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## Quinnipiac University

Founded in 1929 in New Haven, Connecticut as the Connecticut College of Commerce, Quinnipiac has evolved into one of the fastest growing colleges in the US. In 1987, according to university communications, the school was known as Quinnipiac College, a locally-known school with fewer than 2,000 students. A university since 2000, Quinnipiac has more than 10,000 students in undergraduate, graduate and professional school programs including law and medicine. It has the largest undergraduate enrollment (approximately 7,000 students) of any private college in the State of Connecticut.

While Quinnipiac is listed under “Regional Universities-Masters in the Northeast”, in *US News* it is a comprehensive university that grants the highest academic or professional degree in several subjects, much like schools that are listed as “National Research Universities.” Quinnipiac is most similar in terms of location, undergraduate student body size and academic mix to Hofstra University in Long Island and to Seton Hall University in northern New Jersey, both recognized as a National Research Universities.

Like both of these schools, Quinnipiac does business on more than one campus. Like both of these schools, it also offers accelerated programs where students may save at least a year’s tuition and fees towards a bachelor’s degree and an advanced degree. Like both of these schools, Quinnipiac is not located in a true college town, though it is located close to major cities. And, like both of these schools, Quinnipiac is cross-shopped against a state university in its home state (the University of Connecticut) that has increasingly competitive admissions.

While Quinnipiac has the shortest history as a university compared to the more similar private schools, it has also had more success at retaining and graduating a freshman class. Quinnipiac also does better than the University of Connecticut at graduating a class on time. It also offers more accelerated degree options than the state university. This school also competes quite favorably with Fairfield University, which also has a longer history as well as a more student-oriented location for undergraduates.

	<b>Average Freshman Retention-reported to <i>US News</i></b>	<b>Four-Year Grad Rate, Class that entered in 2009—reported to <i>US News</i></b>
<b>Quinnipiac University</b>	87%	72%
<b>Boston University</b>	93%	80%
<b>Fairfield University</b>	88%	77%
<b>Hofstra University</b>	79%	50%
<b>Sacred Heart University</b>	80%	59%



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<b>Seton Hall University</b>	84%	56%
<b>University of Connecticut</b>	93%	67%

Quinnipiac’s selectivity depends on the chosen academic program. Admissions to accelerated degree programs, as well as the engineering and health professions majors is highly selective. Overall, the university offers admissions to around two thirds of applicants. Admissions for the business, communications, education and liberal arts are test optional. They are test mandatory for the health sciences programs as well as the accelerated bachelors/masters business and communications programs.

### **Costs**

Quinnipiac’s direct charges (Tuition and Fees, Room and Board) are approximately \$58,800. Adding expenses for books, supplies, entertainment, clothing and transportation could lead to a Total Cost of Attendance exceeding \$65,000 before scholarships are considered. [The largest merit scholarship is for \\$24,000.](#) Transfer scholarships are also available. However, it’s doubtful that Quinnipiac could discount its costs to the point where it could approach either resident or non-resident charges for schools such as Rutgers-New Brunswick or the University of Connecticut.

The university reported to *US News* that it met, on average, 65 percent of need for students who were awarded financial aid in 2014. The university reported to the Project on Student Debt that 2014 graduates who took out loans owed, on average, approximately \$45,700, over \$18,000 more than the maximum they could borrow under the Federal Stafford Student Loan program. Over 40 percent of the class had to borrow from a source other than the Federal Government. However, the graduating class likely included students in the accelerated Bachelors/advanced degree programs who had spent five to six years on campus instead of leaving after four. These students would be allowed to incur larger debts over the time they are considered graduate or professional students as opposed being enrolled as undergraduates.

Given the data in the above two paragraphs, students and families need to consider academic programs versus costs if they are seriously interested in Quinnipiac. This is much like a family’s decision to send their child to a public high school versus a private or parochial school where they might receive more attention as well as access to more resources. Students who choose Quinnipiac will likely receive more attention as well as easier access to resources than they might have at their home state university. Students might also be more likely to gain admission to Quinnipiac for some of the more selective programs, but not gain admission to a comparable program at a state school.



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The university has a relatively small endowment (around \$400 million) considering its extensive selection of academic programs, to aid students from its own funds. It is doubtful that the university is able to discount down to the charges of the University of Connecticut to compete directly for the best-qualified resident students as well as the resident charges of the public universities in neighboring states (New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island) where the university is likely to attract applicants.

### Curriculum

The [number of academic options](#) available at Quinnipiac is too extensive to be covered in a profile. The selection of academic programs is probably the best reason to choose Quinnipiac, especially for students who would prefer to pursue them at a smaller school. The business, communications, education, engineering and health science programs are smaller and more hands on, even in the first year, than they would be at a much larger school. One caution for prospective engineering students: the program is quite new and under accreditation review by ABET, the national body that reviews and accredits engineering schools and degrees. Be sure to ask about the status of the accreditation review when you visit. The engineering program graduated its first class last year. Programs do not receive accreditation until after they have graduated a class.

Less than three percent of Quinnipiac's classes in 2014 had more than 50 students. For comparison, over 15 percent of classes at the University of Connecticut had more than 50 students. There are more likely to be smaller classes from the freshman year forward, including the introductory courses in subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Physics and Psychology that are required for many degree programs. This, plus the availability of so many accelerated and career-related degree programs appear to contribute to a very good freshman retention rate as well as an excellent four-year graduation rate.

Quinnipiac requires all students to complete a Capstone experience during their senior year. The other [general education requirements](#) are quite similar to other private universities that do not have a religious affiliation.

