

College of New Jersey University Profile

The College of New Jersey was established in 1855 and is currently one of the largest public colleges in New Jersey's state education system, which has approximately 10 schools. TCNJ is unique because it's located within minutes of the state capital of Trenton, and the historic town of Princeton. The college is located in the quiet suburban town of Ewing New Jersey, which is in Mercer County. The footprint of the site is large for a State school with approximately 289 acres of park like property that winds through the local township.

The campus has approximately 40 buildings including lecture, sports, performing arts, and student housing facilities. The issue of student housing is an interesting subject at TCNJ because the campus is going through a substantial growth period in regard to student housing. Student housing is guaranteed for freshman and sophomore students on campus but upper classman housing is becoming available due to the construction of student apartments and townhouse facilities. It seems that TCNJ is trying to change it's image of a suit case college by providing beautiful new housing for students to limit their escape on the weekends.

The internal campus setting provides students and employees with several types of student services including physical fitness, library services, and cultural meeting places and dining halls. TCNJ's observed focal point of reference during my campus visit was the main sidewalk from the dining hall to the academic buildings and library. I observed heavy pedestrian traffic from this area of the campus. The physical footprint of this particular area is designed like a big triangle with every main sidewalk meeting at this one spot.

The college also observes several roads and parking lots that allow students to walk onto campus at several different locations. This physical design feature gives visitors the feeling of a campus that is spread out with several entrances and exits for people to choose from. The buildings within the site are also arranged so students can walk to their classes from a number of campus parking facilities. The physical layout is shaped like a big square with dormitories on one side of the campus and the sports stadium on the other side. The lecture halls and campus administrative offices can be found in the middle with parking lots on the outside.

The College of New Jersey Demographics: TCNJ is home to approximately 2432 male, and 3293 female full time students. The university has 63 male, and 107 female part time students enrolled. The graduate school also has 180 male, and 693 female students enrolled. The average age of a freshman is 18 years old; all undergraduates are 20 years old. 95% of students are state residents with the rest coming from 6 other states, and 15 foreign countries. 77% of students are white. 8% are Hispanic, and 15% are African American. The total number of students with on campus housing is 6,768 according to published handouts.

The College of New Jersey offers Liberal Arts and Sciences and Engineering programs for undergraduate students. Below is a list of specific admission requirements for admission.

The College of New Jersey: Freshman Class: 8607 applied, 4005 accepted, and 1297 enrolled to the school.

SAT Verbal 630, SAT Math 650. Application Deadline February 15

Faculty/ Classroom: 53% of faculty is male, 47% female. All teach Undergraduates. The average class size in an introductory lecture is 23; and 20 in laboratory, and finally 21 in a regular course.

Student / Faculty Ratio: 17 to 1

Retention Rate: 5% do not continue beyond 1st year, 81% remain to graduate.

Campus Footprint: The overall physical layout of the campus is typical of a college setting with wide sidewalks, grass field meeting places, and park like benches. The pedestrian flow of traffic within the facility was centered in the middle of campus due to the time of day. The buildings and open spaces of the facility were reasonably clean and maintained during my observations. I observed students enjoying several grassy areas around the outside of the lecture halls during my visit. I also observed several students enjoying TCNJ's student, and athletic center facilities within the campus footprint.

The design and physical setting of TCNJ is large for a state school with 289 acres of property situated within the suburban neighborhood of Ewing New Jersey. The campus footprint highlights several new buildings including performing arts, residential, academic, and sports facilities within its sprawling footprint. The buildings geographical design form a large square in which students can enter, and leave the campus from several locations. Parking resources are a big feature on campus due to the number of regular, and commuter students. The school also provides parking facilities for faculty and service employees. The college has approximately 17 parking lots including at least 4 parking garages for students, visitors, and employees. These parking lots maintain the campus perimeter because they act almost like natural barriers.

The campus has approximately 3 entrances and exits to maximize the flow of vehicular traffic within the facility; the issue of pedestrian traffic on the campus perimeter is minimal due to the suburban setting and limited numbers of public transportation resources. The College of New Jersey's public safety department deploys officers to several access points around the campus during the day to reduce the number of people who may not have legitimate business on campus. Public safety maintains visitor screening with clearly worded signage that directs visitors to a welcome area adjacent to Loser Hall.

