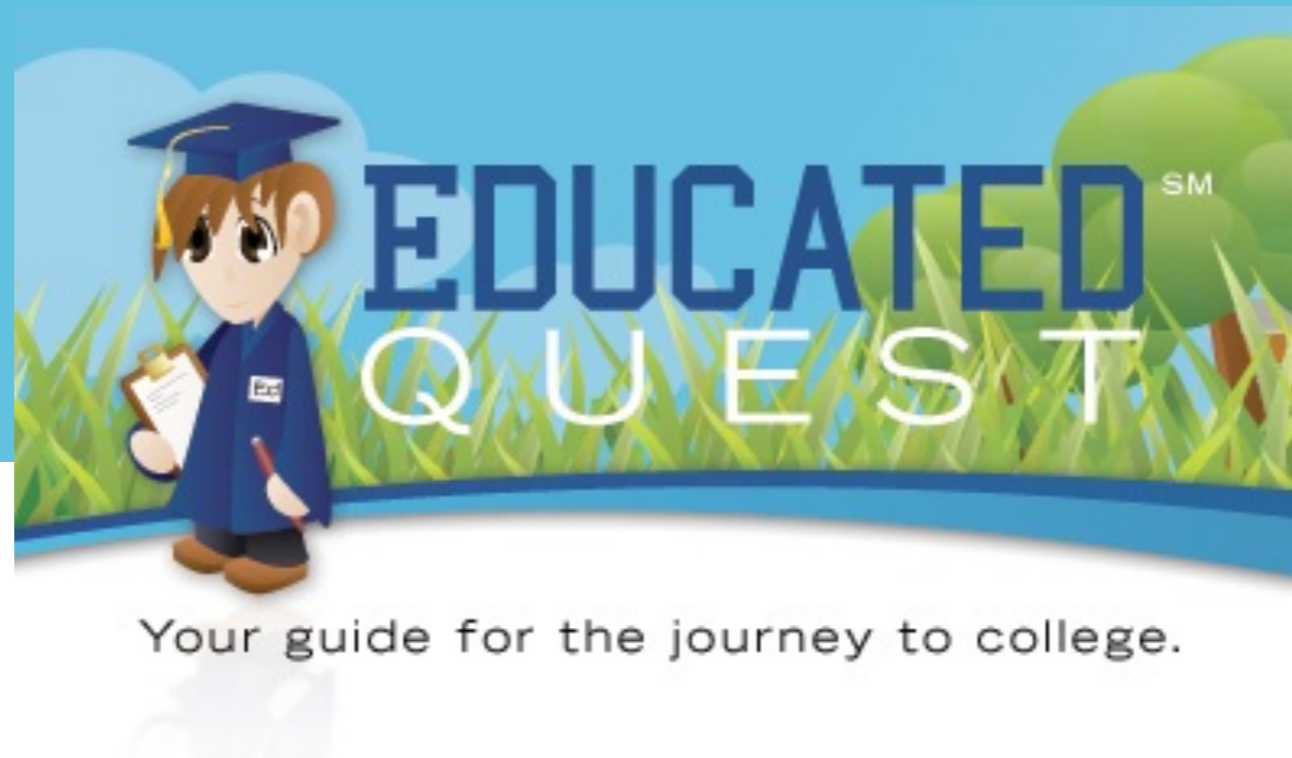

First Impressions: Stony Brook University



Background

**Introduction to Stony
Brook University**

Background

Stony Brook University was established in 1957 and opened at its current location in 1962. The land on which the 1,040 acre campus sits was donated to the State University of New York (SUNY) by industrialist Henry Ward Melville; the University's library is named for him. The campus, located on Long Island's North Shore, includes not only academic and residential buildings, but also a medical school and hospital as well as an 8,300-seat stadium and sports complex.

Stony Brook is one of only 62 members of the Association of American Universities (AAU). Membership in the AAU is significant; it is peer recognition of a university's research awarded at the invitation of the other member universities. Within the AAU Stony Brook also stands out as being one of the few mid-sized public universities (10,000 to 20,000 students) in the membership. Among the 34 public members only six: the SUNY flagships, Georgia Tech, the University of Kansas, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the University of Virginia have fewer than 20,000 undergraduates. While Stony Brook's student population is expected to grow by 1,200 students by 2020, the undergraduate population is still not likely to exceed 20,000.

