

Columbia University Profile

Founded in 1754, Columbia University is a large Ivy League institution located in New York City's Morningside Heights section in upper Manhattan. The footprint of the site is large for an urban school with approximately 32 acres which starts at West 112th Street between Riverside Drive and Morningside Drive on its southern border, and West 123rd Street on its northern border. The campus has approximately 115 buildings including lecture, residential, research, and dining facilities. The internal campus setting provides students and employees with several types of student services including health, physical fitness, library, and cultural meeting places.

The published demographic information for the university describes a culturally diverse student population with students from all across the world. Columbia University has developed 3 different campuses, within a campus structures to offer students a Liberal Arts and Science, Research, and a Comprehensive education format to enhance its commitment to different types of career endeavors. Columbia has also developed independent affiliates with several local universities including Barnard College of Liberal Arts, which is located across the street from the main campus. Below is a description of demographics for Columbia's 3 Colleges.

Columbia College. The university is home to approximately 2030 male, and 2195 female students. The average age of a freshman is 18 years old. 75% of students are from out of state, mostly the Middle Atlantic. Students on campus provide a diverse multi-cultural makeup including students from all 50 states, 55 foreign countries, and Canada. 49% of students are white, 13% Asian Americans, and 38% are students of color.

Faculty/ Classroom: 68% of faculty is male, 32% female. All both teach and do research. The average class size in an introductory lecture is 70; in a laboratory, 15; and in a regular course, 25.

Student / Faculty Ratio: 6 to 1

Retention Rate: 2% do not continue beyond 1st year, 94% remain to graduate.

Columbia University FU Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science

The EAS is home to approximately 1048 male, and 388 female students. The average age for a freshman is 18 years old. 63% of students are from out of state, mostly the Middle Atlantic. Students are from 42 states, 39 foreign countries, and Canada. 35% are white, 32% Asian Americans, and 12% foreign nationals, and 12% are students of color

Faculty / Classroom: 92% of faculty is male, 8% female. All both teach and do research. The average class size in an introductory lecture is 50; in a laboratory, 15; and in a regular course 25.

Student / Faculty Ratio 10 to 1.

Retention Rate: 2% do not continue beyond 1st year, 88% remain to graduate.

Columbia University School of General Studies.

The school of general studies has approximately 574 male, and 572 female students. The average age for all undergraduates is 28 years old. 42% of students are from out of state, mostly the Northeast. 56% of students are white, 11% are Asian Americans, and 33% are students of color.

Faculty / Classroom: 68% of faculty is male; 32% is female. No published data for size of classrooms or student to faculty ratio. No data for retention rate.

Published Academic Standards for Admission Programs

Columbia University has 3 colleges within its educational system that offer Liberal Arts, Research, and Comprehensive undergraduate programs. Below is a list of the schools along with their specific admission requirements.

Columbia College Freshman Class: 21,343 applied, 2,255 accepted, 1,333 enrolled
SAT Verbal 720, SAT Math 710. ACT 30. Application Deadline January 2.

FU Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science Freshman Class: 4,574 applied, 1,315 accepted, 551 enrolled. SAT Verbal 700, SAT Math 760. Act 34.
Application Deadline January 2.

School of General Studies Freshman Class: Not Available. SAT / ACT Recommended, not data list for application requirements. Application Deadline June 1.

Campus Footprint: The design and physical setting of Columbia University is unique because the campus is encapsulated within an entire New York City neighborhood of Morningside Heights. The campus map also highlights several historic buildings, which form a large manmade barrier around the main campus. These buildings form a large square that's several city block long, and wide. The physical security design seems to be enhanced by the large walls and limited access points to the campus. These buildings maintain the campus perimeter because they act almost like natural barriers.

The university is also linked together by several city streets within its massive real estate holdings with virtually all of the university's lecture halls, arts & science pavilions, residence halls, and historic buildings tied within its large real estate holdings. The footprint of the college is unique because students can retreat to their residence halls, or they can travel to another facilities to experience real big campus living. This type of structure enhances the campus lifestyle within the schools urban footprint because students can walk to several areas of the campus within minutes.

Columbia University has a real big campus feel to it because the area is heavily populated with students, and local residents alike. University students take advantage of the local commercial resources in the Morningside Heights area that cater to college students throughout the upper Westside neighborhood. Students, and local residents also take advantage of the New York City Transit System's train service located across the street from the university main gates at 116th street. Pedestrian traffic outside the perimeter of the university on Broadway is heavy due to the large number of students and local residents within the area.

