

Fashion Institute of Technology Profile

The Fashion Institute of Technology was established in 1944 as part of the State University of New York (SUNY) network of public universities offering comprehensive undergraduate programs in several different fields including art & design, business, and fashion technology. FIT prepares students for careers in fashion and related design professions and industries. The school offers Associate, Bachelor, Graduate, and Certificate Programs within these very challenging professional fields. The school itself is located in Midtown Manhattan on 7th Avenue (Fashion Avenue) in the heart of one of the world's busiest commercial areas.

FIT is also unique because it's a small state school located in the main fashion area of the world. The school is situated geographically between 28th and 26th streets between 7th and 8th Avenue in the Chelsea section of New York City. The footprint of the site is small for a state school, but big enough for an urban institution. FIT was designed to offer students a professional education while still allowing students to enjoy a small-sized public school community. The Chelsea campus offers students approximately 5 acres of city property situated within a large commercial area.

The campus has approximately 10 buildings including lecture, studio, a resource center, and student housing facilities. The issue of student housing on campus is a challenge for FIT because the school has a rather large international, and out of state student population. The university provides housing for 2,300 students on FIT's campus through a lottery system according to school documents. The university does provide a priority to out-of town students within the lottery system. International, and out of state students can apply for off campus housing through the school's office of residence life. The number of commuter students at the university also diminishes the issue of housing, which is relatively high at 83%.

The physical layout of the Chelsea campus is unique to Manhattan because the school uses metal gates to block the entrance to 27th street, which allows students to walk in the street like a pedestrian mall. 27th street is also the focal area of the campus because the academic buildings, and residence halls have been designed to separate the campus into 2 parts, for easy access to students. Student housing is in close proximity to the lecture halls for easy access to classes. FIT is a small school that has links to everywhere in the city on a 24-hour basis including private design facilities, cultural events, the international toy center on 23rd street, the international jewelry exchange on 47th street, and many other art & design locations through New York City. Fit's Chelsea location also allows students to enjoy an urban landscape while having the ability to engage in fashion activities and learning.

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. Fit's observed focal point of reference during the campus tour was the Dubinsky Student, and the Pomerantz Design Centers, which are the main internal student life areas of the campus. My tour guide told me that students come to the campus

center to relax, and eat in the dining hall. Students also use this space to socialize and talk about school and life. The facility is large for a small school with offices for all the student clubs and activities, and a school bookstore for students to enjoy. The external observed focal points for the university can be found along 7th Avenue with students enjoying several small restaurants and deli's within a very short walk from campus.

Fashion Institute Demographics: Fit University is home to an overall student population of approximately 1,000 male, and 5,600 female full time undergrad students. The university also has 800 male, and 3,300 female students attending the school on a part-time basis. Fit also has 10 male, and 100 female graduate students attending the university. The average age of a freshman is 22 years old; all undergraduates are 29 years old. 63% of students are state residents, the rest of students attending the university come from all 50 states, and 80 foreign countries. 60% of students are white, 15% are Hispanic, and 10% are African American, and 14% are Asian.

The Fashion Institute of Technology offers a Liberal Arts and Sciences programs for undergraduate students. The school has a very unique way of evaluating student performance within it's application process. Fit does not require students to take an SAT exam; the school puts more emphasis on art & design portfolios that demonstrate student potential and individual talent. Each student who applies to the school of arts & science must provide at least 7 examples of finished original work/designs during the application process. Students who wish to apply to the business school don't need a portfolio; candidates must provide academic performance documentation from high school or their transfer school in the form of transcripts, and AP courses. Potential students to the business school can have their SAT credentials evaluated in regard to Math scores if they already have them from high school, and their transfer school. Below is published general admission data for fit.

Fashion Institute: Freshman Class: 3,873 applied, 1,656 accepted, and 1,105 enrolled full-time to the school. Application Deadline is open. (Rolling Admission)

Retention Rate: 84% remain for all full time students.

Faculty/ classroom data for entire education system: 48% of faculty is male, 52% female. All teach undergraduates. The average class size in an introductory lecture is 25, Lab 18 and 25 in a regular course.

Student / Faculty Ratio: 32 to 1

Campus Footprint: The design and physical setting of the university is unique because the campus is located within the New York City neighborhood of Chelsea. The campus map highlights several multi-story buildings, which form a large manmade barrier around the campus. These buildings form a large square that's 4 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 real estate holdings with virtually all of the university's lecture halls, arts & science pavilions, residence halls, and historic buildings tied within its site plan. The footprint of the university is unique because students can retreat to their residence halls, or they can travel to a limitless number of fashion venues to experience new designers and big city living. This type of structure enhances the campus lifestyle within the school's urban footprint because students can walk to several areas of the campus within minutes.