Within New York Stony Brook attracts students from New York City's five boroughs, Westchester, Orange, Putnam and Suffern Counties as well as Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island. Out-of-state enrollment has grown considerably over the past decade. Today a fifth of the undergraduate student body

comes from other U.S. states, while another ten percent comes from other countries. The states that send the largest numbers of students are New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Florida, California and Maryland.

Stony Brook is most similar in student body size to schools such as Miami University of Ohio, the University of Connecticut, University of Delaware, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the University of Virginia, according to College Results Online, a database managed by the Education Trust, a non-partisan, non-profit education policy organization. Among these schools, Stony Brook has, by far, the highest percentage of students who qualify for the Federal Pell Grant, the second-highest percentage of students from under-represented minority groups (after UNC-Chapel Hill) and the highest percentage of students enrolled in science, engineering and the health professions. Yet, while the university has a higher share of students from economically-disadvantage backgrounds and the highest share of students in demanding smath and science-based majors, Stony Brook's freshman retention rate has exceeded 90 percent for the past three academic years. That says as much for the students as it does for the school.

Stony Brook is also of similar size and assets when compared to Cornell and Syracuse, two New York state private universities that applicants consider often. However, for students interested in the health professions, Stony Brook has the most com-

prehensive offerings among these three schools. And while Cornell and Syracuse are well-endowed universities, it is doubtful that they can discount down to Stony Brook's prices for most of their students, especially those who come from New York.

Notable alumni include John Hennesey, computer scientist and current president of Stanford University, comic and talk show host Joy Behar, rock music promoter Sandy Pearlman and Jeff Raskin, co-creator of the Apple MacIntosh computer, among many others.

Stony Brook has a very attractive combination of academic offerings, location and sticker price that, on paper, is very difficult to beat. It has made major investments in academic facilities, athletics, housing and recreational opportunities to get beyond its commuter school origins. But it also has a shorter history as a university than its peers. It's up to applicants to decide if they want to be surrounded by history as they pursue their education or if they care more about making it.

Competition



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

Competition

It's not easy to get into Stony Brook. This past year the University attracted a record 35,000 applicants for 2,900 seats in the freshman class, of which 38 percent (approximately 13,300) were accepted. The yield rate, the percentage of students who decided to come, was 22 percent, low considering a low sticker price, but this is a school that faces a lot of competition for top students.

While it's not easy to get into Stony Brook, it is easy to apply. The University accepts either the SUNY application or the Common App. While applicants at the top of the admit pool may be invited into the University Scholars program, they may apply separately to the Honors College or Women In Science and Engineering, which have special housing opportunities. Only the FAFSA is required to be considered for financial aid. Admissions decisions are rendered around April 1st; accepted students have a month to make their decision.

The mean SAT for the entering class was 1300 (out of 1600) on the Critical Reading and Math sections of the test while the range for the middle 50 percent of the class was between 1160 and 1360. The mean composite score on the ACT was 29, which equates to a 1300 SAT. The mean unweighted GPA was 3.7 out of 4.0 and 93 out of 100. The range is actually higher than the public universities applicants consider most often: Delaware, Rutgers-New Brunswick, UConn, the University of Massachusetts and the University of New Hampshire. However, it is actually lower than the range for students who apply to Binghamton University within the SUNY system.

In addition to these public universities, students who are interested in Stony Brook often consider Boston University, Columbia University, Cornell University and Syracuse University.

Costs

3

Tuition and Fees
Scholarships
Debt

Costs

Stony Brook will charge New York residents approximately \$8,400 in tuition and fees in 2014-15, while out-of-state students face charges of approximately \$22,000. These costs are reduced by \$975 if the student can provide proof of health insurance. Room charges will vary between \$7,600 and \$9,100 per year depending on the living option selected. Meal plan charges will vary between \$3,900 and \$5,800 depending on the plan selected. The University advises incoming freshmen that they might be assigned to a permanent triple room, the lowest-priced accommodation. Combined with the default meal plan, the Gold plan, a realistic estimate for first-year room and board would be approximately \$12,000.

