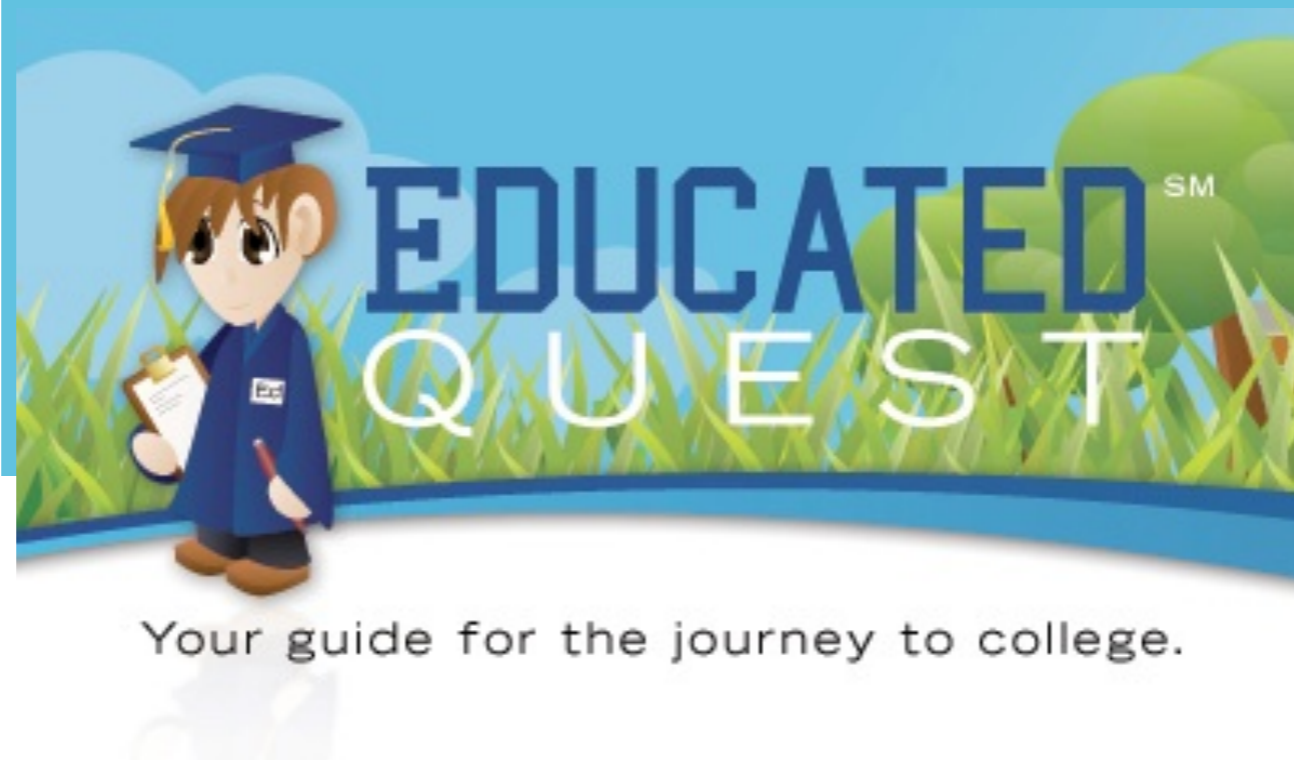


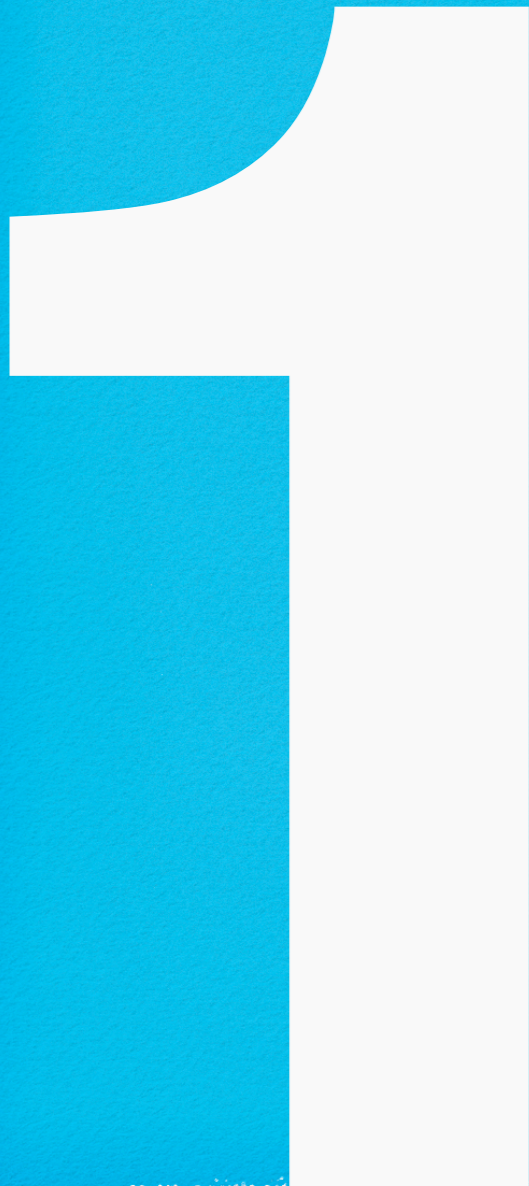
First Impressions: Fordham University



Your guide for the journey to college.

Background

**Introduction to Fordham
University**



Background

Fordham University was originally founded as St. John's College in 1841, the first Catholic institution of higher education in the Northeastern U.S. The college was renamed Fordham University in 1907. The name Fordham is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words "ford" and "ham," meaning a wading place or ford by a settlement, according to the University's history. The University's Bronx campus, also known as Rose Hill, is located in a neighborhood that was once known as Fordham Village. Fordham is one of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the U.S and one of 11 in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Fordham is also the only Jesuit college or university to have more than one fully functioning campus for undergraduate, graduate and professional students. It was also the first Jesuit university to be granted a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the national academic honor society.

Fordham has approximately 7,200 undergraduates. About 5,700 are enrolled on the main campus at Rose Hill; the remainder are students at the Lincoln Center campus in Manhattan. Fordham students may take classes at either campus, although they must take 60 percent of their classes at the one where they are enrolled. Among Jesuit universities in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states only Boston College has more undergraduates than Fordham. Fordham has a larger undergraduate student population than Georgetown, Loyola University of Mary-