Community Profile

Ewing New Jersey is a suburban town of approximately 35,707 residents in the county of Mercer. The town is a typical residential community within the center of the state. The town of Ewing is located within striking distance to The City of Trenton, and Princeton Township. New York City and Philadelphia are approximately 1 hour away by car or train. Ewing has an intellectual side to it due to its relationship with local colleges and universities; TCNJ and Rider University are close to the town center by car. The town doesn't really have any local pedestrian walkways that links local residents to local shops and restaurants. The main roadway past TCNJ is Pennington Road, which also passes the township volunteer firehouse.

The community itself has a real small suburban town feel to it when you are driving around the neighborhood. I found a large number of eateries and shopping on Oden Avenue, which is approximately a 10-minute drive from the TCNJ campus, this is a main road through the community. Ewing also has several community parks and ball fields in and a round town for people to enjoy. These parks, along with public tennis courts, swimming pools, outdoor skating rinks, and theatres make activities very enjoyable to everyone. New Jersey Transit also provides commuter rail service to local residents in the area with the Northeast Corridor Line" station that is located in nearby Hamilton Township. This rail corridor links to New York City, Newark Airport, and N.J. Penn Station for Amtrack northeast rail service. Ewing residents also have numerous shopping, and dining options on Route 195, and 1, which is a 10-minute drive from the campus.

Community demographics: The following demographics for Ewing New Jersey describe a multi-cultural community within a total population of 35,707 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey highlights several characteristics to describe the population including: 17,203 residents are male, 18,504 are female. 69.0 % of residents are white, 24.8% are African American, 4.4% are Hispanic or Latino, 2.3 % are Asian. The median age of population is 37.0 years old. 82.0% of residents are over 18 years old, 71.6% are over 21 years old, and 18.1 % of township residents are over the age of 65. The issue of housing in Ewing is also interesting. 97.1 % of all housing units within the town are occupied. 26.0 % of housing units are renter-occupied, while 74.0 % of units are owner-occupied. Only 2.9 % of total available housing was vacant.

Local weather: Weather is also an issue to consider for students preparing for a college experience. New Jersey enjoys all four seasons of weather including rain and snow. Northeast weather patterns sometimes allow for temperatures to drop below 32 degrees for a considerable amount of time during the winter. New Jersey also gets it's share of rain during the spring and summer months as well.

Campus Life

The College of New Jersey is an active in state campus environment that provides students with an outstanding social, and educational atmosphere. The admissions demographics paint a picture of a local educational community with a high number of in state residents on campus as full time, and part time students. The local communities of Ewing, Hamilton, and Princeton are a short distance away from the school by car and are very supportive of the schools mission to provide educational opportunities to local residents and on-campus students. The town itself has a very suburban feel to it because local residents commute to several geographical work areas including Trenton, New York City, and Philadelphia within the Princeton Corridor.

This major commuter network allows TCNJ students to enjoy transportation links to New York City and Philadelphia by several major transportation outlets including rail service, airports, and roadway networks. Students at TCNJ enjoy the opportunity to drive a short distance to Route 195, and 1 to shop at Quaker Bridge Mall, and the Lawrenceville Commons. These 2 large commercial centers offer the bulk of restaurants and shopping within the township. This commercial network provides social, as well as employment opportunities within driving distance to the campus.

Ecology at TCNJ is also positive due to the school's commitment to educational programs and student housing. The college itself is going through an extended growth period with several construction projects over the past 4 years including new residence, dining, and academic halls throughout the campus footprint. These projects give the school a bright new feel to them because they're well maintained, and conveniently located on campus.

The emotional climate and culture of the campus community is social due to it's size, in regard to student population, and physical footprint. The school itself has approximately 7,000 full, part time, and graduate students on campus at any time but the emotional climate feels smaller then the overall population numbers. TCNJ is an attractive institution because it offers students excellent academic programs while still providing a comfortable campus environment. Student activities including, music, performing arts, and athletics seem to be very important to TCNJ students, not to mention all the clubs, student organizations, and Greek life. This issue of school culture 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.

Student facilities have also improved the emotional climate of the entire TCNJ community by providing upper classman with excellent housing options within the campus footprint for students who may want to stay close to the school to become part of the overall community of Ewing. Historically, students looking for affordable off campus housing resources needed to move over to Trenton and Hamilton Township to live.

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.

TCNJ has 12 residence halls including 2 10-story buildings for freshman housing. Upper classmen live in the townhouses and future apartment buildings on the perimeter of the school. TCNJ guarantees housing for freshman and sophomores students who have filed their intent to reside on campus by the stated deadline and who have continuously registered as full time students. The housing is new except for the resident towers. The school has started developing housing resources for upper classmen through its capital improvement initiatives. The village apartments are new, and beautiful, but only upper classmen can rent them. .