The New York resident who is considering Stony Brook vs. Binghamton will pay less than \$100 more in tuition to attend the other school and would pay over \$2,000 more in room and board charges. The out-of-state student, however, would pay about the same. S/he would pay approximately \$2,000 less in tuition and fees to attend Binghamton, but would spend that difference on room and board (though s/he would be more likely to get a double room)

The out-of-state tuition and fees charged by Stony Brook are quite reasonable when compared with similar public universities. As previously mentioned, Stony Brook is most similar to universities such as Miami University of Ohio, the University of Connecticut, University of Delaware, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the University of Virginia in terms of student body size. However, a family would be asked to pay a higher sticker price to attend any of these schools as an out-of-state student than they would pay to attend Stony Brook, as shown on the table on the panel on the right.

School	2014-15 Out-of-State Tuition and Fees
Stony Brook	\$21,851
Miami of Ohio	\$29,979 (est)
U of Connecticut	\$32,880 (proposed)
U of Delaware	\$31,129 (est)
UNC-Chapel Hill	\$31,674 (proposed)
U of Virginia	\$42,417

Of these schools listed above, only Miami of Ohio would award a merit-based scholarship to the student who had grades and standardized test scores in the middle of Stony Brook’s applicant pool. [Miami would award such an out-of-state student \(3.7/1300 SAT\) between \\$5,000 and \\$11,000 per year; an award in excess of \\$8,000 would be quite competitive.](#) The University of New Hampshire, a smaller state university considered by applicants to Stony Brook would award that same student [a \\$10,000 scholarship](#); this would reduce their tuition and fees to just below \$20,000 for the coming school year.

For New York residents one benefit of Stony Brook’s low tuition and fees is low debt. In 2012 the average student who borrowed to pay for their Stony Brook degree borrowed just under \$21,000 according to The Project on Student Debt, though nearly 60 percent of all graduates had to borrow. The average borrower at Stony Brook graduated with less debt than the average borrower at either SUNY-University at Albany (\$24,156) or Binghamton University (\$23,710) , though more than the average borrower who graduated from SUNY-University at Buffalo (\$16,025). [A student who fell in the middle of Stony Brook’s applicant pool would qualify for a Provost Scholarship at Buffalo of at least \\$2,500 a year.](#) This would

reduce the New York State resident’s 2014-15 tuition and fees at Buffalo is slightly less than \$6,000.

Interestingly, also according to the Project on Student Debt, the average debt per student borrower at Cornell was around \$20,500, and less than half of the class that earned their bachelors degrees in 2012 had to take on any debt. It’s possible that Cornell could discount down to levels that would make it competitive with the SUNY schools, but only if the Stony Brook applicant would be equally desired by Cornell. The average borrower at NYU and Syracuse borrowed over \$30,000 to receive their degree in 2012. [The largest merit scholarship at Syracuse is only \\$12,000.](#)

The average parent borrower of a Stony Brook student borrowed just over \$9,000 in Federal Parent PLUS Loans in 2011 according to the Chronicle of Higher Education’s Parent PLUS Loan database, less than parent borrowers of students at Albany or Binghamton, though Buffalo parent borrowers borrowed, on average, about \$600 less. Cornell and Syracuse parent borrowers borrowed, on average, approximately \$19,000, NYU parents just over \$27,000. The average parent borrower at Miami of Ohio (approximately \$16,000) and the University of New Hampshire (approximately \$13,600), the two schools where the mid-pack Stony Brook applicant could receive generous merit awards, also borrowed more.

Among SUNY’s flagship schools, only Buffalo (\$554 million) has a larger endowment than Stony Brook (\$181 million) according to the National Association of College and University Business Officers. Stony Brook also has a much lower endowment, a primary resource for scholarships, than the six comparable public universities in the previous table as well as the University of Maryland-College Park (\$248 million) and the University of New Hampshire (\$541 million)

Comforts

On-Campus Housing
Local Housing Market

4

Comforts

Stony Brook assigns freshmen housing to halls in one of six residential quads based on their selection of an Undergraduate College community or their acceptance into the Honors College or Women In Science and Engineering (WISE). The Undergraduate College Communities include: Arts/Culture/Humanities, Global Studies, Information and Technology Studies, Leadership and Service and Science and Society. A freshman residence hall is more likely to be corridor style, meaning that several rooms share a common bathroom though suite-style living, two rooms sharing a lounge and common bathroom, is also available. Each quad has its own fitness center and computer center. Three dining halls serve the quads: the Student Union, Kelly and Roth; a fourth quad, Tabler, has a cafe.