land and St. Joseph's University (PA), which also Jesuit institutions.

Until this year Fordham has been divided into three schools, the liberal arts schools on each campus (each called Fordham College) as well as the Gabelli School of Business on the Rose Hill Campus. The University's honors program is also available on both campuses. This year the business school will offer new programs in Manhattan. More than a quarter of Fordham undergraduates major in a business discipline. The Manhattan campus offers a highly competitive talent-based Dance major in partnership with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and will offer a highly competitive Theatre major this year.

Unlike other Jesuit schools in the Northeast and MidAtlantic region as Catholic universities such as Villanova, Fordham does not offer undergraduate programs in areas such as Engineering, Education and Nursing. The University has, however, added unique majors within its undergraduate schools including International Political Economy on the Rose Hill campus and New Media and Digital Design on the Lincoln Center campus. Within the business school there are four options within Accounting alone as well as primary concentrations in Digital Media and Technology, Global Finance and Business Economics, Management/Health Care and Marketing/Consumer Insight, all offered at Lincoln Center. This year a new minor in Fashion

Studies will be offered at Lincoln Center as will new majors in Humanitarian Studies and Integrative Neuroscience.

Unlike larger public and private universities, Fordham makes it easy for students to carry double majors in a business discipline and the liberal arts or to carry a major within one school and a minor in the other.

