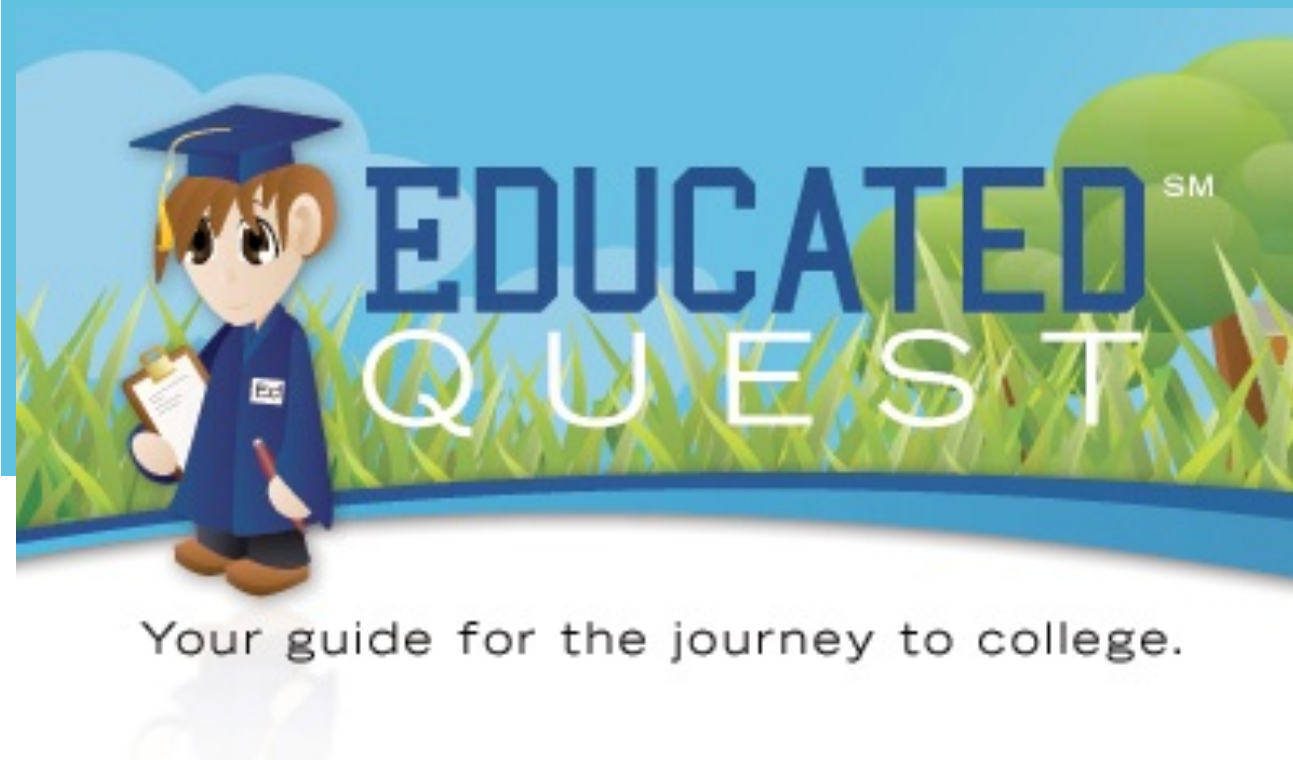


# First Impressions: Hofstra University





# Background

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**Introduction to Hofstra  
University**



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# Background

Hofstra was founded during the Great Depression, an unusual time for someone to start a college in the United State. The campus opened in 1935 as an extension of New York University; it became independent and was renamed Hofstra College in 1939. In 1963, Hofstra became Long Island's first private university; it was granted a Phi Beta Kappa chapter ten years later.

Hofstra tries to combine the numerous options found at a public university with the advantages of a much smaller student population. Approximately 7,000 undergraduates take courses in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Frank G. Zarb School of Business, the School of Communication, School of Education, the Honors College, the School of Health Sciences and Human Services, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and the School for University Studies. Hofstra offers 140 undergraduate degree programs at these schools. Hofstra is one of the smallest universities in the U.S. to offer graduate degrees as well as professional degrees in business, education, health sciences, law and medicine.

Notable Hofstra alumni include actors James Caan, Madeline Kahn and Susan Sullivan, NFL players Marques Colston (New Orleans Saints) and Willie Colon (New York Jets), Morton Schapiro, President of Northwestern University, U.S Court of Appeals Judge Marianne Trump Barry, fiction writer Nelson DeMille and director/producer Francis Ford Coppola, among many others.