The Fashion Institute has a real bigger 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 midtown area that cater to everyone, including college students throughout the Westside neighborhood. Students, and local residents also take advantage of the New York City Transit System's train service located a block away from the university main gates at 28th street. Pedestrian traffic outside the perimeter of the university on 7th Avenue is always heavy due to the large number of commercial buildings, restaurants, and the nearby location of Madison Square Garden and Penn Station. Students, commuters, and local residents enjoy the area because they have endless city resources within the area.

The main focal point of the campus tour was "College Walk" on West 27th Street. This city street takes you straight through the middle of the campus footprint from 7th Avenue to 8th Avenue. This physical layout is shaped like a big square that offers views of the Goodman Resource Center to the east, and Dubinsky Student Center to the west. This geographical location is Main Street for Fit students and is the focal point for the school's photo advertising. The overall physical layout of the campus is typical of a city university setting with wide sidewalks, small 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 walking to class and sitting on concrete walls outside of the lecture halls within the 27th street pedestrian mall.

Parking resources at Fit aren't a big feature on campus due to the limited number of parking permits issued to students and employees. University students who require parking services on campus are encouraged to enjoy several private parking lots on the Westside of Manhattan around Chelsea Piers. Students at Fit usually use mass transit because it's close to the school and it runs 24-hours a day. Families who wish to visit the school should be encouraged to travel through New York Penn Station for local, and regional train service to the city.

Community Profile

The Chelsea section of Manhattan has been identified on maps geographically as north of 23rd Street, and south of 34th Street between 7th Avenue and the Westside Highway. The community has been described in different ways, including a tourist heaven due to the high number of restaurants and galleries on 8th Ave. The area can also be considered a commercial hub due to it's high number of retail stores and professional buildings in the area. The Chelsea area really can't be considered a real student landmark because you only find students in, and around Fit. Student population and historical neighborhood architecture can only be found west of 8th Avenue within the overall neighborhood. The greatest number of residents in midtown is in fact working professionals.

The community has a real gritty type feel to it because a large number of people live and work within the area. New York City itself is a maze of local neighborhoods that are unique to the people who live and work in them. Chelsea can be considered a mixed residential area because you have commercial, residential, cultural, and intellectual all within the same block with people walking through the Fit campus on their way to work, or home. The area around 7th Ave is a major pedestrian walkway in midtown for NYC residents, tourist, and commuters because it's really in the middle of the city. That's why you can find endless shopping and restaurants in midtown between West 14th Street and Columbus Circle.

The issue of walking alone at night outside the perimeter of the campus gates should be curtailed because you're in a big city with big city crime. 7th Ave becomes less populated after 7:00PM due to the large commercial establishments in the area. Chelsea has several community parks and ball fields including the Chelsea Pier on the Westside Highway but local police officers have told students to exercise some caution when using the city parks after dark.

Community demographics: 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. 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.

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 it's share of rain during the spring and summer months as well.

Campus Life

The Fashion Institute of Technology 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 Chelsea only adds to the university's international status because the community has multi-cultural roots as well. Fit 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 and culture of the entire Fit community is social due to its close relationship with community, its mature student population, and educational resources in my opinion. Fit is an attractive institution because it offers students real world professional experiences in New York City, while providing relationships with major designers through student activities for everyone 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.

Campus life at Fit is more than academic excellence; it's about building personal relationships with students and faculty that continues throughout each student's career. The school may not have a lot of sports or fraternities, but it does have a network of very focused students that enjoy everything NYC has to offer including 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. Fit also develops internships for students through its general education requirements to allow everyone to make connections in specific industries, and to gain valuable feedback from working professionals. Students at Fit are also encouraged to work in the school store to gain confidence in the design, and business process, while in school.

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.

The Fashion Institute does not guarantee housing for undergraduate students who have filed their intent to reside on campus by the stated deadline. The university uses a lottery system to provide housing for students on campus. Fit currently has 4 multi-story residence halls that provide housing for 2,300 students. Information about student housing can be found within Fit's quick link page in the back of this document. The issue of housing within Fit is unique because 83% of students commute to school according to published campus data.

Off Campus Housing: The Fashion Institute of Technology has been described as a small state university situated within a midtown multi-cultural, mixed residential community. The reason I have mentioned the overall community of Chelsea is to re-assert the point that Fit's footprint is small within the neighborhood, and that available student housing in the area is extremely limited. The demand for housing, especially off campus housing is usually a tough issue for institutions attempting to keep students within the general geographical area. Fit has addressed this issue by building business relationships with residential buildings and developing housing networks. Information about off-campus housing at Fit can be found on the quick link page.