Although Fordham markets itself as "New York's Jesuit University," less than 40 percent of the undergraduate student body comes from New York State while less than half of these students come from the Big Apple. More than half of the undergraduates at Rose Hill live on campus; an additional 400 beds will be available at Lincoln Center for the coming school year.

Notable Fordham alumni include legendary football coach Vince Lombardi; authors Mary Higgins Clark and Don DeLillo; John Mara, President, COO and co-owner of the NFL New York Giants; Ann Mulcahy, retired chairwoman and CEO of Xerox, and actor Alan Alda, among many others.

Competition



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

Competition

Applications for a place in the freshman class at Fordham have skyrocketed from approximately 4,000 during the 1980's to more than 36,000 for the class that entered in 2013. Fordham uses a holistic review to consider each applicant that includes the academic record and rigor of the courses s/he has attempted (especially if they relate to a student's intended major), intellectual curiosity, an understanding of their surroundings (aka: their world.), leadership experience, perseverance and ethical behavior. A freshman class will typically have 2,000 students. Admissions to Fordham are "need blind." Financial need is not considered in admissions decisions, except for students who are on the wait list.

Math scores from the ACT and SAT are considered more seriously for prospective business and science majors, critical reading and writing skills are considered more seriously for liberal arts majors. Fordham is one of the few schools that will look closely at the Writing scores on the ACT or SAT. The admissions staff will take the highest scores from each section of the test.

The range for the middle 50 percent of SAT scores among admitted students was between 1830 (average of 610 per section for Critical Reading, Math and Writing) and 2040 (average of 680 per section). The range is lower than for schools such as Boston College, Georgetown and Villanova, among the religiously-affiliated schools that applicants consider most often. It is also lower than the range for NYU and Columbia as well as Boston University and Northeastern University. Public institutions frequently cross-shopped with Fordham include Binghamton University, Penn State and Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

Fordham does not offer early decision, but it does offer non-binding admissions through Early Action as well as Prior Performance Admission for Dance and Theatre majors. The deadline for both is November 1st. Deadline for regular admission is December 1st. Those who qualify for the larger merit awards would be wise to apply early.

Costs

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Tuition and Fees
Scholarships
Debt

Costs

A Fordham education is not cheap. Tuition and fees for 2014-15 will be approximately \$45,500; room and board charges will range between around \$16,000 and \$16,700, depending on the campus, housing and meal plan selected. The University estimates that the Total Cost of Attendance will be between \$65,200 and \$65,900 for a student living on campus, including books, transportation, clothing and entertainment; it's likely to be higher given the attractions of New York City for college students. Fordham requires the FAFSA and CSS Profile for consideration for financial aid. Students with superior academic records as well as a serious interest in Fordham would be wise to apply early action to be considered for the larger scholarship awards.

Students in the top one-to-two percent of the entering class receive full-tuition awards either for being National Merit, National Achievement or National Hispanic Recognition Scholarship Semi-Finalists or by being selected by the University as Presidential Scholars. The Presidential Scholarship also includes free housing for four years. Fordham also offers athletic scholarships; the University competes in 23 Division I sports, including football. Air Force, Army and Navy ROTC are also available on campus. The University also awards Dean's Scholarships to students within the first tenth of the class that begin at \$10,000; the awards increase on the basis of demonstrated financial

need. Commuting New Yorkers are eligible for Metro Grants valued at \$6,000 per year.

Student indebtedness information was not available from the Project on Student Debt nor *Big Future*, the College Board's search site. But it is fair to state that scholarship awards will not reduce the costs of a Fordham education for most students to the in-state or out-of-state costs for students at schools such as Binghamton, Penn State or Rutgers. However, the student who is in the top ten percent of the class may fare better cost-wise than their peers at Boston College, Boston University, Georgetown, Northeastern, NYU or Villanova, all of which charge more and none of which admit that they will meet the full financial need for all of their students.