Stony Brook uses the community system not only to assign rooms, but also to offer two freshman seminars, fall and spring, to ease new students into college life. The first seminar is designed to familiarize new students with the traditions and resources of the University. The second is a writing-intensive topical class taught by a faculty member. Comparable universities usually offer one type of freshman seminar or the other. Using the community system to manage credit-bearing classes as well as the freshman residential experience is more aggressive, and more effective than a “dorm club” type of residence hall government.

[Stony Brook also offers upper class living options for 24-hour Quiet Communities, Gender Inclusive Communities, Modest Lifestyle Communities and Substance Free Communities.](#) There are also Living-Learning Centers for transfer students interested in subjects such as Environmental Studies, International Studies and Media Arts as well as several [apartment living options](#). Students enrolled in the marine sciences coursework

can find housing on the University's Southampton campus near their coursework.

Overall, Stony Brook houses just over 60 percent of its students on campus; about the same percentage housed at Binghamton while the University houses a higher percentage than either Albany or Buffalo. The University [plans to construct new halls](#) which should help to implement a renovation plan for some of the older buildings--the quads were first constructed over 40 years ago--as well as accommodate a slightly larger student body. In addition, the University should be in a better position to assure double rooms as opposed to informing incoming students of the possibility of being tripled.

Stony Brook does not have a fraternity row nor "official" fraternity houses off campus, like similar schools with longer histories such as Miami University of Ohio and the University of Delaware where it is very easy to walk from campus into a college town. While the University recognizes 33 Greek organizations, some academic, it makes no special housing accommodations for them. Brothers or sisters find housing off campus, more likely apartments. [Seven years ago, a fraternity agreed to vacate a single-family house in nearby Fox Hollow in exchange for avoiding prosecution for violating local building codes and partying to excess.](#) Surrounding communities have local ordinances that prohibit area families from renting rooms to college students as well as policies that limit the number of unrelated people who can share an apartment or house. Stony Brook, unlike other similar state schools, offers apartment residents the option of one-year agreements, which can be invaluable for students who can find summer employment or research opportunities in the area.

The University provides a Web site by which students may search for housing off campus. It is possible to bring rent down to under \$700 per person per month plus utilities, if a student has a car. But accommodations within walking distance from campus are extremely limited.

While Stony Brook's campus does not have a physical relationship with the surrounding area that suggests a "college town" atmosphere, it is better for students who do not commute from their family's homes to live on campus for all four years. The upper-class apartments are far more convenient, offer a voluntary summer living option and have their own parking. But those who are seeking a college where they can move out of a supervised residential experience into a less-supervised one off campus immediately after freshman year might not find this to their liking.

Community

5

Campus
Environs
School Spirit

Community

While the Stony Brook campus does not have a “walk-in” physical relationship with a surrounding college-oriented community, it does have unique advantages not shared with similar schools. The medical center is on campus, an arrangement not found at state schools of similar size and the campus is within easy driving distance of laboratory facilities at Brookhaven and Southampton. Stony Brook is also quite close to Long Island beaches as well as bus and train services (a station is on campus) to New York City. While the commute from campus to New York is more likely to be social or for travel home--it’s too long and too expensive to be practical to commute over a full work week to a summer internship--it is a convenience shared with only two other residential public universities in the country: Rutgers-New Brunswick and Montclair State. The 7 Bus is the best buy to get into the city; it’s only \$7 one way , there are many stops throughout Manhattan and Queens and patrons can plug in cell phones, lap tops and tablets by their comfortable seats.

The Stony Brook campus itself is easy to navigate and to patrol. Academic, administrative and cultural buildings are clustered together into a space that resembles a left lung. Apartments, residence halls and athletic facilities for spectator sports are within walking distance as is the medical complex; there is also a campus bus system to help everyone around as well as a bicycle rental/return program. But while the periphery is tree-lined, the academic campus is not. The Staller Steps is the largest green space in the center of campus; crowds at the Steps make the campus look far more attractive because of all the social activity.

