

## Rider University Profile

Rider University was founded in 1865 as a private business administration, and liberal arts institution offering comprehensive undergraduate, and graduate programs in several different fields including certificate and professional educational fields. Rider is unique because it's located within the Princeton Corridor in the quiet suburban towns of Lawrenceville New Jersey, and it has a second campus in Princeton N.J. for it's Westminster Choir College, both in Mercer County. The footprint of the site is large for a middle-sized private school with approximately 340 acres of park like property that winds through the local township. The campus has approximately 37 buildings including lecture, sports, performing arts, and student housing facilities. The issue of student housing is an interesting subject at Rider because the university does guarantee housing to students for all four years.

**Rider University Demographics:** Rider is home to approximately 1398 male, and 1886 female full time students. The university has 278 male, and 489 female part time students enrolled. The graduate school also has 314 male, and 746 female students enrolled. The average age of a freshman is 18 years old; all undergraduates are 22 years old. 76% of students are state residents with the rest coming from 35 other states, and 31 foreign countries. 81% of students are white. 5% are Hispanic, and 9% are African American, and 3% are Asian. The total number of students with on campus housing is 1,429 according to published handouts.

### **Published Academic Standards for Admission Programs**

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

**Rider University:** Freshman Class: 6,213 applied, 4,672 accepted, and 993 enrolled to the school.

SAT Verbal 500, SAT Math 520. Application Deadline: Open

**Faculty/ Classroom:** 61% of faculty is male, 39% female. All professors teach undergraduates. The average class size in an introductory lecture is 26; and 14 in laboratory, and finally 20 in a regular course. No introductory courses are taught by graduate assistants.

**Student / Faculty Ratio: 14 to 1**

**Retention Rate:** 21% do not continue beyond their first 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 also observed several construction projects underway including the West Village residence hall during my visit.

An observation of 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. Rider had two observed focal points of reference during my campus visit. The first was the main sidewalk from the academic buildings across the campus green to the residence halls. The second reference point was the campus mall located in close proximity to the main entrance to the school. I observed heavy pedestrian traffic from this area of the campus due to the time of day. Students were observed walking to the dining, and recreation facilities from both reference points.

The footprints of these main sidewalks take you to three different areas of the campus. The first area should be considered the front area within a large grassy area called the campus mall. This main pedestrian walkway provides access to the school's gymnasium, recreation center, main dining hall, and several residence halls. The second area should be considered the main educational facilities on campus within the campus green area. This location observes several pedestrian walkways proceeding across the green to several lecture buildings. And finally, Greek houses and the school's ball fields on the far end of the campus footprint share the third physical area of the campus.

The rest of the university layout observes several roads and parking lots that allow students to walk onto campus from several different exterior locations. This physical design feature gives visitors the feeling of a campus that is spread out with several entrances and exits for people to choose from. The buildings within the site are also arranged so students can walk to their classes from a number of campus parking facilities. The physical layout is shaped like a big oval with dormitories on both sides of the campus and lecture halls in the middle.

**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

Lawrenceville New Jersey is a suburban town of approximately 4,081 residents in the county of Mercer. The town is a typical residential community within the center of the state. The town is located within striking distance to The City of Trenton, and Princeton Township. New York City and Philadelphia are approximately 1 hour away by car or train. Lawrenceville has an intellectual side to it due to its relationship with local colleges and universities; TCNJ and Princeton University are close to the town center by car. The town doesn't really have any local pedestrian walkways that links local residents to local shops and restaurants. The main roadway past Rider is Route 208, which links to several roadway systems within the suburban area.

The community itself has a real small suburban town feel to it when you are driving around the neighborhood. I found a large number of eateries and shopping on Lawrenceville Road, which is approximately a 10-minute drive from the Rider campus, this is a main road through the community. Lawrenceville 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 activities very enjoyable to everyone. New Jersey Transit also provides commuter rail service to local residents in the area with the Northeast Corridor Line" station that is located in nearby Hamilton Township. This rail corridor links to New York City, Newark Airport, and N.J. Penn Station for Amtrak northeast rail service. Town residents also have numerous shopping, and dining options on Route 95, and 1, which is a 10-minute drive from the campus.

**Community demographics:** The following demographics for Lawrenceville New Jersey describe a culturally diverse community within a total population of 4,081 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey highlights several characteristics to describe the population including: 1,860 residents are male, 2,221 are female. 88 % of residents are white, 3.6% are African American, 3.5% are Hispanic or Latino, and 6.3 % is Asian. The median age of population is 39 years old. 75% of residents are over 18 years old, 73% are over 21 years old, and 10 % of township residents are over the age of 65. The issue of housing in Lawrenceville is also interesting. 98.4 % of all housing units within the town are occupied. 18.7 % of housing units are renter-occupied, while 81.3 % of units are owner-occupied. Only 1.6 % of total available housing was vacant.

## Campus Life

Rider University is an active private 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 relatively low number of in state residents, as well as mid Atlantic students enrolled as full time, and part time students. The local communities of Lawrenceville and Princeton are a short distance away from the school by car, which makes the school attractive to students who drive. The local communities also are very supportive of the schools mission to provide educational opportunities to local residents and on-campus students.