As of June 30, 2013, Fordham had an endowment of \$592 million, according to the National Association of College and University Business Officers, larger than Villanova (\$419 million), but considerably smaller than Boston College (\$1.8 billion), Boston University (\$1.4 billion), Georgetown (\$1.3 billion), Northeastern (\$617 million) and NYU (\$2.9 billion). The endowments of these considered schools are much larger, in part, because they operate medical and/or dental schools as well as undergraduate and graduate programs in fields such as engineering and nursing that not offered by Fordham.

Fordham offers proven value relative to state-supported schools and the larger research universities such as Boston Uni-

versity and NYU; classes are smaller, there is less reliance on doctoral students to teach, even in the introductory classes. Academic programs are more accessible to those who perform well, but enter undecided on a major. But Fordham also shares the advantage of connections into a city with a diverse and dynamic economy with these schools. The very best students at Fordham appear to get more for less --as long as the social fit is also there.

Comforts

On-Campus Housing
Local Housing Market

4

Comforts

Fordham guarantees housing for four years to all students, as long as they started living in on-campus housing during their freshman year. Commuters can change their status to on-campus as space becomes available. Eighty percent of Fordham undergraduates will live on campus or in an off-campus building affiliated with the University for all four years. All students have the option of living on campus during the summer.

Fordham has five freshman residence halls at Rose Hill, a sixth, Loyola, a former residence for Jesuit priests, will open this year as an Integrated Learning Community. All of the freshman halls, excluding Loyola, are clustered together. Three are air conditioned, the others are not. Laundry is included in the room charge; there's no need to use a student ID nor have quarters. While there are no single-sex freshman halls, the first floors are all-male, second floors are all female while the higher floors are have all-male and all-female wings. Freshman halls are corridor-style; several double (and sometimes triple) rooms share a common bathroom and showers. Loyola Hall will have no triple rooms.

Students assigned to triples at Rose Hill at the start of the school year can request to de-triple as space becomes available. They will receive a reduction on their housing bill based on the number of days they were tripled. One consideration: living in a triple room can reduce housing costs by approximately \$2,500 to \$2,700 a year, depending on the hall selected.

[Fordham offers a choice of Unlimited, Block Plus and Block Meal Plans at Rose Hill.](#) Block Plus and Block plans are priced around blocks of 150, 175 and 200 meals per semester at the dining hall as well as declining balances for cafes and grab-and-go locations on campus. Block and

Block Plus plans cost will cost approximately \$5,000 for the coming school year. Unlimited plans will cost around \$6,000 or \$6,100 depending on the declining balance selected. Students who live in residence halls on the Rose Hill campus: Alumni Court South, Loschert Hall, Hughes Hall, Queen's Court, Tierney, Martyr's Court, Finlay, and O'Hare Hall, are required to purchase a meal plan, although they may choose any plan they want.

Upper-class students at Rose Hill have [an impressive choice of corridor-style, suite-style and apartment living options](#). The best value is apartment-style living; the meal plan is not required while its easy to shop for food in the surrounding neighborhood. Students at Rose Hill who live off campus in unaffiliated housing typically live within five blocks walking distance of campus. Two-bedroom apartments will rent for around \$1,500 a month, plus security deposit, brokers fee and utilities. The university-affiliated housing is a better deal; you don't pay the deposit or the fees. Fordham has no fraternities or sororities.

At Rose Hill Fordham is unique in that there are more Integrated Learning Communities for sophomores than there are for freshmen. There are [three freshmen learning communities](#), each requiring their own application for membership, while [there are five for sophomores](#).

Freshman at the Lincoln Center campus will reside in New Hall, a new 400-bed residence; they may be assigned to double or triple rooms at a cost of approximately \$11,600 for the year, excluding the meal plan. [Students have a smaller choice of Block and Unlimited meal plans than they do at Rose Hill, at prices of \\$5,350 to \\$6,250 for the school year](#). However, they are given a 175-meal block plan if they do not select a plan on their own. Freshman are also assigned into one of [six learning communities](#).