The major downside of the campus, aside from not having a walk-in connection to a student-focused college town, is traffic outside the front gates. Suffolk County, where the University is located, [has nearly 1.5 mil-](#)

[lion people, according to the 2010 Census](#), more than only three other counties in New York State, and more than only 20 in the entire United States. The county has a large labor market unto itself, as does neighboring Nassau County, making rush-hour congestion a fact of life. In addition, commuter parking is on the periphery, not necessarily close to where a student might have classes. However, other college campuses share this same inconvenience as they become more residential.

Reported incidents of crime on this campus have been high with respect to burglaries and forcible sex offenses, according to the [University's Clery Report](#). Fortunately, reported incidents of burglary trended downward from 109 in 2010 to 48 in 2012. But sadly, reported incidences of forcible sex offenses rose from seven to 17, high for any school. While there were only three reported alcohol-related arrests *total* between 2010 and 2012, the disciplinary referrals trended up, rising from 205 to 294. Drug-related arrests are fairly low for a school of this size; there were 40 in 2012. However, there were no less than 127 disciplinary referrals during the three-year period from 2010 to 2012. There have also been reported incidents of arrests and referrals for weapons possession and arson, which are rarely seen in most Clery Reports. All of this may be due to more aggressive law enforcement and reporting--colleges have been criticized for "under-reporting" as well--but the incidents are serious.

The best way to confront crime, in addition to better law enforcement and safety, is to build community. Stony Brook is doing this by expanding the scholarship athletic program as well as campus traditions. In 2012-13 Stony Brook won nine championships in the America East Conference while the football program, in the Division I play-off subdivision, won the Big South Conference title four years running. This season the

football team will move into a more competitive conference, the Colonial Athletic Association, where it will face schools such as Delaware, James Madison and Villanova that have won national titles at this level of competition. Stony Brook's most notable athlete is Detroit Tigers relief pitcher Joe Nathan; the University's baseball field is named for him.

Stony Brook has a surprising number of traditions for a school that has had a campus for little more than half a century. The campus was a regular stop for rock stars during the 1960's and 70's including acts such as The Who, Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin who also performed at Woodstock. Today, there are events on campus called Earthstock and Wolfstock as well as Undergraduate Commons Day, the Roth Pond Regatta, Strawberry Fest and RecycleMania, among others. The Staller Center also attracts a large entertainment calendar, including many student-run events. Freshmen get tickets to their first event free through a program called First On Us.

By reinforcing traditions, expanding athletics and blending academics further into residence life, Stony Brook has improved its freshman retention and graduation rates in recent years; freshman retention has exceeded 90 percent for the past three. It helps to offer more activities that keep people on a campus that is easier to leave than most. However, other schools of similar size use their Greek system to run even larger campus programs than Stony Brook's as well as to provide a housing option. Students considering Stony Brook versus similarly sized schools in other states such as Delaware, James Madison, Miami of Ohio, Syracuse or UConn will consider the "fun" they're likely to have in college. While everyone student has their own definition of fun, its doubtful that Stony Brook would be the "party school" versus a group of universities such as these.

Curriculum

6

Academics
Honors Programs
Experiential Learning

Curriculum

Stony Brook will be shifting to an outcomes-based curriculum for its incoming freshman class. These outcomes include:

- Demonstrate Versatility
- Explore Interconnectedness
- Pursue Deeper Understanding
- Prepare for Life-Long Learning

The new curriculum does not eliminate distribution requirements similar to those at other public universities, including courses in the Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Social Sciences but it has some unique features:

- Course in Interconnectedness explore connections between, as examples, social sciences and technology, or art and natural sciences. This makes it likely that a graduate will not be a math-science oriented person with limited communications skills or have an abundance of “soft” skills with no exposure to math or “hard” sciences.
- Students are required to pursue advanced coursework outside their general area of their major in three of these four areas:
 - Experiential Learning
 - Humanities and Fine Arts
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Students are expected to develop life-long learning skills in these areas
 - Practice and Respect Critical and Ethical Reasoning

-
- Evaluate and Synthesize Researched Information
 - Speak Effectively before an Audience
 - Write Effectively within One's Discipline

The success of a new curriculum will depend on the quality of academic advising that Stony Brook plans to offer to support it. The curriculum is linked to policies that allow Advanced Placement and other means for exemptions as well as the opportunity to use a single course to fill more than one requirement.