The emotional climate of the entire community is very relaxed and social in my opinion. Rider University is an attractive institution because it offers students natural beauty within it's large campus footprint while allowing the flexibility to enjoy historic, cultural, and social venues within the Princeton Corridor. Rider University is also located within driving, and commuting distance between two major cities for students to enjoy. Having New York City, and Philadelphia, not to mention the Jersey Shore down on Route 195 makes the physical campus enjoyable to several different types of social interactions. The school also has division I sports to watch, and enjoy while on campus.

**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.

Rider University 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 started updating the housing on campus by converting old corridor style bathrooms into semi-private ones. The school has also started developing housing resources for upper classman through it's capital improvement initiatives. The West Village apartments are new, and beautiful, but only upper classmen can rent them. Rider also has a large fraternity, and sorority residence hall presence within the campus footprint on the far end of the school's property.

**Off Campus Housing:** The Township of Lawrenceville has been described as a small residential community within driving, and commuter distance to Trenton, New York City, and Philadelphia. The reason I have mentioned the overall community of Lawrenceville is to re-assert the point that Rider 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 campus. The college does provide off campus housing resources for students who request help. Information about off campus housing services can be found on the quick links page.

**Public Transportation:** Public transportation resources for Rider 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. Rider does not provide a campus shuttle system within the campus and nearby roads for students.

The public transportation for the university is served by The New Jersey Transit Northeast Corridor line, which serves the residents of the neighboring towns of Ewing, and Hamilton New Jersey. This specific line connects with several other transit lines within the overall system including Amtrak, New York City, and Philadelphia local transit systems. Public transportation resources are directly linked to local resident commuter schedules for bus and train service, students should pick up NJ Transit handouts or service information. New Jersey Transit Info: [www.njtransit.com/](http://www.njtransit.com/)

**Description of Campus Public Safety Plans & Procedures:** Rider'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 Rider's Annual Public Safety Report. The University Emergency Plan can be found at: [www.rider.edu/175\\_104.htm](http://www.rider.edu/175_104.htm)

**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. Rider University has also developed an emergency plan for students and employees to follow which highlights several potential manmade and weather related events.

**Innovative Emergency Communications:** Rider has developed an emergency notification system that sends information to students and employees via e-mail and phone text platforms. Students are encouraged to sign-up with public safety for this critical service. These messages are usually transmitted within 1-2 minutes of emergency broadcast and allow university officials to adhere to Clery Act requirements for timely warnings of emergency events. Rider University's system is called Connect-ED. Registration information can be found at: [www.rider.edu/175\\_10765.htm](http://www.rider.edu/175_10765.htm)

**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.

Rider University 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. Rider 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 athletic recreation center, Alumni Gymnasium, Yvonne Theater, Luedeke Student Center, the main dining hall, and finally the numerous residence facilities, which are connected by the campus main sidewalk.

The design and physical setting of Rider is middle-sized private school with 340 acres of property situated within the suburban community of Lawrenceville New Jersey. The campus footprint highlights several new buildings including communication arts, residence, and sports facilities 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 10 parking lots including 1 huge parking lot adjacent to the future multi-purpose recreation center for students, visitors, and employees.

The campus has approximately 6 entrances and exits to maximize the flow of vehicular traffic within the facility. The issue of a suburban setting and limited numbers of public transportation resources makes the use of a car essential for students who travel beyond a normal walking distance. Rider's public safety department deploys security guards to several access points around the campus during the day to reduce the number of people who may not have legitimate business on campus. These security guards offer visitors temporary parking permits for selected lots during normal business hours. Public safety also maintains visitor screening with clearly worded signage that directs visitors to a welcome area adjacent to Ciambelli Hall.

The issue of high-risk areas on campus has been identified during annual risk assessments by security, and feedback by all institutional stakeholders including college administrators. Rider. The university deploys high tech remote resources to highlight formal surveillance throughout the campus with the help of enhanced lighting, and access control features. Public safety also posts security in several high-risk areas of the campus during special event, and athletic competitions during the year to promote a safe and secure environments.

Residence halls should also have a higher degree of natural and formal surveillance for students and visitors. Rider has several access control features including swipe card technology within it's residence halls. Additional access control features within it's residence halls include "man traps" that restrict movement within the residence halls. These systems require students to swipe their student cards on the exterior, and interior doors to reduce the incidence of someone following a student into a residence. The university also has started to upgraded CCTV and "On Duty" resident assistant resources to authenticate access in the evenings, and on weekends.

### **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. Rider University Clery Act info can be found:

[www.rider.edu/files/RiderBrochure.pdf](http://www.rider.edu/files/RiderBrochure.pdf)

**Caveat:** Rider University Public Safety officers don't have arrest powers; they call the Lawrenceville Police for crime issues on campus. The university does provide 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. Rider Clery Act 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 Lawrenceville New Jersey in 2008. The Police Department reported 59 Violent Crimes, 0 Murder, 7 Forcible Rapes, 19 Robberies, 33 Aggravated Assaults, 891 Property Crimes, 110 Burglaries, 735 Larceny Thefts, and finally 46 Motor Vehicle Thefts. The crime of Arson had 8 reported crimes.