Public Transportation: The New York City Transit System has a subway that stops right at the main focal point of the campus, which is 28th Street and 7th Avenue. Students and visitors get off the train and walk down the street to the main entry to the school. The Seventh Ave Line (#1 Train) stops at 28th 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 by walking 3 blocks to 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: Fit's 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 Fit's Annual Public Safety Report. The Emergency Plan can be found on the quick links page of this document.

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. The Fashion Institute 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: The Fashion Institute's security network 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.

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 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.

Public safety also maintains visitor screening and CCTV resources to highlight the need for formal surveillance throughout the campus footprint. Fit has developed clearly worded signage that directs visitors to a welcome area within Feldman Center to improve physical security operations. Formal gathering areas within campus are situated in, and around Dubinsky Center, the campus center, and finally the residence hall buildings, which are located across the street from the academic facilities. The school has several pedestrian walkways that take you around to the above-mentioned areas. These are the main focal area of the campus because the walkway splits the campus in half with several large concrete plaza's 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 campus high-risk areas including the residence halls require a higher degree of natural and formal surveillance for students and visitors. The university uses Electronic Card Readers (Student I.D. Cards) for access to on campus residence facilities. Students attempting to enter a residence must swipe their student card for entry into the building. Students attempting to enter a different residence hall with their card will be denied access because the card knows where you live. My student guide continued with her description of access control for students entering the residence halls with guests. Fit

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.

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. Fit’s Clery Act info can be found on the quick link page.

Caveat: The Fashion Institute’s public safety officers don’t have formal arrest powers; they have to call the NYPD to investigate criminal activity on campus. The school does provide public safety resources to reduce victimization off campus. The school uses public safety officers in the lobby of all it’s buildings as an added security feature which 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. Fit 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 2008 has developed crime statistics for the neighborhood of Chelsea. In 2008 the NYPD’s 10 Precinct reported 259 Violent Crimes, 1 Murder, 7 Forcible Rapes, 131 Robberies, 120 Aggravated Assaults, 870 Property Crimes, 96 Burglaries, 725 Larceny Thefts, and finally 49 Motor Vehicle Thefts. The crime of Arson was un-reported.

Borough of Manhattan, Chelsea Community Quick Links:

New York City Police Department (NYPD)

10 Precinct Station House: The local police precinct for Chelsea is the 10, which is located at 230 West 20th Street, New York, N.Y..

Phone# (212) 741-8211

The New York City Fire Department (FDNY)

Engine 1, Ladder Company 24, 142 West 31st Street is the 1st Due Truck Company for the Fashion Institute of Technology

Emergency Medical Technicians (Ambulance Service) for the City of New York. 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. Below is the location, and phone number to the nearest hospital to the campus.

St. Vincent's Medical Center
170 West 12th Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
(212) 227-3421
www.svcmc.org

Fashion Institute of Technology Quick Links Page

Home Page: www.fitnyc.edu

Admissions: www.fitnyc.edu/2851.asp

Maps & Directions: www.fitnyc.edu/1888.asp

Financial Aid: www.fitnyc.edu/2926.asp

Student Activities: www.fitnyc.edu/3136.asp

Student Clubs & Organizations: www.fitnyc.edu/3162.asp

School Newspaper: www.fitnyc.edu/3161.asp

Student Center: www.fitnyc.edu/3140.asp

Information Technology Center: www.fitnyc.edu/5525.asp

Health Insurance: www.fitnyc.edu/3282.asp

Health Services: www.fitnyc.edu/3274.asp

On Campus Emergency Resources: www.fitnyc.edu/3755.asp

Student Housing: www.fitnyc.edu/3173.asp

University Meal Plan: www.campusdish.com/en-US/CSE/FIT

Off Campus Housing: www.fitnyc.edu/3173.asp

Emergency Communication: www.fitnyc.edu/3754.asp

Clery Act Policies & Procedures: www.fitnyc.edu/3751.asp

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 FIT. This site contains a full list of hotels, restaurants, shopping, and entertainment, and tourism resources for families enjoying the region. Below is a sample list of local hotels and restaurants in the Chelsea Area.

Lower Manhattan Hotel Listings:

Ritz-Carlton New York (Battery Park) Hotel Indigo
Embassy Suites Hotel, New York
Millenium Hotel
Hotel Reserve
Best Western Bowery Hanbee Hotel
Hotel Gansevoort

Chelsea Area Hotel Listings:

The Maritime Hotel
Marriott Downtown

Chelsea (Midtown/ West Side of Manhattan)

Blue Moon Mexican Café: 150 Eighth Ave & 17th Street
Better Burger Chelsea: 178 Eighth Ave & 19th Street
Burritoville: 352 West 39th Street & 9th Ave
Moonstruck Diner: 400 West 23rd Street & 9th Ave
Sandwich Planet: 534 Ninth Ave & 40th Street
Morimoto: 88 Tenth Ave & 16th Street