Among the academic programs Stony Brook has considerable breadth in environmental sciences, health-related programs, marine science, mathematics, computer science and engineering. The University also has the only publicly-supported school of journalism in New York State. With its ties to the Brookhaven National Laboratory, it may be one of the best universities to study chemistry and physics. Nearly half (49 percent) of Stony Brook undergraduates pursue a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) or health sciences degree according to College Results Online, unusually high for a state university that was not founded as a technical school. The University also offers [32 Bachelors-Masters programs](#), including one in Occupational Therapy that starts and finishes on campus.

Stony Brook is growing its undergraduate business program; prospective majors are expected to have higher Math SAT scores for admission than students in other majors excluding computer science and engineering. The University also operates four business incubators which can facilitate student interaction with entrepreneurs. However, unlike the business programs at the other SUNY flagships, [Stony Brook's is not accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business \(AACSB\)](#). While this may not impact recruiting by Long Island and New York-area firms--the same employers who hire the STEM students consider the business students for other jobs as well as internship opportunities--it might matter when it comes to recruiting by firms outside of these regions. Accredita-

tion, while not implying that a program is necessarily "better," means that a business program offers the requisite coursework in subjects that a degree holder should be expected to know. Accreditation might become more important to Stony Brook; the school offers a "Fast-Track" Bachelors-MBA program by which students in any major can earn their Bachelor's degree and a MBA in one less year than it would take to earn them separately.

Given Stony Brook's strengths in the sciences, gatekeeper courses, the introductory classes in subjects such as biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and psychology are likely to be very large with teaching assistants doing the actual teaching and lab supervision. The University reported in the most recent U.S. News college guide that more than a fifth of all classes (21 percent) had 50 or more students, higher than similar-sized public schools such as Delaware (16 percent), Miami of Ohio (12 percent), UConn (17 percent), UNC-Chapel Hill (13 percent) and UVa. (16 percent) as well as Binghamton University (16 percent). The University's largest lecture hall seats 550; an introductory chemistry class might have a lecture with over 300 students. Only Miami had a smaller percentage of classes with fewer than 20 students (30 percent vs. 44 percent for Stony Brook). Those who believe that they will need to rely more heavily on a teacher for instruction in the first two years might want to look at smaller schools.

Stony Brook students gave their faculty a rating of 3.73 out of a possible on RateMyProfessors.com, lower than Binghamton (3.80) students gave their faculty but about the same as Buffalo students gave theirs (3.72). Compared with similarly-sized public and private schools, Stony Brook students held their faculty in higher regard than their peers at UConn (3.64) and Syracuse (3.68) about the same regard as students at Delaware (3.72), Miami of Ohio (3.72) and in lower regard than students at Cornell (3.77), UNC-Chapel Hill (3.81) and UVa (3.82). They also held their faculty in similar regard with students at Rutgers-New Brunswick (3.74) but in higher regard than students at UMass-Amherst (3.71), the University of New Hampshire (3.68) and the University of Maryland-College Park (3.64)

Connections

Alumni Relations
Career Services

Connections

Stony Brook has more than 150,000 living alumni, a huge base considering that the campus is only 52 years old. [Over 98,000 live in New York State](#), according to the University's alumni association, with the largest concentration on Long Island and in New York City. Most surprising, more than 7,000 alumni live and work in Northern California. Among the more than 65,000 Stony Brook alumni registered on LinkedIn.com, over 42,000 live in the New York metropolitan area. Northern California ranks second with just over 2,000, more than Boston, Washington D.C. or Philadelphia. Geography probably hurts this school more than similarly-sized public and private universities; it's simply not easy to make the drive from New York City and other points to Long Island due to traffic and road conditions. However, the alumni base within New York City is so large that events in the city can be substantial. Stony Brook is as good an option as a student can find to knock on doors in New York and keep them open during their career. But it's not easy to come back to campus to socialize.