Off Campus Housing: The Township of Ewing has been described as a small residential community within driving, and commuter distance to Trenton, New York City, and Philadelphia. The reason I have mentioned the overall community of Ewing is to re-assert the point that TCNJ is situated in a suburban setting with a high number of homes that are privately owned. The town does have a good number of multi-family residences and apartment buildings within the campus. The college does provide off campus housing resources for students who request help. The resource is called “ the Trenton State College Corporation”. Information about services can be found at E-Mail tscorp@tcnj.edu Phone # (609) 771-3312

Public Transportation: Public transportation resources for TCNJ students are limited due to the location of the campus. Students who attend the university usually drive to campus because parking is readily available and public transportation is limited. Another issue for public transportation is the students themselves. The university has a very large number of in-state students who know the streets and highways very well. Knowing the area is key because students who come from other states may not know the area as well and might opt to take a bus or train to their destination because they don't want to risk getting lost on local roads. TCNJ does provide a campus shuttle system within the campus and nearby roads for students. Information about the service can be found on the quick links page.

The public transportation for the university is served by The New Jersey Transit Northeast Corridor line, which serves the residents of the neighboring towns of Ewing New Jersey. This specific line connects with several other transit lines within the overall system including Amtrack, New York City, and Philadelphia local transit systems. Public transportation resources are directly linked to local resident commuter schedules for bus and train service, students should pick up NJ Transit handouts or service information. New Jersey Transit Info: www.njtransit.com/

Description of Campus Public Safety Plans & Procedures: TCNJ's general public safety plans and procedures can be found in the emergency plan which gives students and employees a lists of instructions, procedures, codes of conduct, and response strategies to follow while on campus. The university also provides Clery Act safety tips and procedures to help educate students to potential risks on, and off campus. This information can be found in TCNJ's Annual Public Safety Report. The College Emergency Plan can be found. <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Etcnjpd/>

Crisis Management Plans & Procedures Local Community: The State of New Jersey 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 Office of Emergency Management. The College of New Jersey has also developed an emergency plan for students and employees to follow which highlights several potential manmade and weather related events. Public safety, along with the Ewing Police Department has developed a local crisis plan that can be found at: <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Etcnjpd/emergencymanagement@tcnj.edu>

Innovative Emergency Communications: TCNJ has developed a reverse 911 system that sends 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 university also has active shooter protocols for students to follow during an emergency including lock-down, and lockout procedures. These messages are usually received within 1-2 minutes of emergency broadcast and allow university officials to adhere to Clery Act requirements for timely warnings of emergency events.

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 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 around the massive footprint in several different types of patrol vehicles including 4-wheel drive, and regular police patrol vehicles. These resources help officer's patrol around the campus 24-hours a day to reduce the number of people who may not have legitimate business on campus. At night, public safety closes several entrances to students and employees with a lock and chain to further reduce access to the institution.

Public safety also maintains visitor screening and CCTV resources to highlight the need for formal surveillance throughout the campus footprint. TCNJ has developed clearly worded signage that directs visitors to a welcome area adjacent to Loser Hall to improve physical security operations. Formal gathering areas within TCNJ's main campus are situated in, and around college walk which goes straight through several highly populated areas including dining, library, and athletic facilities. The student center was also populated during my campus visit, my student guide told me these main focal areas of the campus splits the campus in half with several large grassy areas in between the lecture, and residence halls.

The campus high-risk areas including the residence halls should have a higher degree of natural and formal surveillance for students and visitors. TCNJ has access control resources within its residence halls, for example, I did see card readers within several residence halls. I also observed several high tech HID proximity scanners on the library doors, my student guide told me that the doors to the residence halls were locked at all times and access to the library by HID scanner was an after hours student resource.

My guide continued describing the school's access control features, and regulations within the residence halls during my visit, the following regulations are observed by all students on campus. TCNJ students must produce their student I.D card that are swiped through a card reader mechanism. In the evening and on the weekends "Resident Assistant" set up a table to authenticate visitors to the building. The RA's and the students in residence are responsible to sign in, and identify the person standing in front of them. Some of the newer residence halls have access control systems to record the sign in procedure while a digital CCTV camera records the activity on a DVR platform as a redundant security feature.