The main focal point of the campus tour was "College Walk" on West 116th Street. This city street takes you straight through the middle of the campus footprint from Broadway to Amsterdam Ave. This physical layout is shaped like a big square that offers outstanding views of the Butler Library to the south, and Low Memorial Library to the north. This geographical location is Main Street for Columbia students and is the focal point for the schools photo advertising. 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 between West 113th Street and West 120th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue during my daytime visit. My evening visit observed less foot traffic along the major avenues until you reach 110th street.

Community Profile

Morningside Heights has been identified on maps geographically as north of 106th Street, and south of 126th Street between Morningside Avenue and Riverside Drive. The community has been described as scholarly and intellectual due to its student population and historical neighborhood architecture. The greatest number of residents north of 110th street is in fact a college student. Columbia University is the main property owner within the area; it owns most of the housing up to 123rd Street. The local pedestrian walkway on Broadway links local residents to a large number of restaurants and local shops.

The community has a real city type feel to it because people usually walk on Broadway between 120th Street down to 110th Street for food and shopping. I don't suggest that tourists walk beyond West 123rd Street because the area changes in a hurry. The issue of walking alone at night outside the perimeter of the campus gates should also be curtailed in my opinion. Morningside heights has several community parks and ball fields in the Riverside Drive and Morningside Park areas but local police officers have told students to exercise some caution when using the city parks after dark.

The following demographics for New York City describe a multi-cultural community within a total population of 8,214,426 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Columbia University has a strong relationship with this diverse community. An example of this commitment can be observed through Columbia's community services handbook that describes educational programs, health care programs and services, legal programs and services to local residents who may require community help.

A Census Bureau community survey highlights several characteristics to describe the population including: 47.7% of residents are male, 52.3 are female. 43.9% of residents are white, 25.1% are African American, 27.6% are Hispanic or Latino, 11.7% are Asian, 6.3% are some other Race, and finally 2.0 are two or more Races. The median age of population is 35.9 years old. 76.3% of residents are 18 years old or over and 12.1% of city residents is over the age of 65. The issue of housing in New York is also interesting. 91.2% of all housing units within the city are occupied. 65.6% of housing units are renter-occupied, while 34.4% of units are owner-occupied. Only 8.8% of total available housing was vacant.

Local weather: Weather is also an issue to consider for students preparing for a university experience. New York City 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 York City also gets its share of rain during the spring and summer months as well.

Campus Life

Columbia University is a multi-cultural campus environment that provides students with an excellent 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 Morningside Heights only adds to the universities international status because the community has multi-cultural roots as well. Columbia also addresses the issue of ecology in a positive way. The physical environment is clean and well maintained and the economic conditions are favorable to students and local residents due to the available services in walking distance to the school. The emotional climate of the entire community is positive because students are involved with local community groups

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. Columbia has done a great 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 360 academic clubs, student organizations, and over 30 intramural sports activities.

Campus life at Columbia is more than academic excellence; it's about school sports, fraternities, performing arts, history, cultural events, restaurants, and local museums. For example, the City of New York has hundreds of venues to enjoy the previously stated activities including the Metropolitan Art Museum, Madison Square Garden, and Carnegie Hall to mention a few. The university also has several global education centers in the area for students to learn, and gather information about studying abroad. The down side of sports activities on the Morningside campus is students can't walk to Baker Field, they have to take the school's campus shuttle. The up side is the available exercise facilities within the Dodge Fitness Center on the Morningside campus. Columbia also participates in 29 NCAA Division I Varsity Sports for Women and Men.

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.

Columbia University guarantees housing for all undergraduate students (except transfers) who has filed their intent to reside on campus by the stated deadline and who have continuously registered as full time students. The school has started developing housing resources for upper classman through it's capital improvement initiatives. The University apartments are new, and beautiful, but only upper classmen can rent them. Students who belong to Fraternities and Sororities have Brownstones on West 113th Street, and 114th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue. Each resident unit houses approximately 16-18 students. Information about housing can be found on the quick links page of this document.

The university has also published a document called “ A Guide to Living “ that gives everyone who lives on campus a roadmap that addresses emergency procedures, codes of conduct, access control procedures, and many other very useful items. It's the best document that I have ever seen that details almost every potential situation or event.

Below is a link to this valuable site.

Columbia University Guide to Living: www.columbia.edu/cu/housing/docs/guide-to-living/policies.html

Off Campus Housing: Columbia University has been described as a mini-city in an uptown multi- cultural residential community. The reason I have mentioned the overall community of Morningside Heights is to re-assert the point that Columbia's network of affiliated campuses has encapsulated it's real estate holdings within the area. The campus footprint allows almost every student to have housing within walking distance to the campus. The issue of off campus housing has a different feel to it compared to other university off campus housing demands.

