

Montclair State University Profile

Montclair State University was established in 1908 and is currently the second largest public college in New Jersey's state education system, which has approximately 10 schools. Montclair State is unique because it's located within three northern suburban towns of Montclair, Little Falls, and Clifton New Jersey. The footprint of the site is large for a State school with approximately 275 acres of park like property that starts in Montclair and winds through Clifton until it reaches Little Falls on its western border.

The campus has approximately 55 buildings including lecture, communications, sports, performing arts, and student housing facilities. The issue of student housing is a challenge for MSU due to it's very limited housing resources on campus according to school officials. 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.

Montclair State University Demographics: Montclair State is home to approximately 3927 male, and 5982 female full time students. The university has 812 male, and 1453 female part time students enrolled. The average age of a freshman is 18 years old; all undergraduates is 23 years old. 95% of students are state residents with the rest coming from 37 other states, and 92 foreign countries. 56% of students are white, 17% are Hispanic, and 10% are African American. The total number of students with on campus housing is 3,300 according to published handouts.

Published Academic Standards for Admission Programs

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

Montclair State University: Freshman Class: 10,112 applied, 5733 accepted, and 2098 enrolled to the school.

SAT Verbal 537, SAT Math 548. Application Deadline March 1

Faculty/ Classroom: 56% of faculty is male, 44% female. All teach Undergraduates. The average class size in an introductory lecture is 24; and 24 in a regular course.

Student / Faculty Ratio: 18 to 1

Retention Rate: 18% do not continue beyond 1st year, 58% 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 several construction projects underway including student housing and performing arts.

An observation of the internal campus setting provides students and employees with several types of student services including physical fitness, residence, library services, and cultural meeting places and dining halls. Montclair's observed focal point of reference during my campus visit was the main sidewalk from the academic buildings to the area around the campus television station. I observed heavy pedestrian traffic from this area of the campus due to the location of a popular coffee shop right in the middle of the quad. I also observed some foot traffic to the new recreation center, which is located beyond the residence halls.

The campus footprint also highlights several performing arts and historic buildings including the Yogi Berra Museum within its sprawling footprint. The buildings geographical design form a large oval 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 commuter students and employees. The university has approximately 42 parking lots for over 7000 vehicles. 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 6 entrances and exits to maximize the flow of vehicular traffic within the facility; the issue of pedestrian traffic on campus is minimal due to the suburban setting and limited numbers of public transportation resources. Montclair'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 Red Hawk Parking Deck, visitors who wish to walk around the campus without an escort can, but only during daylight hours.

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. A strong indicator of pedestrian traffic around the university can be identified by the northeast weather patterns. Student parking within close proximity to university buildings and student services help reduce the exposure literally and figuratively.

Community Profile

Montclair New Jersey is a suburban town of approximately 38,977 residents in the northeastern county of Essex. The town has been described as a gracious family centered residential community within striking distance to New York City. Montclair also has an intellectual side to it due to its historical neighborhood architecture. The local pedestrian walkway on Main Street links local residents to a large number of restaurants and local shops within the center of town. The community has a real small town feel to it when you are walking to neighborhood eateries. Montclair 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 out activities very enjoyable to everyone.

The town itself is located within the northeastern area of the state, which makes it convenient to several suburban communities and highway networks. New Jersey Transit provides local rail service in the area with the Montclair-Boonton Line. This rail corridor links to Newark Airport, and N.J. Penn Station for Amtrack northeast rail service. The main airport to MSU is Newark International airport. The Town of Montclair also has several shopping, restaurant and hotel chains within a short drive to Route 46, and Route 3. Appendix #1 on the back page of this profile lists several of observed resources in close proximity to the school.

Montclair also has the added attraction of being a short drive to the Meadowlands Sports Facility on Route 3. This area of the state has several direct links to major roadways including the Garden State Parkway, and the New Jersey Turnpike. Which are the main north/south corridors on the state.

Community demographics: The following demographics for Montclair New Jersey describe a multi-cultural community within a total population of 38,977 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey highlights several characteristics to describe the population including: 46.3% of residents are male, 53.7 are female. 59.8 % of residents are white, 32.1% are African American, 5.1% are Hispanic or Latino, 3.2 % are Asian, 1.8 % are some other Race, and finally 3.0 are two or more Races. The median age of population is 37.5 years old. 74.4% of residents are 18 years old or over and 12. % of city residents are over the age of 65. The issue of housing in Montclair is also interesting. 96.7 % of all housing units within the town are occupied. 43.6 % of housing units are renter-occupied, while 56.4 % of units are owner-occupied. Only 3.1 % of total available housing was vacant.