# Competition

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**What does it take to get in?  
Who decides to go?  
What other schools do  
applicants consider?**



# Competition

Hofstra University received 27,700 applications for approximately 1,700 seats freshman class that entered in the Fall of 2013 and accepted approximately 16,400, including students admitted off the waiting list. The low yield rate, approximately 10 percent, suggests that Hofstra was not the first choice among most applicants. In 2014, the numbers of applicants dropped slight (27,000), a similar number accepted (16,000) for a slightly smaller class (1,680), but the University did not need to go to the waiting list. Approximately 230 students, around 15 percent of the class, enroll in the Honors College.

The University loses just over 20 percent of a freshman class before the start of their sophomore year. It makes up most of that loss through transfer students who began their education at another college. Hofstra is addressing retention by assigning a new student two advisors, one for financial aid, the other for academic planning before s/he has declared a major. Apparently, this shows three concerns: the University has admitted too many students who lacked the resources to cover educational costs before they could declare a major, they had difficulty adjusting to a college-level workload, or they were not sure about the academic program they wanted from a comprehensive university.

The SAT range for the middle 50 percent of the Class of 2017 was between 1050 and 1230, below the ranges of schools such as Baruch, Fordham, Rutgers-New Brunswick and Syracuse



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but above the range for schools such as Long Island University, Monmouth University (NJ) and Seton Hall University (NJ). Approximately half of the admitted students who submitted SAT scores had scored between 500 and 600 on the Critical Reading and Math sections of the test, according to [Hofstra's 2013-14 Common Data Set](#). The ACT range was between 23 and 27, [which equates to between 1070 and 1220 on the SAT](#).

Hofstra uses the Common Application as well as its own online application. There are two Early Action periods; the first has a deadline of November 15th, the second deadline is December 15th. Those who are seriously interested in merit-based aid are advised to apply early. The admissions process is rolling after the first Early Action decisions are delivered around December 15th.

While the University does not require an essay or extracurricular resume, these are recommended for serious applicants. The admissions office will also consider as many as three letters of recommendation. Only the FAFSA is required to be considered for financial aid. Hofstra's Division of University Studies will consider students with lower scores, even no scores at all, but applicants must interview to show their maturity and readiness for college-level work.

Students who consider Hofstra cross-shop most frequently against other schools in New Jersey and New York including NYU, Syracuse, Ithaca, Fordham, Seton Hall and Monmouth.

Fordham and Ithaca are institutions of similar size. They also consider public schools such as Baruch, Hunter, Stony Brook, Rutgers-New Brunswick and The College of New Jersey. Outside of New York and New Jersey, Hofstra is similar in student body size and most academic offerings to Villanova University (PA), although Villanova is a more selective and more competitive school. It is also similar in size to Quinnipiac University in Connecticut.

Given that Hofstra offers so many degree programs, it would be advisable to meet with faculty in each possible course of study before applying. Majors such as Accounting, Engineering and the Physician's Assistant program are in high demand as are the accelerated programs in law and medicine and the Honors College. A prospective student interested in such programs has to consider their chances for admission at several schools, including Hofstra. Hofstra's continued investment in these programs, as well as staples such as the business majors, Journalism and Theater has drawn more notice from students who are not from the New York area. This year, nearly half of the freshman class comes from outside New York State; four years earlier this was closer to 40 percent. New Jersey is the largest "sending" state, though the University has received more applications from students who reside in California, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.



# Costs

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**Tuition and Fees**  
**Scholarships**  
**Debt**



# Costs

Hofstra will charge \$38,900 in tuition and fees in 2015. Room and board depends on whether the student chooses to live in The Towers, which offers traditional corridor-style housing (several rooms sharing a common lounge and bathroom) or in suite-style (two double rooms sharing a common lounge and bathroom) housing. Room and board in The Towers will be approximately \$11,600, reasonable considering that the University is located in a high-cost metropolitan area. But living in a suite-style housing with a required meal plan costs just over \$15,300, high for any college or university. The total cost of attendance: tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies and incidentals can run as high as \$60,000 depending on the living option, distance from home and the chosen academic program.