New Hall and McMahon Hall, the residence for upper-class, graduate and law students are located in a very posh section of Manhattan; rentals for *one-bedroom* apartments in the surrounding area can easily surpass \$3,000 a month. It is easy to say that on-campus living is the better value for Fordham students at Lincoln Center.

Since there is overlap among most majors at Fordham and living costs do not vary by much, it is wise to consider which campus to enroll, Lincoln Center or Rose Hill, when you have the option to live at either one. Rose Hill will offer more of the campus life that a student might expect to find at a more suburban residential college Lincoln Center offers students the opportunity to live and study within one of the grandest urban residential centers in the world with even smaller classes than they are likely to find at Rose Hill. But if you're enrolled at one campus there are plenty of opportunities to spend time at the other one.

Community

5

Campus
Environs
School Spirit

Community

Fordham is as much “New York” as Columbia or NYU; the Lincoln Center and Rose campuses have access to buses and subways that can get students anywhere in the city, just as these other schools do. The Rose Hill campus opens onto Arthur Avenue, the Little Italy of the Bronx, as well as Fordham Road, where buses, subways and trains stop near campus. Fordham Road has plenty of shopping opportunities, though most serve the neighborhood more than the college. The Bronx Zoo and the New York Botanical Gardens are also close by.

Fordham might have a slight edge on mobility over Columbia or NYU. The Rose Hill campus is also served by the Metro North commuter railroad. The university provides Ram Van service between the two campuses that is free for students who have classes on both or are working in an unpaid internship. There is so much for college students to do in New York; it is simply impossible to write all of the cultural and social opportunities down here.

The Rose Hill campus is compact, only 85 acres, but it feels larger because it has plenty of greenery. The Gothic-style architecture of the older buildings is similar to what one would find at Princeton or Yale. Given the location and small campus, Fordham has not had the luxury of knocking down older buildings; it has had to renovate and reuse them. Hughes Hall, named for the first President of Fordham was successfully adapted into a modern business school building. It was once the location of

Fordham Prep, an all-male Jesuit middle school that is unaffiliated with the University. A former Jesuit priest residence has been redesigned to be the newest freshman residence hall. St. John's Hall, within the Queens Court Residential College for first-year students, was originally constructed in 1844 as the seminary of the Archdiocese of New York. With the exception of the McKinley Center, which appears “dated,” and the newer apartments and residence halls, campus buildings on Rose Hill are excellent examples of either renovation or historic preservation.

Like most colleges and universities, the most-reported criminal incidents at Fordham are drug and alcohol-related violations. Both went on the downswing at the Lincoln Center and Rose Hill campuses from 2012 to 2012 according to the [University's Clery Report](#). Further, virtually all of the violations were disciplinary actions; there were only eight arrests for drug and alcohol-related crimes at Rose Hill in 2012, down from 40 two years before. There were *none* at the Lincoln Center campus. However, the number of disciplinary referrals for liquor violations in the residence halls is still high; there were over 500 at Rose Hill in 2012, high considering that fewer than 4,000 students live on campus. There was also an average of 25 reported burglaries per year at Rose Hill, and eight per year at Lincoln Center. There was an average of seven reported forcible sex offenses at Rose Hill, and one per year at Lincoln Center.

Unlike NYU and Columbia Fordham competes in scholarship athletics. The Rams compete in the Patriot League in football, the Atlantic 10 in all other sports. The University competes in 23 varsity sports. It has produced 56 Major League Baseball players, an impressive total for a cold-weather school. The women's softball program has won three of the past four Atlantic 10 championships (2011, 2013, and 2014) and earning an NCAA championship berths in four of the past five years (2010, 2011, 2013, and 2014).