**Lawrenceville Township Community Quick Links:**

Town of Lawrenceville: [www.lawrencetwp.com](http://www.lawrencetwp.com)

Police Department: [www.lawrencetwp.com/police.html](http://www.lawrencetwp.com/police.html)

**Mercer Medical Center**

**446 Bellevue Ave, Trenton, NJ 08618**

**General Phone Number: (609) 394-4000**

## Rider University Quick Links Page

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

Campus Directions: [www.rider.edu/15478\\_6485.htm](http://www.rider.edu/15478_6485.htm)

Admissions: [www.rider.edu/160\\_15530.htm](http://www.rider.edu/160_15530.htm)

Financial Aid: [www.rider.edu/160\\_2448.htm](http://www.rider.edu/160_2448.htm)

Student Activities: [www.rider.edu/15478\\_6500.htm](http://www.rider.edu/15478_6500.htm)

Student Sports Tickets: [www.rider.edu/174\\_6094.htm](http://www.rider.edu/174_6094.htm)

Student Clubs & Organizations: [www.rider.edu/175\\_2463.htm](http://www.rider.edu/175_2463.htm)

Fraternity & Sorority Life: [www.rider.edu/175\\_2477.htm](http://www.rider.edu/175_2477.htm)

Student Newspaper <http://comm.rider.edu/wordpress/>

Student Radio Station: [www.rider.edu/175\\_16693](http://www.rider.edu/175_16693)

Public Transportation Services: None

Information Technology Center: [www.rider.edu/2527\\_17096.htm](http://www.rider.edu/2527_17096.htm)

Health Insurance: [www.rider.edu/175\\_3213.htm](http://www.rider.edu/175_3213.htm)

Medical Services: [www.rider.edu/175\\_554.htm](http://www.rider.edu/175_554.htm)

On Campus Emergency Resources: [www.healthctr@rider.edu/](http://www.healthctr@rider.edu/)

Student Housing: [www.rider.edu/175\\_99.htm](http://www.rider.edu/175_99.htm)

University Meal Plan: [www.campusdish.com/en-US/CSE/Rider](http://www.campusdish.com/en-US/CSE/Rider)

Off Campus Housing: [www.rider.edu/175\\_539.htm](http://www.rider.edu/175_539.htm)

Campus Parking: [www.rider.edu/175\\_570.htm](http://www.rider.edu/175_570.htm)

Public Safety Plans & Procedures: [www.rider.edu/175\\_104.htm](http://www.rider.edu/175_104.htm)

Emergency Communication: [www.rider.edu/175\\_10765.htm](http://www.rider.edu/175_10765.htm)

Clery Act Policies & Procedures: [www.rider.edu/files/RiderBrochure.pdf](http://www.rider.edu/files/RiderBrochure.pdf)

## **Rider University Hotel Quick Links Page**

Courtyard by Marriott Ewing/Hopewell  
360 Scotch Road  
Ewing N.J. 08628

Below is a list of hotel accommodations found within the Princeton Corridor on Route 1, which is approximately 15 minutes to The College of New Jersey Campus.

Red Roof Inn Princeton  
3203 Brunswick Pike (Route 1)  
Lawrenceville N.J. 08648

Hampton Inn Princeton  
4385 U.S. Hwy # 1  
Princeton N.J. 08540

Doubletree Hotel  
4355 U.S. Hwy # 1  
Princeton N.J. 08540

Staybridge Suites Hotel  
4375 U.S. Hwy # 1  
Princeton N.J. 08540

Hyatt Place  
3565 U.S. Route # 1  
Princeton N.J. 08540

Princeton Marriott Conference Center  
100 College Road East  
Princeton N.J. 08540

\*\* Attached to Marketfair Shopping Center

The Westin At Forrestall Village  
201 Village Blvd  
Princeton N.J. 08540

\*\* Attached to upscale outdoor shopping center

## **Rider University Off Campus Restaurants**

Below is a sample list of local restaurants & shopping can be found within 15 minutes of the Rider campus by car on U.S. Route # 1, Lawrenceville Road, Princeton Ave, and Main Street in Lawrenceville N.J. A complete list can be found at [www.rider.edu/139\\_5022.htm](http://www.rider.edu/139_5022.htm)

Acacia: 2637 Lawrenceville Road (609) 895-9885

Applebee's Bar & Grill: (National Chain) 3330 U.S. Hwy # 1 (609) 799-9559

Chevy's Mexican Restaurant: (National Chain) 3371 U.S. Hwy # 1 (609) 452-7070

Enzo's LaPiccola Cucina: 1906 Princeton Ave (609) 396-9868

TJ's Italian Restaurant: 2661 Main Street (609) 896-0440

\*\*\* Extensive shopping and national restaurant chains can be found within the Princeton Corridor on U.S. Hwy #1. The shopping centers include the Quaker Bridge Mall, Lawrenceville Commons, The Market Fair shops, and the Forrestall Village premium outlet mall in nearby Princeton.

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