Hofstra awarded about \$22 million in scholarships to freshmen who entered in 2013, an average of approximately \$13,000 per student. Renewable merit-based awards range from \$3,000 to full tuition and fees. An applicant who would be in middle of the pool at schools such as Syracuse or Rutgers-New Brunswick could be the recipient of a Provost's Scholarship valued between \$16,500 and \$18,000; this would lower the first-year tuition and fees to between \$20,900 and \$22,400, below out-of-state charges at most public universities outside of New York. An applicant who would be in the middle of the pool at a school such as Stony Brook, The College of New Jersey or Villanova could receive a Presidential Scholarship worth between \$20,000 and \$25,000 a year. This would reduce tuition and fees to between \$13,900 (less than the College of New Jersey charges New Jersey residents) to \$18,900. The student who would be in the



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middle of the pool at NYU could possibly qualify for the Trustee Scholarship and pay no tuition and fees at all. An aspiring actor or journalist might want to consider this, if presented both options for admission, and NYU comes through with no financial aid. The same is true for the prospective teacher or entrepreneur.

Hofstra competes within a very tough market in the New York area. The more competitive schools in the City University of New York system: Baruch, Brooklyn and Hunter, charge less than \$6,500 in tuition and fees while Stony Brook will charge approximately \$8,400 next year. It's very difficult for the University to discount that far down to get the best students from the New York area. Further, graduates of these schools have little debt when they finish.

Without the merit scholarships, Hofstra would be far less affordable. According to its 2013-14 Common Data Set, the University was able to meet the full financial need for only 16 percent of the first-year class and 13 percent of the student body as a whole. On average, it met two thirds of the need for a freshman, sixty percent for the entire undergraduate student body. There are not high percentages for a private school in a high-cost metropolitan area, in a state that has a generous Tuition Assistance Program.

Hofstra did not submit student indebtedness information to either the Project on Student Debt or The College Board. However, the University reported to the Chronicle of Higher Education that the average Parent PLUS Loan borrower borrowed approximately \$22,700 for the 2010-11 school year. This is an average taken from just under 1,600 borrowers, either parents or independent under-

graduate students. The number of borrowers covers more than a fifth of the undergraduate student body. The average Parent PLUS Loan borrower at Fordham, however, borrowed about the same; the average at Syracuse was about \$3,400 less.

In fiscal year 2013 Hofstra had an endowment of just under \$348 million, according to the National Association of College and University Business Officers. Among similar-size private schools Fordham had an endowment of just over \$592 million, Quinnipiac \$315 million, Ithaca \$242 million and Villanova \$419 million. Of these schools, however, Hofstra is the more generous when it comes to merit-based financial aid. Hofstra's endowment is also larger than Stony Brook's (\$181 million), though that university is also well-subsidized by the State of New York.



# Comforts

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**On-Campus Housing**  
**Local Housing Market**

4



# Comforts

Hofstra offers freshman the option of traditional “corridor-style” (several rooms sharing a common lounge bathroom) or “suite-style” (two double rooms sharing a common lounge and bathroom). On-campus living in the traditional style halls costs \$11,600, reasonable considering that the University is located in a high-cost metropolitan area. But living in a suite-style housing with a required meal plan costs just over \$15,300, high for any college or university. Altogether, the University can house just over 4,000 of the 7,000 undergraduate students, high considering the school is within commuting distance of Manhattan

Suite-style units have heating and air conditioning controls that can be operated by the students in the unit, a nice feature at any school. Laundry services are pre-paid with the room and board; no need to carry quarters or use a student ID to wash and dry clothes. In addition, unlike most residential colleges, Hofstra allows all students to have cars, and makes parking passes available for no charge.

Hofstra offers eight Living-Learning Communities in the low-rise Netherlands suite-style complex, including the Honors College. Aside from the Honors College, each Living-Learning Community has approximately 55 students. The University also offers six Themed Living Communities for continuing students in two halls. The University also decided to pilot a Group Housing option for 2014; students in the same club or organization may share adjoining co-ed suites. Co-ed living within suites is also an option for continuing students in one hall.



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[Hofstra offers 24-hour dining services, as well as 20 retail food locations on campus](#), a lot to serve 4,000 residents. All meal plans work on a “point” system as opposed to swipes; each point is worth \$1. Incoming freshmen are required to purchase one of the three more expensive meal plans, valued between \$1,930 and \$2,230 a semester during the recent academic year. This is tied to a recommendation of \$16 to \$19 per day for meals. Students may carry over unused points from fall to spring semester, provided that they purchase a meal plan of equal or higher value.

