

## **Ramapo College of New Jersey Profile**

Ramapo College of New Jersey was established in 1969 and is currently one of the fastest growing public colleges in New Jersey's public education system, which has approximately 10 schools. Ramapo is unique because it's one of the largest state campuses within the education system with a physical footprint of 314 acres. The school is located in the northwestern suburban town of Mahwah New Jersey as part of a college for liberal arts and sciences. Ramapo is also unique because it offers students the ability to enjoy a park like setting within an hour from New York City. The footprint of the site is large, but the school itself feels small with students and administrators enjoying the beautiful landscape property within the mountain town of Mahwah, which, is located geographically on the New York State border.

The campus has approximately 54 buildings including lecture, sports, performing arts, and student housing facilities. The issue of student housing on campus is not a challenge for Ramapo due to it's relatively small student population. The university provides guaranteed housing for undergrad, and graduate students according to school officials. The physical layout of the academic buildings, athletic fields, and residence halls is designed to separate the campus into 3 parts, for easy access to students. The freshmen housing is in close proximity to the lecture halls for easy access to classes.

The internal campus setting provides students and employees with several types of student services including physical fitness, library services, cultural meeting places and dining halls. The university also has a state of the art performing arts pavilion for music, and theatre performances for students and local residents to enjoy. The facility was a gift from the Sharp Corporation, which is located in the town. Ramapo College's observed focal point of reference during the campus tour was the state of the art athletic facility, which has floor to ceiling glass windows that allows visitors the ability to enjoy scenic views.

The second area for non-educational activities was the student center, which has a dining hall, and a food court called the Atrium for fast meals. My tour guide told me that students come to these areas to workout, relax, and eat fast food in the food court. Students also use this space to socialize and talk about school and life. The facility is small compared other state campuses I have visited but the building was busy during my school observations. The student center houses all the student clubs and campus activities for students to participate in, and to enjoy.

**Ramapo Demographics:** Ramapo is home to approximately 1718 male, and 2555 female full time undergrad students. The university also has 376 male, and 584 female students attending on a part-time basis. Ramapo also has 60 male, and 245 female graduate students attending the campus. The average age of a freshman is 18 years old; all undergraduates are 23 years old. 92% of students are state residents with the rest coming from 19 other states, and 57 foreign countries. 79% of students are white, 8% are Hispanic, and 6% are African American, and 5.5% are Asian.

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

**Ramapo College of N.J.** Freshman Class: 4,983 applied, 2421 accepted, and 902 enrolled to the school. SAT Verbal 575, Math 590. Application Deadline March 1.

**Faculty/ Classroom:** 59% of faculty is male, 41% female. All teach Undergraduates. The average class size in an introductory lecture is 26, Lab 15 and 21 in a regular course.

**Student / Faculty Ratio: 22 to 1**

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

The design and physical setting of Ramapo is unique because the campus is located within a large wooded setting surrounded by mountains. The university is virtually split in three parts with residence halls and upper classman apartments on opposite ends of the campus 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.

Parking resources is a big feature on campus due to the high number of parking permits issued to students and employees. The university also has a part time student community who require parking services on campus. The university has approximately 9 parking lots for students, employees, and visitors. The physical security design seems to be a challenge for public safety officials due to the number of access points to the campus. The campus parking lots are connected to several roads on the campus perimeter, which act almost like natural barriers, students can park their cars without any concern for internal traffic issues within the campus footprint.

The campus has approximately 4 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, the only people I observed walking on the perimeter were the students who were using the soccer field across the street. The university offers public transportation resources for students on campus, which helps students get around the massive site. Having a shuttle service on campus does invite a certain number of unwelcomed visitors who may want to access the campus through active transportation resources, but in general I think it's a very useful resource.