[According to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the NFL's St. Louis Rams, located in Cleveland at their founding in 1937, were named for the Fordham Rams, the favorite college team of their general manager.](#) Legendary football coach Vince Lombardi was a member of those teams. The Rams of 1939 [participated in the first televised college football game](#). The 2013 edition of the Fordham Rams went 12-2 with wins over a Football Bowl Series Temple team as well as Villanova and Lehigh teams, advancing to the Quarterfinals of the Football Championship Series Playoffs. [According to NCAA the Rams averaged approximately 6,300 fans per home game last season, about 90 percent of their stadium's capacity.](#) It is fair to argue that Fordham is “New York's College Football Team,” because Fordham is the only New York City school that awards athletic scholarships for football. Winning helps, too.

Curriculum

6

Academics
Honors Programs
Experiential Learning

Curriculum

While Fordham is classified as a National Research University, it is more like a liberal arts college, even for students enrolled in the business school on either campus.

Fordham College students are required to complete a 17-course liberal arts core with introductory classes in these subjects:

- English
- Philosophy
- Theology
- Mathematics
- History
- Natural Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Fine & Performing Arts
- Modern & Classical Languages

In addition, outside of the major and the introductory courses, there are Distribution Requirements in three areas: Eloquencia Perfecta seminars (four required), Globalism and Pluralism as well as an optional Service Learning course. All students must also take one class in Philosophical Ethics, another in Sacred Traditions. There are also two Capstone courses, one is an Interdisciplinary Seminar in Literature, Arts and Social Science, the other is a Senior Values seminar. While there are more liberal arts requirements than most colleges or universities, it is possible to fulfill more than one requirement with some courses. This helps students who might want to carry a double major or more than one minor. But given that Fordham is a religiously affiliated school, albeit one that

welcomes students of all faiths, it is important for them to be prepared to discuss, if not consider, their religious identity.

Within Fordham College on both campuses Biology and Communications are the most popular majors followed by Psychology, Political Science, Economics, English and History. Fordham also makes it easy for students to complete a business minor within a liberal arts education. While Fordham does not offer Engineering degrees, students may opt for a four-year program in Engineering Physics or a 3-2 liberal arts and engineering program with either Columbia University or Case Western Reserve University (OH). Fordham has a 3-3 Bachelors-JD program with its own law school as well as 3-2 Bachelors-Masters programs in Business and Education.

The Gabelli School of Business requires four fewer liberal arts courses in its core requirements. There are no foreign language or natural sciences requirements. Economics and Statistics courses are taken in place of a Social Sciences requirement. Being an accredited business school, Gabelli requires all students to complete core courses in Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Organizational Behavior and Production Management as well as some unique courses: a “Ground Floor” introduction to business in the freshman year which includes a team-based project to develop a business plan for a start-up venture; a team-based analysis of a Fortune 500 company during the sophomore year where students present a solution to a vexing business problem; a career-focused individual research project, also completed during the sophomore year; an advanced business modeling project during the junior year as well as the option to study in London; and a computer simulation-based leadership project in the senior year.

The more traditional business concentrations such as Accounting, Finance and Marketing are offered on the Rose Hill campus, which also offers programs in Business Economics and Entrepreneurship. The Lincoln Center campus offers these concentrations which are reflective of New York City as a global business center:

- Digital Media and Technology
- Global Finance and Business Economics
- Management, with a Focus on Health Care
- Marketing, with a Focus on Consumer Insight

Students enrolled on either campus have several options for secondary concentrations as well as minors inside and outside the business school. Among the more unique secondary concentrations within Gabelli are Alternative Investments, Communications and Media Management and Value Investing. The Lincoln Center campus also offers a unique Fashion Studies minor.

Fordham makes it fairly easy, compared to larger schools, for students uncertain between business or the liberal arts to enter undecided on a major and still graduate within four years. The best course of action for a first-year student in this situation is to complete Economics and Calculus during the freshman year along with the Ground Floor business course, while addressing the English requirements and either the Philosophy or Theology requirements.