Hofstra does not offer apartment-style living options on campus, though upper-class students may opt for less expensive meal plans and do more of their cooking in their residence hall, where permitted. The University has an [online off-campus listing service](#) that lists houses and apartments for rent. Houses near campus are less expensive than apartments. It’s possible to share a house near campus for around \$800 per person per month plus utilities; apartment rentals for two-bedroom units can easily exceed \$1,000 per person per month. Students who are serious about remaining on campus during the summer should compare costs between on and off-campus living before committing to an apartment lease. The University makes its housing available to continuing students, as well as students attending other schools, on a first-come, first served basis. They might also want to consider Greek life; the costs of sharing a home with several classmates are much lower than sharing them with a small group, even with chapter dues as a consideration.

Hofstra allows second-semester freshmen as well as sophomores to rush its 30 national and local fraternities and sororities; about 20

percent of the student body are members. The University oversees these organizations on a “star system,” with [five stars being the expected standard for Community, Academic Excellence, Philanthropy and Service, Leadership Development and University Engagement](#). This past year, one chapter earned “Five Star,” honors; five others were “Four Star” organizations. “Three Stars” is the minimum standard to continue a charter, two stars puts the chapter on probation, one star means a review that could result in a charter being revoked. But being a in a four-star or five-star organization can be a very rewarding experience as well as a way to maximize the resources that Hofstra has to offer.



# Community

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Campus  
Environs  
School Spirit



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# Community

The Hofstra campus is one of the best located in the U.S. for students who want to work in Manhattan, only 25 miles away, or in Long Island which has a large labor market of its own. Nassau Coliseum, home of the National Hockey League's New York Islanders and many concerts, is within walking distance, while Jones Beach and Roosevelt Mall are easily accessible by car or bus. Hofstra is served by two Long Island Railroad stations, Hempstead and Mineola, and provides free bus service to both. In addition, the University's location and facilities help to attract more concerts and speakers to campus than students are likely to find at other schools of similar size; they are more on the level of a larger school with a college town atmosphere. The University has hosted a world-renown Shakespeare festival for more than half a century as well as an Irish Festival and an Italian Experience. Its television studios hosted Presidential debates in 2008 and 20012.

Students looking for a campus with lots of shade and sculpture will be happy here. The 240-acre campus is a nationally-recognized arboretum as well as a bird sanctuary; it is also registered with the American Public Gardens Association. The variety of trees, in particular, is impressive for a school of this size. Much of the architecture on the campus, aside from Hofstra Hall, the original campus building and Starr Hall, home of the business school, dates to the 1960s and 1970s. Hofstra was one of the first universities to commit to barrier-free campus design including foot bridges called "uni-spans" that were constructed above the traffic on Hempstead Turnpike. The uni-spans and the Turnpike separate the academic complex from the residential and athletic complex. Although traditional cross-walks remain, the uni-spans are the more convenient means of walking between residence halls and classes. The student center and library are connected by one uni-span; this is the most convenient path,



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though it may not always be the shortest. The uni-spans are a necessity because Hempstead Turnpike has three lanes on each side. However, when combined with wrought-iron fences, they give the campus a fortress-style appearance. Such designs may lead people to believe that the level of safety is far greater behind the fences than along the highway outside them; resident students do not walk into a college town when they leave campus. Those who want to go to Nassau Coliseum at night would better off driving or riding a bus than walking there.

From 2010 to 2012 there were at least five reported Forcible Sex Offenses on campus, according to the [University's Clery Report](#). There were 14 reported Burglaries in 2012, just one less there was in the previous two years combined. Weapons Possession incidents were reported in 2010 and 2011, though there were none in 2012. Hofstra had very few reported arrests for drug and alcohol-related violations. There were only 10 drug-related arrests total from 2010 through 2012 and *none* related to liquor law violations for this three-year period. However, there were no less than 106 drug-related disciplinary referrals and 51 related to alcohol. The numbers related to alcohol are low considering that over 4,000 students live together on a fairly small campus for a suburban mid-sized university.

But there is a question mark related to school spirit: fan participation in supporting the sports program. In 2009, Hofstra dropped football after 69 years of playing the sport and some success at sending players and coaches on to their careers. The University also hosted the NFL's New York Jets (who owned their practice facility) until that year. Three former Hofstra players, Kyle Arrington (New England Patriots), Willie Colon (New York Jets) and Marques Colston (New Orleans Saints) are still active while former assistant coaches include Raheem Morris (Washington