## Community Profile

Mahwah New Jersey is a suburban mountain town of approximately 27 square miles with 24,062 residents in the northwestern county of Bergen. The town has been described as a gracious family centered residential community within striking distance to New York City. Mahwah also has an intellectual side due to its historical colonial architecture. The community has a real small town feel to it when you are walking, and driving to neighborhood eateries. The township also has several community parks and ball fields in and around the community 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 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 Bergen County Line". This rail corridor links to New York City, Newark Airport, and N.J. Penn Station for Amtrak northeast rail service. The main airport to Ramapo College is Newark International airport, which is also connected to N.J. Transit rail service. Mahwah Township also has several local highways that links students and residents to a large number of restaurants and shops within the nearby town of Ramsey on Route 17. Residents also have numerous shopping, and dining options on Route 287, which is a 10-minute drive from the campus.

**Community demographics:** The following demographics for Mahwah New Jersey describe a culturally diverse community within a total population of 24,062 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey highlights several characteristics to describe the population including: 11,435 residents are male, 12,627 are female. 88% of residents are white, 2% are African American, 4% are Hispanic or Latino, and 6% are Asian. The median age of population is 37 years old. 77.8% of residents are 18 years old, 72 of residents are over 21 and 10.7 % of town residents is over the age of 65. The issue of housing in Mahwah is also interesting. 97.5 % of all housing units within the town are occupied. 15 % of housing units is renter-occupied, while 84 % of units are owner-occupied. Only 2.4 % of total available housing was vacant according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

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

## Campus Life

Ramapo College is an active public university 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 students. The local community of Mahwah 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.

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. Ramapo 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. The school does have it's share of suite case students but, the new residence halls have made more students stay on campus.

Ramapo also addresses the issue of ecology in a positive way. The physical environment is reasonably clean and well maintained and the economic conditions are favorable to students and local residents due to the available services in driving distance to the school. The university is also going through a growth period with construction of new state of the art student housing facilities that provide scenic views of the entire campus footprint. The development of a state of the art athletic center also helps students connect with each other in non-classroom environments by providing a central meeting place for recreational clubs and student run activities.

The college 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.

**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.

Ramapo guarantees housing for all undergraduate, and graduate students who have filed their intent to reside on campus by the stated deadline and who have continuously registered as full time students. The university has also developed beautiful new housing units that blend into the college's natural landscape with state of the art amenities for students to enjoy including mini kitchens and suite style common rooms.

**Off Campus Housing:** The Township of Mahwah 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 is to re-assert the point that the college is situated in a suburban setting with a high number of homes that are privately owned. The school 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 Ramapo students are limited due to the location of the campus. Students who attend the university usually drive to campus because parking is readily available and public transportation is limited. Another issue for public transportation is the students themselves. The university has a very large number of in-state students who know the streets and highways very well. Knowing the area is key because students who come from other states may not know the area as well and might opt to take a bus or train to their destination because they don't want to risk getting lost on local roads. Ramapo does provide a campus shuttle system within the campus and nearby roads for students. Information about the service can be found on the quick links page.

The public transportation for the college is served by The New Jersey Transit's Bergen County Line, and Short Line bus line, which serves the residents of Mahwah. This specific line connects with several other transit lines within the overall system including the Northeast Corridor. 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/](http://www.njtransit.com/) & [www.shortlinebus.com](http://www.shortlinebus.com)

**Description of Campus Public Safety Plans & Procedures:** Ramapo'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 Ramapo's Annual Public Safety Report. The University Emergency Plan can be found: [www.ramapo.edu/emergency/parents.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/emergency/parents.html)

**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. Ramapo College 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 Mahwah Police Department has developed a local crisis plan that can be found on the quick links page.

**Innovative Emergency Communications:** The college has developed reverse 911 systems that send several types of emergency notifications through e-mail and phone text message systems. Campus alerts, and weather related information is sent through this system. The university also has active shooter protocols for students to follow during an emergency including lock-down, and lockout procedures. These messages are usually received within 1-2 minutes of emergency broadcast and allow university officials to adhere to Clery Act requirements for timely warnings of emergency events.

**Campus Access Control & Security Systems:**

The design, and physical setting of a particular institution has elements relating to the overall culture and social system on campus. Since college and university campuses are designed to offer (open) movement of people through it's borders, the issue of design, along with effective use of space can reduce both the incidence, and fear of crime. This design feature is called "Crime Prevention through Environmental Control." The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life. The issues of identifying formal gathering and high- risk areas within a campus footprint are also critical to public safety resources because manpower must be observed in these areas.

