession. The school does respond to emergency calls with the help of the Reading Police Department. The college also provides security resources on campus but the following statement from the department education offers this advice. “ The department data reported by the institutions have not been subjected to independent verification by the U.S. Department of Education. Therefore, e department cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data. Albright’s Clery Act crime data can be found at: <http://ope.ed.gov/security/Index.aspx>

Local Crime Statistics: The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Report for 2008 has developed crime statistics for Reading Pennsylvania. In 2008 the Police Department reported 868 Violent Crimes, 10 Murders, 33 Forcible Rapes, 452 Robberies, 373 Aggravated Assaults, 4,208 Property Crimes, 1,268 Burglaries, 2,150 Larceny Thefts, and finally 790 Motor Vehicle Thefts. The crime of Arson was reported 40 times in 2008.

Emergency Medical Technicians: Albright College has Emergency Medical Technicians who respond from the Reading Fire/EMS to provide ambulance service to students, residents, and visitors through emergency notification systems. Below is the contact information for services, and general information for the local hospitals.

Reading Pennsylvania Community Quick Links

City of Reading Home Page: www.readingpa.gov/

Police Department: www.readingpa.gov/police_department.asp

Fire Department: www.readingpa.gov/fire_rescue.asp

Reading EMS: www.readingpa.gov/fire_rescue.asp

Reading Hospital & Medical Center
6th Ave & Spruce Street, West Reading P.A. 19611
(610) 988-8000 or www.readinghospital.org/

Albright College Quick Links Page

Home Page: www.albright.edu

Admissions: www.albright.edu/admission/welcome.html

Financial Aid: www.albright.edu/admission/finaid.html

Student Activities: www.albright.edu/campuslife/clubs.html#activities

Athletic & Performing Arts Event Tickets: www.albrightathletics.com/index.aspx & www.albright.edu/centerforthearts/tickets.html

Student Clubs & Organizations: www.albright.edu/campuslife/clubs.htm#org

Fraternity & Sorority Life: www.albright.edu/campuslife/clubs.html#greek

School Newspaper: www.albright.edu/albrightian

Student Center:

www.albright.edu/about/campustour/virtualtours/campuscenter.html

Public Transportation Services: www.bartabus.com/

Information Technology Center: www.albright.edu/itservices/

Health Insurance: www.albright.edu/resources/healthcenter/optional-insurance

Health Services: www.albright.edu/resources/healthcenter/services.html

On Campus Emergency Resources: www.albright.edu/resources/security/

Student Housing: www.albright.edu/campuslife/housing/index.html

University Meal Plan: www.albright.edu/foodservices/mealplans.html

Off Campus Housing: www.albright.edu/housing/off-campus.html

Campus Parking: www.albright.edu/resources/security/Parking-Regulations.pdf

Public Safety Plans: www.albright.edu/resources/security/communityresponse.html

Emergency Communication: www.e2campus.com/my/alb/

Clery Act Policies & Procedures: www.albright.edu/resources/security/sec-clearly.html

Reading Pennsylvania Area Hotel Quick Links Page

Country Inn & Suites
405 North Park Road
Reading P.A. 19610

Hampton Inn Reading
1800 Paper Mill Road
Reading P.A. 19610

Homeland Suites Hotel
2801 Paper Mill Road
Reading P.A. 19610

Days Inn Reading
Paper Mill Road
Reading P.A. 19610

The Inn at Reading
1040 Park Road
Reading P.A. 19610

Wyndam Hotel Reading
100 North Fifth Street
Reading P.A. 19610

Crowne Plaza Reading
1741 Paper Mill Road
Reading P.A. 19610

Below is a sample list of local restaurants in Reading P.A. National restaurant chains & shopping resources can be found on Route 12 & 222. A complete list of local restaurants in Reading Pennsylvania can be found at: www.foodio54.com

Dan's Restaurant: 1049 Penn Street, Reading P.A. (610) 373-2075

Chef Alan's Restaurant: 6 Penn Ave, Reading P.A. (610) 374-1831

Kramer's Peanut Bar Restaurant: 332 Penn Street, Reading P.A. (610) 376-8500

West Reading Diner: 411 Penn Ave, Reading P.A. (610) 376-5565

Canal Street Pub & Restaurant: 535 Canal Street, Reading P.A. (610) 376-4009

D&J Sandwich Shop: 200 Revere Blvd, Reading P.A. (610) 775-1404

Shopping, entertainment, historical, and general tourist information, about the City, of Reading Pennsylvania can be found at: www.readingberkspa.com