Redskins), Pat Kirwan (analyst/host on Sirius NFL Radio) and Kyle Flood (head coach at Rutgers University), among others. [As late as 1999 Hofstra had the top \(10-1 record\) play-off bound team on the East Coast.](#) The University cited poor attendance ([less than 4,300 fans per game in a 15,000-seat stadium](#)) and costs as the reasons for dropping the sport. However, the same stadium hosts men's lacrosse. While Hofstra [ranked 10th nationally in attendance in 2013](#), and Long Island is a hotbed for talent in the sport, [the men's lacrosse crowd is less than half the football crowd, including students and other fans. Men's basketball draws even worse, averaging less than 1,500 fans per game in 2013-14 according to the NCAA. The women did worse, averaging less than 800.](#)

Given these attendance figures, it is difficult to call Hofstra a "sports-oriented" school, although it competes at the Division I (scholarship) level in 17 sports. The University is a member of a competitive mid-major conference, the Colonial Athletic Association, in most sports (the conference dropped wrestling, where Hofstra has been competitive). Ironically, Stony Brook University, which plays in a smaller (8,500 seat) football stadium on Long Island, has moved up into Division I and will compete in the same football conference that Hofstra vacated. [Last season Stony Brook averaged just under 6,800 fans per game at a less-accessible location in a losing season.](#) It's understandable why Hofstra dropped football; attendance could not cover the costs of fielding the team, including scholarships and coaches salaries. But it's also possible that better marketing could have raised attendance at least to Stony Brook's totals and kept the sport on campus. Hofstra has the better location and the NFL connections to make it work.



# Curriculum

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**Academics**  
**Honors Programs**  
**Experiential Learning**



# Curriculum

Hofstra's freshman experience includes a [first or second-semester Seminar](#), which can also be used to fulfill a General Education Requirement as well as [Core Clusters](#), two of three classes students take as a group that are designed around a common theme. Core Cluster classes can be taken in conjunction with being a member of a Living-Learning Community, and they too, can be used to fulfill General Education Requirements. The Cluster arrangements are helpful to students who may have some idea of an area of study, though not a specific major. They may also be used to pursue an area of curiosity--for example--non-majors may take the two courses in the Computer Sciences Cluster--that might not be a major. General Education Requirements, also called Distribution Requirements, are similar to those at most other colleges including a year each of Mathematics or an another quantitative subject, Natural Sciences, Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences has a foreign languages requirement as well.

Hofstra has a dual-advisor model; every student has an academic advisor as well as a financial aid advisor to help them succeed. Each student is assigned a major advisor after s/he has declared a major, though s/he may consult their academic advisor as well. Given the number of degree programs (approximately 140) and undergraduate schools, it helps to have some idea of a major before coming here. Sciences from other units, The curriculums in the individual colleges make it possible for



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someone undecided about a specific field (for example, Accounting vs. Finance or Information Systems in the business school) but it is not easy to move from a totally undecided status into competitive or popular schools such as Business, Communications, Engineering, Health Sciences or Theater. The University utilizes an online portal, DegreeWorks, to help students keep track of course requirements completed and to be completed. However, while Hofstra will allow advanced placement or waivers for coursework taken in high school, it does not allow students to apply credits earned at other colleges, such as the community college near home, towards their degrees after they have begun their freshman year.

While Hofstra's most popular majors are in the liberal arts: Biology, Psychology, Sociology and Criminal Justice, the pre-professional programs are the standouts, including joint bachelor's-masters programs in Business, Computer Science, Education and Journalism, among others, as well as accelerated programs in law and medicine. There are also joint degree Physician's Assistant and Speech Pathology programs. Hofstra has the only business school in Long Island that is accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business. It also hosts Long Island's largest and oldest radio station--and the only college station that broadcasts a major-league sport. Hofstra's station broadcasts all New York Islander hockey games. The University has also committed to bringing its computer science and engineering programs into their own College

of Engineering, investing \$4 to \$5 million to renovate campus property for this purpose. The engineering programs will offer cooperative education, where semesters of work and school are alternated over four or five years, for the first time in 2014.

Hofstra advertises a student-faculty ratio of 14 to 1, closer to a liberal arts college than a larger research university, and does not grant doctorates outside of education and psychology. This means that students are far more likely to encounter professors in their classes than teaching assistants. The largest lecture hall on campus seats 80 students. Only 97 of the nearly 1,500 courses offered at Hofstra had more than 39 students, according to the University's [2013-14 Common Data Set](#), while half had fewer than 20. However, the majority of Hofstra faculty, according to the University's [2013-14 Common Data Set](#), do not teach full time.

Hofstra students gave their faculty a rating of 3.68 (out of a possible 5) on RateMyProfessors.com. By comparison with similarly-sized private schools Hofstra students held their faculty in slightly lower regard than students at Fordham (3.72), Ithaca, (3.71), Quinnipiac (3.70) and Villanova (3.84) and in slightly lower regard than students at the public College of New Jersey (3.70).