The issue of high-risk areas on campus has been identified during annual risk assessments by security, and feedback by all intuitional stakeholders including public safety officials. The public safety department maintains uniform patrol around the massive footprint in several different types of patrol vehicles including 4-wheel drive, and regular police patrol vehicles. These resources help officer's patrol around the campus 24-hours a day to reduce the number of people who may not have legitimate business on campus. At night, public safety closes several entrances to students and employees with a lock and chain to further reduce access to the institution.

Ramapo College has a main gate that provides access control for a large number of daily students, visitors, and employees. This main access point has developed clearly worded signage that directs visitors to a welcome area adjacent to Admissions Hall to improve physical security operations. Ramapo public safety also uses visitor screening and CCTV resources to highlight formal surveillance at the main entrance and throughout the campus footprint including formal gathering areas. These areas of campus include the Bradley Athletic Center, Atrium, and the Sharp performing arts center, which are connected by the campus main sidewalk.

The campus high-risk areas including the residence halls and student parking facilities should have a higher degree of natural and formal surveillance for students and visitors. Ramapo deploys several types of electronic access control, and off duty police officer resources within the campus footprint during sporting and special events to maintain formal security and public safety operations. My student guide told me that the doors to the residence halls were locked at night and on-duty residence assistants, and security guards controlled access to the building. I also observed new access control technology on campus within the new residence halls and student apartments.

My student guide continued with her description of access control for students entering the residence halls in the evening. Ramapo students must produce their student I.D card that are swiped through a card reader mechanism. In the evening and on the weekends “Resident Assistant” set up a table to authenticate visitors to the building. The RA’s and the students in residence are responsible to sign in, and identify the person standing in front of them. Some of the newer residence halls have access control systems to record the sign in procedure while a digital CCTV camera records the activity on a DVR platform as a redundant security feature.

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

The Clery Act. The Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires all postsecondary institutions participating in the Title IV student financial aid programs to disclose campus crime statistics, university violations and disciplinary data, and finally security information to the U.S. Department of Education on an annual basis. The legislation also describes several required policy statements that address public safety and security issues. Below is a sample list of Clery Act Policy Statements for colleges and universities to publish each year within their prospective crime report/audits.

Required policy statements include: addressing timely warnings, disclosure of crime statistics, reporting criminal offenses, confidential reporting, security and access control, arrest authority, security awareness programs, crime prevention programs, sex offenses, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, substance abuse programs, and general codes of conduct. Ramapo Clery Act data can be found on the quick links page.

**Caveat:** Ramapo’s public safety officers have formal arrest powers; they have the ability to investigate criminal activity on campus, and the resources to reduce victimization off campus. Public Safety seems to have improved crime victimization on campus due to improved security resources but the following statement from the department education offers this advice. “ The department data reported by the institutions have not been subjected to independent verification by the U.S. Department of Education. Therefore, the department cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data reported. Ramapo 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 Mahwah New Jersey. Mahwah reported no murders or acts of manslaughter in 2008. The Police Department also reports 0 Forcible Rape, 1 Robbery, 6 Aggravated Assaults, 13 Burglaries, 155 Larceny Thefts, and finally 27 Motor Vehicle Thefts. The crime of Arson had 1 reported crime in 2008.

**Mahwah Township Community Quick Links:**

**Mahwah Township: [www.mahwahtwp.org](http://www.mahwahtwp.org)**

**Mahwah Police Department  
221 Franklin Turnpike  
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430 (201) 529-1000  
[www.mahwahpd.org/](http://www.mahwahpd.org/)**

**Mahwah Fire Department  
475 Corporate Drive  
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430 (201) 828-2017**

## Ramapo College Quick Links

Home Page: [www.ramapo.edu](http://www.ramapo.edu)

Maps & Directions: [www.ramapo.edu/about/visitors/drivingdirections.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/about/visitors/drivingdirections.html)

Admissions: [www.ramapo.edu/admissions/](http://www.ramapo.edu/admissions/)

Financial Aid: [www.ramapo.edu/admissions/finaid/](http://www.ramapo.edu/admissions/finaid/)