Despite the traffic issues, Stony Brook has over 400 partner employers who post more than 7,500 jobs, including full-time, co-op and internship opportunities. Stony Brook gives employers the option of sponsoring internships or co-ops for students in any major; this is typically limited to Business, Computer Science and Engineering at other state schools. The career center runs five job and internship fairs, including events for Information Technology and Engineering as well as Health Care. There are also virtual events for summer jobs and part-time jobs. The career center also offer credit-bearing courses tailored to freshmen and sophomores as well as juniors and seniors. The dominance of the STEM, health sciences and business (over 1,000 students) programs suggests that Stony Brook has a more career-oriented culture than most other state universities.

Conclusions

Summing up



Conclusions

Stony Brook is one of the best buys in higher education, especially for a New Yorker or a student who is interested in STEM subjects or the health sciences as well as journalism. The campus is also located within a metropolitan area that has high demand for talent in several of these fields.

Stony Brook is also one of the more diverse flagship public universities in the country, not only in terms of ethnicity, but also geography. Students can learn as much from each other as they will in the classroom. They can also spend time together on the beach or in New York City; neither is far away. However, the pluses of being close to New York can sometimes be minuses. It's very easy for students who come from the city to go home on the weekends, as it is for students who come from Long Island. Not to mention that their friends who are not local will be drawn to activity in the Big Apple. A campus that is easy to leave becomes vacant quickly on weekends when there are no major events.

Stony Brook has transitioned over the last decade from being a commuter school, although one that has always been well-invested in STEM and health care, to a national university. Some of this has been due to investments in the athletic program, housing and recreational opportunities as well as traditions that have carried on. While the University is not as high profile in sports as schools of similar size such as Syracuse, UConn and UVa., its teams have done well with the schedules they must play.

When it comes to college campuses, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Stony Brook has been at its current location for just over a half century, and it was built new from the ground up. Those who want to attend college on a campus with Gothic or Colonial architecture as well as

tree-lined walkways and courtyards will not find that here. Instead, they will see varied designs from the 1960's, 1970's and the 21st century. It's very easy to say that a "pretty campus" has little to do with the quality of academic instruction or career preparation at any college or university, but it sparks enthusiasm and memories of a school. Stony Brook is surrounded with greenery between its academic center and residences and is well-buffered from Nicholl Avenue, the main entrance into campus, but the academic quad is concrete, aside from the Staller Steps, resembling a 1960's-70's vision of a corporate office park. There are sculptures and public spaces, as well as the Steps, but the look is more business-like than universities of similar size such as Delaware, Miami of Ohio and UNC-Chapel Hill that have more history to display.

If you're looking for a mid-sized public university close to a major city that offers excellent connections to research and internship opportunities, especially in STEM and health care, Stony Brook is one of your best options. A reasonable sticker price is an added plus. This university will only get better as it adds to its short history. But no one will mistake it for a party school.

Ed Quest's Report Card						
Stony Brook University						

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
Value for the money, especially for a New Yorker	Extremely low endowment for a school of this size and scientific accomplishments
Offerings in computer science, engineering, environmental science, marine science , physical sciences and health fields are incredibly comprehensive	If you're looking for a traditional campus setting with Gothic or Colonial architecture or Greek life look elsewhere
Thirty-two joint degrees, impressive for a mid-sized school	Long Island traffic congestion
Mass transit access to NYC from campus by bus and train, also bus to beaches and local shopping	Off-campus housing market is very expensive, local ordinance limits number who can rent a house
More students from outside New York than one might think for a SUNY school--same for the alumni base	Many students from NYC and Long Island, combined with easy access to mass transit gives campus a "commuter vibe"
Connections to medical school, business incubator, Brookhaven National Laboratory	Train and bus into NYC take too long for students to do a daily commute to a summer internship; might be better to have a car and work in the Long Island labor market
Only public school of journalism in NY State--and it's dean is a former editor at Newsday	Reported incidents of crime are high considering the campus layout.
Winning sports program should attract more enthusiasm if football team succeeds in CAA	Business school is not AACSB accredited like those at the other SUNY flagships
Trying to build traditions more associated with a residential campus	Older residence halls are in need of renovations

The End



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