

Fairleigh Dickinson University Profile

Founded in 1942, Fairleigh Dickinson University is a private liberal arts institution located in the northern suburban town of Madison New Jersey. The footprint of the site is large for a private school with approximately 178 acres of park like property, which extends throughout the town of Madison. The physical site of the university has a historic perspective because the property was once the summer home of the Vanderbilt Family.

The campus has approximately 33 buildings including lecture, sports, performing arts, and student housing facilities. The issue of student housing on campus is a challenge for FDU due to the relatively small amount of available student housing. The university only provides guaranteed housing for the freshman year only, after that its first come, first served according to school officials. The campus map provides visitors the ability to observe several large open fields within the campus footprint, which separates the academic buildings from the residence halls. The distance between the residence, and academic halls are substantial for a private school.

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. Fairleigh Dickinson's observed focal point of reference during my campus tour was the academic buildings and gymnasium, which is usually the main focus of student activities according to my student tour guide. 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 residence and academic halls. The buildings and open spaces of the facility were very clean and well maintained during my observations.

Fairleigh Dickinson University at Florham Park Demographics: F.D.U is home to approximately 1060 male, and 1200 female full time undergrad students. The university also has approximately 410 male, and 700 female graduate students, and 170 male, and 230 female part time students enrolled. The average age of a freshman is 18 years old; all undergraduates are 20 years old. 86% of students are state residents with the rest coming from 27 other states, and 21 foreign countries. 73% of students are white, 11% are Hispanic, and 12% are African American, and 4% are Asian. The total number of students with on campus housing is 1530; the total population including full, part time, and graduate school students is 3,770 according to published handouts. The total number of students enrolled in the Fairleigh Dickinson University System is approximately 11,000 students on 2 campuses.

FDU offers a Liberal Arts and Sciences programs for undergraduate students. Below is a list of specific admission requirements for admission.

Fairleigh Dickinson University: Freshman Class: 2706 applied, 1693 accepted, and 489 enrolled to the school. SAT Verbal 517, SAT Math 515. Application Deadline March 1.

Faculty/ Classroom: 62% of faculty is male, 38% female. All teach Undergraduates. The average class size in an introductory lecture is 25; Lab 18 and 20 in a regular course.

Student / Faculty Ratio: 20 to 1

Retention Rate: 23% do not continue beyond 1st year, 51% 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 local residents taking their children to FDU's massive pool facility within the campus footprint.

The design and physical setting of FDU is unique because the campus is located within a large wooded setting. The university is virtually split in two parts with the lecture halls and the residence halls on opposite ends with lecture, athletic, performing arts and historic buildings in the middle. The footprint of the college is not unique because students like to get away from classes to retreat to their residence halls. This type of structure enhances 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.

The college has approximately 12 large parking lots including at least 3 for visitor parking. This is a big issue because the school offers childcare, and swimming resources for community residents, which require additional daily parking these extra parking spaces were a challenge to find because everyone wanted one. The overall campus-parking map observes a couple of large parking lots on the perimeter for students, visitors, and employees. The physical security design seems to be a challenge due to the numerous access points to the campus. These parking lots maintain the campus perimeter because they act almost like natural barriers.

The campus has approximately 5 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. FDU's public safety department deploys several contract security guards to man 3 gatehouses located on Florham, Twombly, and Mansion Mall Roads during the day. Public safety maintains visitor screening with clearly worded signage that directs visitors to a welcome area adjacent to the Mansion, visitors who wish to walk around the campus without an escort can, but only during daylight hours.

Community Profile

Madison New Jersey is a suburban town of approximately 4 square miles with 16,350 residents in the northwestern county of Morris. The town has been described as a gracious family centered residential community within striking distance to New York City. Madison also has an intellectual side due to its historical neighborhood architecture. Local residents also call the Town of Madison the Rose City because of its historical heritage. The town has a local pedestrian walkway on Main Street, which links local residents and FDU students to a large number of restaurants and local shops within the center of town. Local residents also take advantage of the Short Hills Mall which is located within a 10 minute drive on Route 24 in Short Hills N.J.

The town itself is located within a short distance to the school, which makes the area a student friendly destination throughout the year. New Jersey Transit also provides commuter rail service to local residents in the area with the Morris-Essex County Line". This rail corridor links to New York City, Newark Airport, and N.J. Penn Station for Amtrack northeast rail service. The main airport to Drew is Newark International airport, which is also connected to N.J. Transit rail service.