The demand for housing, especially off campus housing is usually a tough issue for institutions attempting to keep students within the general geographical area. Columbia has addressed this issue by buying up residential buildings and developing housing networks. One such network is called The Off- Campus Housing Assistance Program (OCHA), which lists local rooms and apartments for students. The OCHA only allows students with an acceptance letter, and or, a current student I.D. to use this program. Below is a link to the program.

Public Transportation: The New York City Transit System has a subway that stops right at the main focal point of the campus, which is 116th Street and Broadway. Students and visitors get off the train and walk across the street to the main entry to the school. The Seventh Ave Line (#1 Train) stops at 116th Street but it also connects with every other subway line within the system. Riders can take the train from south ferry in lower Manhattan to the Washington Heights in a relatively short amount of time.

Public transportation resources can also be found at New York Penn Station that links with trains to Long Island and New Jersey through the LIRR and Jersey Transit respectfully. Amtrak also uses Penn Station as a major hub within it's Northeast Corridor. All these trains can be linked by the #1 train, which makes stops at Penn Station. Riders who wish to go to northern New York State can catch a shuttle train at 42nd Street from the # 1 train to Grand Central Station for the Metro North Trains.

This complex train system also allows riders the ability to travel to Liberty Airport via Jersey Transit, and Kennedy Airport via the N.Y. Subway system. People who live, work, and visit New York usually travel by some type of mass transit. Students should be encouraged to purchase a metro card to get around. Mass transit information can be found at: <http://www.mta.info>

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. Columbia University 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 Guide to Living which gives students and employees a lists of instructions, procedures, codes of conduct, and response strategies to follow while on campus. This information can be found in Columbia University Annual Public Safety Report. The Columbia University Emergency Plan can be found on the quick links page.

Crisis Management Plans & Procedures Local Community: The City of New York has developed emergency management resources to help residents to prepare, respond, and recover from a host of natural, and man made events. The city agency responsible for emergency operations is the Office of Emergency Management. Columbia has developed an emergency plan for students and employees to follow which highlights several potential manmade and weather related events. Public safety, along with several local Police Departments has developed a local crisis plan that can be found at: <http://nyc/html/oem/html/home/home.shtml>.

Innovative Emergency Communications: Columbia University has developed reverse 911 systems 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. Information for signing up for this emergency notification service can be found by contacting Columbia public safety:

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.

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The main campus has 5 entrances and exits to minimize the pedestrian traffic flow within the facility, the issue of vehicle traffic on campus is minimal due to the city setting and a limited number of street parking spots. Columbia'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. At night, some of these entrances get secured with a lock and chain to further reduce access to the institution. Public safety also maintains visitor screening with clearly worded signage that directs visitors to a welcome area adjacent to the Low Memorial Library, visitors who wish to walk around the campus without an escort can, but only during daylight hours.

Formal gathering areas within Columbia's main campus are situated in, and around college walk which goes straight through the quad on West 116th street from Broadway to Amsterdam Avenue. This area is the main focal area of the campus with several large grassy areas in and around the lecture, and residence halls. The quad 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 campuses great lawn ensures open sight lines by keeping buildings and architectural barriers on the perimeter of the space.

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 department maintains uniform patrol and high tech remote resources to highlight formal surveillance throughout the campus. The department also has security officers posted in several high-risk areas including the main gate, residence halls, and the library. Public safety also patrols the interior and exterior of the university by foot and patrol vehicles.

The public safety department has developed enhanced lighting resources for campus security because it helps in all areas of surveillance and gives students and visitors an enhanced feeling of safety and security. Columbia University has developed adequate lighting resources within the campus footprint. The issue of lighting and reduced pedestrian traffic for students walking north is still a great concern for all public safety officers on, and off campus. Columbia also has uniformed public safety and contract security guards patrolling the footprint of the university on a 24-hour basis.

The campus high-risk areas including the residence halls have a higher degree of natural and formal surveillance for students and visitors. Students who enter the residence halls must produce their Columbia card that is swiped by a Resident Assistant to authenticate the person standing in front of them. The system also records the activity while a digital CCTV camera records the activity as a redundant security feature. The residence halls also have a uniformed officer on duty to help the RA's manage visitor requests for entry; the procedure requires a visitor to produce I.D. and to sign a formal register. These design features constitute a real commitment to campus safety and security.

The perimeter of Columbia University at night is a challenge for public safety because the campus is situated in a major neighborhood within a major city. I have identified the challenges with my university and community profile that highlights the diversity of the community and the campus. The issue is this, the campus walk is considered a city street according to the NYPD, and you can't stop someone who wants to walk through. The university has developed state-of-the-art CCTC resources to maintain formal surveillance through out this main corridor. The school has a combination of IP/ Analog/ and Motion detection cameras with DVR & Virtual Network recording systems to enhance overall security, and public safety operations.