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

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. TCNJ Clery Act data can be found on the quick links page

Caveat: TCNJ's public safety officers have formal arrest powers; they have the ability to investigate criminal activity on campus, and the resources to reduce victimization off campus. Public Safety seems to have improved crime victimization on campus due to improved security resources 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, the department cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data reported. TCNJ 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 2007 has developed crime statistics for Ewing New Jersey in 2007. Ewing Police Department reported 89 Violent Crimes, 1 Murder, 5 Forcible Rape, 27 Robberies, 56 Aggravated Assaults, 685 Property Crimes, 137 Burglaries, 492 Larceny Thefts, and finally 56 Motor Vehicle Thefts. The crime of Arson had 6 reported crimes.

Ewing Township Community Quick Links:

Town of Ewing New Jersey Homepage: www.ewing.net/about/index.php

Police Department: Phone # (609) 882-1313 Email: <http://www.ewingpolice.com/>

Mercer Medical Center

446 Bellevue Ave, Trenton, NJ 08618

General Phone Number: (609) 394-4000

TCNJ Quick Links Page

Home Page: www.tcnj.edu

Maps & Directions: www.tcnj.edu/~library/info/directions.html

Admissions: E-Mail: www.admiss@um.tcnj.edu

Financial Aid: www.tcnj.edu/~sfs/aid/

Student Activities: www.tcnj.edu/~stuactiv/index.php

Student Clubs & Organizations: <http://www.tcnj.edu/students.html>

Fraternity & Sorority Life: www.tcnj.edu/~igc/

Student Center: www.tcnj.edu/~studcent/

Public Transportation Services: www.cub@tcnj.edu

Information Technology Center: <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Eit/>

Health Insurance: www.hlthserv@tcnj.edu

Medical Services: www.hlthserv@tcnj.edu

Student Housing: www.reslife@tcnj.edu

University Meal Plan: Information on Locations/ Menus/ Hours: Office of Residence Assignments (609) 771-2301

Off Campus Housing: Information about services can be found at E-Mail tscorp@tcnj.edu Phone # (609) 771-3312

Campus Parking: at www.parking@tcnj.edu

Public Safety Plans & Procedures: : <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Etcnjpd/phonecallmap.html>

Emergency Telephones: : <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Etcnjpd/phonecallmap.html>

Clery Act Policies & Procedures: <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Etcnjpd/>

College of New Jersey Hotel Quick Links Page

Courtyard by Marriott Ewing/Hopewell
360 Scotch Road
Ewing N.J. 08628

Below is a list of hotel accommodations found within the Princeton Corridor on Route 1, which is approximately 15 minutes to The College of New Jersey Campus.

Red Roof Inn Princeton
3203 Brunswick Pike (Route 1)
Lawrenceville N.J. 08648

Hampton Inn Princeton
4385 U.S. Hwy # 1
Princeton N.J. 08540

Doubletree Hotel
4355 U.S. Hwy # 1
Princeton N.J. 08540

Staybridge Suites Hotel
4375 U.S. Hwy # 1
Princeton N.J. 08540

Hyatt Place
3565 U.S. Route # 1
Princeton N.J. 08540

Princeton Marriott Conference Center
100 College Road East
Princeton N.J. 08540

** Attached to Marketfair Shopping Center

The Westin At Forrestall Village
201 Village Blvd
Princeton N.J. 08540

** Attached to upscale outdoor shopping center

The College of New Jersey Off Campus Restaurants

The Following local restaurants & shopping can be found on North Olden Ave, and Scotch Road which is approximately 10 minutes by car from the campus.

FD Subs: 1980 North Olden Ave Ewing N.J. (609) 882-6888

The Taste of India: 1973 North Olden Ave (609) 530-1104

Tan May Chinese Restaurant: 1750 North Olden Ave (609) 895-0588

Parkside Diner: 1769 North Olden Ave (609) 883-2123

Pete's Steak House: 1855 North Olden Ave (609) 771-6747

Five Guys Burgers & Fries: 7 Scotch Road (609) 882-7999

*** North Olden Ave in Ewing Township N.J. has several strip malls including the Parkside Shopping Plaza located within a short driving distance to TCNJ. Olden Ave also has several fast food chains including Wendy's, Burger King, McDonalds, Boston Market, and Domino's Pizza.

The Your College Profile web site also contains an "Everything in New York City" document for families who wish to explore the NYC while visiting TCNJ. This site contains a full list of hotels, restaurants, shopping, and entertainment, and tourism resources for families enjoying the region.