This area has a real small town feel to it when you are driving around the neighborhood. The main street you will be using is Route 124, which is actually called Main Street. This road provides direct links to the community and Route 24, which is a feeder roadway to Route 278 as a main east/ west corridor, and the Garden State Parkway for driving north/south. The community also has several national chain hotels, and restaurants on Route 24, 278, and 80 along with the Short Hills Mall. Appendix #1 on the back page has a list of observed local neighborhood resources for students and visitors.

Community demographics: The following demographics for Madison New Jersey describe a culturally diverse community within a total population of 16,350 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey highlights several characteristics to describe the population including: 7,832 residents are male, 8,698 are female. 14,826 residents are white, 496 are African American, 987 are Hispanic or Latino, and 624 are Asian. The median age of population is 34.3 years old. 79.4% of residents are 18 years old, 68.6 of residents are over 21 and 13 % of city residents is over the age of 65.

The issue of housing in Madison is also interesting. 98.7 % of all housing units within the town are occupied. 33.0 % of housing units are renter-occupied, while 67.0 % of units are owner-occupied. Only 2.0 % of total available housing was vacant. Homeowners who rent property report an average cost is (\$1,000-1,499) 45.9% and (\$750-999) 31.2%. The Census Bureau reports 13 % of Madison N.J. is commercial property.

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 its share of rain during the spring and summer months as well.

Campus Life

Fairleigh Dickinson University is an active private college 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 mixed number of in state residents on campus as full, and part time students. The local community of Madison is a short distance away from the school and is very supportive of the schools mission to provide educational opportunities to local residents and on-campus students. The town itself has a main street feel to it due to the restaurants and shops along the main avenue.

The emotional climate and culture of the entire community is social due to it's close relationship with community, and educational resources in my opinion. FDU is an attractive institution because it offers students natural beauty with the mountains of western New Jersey, while providing student activities for everyone including cultural, athletics, and performing arts to enjoy throughout the year. 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.

FDU has done a great job developing positive social systems with it's students by providing a series of coordinated programs including workshops and seminars for freshman students. The universities new student experience program provides an excellent example of programs and services that help first year students by offering professional counselors that advise students on ways to explore their educational options to achieve personal academic goals. The residence assistants also do a great job motivating students to enjoy the college campus experience.

These types of programs help build a foundation for learning and personal growth by providing students with educational resources as well as informational resources to help bridge the gap from new student to an independent learner. The university has academic clubs, student organizations, and intramural sports activities to participate in. The campus also has a student recreation center that provides exercise, and indoor intramural sports within a state of the art facility. FDU also participates in 9 NCAA Division III 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. Unfortunately, FDU only guarantees housing for freshman who have filed their intent to reside on campus by the stated deadline and who have continuously registered as full time students.

Off Campus Housing: The Township of Madison has been described as a small suburban community within driving, and commuter distance to New York City. The reason I have mentioned the overall community of Madison is to re-assert the point that FDU is situated in a suburban setting with a high number of homes that are privately owned. The college does provide off campus housing resources for students who request help. Information about services can be found on the quick links page.

Public Transportation: Public transportation resources for FDU students are limited due to the suburban 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.

The public transportation for the university is served by The New Jersey Transit Morris & Essex line, which serves the residents of Madison. This specific line connects with several other transit lines within the overall system including the Northeast Corridor, and it makes two stops near the university at Madison and Convent stations respectfully. New Jersey Transit has bus service called the Morris County Metro Line that travels past the university on Madison Avenue. Public transportation resources are directly linked to local resident commuter schedules for bus and train service, students should pick NJ Transit handouts or service information. New Jersey Transit Info: www.njtransit.com/

Description of Campus Public Safety Plans & Procedures: FDU'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 FDU's Annual Public Safety Report. The University Emergency Plan can be found

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. Drew University 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 Madison Police Department has developed a local crisis plan that can be found at: <http://www.rosenet.org/gov/police/>

Innovative Emergency Communications: Fairleigh Dickinson University has developed state-of-the-art emergency communication resources through its association with Rave Wireless Mobile Phone Systems for students and faculty on, and off campus. The Mobile Guardian system provides voluntary personal tracking and alarm system services that are directly linked to university public safety officials. The alert broadcasting messaging system also provides cell phone alerts and global messaging during emergency situations that gives student instant information about manmade and natural events on, and within the campus community. 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 its 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.

Formal gathering areas within FDU's main campus are situated in, and around college walk which goes straight through the facility past the "Rock". This area is the main focal area of the campus because the walkway splits the campus in half with several large grassy areas in between the lecture, and residence halls. The sidewalk acts like a quad because you can access several areas of the campus in a textbook example of CPTED.