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. Columbia Clery info data can be found:

www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety/SecurityReport.pdf

Caveat: Columbia's security officers don't have formal arrest powers, they only have what every citizen has, the right to detain someone after witnessing a crime. Public safety officers receive training in regard to their duties; they also must be licensed by the State of New York as per the Security Guard Act, which requires background checks including finger printing for employees. The state legislation also requires 48 hours of classroom training for everyone, including retired police officers, a list of the requirements can be found at www.dos.state.ny.us/lcns/guardfaq.html

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. University crime data: <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 the neighborhood of Morningside Heights. In 2008 the NYPD's 26 Precinct reported 285 Violent Crimes, 2 Murders, 10 Forcible Rapes, 197 Robberies, 76 Aggravated Assaults, 361 Property Crimes, 57 Burglaries, 270 Larceny Thefts, and finally 34 Motor Vehicle Thefts. The crime of Arson was un-reported.

On Campus Emergency Resources:

Emergency Health Services (212) 854-2284
Columbia Campus Ambulance (CAVA) (212) 854-5555
Rape Crisis/ Anti-violence Support Center (212) 854-HELP, 854-WALK
Public Safety (212) 854-5555

Morningside Heights Community Quick Links

New York City Police Department (NYPD)

26 Precinct Station House: 520 West 126th street between Amsterdam Avenue and Old Broadway (Under the elevated subway on 126th street) **Phone# (212) 678-1311**

The New York City Fire Department (FDNY)

Engine 47: 502 West 113th Street (S/W of Amsterdam Ave) 1st Due Engine

Engine 37, Ladder Company 40: 415 West 125th Street (East of Convent Ave) Engine, 1st due Truck, and Engine Company assigned to Columbia University

Emergency Medical Technicians (Ambulance Service). The New York City Fire Department handles calls for emergency medical services in the city. EMT crews are assigned to a Division and Battalion for ambulance deployment. .

St Lukes / Roosevelt Hospital Phone Numbers:

General Number (212) 790-7000
Emergency Room (212) 523-3335

Psychiatric Emergency (212) 523-3347

Columbia University Quick Links

Home Page: www.columbia.edu

Maps & Directions: www.columbia.edu/about_columbia/map/

Admissions: www.columbia.edu/cu/admissions/

Financial Aid: www.columbia.edu/admissions/finaid/

Student Activities: www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/sda

Student Clubs & Organizations: www.columbia.edu/students/org-gov.html

Athletic/Performing Arts Tickets: www.cuarts.com/calender/tickets

Fraternity & Sorority Life:
www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/resprograms/fraternity_sorority

Student Center: www.columbia.edu/cu/lernerhall/

Public Transportation Services:
www.columbia.edu/cu/studentervices/transportation/shuttles.html

Information Technology Center: www.columbia.edu/cuit/access.

Health Insurance: www.health.columbia.edu

Medical Services: www.health.columbia.edu/

On Campus Emergency Resources: Emergency Health Services (212) 854-2284

Student Housing: www.columbia.edu/cu/housing/docs/residence-halls/index.html

University Meal Plan: www.columbia.edu/cu/dining.

Off Campus Housing: www.columbia.edu/cu/ire/ocha.

Campus Newspapers: Columbia News. Available on line at www.columbia.edu/news
Columbia University, The Record on line at www.columbia.edu/news

Campus Parking: <http://facilities.columbia.edu/overview-3>

Public Safety Plans & Procedures: www.columbia.edu/cu/publicsafety/

Restaurants in Upper West Side of Manhattan

Below is a sample list of local restaurants, and hotels in the Upper West Side section of New York City. These restaurants and hotels are in close proximity to Columbia University. National restaurant chains & shopping resources can be found in several areas of the city including the East & West Village, Mid & Downtown, and Lower Manhattan. Complete information about hotels, restaurants, shopping, museums, and general tourism activities can be found in the document “ Everything in New York City” on the Your College Profile web site.

Upper West Side Area Hotels:

Empire Hotel

The Carlyle, A Rosewood Hotel

Upper West Side (Columbia/ Morningside Heights Area)

Bistro Ten18: 1018 Amsterdam Ave & 110th Street

Koronet Pizza: 2848 Broadway & 111th Street

LeMonde: 2885 Broadway & 112th Street

Massawa: 1239 Amsterdam Ave & 121st Street

Max SoHa: 1274 Amsterdam Ave & 123rd Street

Mill Korean: 2895 Broadway & 113th Street

Ollie's: 2957 Broadway & 116th Street

Sezz Medi: 1260 Amsterdam Ave & 122nd Street

Tom's Diner: 2880 Broadway & 112th Street