# Connections

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**Alumni Relations**  
**Career Services**



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# Connections

Hofstra has approximately 126,000 living alumni, a large base considering that the University is much younger than peer institutions. [Just over 85,000 live in New York State, about 10,000 in New Jersey and Connecticut and around 2,900 in California.](#) There are 23 affinity groups, mainly by Greek organizations, academics and extracurricular activities as well as 13 regional clubs. There are separate clubs for Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island and well as New York City, New Jersey and Southern Connecticut/Westchester County. There are also three clubs serving California in Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco. Those who live in Long Island, New York City, Northern New Jersey and Southern Connecticut are at an advantage; it is easiest for them to return to campus. Hofstra charges alumni no dues, which helps to build participation.

The Career Development Center hosted four job fairs during the 2013-14 academic year, one for Communications students, another for Accounting, Finance and Information Technology and two general job fairs for all majors in the Fall and Spring. Over 300 companies came to recruit students.

Hofstra's recent graduates find work, in part with the help of alumni and their career center. [For the class that graduated in 2012,](#) 68 percent were employed full-time, another 14 percent were pursuing advanced degrees full-time. More than 80 percent of the graduates in Business and Engineering were working full time as were 72 percent of the graduates in Communications. The last is quite impressive, given the level of competition in the field.



# Conclusions

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Summing up





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# Conclusions

Hofstra is one of the more unique institutions in the U.S. It offers many of the majors you will find at a large public or private university in a much smaller package. Hofstra's most recognized programs are in Business, Communications and Theatre; the facilities in these fields are better than you will find at many larger schools, while graduates in the Computer Science and Engineering programs have been quite successful at finding jobs after graduation. Access to New York as well as a large labor market on Long Island has always been a major plus for Hofstra, and it will continue to be for years to come.

A Hofstra education can be a tremendous value for students who earn the Trustee or Presidential Scholarships, especially those who want to enter a field such as broadcasting that does not pay a high entry-level salary. A school that offers as many programs as Hofstra, some of which are very expensive to maintain, needs to use the merit scholarship programs to find the students who are most likely to succeed. Hofstra operates in a very tough market versus Fordham and NYU as well as the stronger public institutions in New York City and New Jersey.

Aside from cost Hofstra's downsides are campus community and curb appeal. Being close to New York as well as attractions on Long Island is a minus as well as a plus when trying to bond a campus community. There are too many distractions to take people away from campus, while the sports program does not enjoy a high level of student support. In addition, Hofstra, while



very well located, is not in the nicest of neighborhoods. The busy Hempstead Turnpike as well as nearby Nassau Coliseum necessitate bridges and fences to secure the campus. Students who leave campus are not walking into a college town. The campus is well landscaped with plenty of shade everywhere, but the bridges and gates give first-time visitors a “fortress” feel.

For some students, especially those who already live in or near the New York City metropolitan area, access to a fine education at a reasonable price is often enough, as long as it leads to connections after college and access to fun at a discount. However, Hofstra also wants students who come from further away. Hofstra has several assets, academic, scholarship and geographic, that help to attract them to Hempstead, as long as the surrounding area and the lack of a high-profile athletic program does not deter them from coming.

<b>Ed Quest’s Report Card</b>						
Hofstra University						

Four-Year/ Six-Year Grad Rates	Freshman Retention	Costs	Comforts	Community	Curriculum	Connections
C/C	C	B+	B+	B+	A	A

Strengths	Weaknesses
You can get a more personalized education than you would at larger public and private schools, even in fields like engineering	The experience is very expensive if you don’t have a merit scholarship
Impressive selection of joint-degree options including law and medicine--all within the same university	Not the first choice of many students who aimed for NYU or Stony Brook, and too many leave without a degree
Broadcasting, business and theater programs among the more successful at helping students work in New York, and the on-campus facilities are impressive	Surrounding neighborhood is not the nicest, neither is the traffic on Hempstead Turnpike and the rest of Long island
Easy access to New York City, Jones Beach, Nassau Coliseum and Roosevelt Mall close by	If you want school spirit through sports look elsewhere
Very generous merit scholarship awards	Bridges, fences give campus a “fortress” feel
Strong alumni base for New York and Long Island as well as access to a strong regional job market	Off campus housing market is expensive, so is anything on campus outside of The Towers
Only accredited business and accounting programs on Long island	



# The End



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