The issue of high-risk areas on campus has been identified during annual risk assessments by security, and feedback by all institutional stakeholders including public safety officials. The public safety department maintains uniform patrol around the massive footprint but it still must rely on corporate security resources for its access control points which are many. Public safety does have remote resources (CCTV) to highlight formal surveillance throughout the campus. I observed an officer in the station house looking at a wall of CCTV cameras during my campus visit. I'm not sure what type of recording device is utilized for the cameras, it maybe DVR, or Analog.

The campus high-risk areas including the residence halls should have a higher degree of natural and formal surveillance for students and visitors. FDU has access control resources within its residence halls. For example, I did see card readers at the freshman residence hall; I also noticed a small camera in the lobby. My student guide told me that the doors to the residence halls were locked at night and public safety officers patrol the dorms at night. My student guide continued with her description of access control for students entering the residence halls in the evening. FDU students must produce their student I.D card when asked by public safety and building Resident Assistants.

In the evening and on the weekends “Resident Assistants” 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 residence halls have access control systems to record the sign in procedure while a digital CCTV camera records the activity as a redundant security feature. The residence halls also have a backup residence employee 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.

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

Caveat: Fairleigh Dickinson University Public Safety seems to have improved crime victimization on the Florham Park 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. FDU Clery 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 Madison New Jersey in 2007. Madison reported no murders, 2 acts of manslaughter, 1 Forcible Rape, 6 Robberies, 143 Aggravated Assaults, 20 Burglaries, 122 Larceny Thefts, and finally 1 Motor Vehicle Theft. The crime of Arson had 0 reported crime in 2007.

Madison Township Community Quick Links:

Town of Madison: www.RoseNet.org

Police Department: <http://www.rosenet.org/gov/police/>

Morristown Memorial Hospital General Number (973) 971-5000

FDU Quick Links Page

Home Page: www.fdu.edu

Maps & Directions: <http://view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=238>

Admissions: www.fdu.edu/admissions

Financial Aid: <http://view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=390>

Student Activities: <http://view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=532>

Student Clubs & Organizations: : <http://view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=2395>

Fraternity & Sorority Life:

<http://inside.fdu.edu/pt2/studentorgs/greeklifeflorham.html>

Student Center: <http://view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=612>

Public Transportation Services: www.njtransit.com/pdf/bus/T0966.pdf

Health Insurance: www.bollingercolleges.com/fdu/

On Campus Emergency Resources: Emergency Health Services (973) 655-4111

Student Housing: <http://alpha.fdu.edu/reslifeflorham/>

University Meal Plan: <http://alpha.fdu.edu/reslifeflorham/Current/Fees.html>.

Off Campus Housing: <http://view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=6523>

Campus Parking: <http://view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=6850>

Public Safety Plans & Procedures: <http://view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=3817>

Clery Act Policies & Procedures: www.fdu.edu/studentlife/2006florham/37-39pdf

Fairleigh Dickinson University Hotel Quick Links Page

The Madison Hotel
One Convent Road
Morristown N.J. 07960

Hamilton Park Hotel
175 Park Ave
Florham Park N.J. 07932

Hyatt Summerfield Suites Morristown
194 Park Ave
Morristown N.J. 07960

Hilton Short Hills
41 John F. Kennedy Parkway
Short Hills N.J. 07078

*** Short Hills Mall across the street***

Westin Governor Morris Hotel Morristown
2 Whippany Road
Morristown N.J. 07960

Westminister Hotel
550 West Mt. Pleasant Ave
Livingston N.J. 07039

Below is a sample list of local restaurants on Main Street (Route 124) in Madison N.J. Shopping resources can be found on Main Street in Madison along with the neighboring communities of Chatham, and the Short Hills Mall.

Atlanta Bread Company: 6 Main Street, Madison N.J.

Shanghai: 24 Main Street

Bagel Chateau: 45 Main Street

Main Street Café: 54 Main Street

Garlic Rose Bistro: 41 Main Street

MaMa Tucci Restaurant: 77 Main Street

Nautilus Diner: 97 Main Street

Five Guys Burgers & Fries: 233 Main Street

Bella Rosa: 250 Main Street

LaRosa Chicken & Grill: 306 Main Street

Madison Wok: Madison Plaza & Main Street

Firehouse Pizza: 15 Central Ave

Blue Sky Burritos: 6 Elmer Street

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 FDU. This site contains a full list of hotels, restaurants, shopping, and entertainment, and tourism resources for families enjoying the region.