Campus Life

Montclair State University 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 community of Montclair is a short distance away from the school by car and is very supportive of the schools mission to provide educational opportunities to local residents and on-campus students. Local residents of Montclair also enjoy the university's performing arts, and communication venues throughout the year, which allows the university to enjoy a real community feel to it. And finally, the issue of team sports is vital to the overall campus culture. MSU fields several division 3 men's, and women's sports teams for students, and local residents to enjoy.

The emotional climate of the entire community is very relaxed in my opinion. Montclair University is an attractive institution because it offers students a communal education experience within driving distance to a major American City. MSU students really enjoy watching sports activities within the campus stadium, which improves student culture. These campus life resources add to the social fabric of the campus on a daily basis. The university culture is very social in my opinion because I observed several fraternal organizations, and clubs interacting with fellow students in several areas of the campus including the recreation, and student centers.

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.

Montclair does not guarantee housing for all undergraduate students who have filed their intent to reside on campus by the stated deadline and who have continuously registered as full time students. Housing administrators urge students to apply for housing in a timely manner because its first come, first served. All of the buildings except Blanton Hall were built in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's Blanton was built in 1980. All of these units are currently being upgraded when I visited the university. The school's nicest student housing facilities can be found within the village apartments. These units are new, and beautiful, but only upper classmen can rent them.

Off Campus Housing: Montclair State University has been described as a small residential community within driving, and commuter distance to New York City. The reason I have mentioned the overall community of Montclair is to re-assert the point that MSU 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 three towns that MSU encompasses. But, the issue of renting to students is a challenge because working families who want the Montclair school system for their children are competing for the available housing.

Public Transportation: The public transportation for the university is served by The New Jersey Transit Montclair-Boonton line, which serves the residents of Montclair. 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 Montclair Heights and Montclair State stations respectfully. The school has set up campus shuttles to bring transit riders to the main campus for classes. The De Camp Bus Company also provides bus service for students who require transportation to, and from New York City on the # 66 bus that travels to the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

Public transportation resources for MSU are limited during off peak transit periods because Montclair is considered a commuter town. 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.

Description of Campus Public Safety Plans & Procedures: MSU's general public safety plans and procedures can be found in the emergency plan which gives students and employees 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 Montclair's Annual Public Safety Report. The University Emergency Plan can be found at: www.msupolice@mail.Montclair.edu .

Emergency 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. Montclair State University has also developed an emergency plan for students and employees to follow which highlights several potential manmade and weather related events. www.Montclair.edu/EMS/emergencyplan?emergencyplan.pdf

Innovative Emergency Communications: Montclair State University has developed state- of the art emergency communication resources through it's 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 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 design and physical setting of Montclair State University is a large public university with 275 acres of property situated within the suburban community of Montclair New Jersey. The campus footprint highlights several community based buildings including communication, and performing arts, and the Berra Museum within it's sprawling footprint. The buildings geographical design form a large oval 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 42 parking lots including 1 large parking deck adjacent to the school's public safety headquarters. These parking lots maintain the campus perimeter because they act almost like natural barriers.

The campus has approximately 6 entrances and exits to maximize the flow of vehicular traffic within the facility; the issue of pedestrian traffic on campus is minimal due to the suburban setting. Montclair'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 Red Hawk Parking Deck.

Formal gathering areas within Montclair's main campus are limited due to the commuter culture on campus. Students gather at several different areas of the campus during the day, and move to more convenient locations at night. The daytime focal area of the campus lies between several large grassy areas in and around the quad. The interior footprint are 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 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.

MSU has several access control features for the residence halls including swipe card technology. Students who enter the residence halls must produce their Red Hawk 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 on a DVR platform 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. Montclair State University Clery Act information can be found on the quick links page.

Caveat: Montclair State University Public Safety officers have arrest powers, which seemed to have improved security resources on campus. But, the following statement from the department education offers this advice. “ The department data reported by the institutions have not been subjected to independent verification by the U.S. Department of Education. Therefore, the department cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data reported here”. The following data on arrests for illegal weapons, drug, and liquor violations for the years 2005, 2006, and 2007 on campus, and within the residence halls were reported by MSU's Public Safety Department. MSU 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 2006 has developed crime statistics for Montclair New Jersey in 2006. Montclair reported 90 Violent Crimes, 1 Murder, 1 Forcible Rape, 27 Robberies, 61 Aggravated Assaults, 994 Property Crimes, 251 Burglaries, 663 Larceny Thefts, and finally 80 Motor Vehicle Thefts. The crime of Arson had 1 reported crime.