Connections

Alumni Relations
Career Services

Connections

Fordham has more than 150,000 alumni, including those who earned degrees from its graduate programs and law school. [Nearly 80,000 live in New York, more than 20,000 in New Jersey. Connecticut, Florida and California have the next largest concentrations of Rams.](#) Among the [more than 57,000 Fordham alumni registered on LinkedIn.com](#), nearly 6,000 work in Education, nearly 4,300 in Communications and Media and over 3,700 in Finance. Networking is easy within the New York area for students and alumni, especially given the accessibility of the two campuses.

Undergraduate career services are organized around a four-part plan called [Fordham Futures](#) with activities, services and workshops for each semester that a student is pursuing their education. Students must also complete a series of CareerLink workshops in order to participate in on-campus recruiting. This fall the career center will also run an Accounting and Finance Career Fair, a Careers for The Common Good Job and Internship Fair. The Spring Career Fair takes place in mid-February, a Research Symposium in April.

Conclusions

Summing up



Conclusions

Fordham offers a great academic and social experience for New Yorkers and non-New Yorkers alike, as well as a greener campus and a higher level of school spirit and alumni loyalty than prospective students might find at NYU. It's fairly easy for a very good student to switch between business and the liberal arts; the two schools are not silos as they are at larger universities. Course requirements fulfilled for one school can usually be plugged into electives for the other. It's also fairly easy for students to have a liberal arts major and a business-related minor, and vice versa.

While Fordham is a Jesuit institution, the religious affiliation does not come tied to mandatory chapel services. Fordham, in fact, is quite welcoming to students of all faiths and is quite diverse for a private, religiously-affiliated university. This might be because of the location or the efforts of the admissions office. However, some of the housing rules--no members of the opposite sex may stay in a room overnight--will not be for everyone.

Success at Fordham depends not only on academics, but how well a student can handle life in the big city and how easily s/he can cover the costs. There are generous merit awards for the Fordham student who might fall into the middle or top of the applicant pool at Boston College, Georgetown or NYU as well as athletic scholarships and ROTC, but little more for students who fall further down in the pool. In addition, the Bronx will not be every non-New Yorkers idea of a college town while Manhattan

life is quite expensive on a student budget. Some serious financial planning is in order for the four-year sojourn, especially if there are plans for further education.

The student who is most likely to succeed at Fordham needs, at the very least, to work hard, have a high degree of curiosity about city life, and be willing to consider their religious identity. That student would need the same qualities to succeed at similar schools such as Boston College, Georgetown and Villanova. However, Fordham offers one advantage these schools don't: it's connections into the cultural, economic and social pulses of the Big Apple.

Ed Quest's Report Card						
Fordham University						
Four-Year/ Six-Year Grad Rates	Freshman Retention	Costs	Comforts	Community	Curriculum	Connections
A/A	B+	C	B+	A	A	A
Strengths			Weaknesses			
Can't beat the location if you want to be in New York, and you have two great locations to choose from			The experience is very expensive if you don't have a merit scholarship			
D-1 sports for the smart athlete, all three branches of ROTC as well to help finance the experience			If you're not used to city life or want a Greek row, look elsewhere			
Rose Hill campus is quite green, as in grass and landscaping, for a city school			Merit awards outside of the Presidential don't cover much of the tuition			
Well invested in business, communications and pre-law, becoming better invested in dance, theater and the sciences			Other Jesuit schools such as BC, Georgetown, Scranton and Villanova offer more options in STEM and health sciences			
Probably as good an education as you would get at NYU, but smaller classes are a bonus			Freshman housing is nothing to get excited about, though upper-class halls and apartments are very nice			
More diversity than you might expect to find at a private religiously-affiliated university			Student center, dining hall, look dated compared to the rest of the Rose Hill campus, although the fitness center is new			
Strong alumni base in the New York City metro area			Alumni base drops off quite a bit outside of the New York area.			

The End



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