Student Activities: [www.ramapo.edu/students/activities/index.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/students/activities/index.html)

Student Clubs & Organizations: [www.ramapo.edu/students/activities/clubs.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/students/activities/clubs.html)

Fraternity & Sorority Life: [www.ramapo.edu/students/greek/profiles.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/students/greek/profiles.html)

Student Center: [www.ramapo.edu/students/center/index.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/students/center/index.html)

Public Transportation Services: [www.ramapo.edu/about/shuttlebus/index.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/about/shuttlebus/index.html)

Information Technology Center [www.ramapo.edu/students/oss/assistivetech.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/students/oss/assistivetech.html)

Health Insurance: [www.bollingerinsurance.com/ramapo/](http://www.bollingerinsurance.com/ramapo/)

Medical Services: [www.ramapo.edu/students/ems.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/students/ems.html)

On Campus Emergency Resources: [www.ramapo.edu/students/ems.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/students/ems.html)

Student Housing: [www.ramapo.edu/students/reslife/index.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/students/reslife/index.html)

University Meal Plan: [www.ramapo.edu/students/dining/mealplans.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/students/dining/mealplans.html)

Off Campus Housing: No Information Available

Campus Parking:  
[www.ramapo.edu/facultystaff/publicsafety/parkingregulations.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/facultystaff/publicsafety/parkingregulations.html)

Public Safety: [www.ramapo.edu/facultystaff/publicsafety/index.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/facultystaff/publicsafety/index.html)

Public Safety Plans & Procedures: [www.ramapo.edu/emergency/parents.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/emergency/parents.html)

Emergency Communication: [www.ramapo.edu/emergency/parents.html](http://www.ramapo.edu/emergency/parents.html)

Clery Act Policies & Procedures:  
[www.ramapo.edu/facultystaff/publicsafety/docs/Cleary\\_08.pdf](http://www.ramapo.edu/facultystaff/publicsafety/docs/Cleary_08.pdf)

## Ramapo College of New Jersey Local Hotel Quick Links Page

Holiday Inn Suffern  
3 Executive Blvd  
Suffern N.Y. 10901

Doubletree Hotel Mahwah  
180 Route 17 South  
Mahwah N.J. 07430

Courtyard by Marriott  
140 Route 17 South  
Mahwah N.J. 07430

Sheraton Hotel Mahwah  
1 International Blvd  
Mahwah N.J. 07495

Comfort Suites Mahwah  
220 Route 17 South  
Mahwah N.J. 07430

Homewood Suites Mahwah  
375 Corporate Drive  
Mahwah N.J. 07430

Below is a sample list of local restaurants in Mahwah & Ramsey N.J. National restaurant chains & shopping resources can be found on Route 17 around this major highway. A complete list of local restaurants in Mahwah New Jersey can be found at:

[www.foodio54.com](http://www.foodio54.com)

Boulevard Grill: 1033 Macarthur Blvd, Mahwah N.J. (201) 760-9400  
New York Steak House & Pub: 180 Route 17, Mahwah N.J. (201) 529-1806  
State Line Diner: 375 Route 17, Mahwah N.J. (201) 529-3353  
Boston Market (National Chain) 395 Route 17, Mahwah N.J. (201) 828-9399  
The Mezzanine Grill: 1 International Blvd, Mahwah N.J. (201) 529-2223  
Giuseppe Restaurant: 1202 Faulkner St. Mahwah N.J. (201) 248-3098  
Panera Bread Company (National Chain) 1300 Route 17, Ramsey N.J. (201) 236-6300

Below is a sample list of entertainment venues within the City of Newark, which is the largest city in New Jersey. The City of Newark is approximately 40 minute drive from the Ramapo campus.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) One Center Street Newark N.J.  
[www.njpac.org](http://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](http://www.devils.nhl.com)

Newark Bears ( Minor League Baseball team) 450 Broad Street, Newark N.J.  
[www.newarkbears.com](http://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 Ramapo College. This site contains a full list of hotels, restaurants, shopping, and entertainment, and tourism resources for families enjoying the region.**