Town of Montclair Quick Links:

Town of Montclair: www.montclair.org/

Police Department: www.police@montclairnjusa.org

Mountainside Hospital: www.mountainsideow.com

Montclair State University Quick Links Page

Home Page: www.montclair.edu/

Maps & Directions: www.montclair.edu/welcome/directions.html

Admissions: www.montclair.edu/admissions.com

Financial Aid: www.montclair.edu/financialAid/

Student Activities: www.monclair.edu/sdcl/

Student Clubs & Organizations: www.Montclair.edu/SGA

Fraternity & Sorority Life: www.montclair.edu/greekaffairs/

Student Center: www.montclair/pages/studentcenter

Public Transportation Services: www.Montclair.edu/welcome/directions.html.

Information Technology Center: <http://oit.montclair.edu/tsc/>

Health Insurance: www.montclair.edu/health/he/insurance.html

Medical Services: www.montclair.edu/health/hc/

On Campus Emergency Resources: www.montclair.edu/health/hc/services.html

Student Housing: www.montclair.edu/resed/reshalls/

Monmouth University Meal Plan: www.Montclair.edu/DiningServices/plans.html

Off Campus Housing: <http://offcampushousing.montclair.edu/>

Campus Parking: www.montclair.edu/parking.

Public Safety Plans & Procedures: www.montclair.edu/emergency/criminal.html

Emergency Telephones: www.montclair.edu/emergency/intruder.html

Emergency Communication: www.montclair.edu/emergency/

Clery Act Policies & Procedures: www.msupolice@mail.montclair.edu

Montclair State University Local Hotel Quick Links Page

LaQuinta Inn Clifton
265 Route 3 East
Clifton N.J. 07014

Below is a list of hotel accommodations within a 15-minute drive to the campus.

Crown Plaza Fairfield
690 Route 46 East
Fairfield N.J. 07004

Comfort Inn Fairfield
286 Route 46 East
Fairfield N.J. 07004

Hampton Inn Fairfield
118-124 Route 46 East
Fairfield N.J. 07004

Holiday Inn Totowa/ Wayne
1 Route 46 West
Totowa N.J. 07512

Ramada Inn Parsippany
949 Route 46
Parsippany N.J. 07054

Days Inn Parsippany
3159 Route 46
Parsippany N.J. 07054

Best Western Fairfield Inn (Willowbrook Mall)
216 Route 46
Fairfield N.J. 07004

Holiday Inn Parsippany
707 Route 46
Parsippany N.J. 07054

Below is a sample list of local restaurants in Montclair N.J. National restaurant chains & shopping resources can be found on Route 46 & 3 in, and around these major highway networks along with the Willowbrook Mall in nearby Fairfield N.J. A complete list of local restaurants in Montclair New Jersey can be found at: www.foodio54.com

Amazon Café (Vegetarian) 7 North Willow St. Montclair N.J. 07042 (973) 655-1911
Udupi Village Restaurant (Indian) 511 Bloomfield Ave Montclair N.J. (973) 233-1905
Bistro 18 (American) 18 South Fullerton Ave Montclair N.J. (973) 233-0800
Blue Sky Café (Chinese) 398 Bloomfield Ave Montclair N.J. (973) 746-2553
All American Grill & Deli (Deli Food) 7 Park St. Montclair N.J. (973) 744-6764
Trattoria Rustica (Italian) 517 Bloomfield Ave Montclair N.J. (973) 783-3436
Dino's Pizza: 128 Watchung Ave, Montclair N.J. (973) 783-7115

Below is a sample list of entertainment venues within the City of Newark
New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) One Center Street Newark N.J.
www.njpac.org or (973) 642-8989

Prudential Center in Newark (The Rock) N.J. Devils NHL Hockey & Sporting Venue
Edison & Mulberry Streets in downtown Newark N.J. www.devils.nhl.com

Newark Bears (Minor League Baseball team) 450 Broad Street, Newark N.J.
www.newarkbears.com or (888) 852-3277

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