Quinnipiac students gave their faculty a rating of 3.7 (out of a possible 5.0) on [RateMyProfessors.com](#), the same rating that Boston University students gave theirs. Fairfield and Hofstra students (both 3.68) held their faculty in similar regard. Quinnipiac students also showed slightly higher regard for their faculty than their peers at the University of Connecticut (3.64).

Given the ratings and class sizes, it is fair to say that Quinnipiac students who make good progress in their academic program could expect to receive "as good" an education as they might receive from similar or even "higher ranked" schools.



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### Community

Quinnipiac has a more modern appearance on its three campuses (Mount Carmel, York Hill and North Haven), resembling a corporate office park more than a traditional college campus. The Mount Carmel and York Hill campuses are close together, but too far apart for students to walk between them. Free shuttle bus services connect the campuses together. The three campus arrangement helps to make the university feel less crowded and maintains some separation between undergraduates and those pursuing graduate and professional degrees. But it is quite difficult to bond the campus community that around athletics or campus-wide events and traditions when it geographically separates its freshmen and sophomores from the juniors and seniors.

Quinnipiac is not a school where you will find ivy-covered buildings that are more than a century old or statues based around college traditions. However, the academic facilities on the Mount Carmel campus are quite student-friendly as is the student center. The residential and athletic facilities on the York Hill campus as well as the mountaintop setting are among the nicest you would see at a college in the New York City metropolitan area. Quinnipiac put a premium on livability as it expanded. The North Haven campus is home to the law school, the medical school and teaching hospital and the Health Sciences programs. Unlike the other two campuses, it has no student housing on site. However, it has plenty of parking.

While the university has done an excellent job of accommodating its students, it is not located in an area that could be described as a “college town.” There are a few restaurants and bars in Hamden and neighboring towns that are similar to those found in a college town, but they are not immediately near the campus. The greater choices are in New Haven, also home to Yale, using the shuttle services into the city. The nearest shopping center and movie theater are also accessible by shuttle. The TD Bank Sports Center, which opened on the York Hill campus nine years ago, while one of the more modern college athletic facilities (it has separate venues for basketball and hockey) has a small seating capacity (less than 3,600 for basketball, less than 3,400 for hockey) considering that the students and community are the target audience. However, it was selected as the host for the 2014 NCAA Women’s Frozen Four hockey championships. It also proudly hosted a men’s hockey team that advanced to the national championship game of the Men’s Frozen Four in 2016.

Quinnipiac is located only 90 miles from New York City. But it is not easy to reach the city from campus. Students either need to take a shuttle into New Haven for the Metro North train or brave the Merritt Parkway (Connecticut Rte 15) or I-95 South by car. I-95 is one of the more congested interstate highways in the US with an endless schedule of road (re)construction plans.



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Quinnipiac had over 700 reported incidents of alcohol-related disciplinary referrals on *each of the two* residential campuses, Mount Carmel and York Hill, in 2014, according to the university's [2015 Clery Report](#), although actual arrests on either campus were few. The numbers of reported incidents have trended upward from 2012. The same is true for drug-related disciplinary referrals. There were 160 reported for the Mount Carmel campus in 2014, more than double the number from the year before. There were 149 reported for the York Hill campus, also more than double the number from the year before. The total numbers of reported incidents of alcohol-related referrals at Quinnipiac in 2014 were [actually higher than they were for the University of Connecticut](#), which houses more than twice as many students as Quinnipiac as well as Greek life—on one campus. Quinnipiac has fraternities and sororities, although they do not have their own houses on campus.

The crime statistics and the campus layout combine to paint a picture of a very nice campus community with impressive facilities, but also one where the students have a difficult time finding off campus attractions nearby. Student residences on or off campus become the “eating and drinking places” when there are too few options nearby.

### Comforts

Quinnipiac reports that it is able to house 75 percent (around 4,900) of the undergraduate students who would prefer to live on campus or in university-operated apartments (near the North Haven campus). The university has four living-learning communities. One, Global Living, takes applications, the other three are selective and academic (Honors College, Nursing, 3+1 BS/MBA). There is also a wellness community.

Quinnipiac charges landlords a \$50 fee to list available off-campus living options, a silly practice considering that students can find available vacancies using other social media. Apartment living options in Hamden can easily cost over \$700 per person per month plus utilities. It is considerably less expensive to live off campus—[the university packages a \\$2,100 meal plan charge for a year with its apartment rates](#)—and it might be the better deal for a student who has access to a car and needs to be on one of the campuses for the summer months. This applies well to students in the health sciences as well as other programs that have summer courses or work experiences.

### Connections

Among the nearly 27,000 Quinnipiac alumni registered on [LinkedIn.com](#) over 13,000 live and work around New York City (including the New Haven area). Nearly 3,500 live and work around Boston while just over 2,500 are based in or around Hartford. Over 3,800 work in Healthcare Services and more than 2,100 are educators. Interestingly, there are more media professionals (over 2,500) in the alumni base registered in [LinkedIn.com](#), than there are for any business occupation excluding Sales (nearly 2,800).



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Each undergraduate college within Quinnipiac has [its own career services](#), unusual for a school of this size. There is a [university-wide career fair](#) in the Fall semester. The business school hosts two career fairs of its own. The communications programs hosts their own as well as do the health sciences programs. Juniors in all schools may participate in a unique [“semester away” program in Los Angeles](#) that includes an internship as well as courses taught by Quinnipiac faculty. The university is quite open about [publishing outcomes online](#), and so are the [undergraduate business, engineering](#) and [communications](#) programs. Diligent students will find work coming out of Quinnipiac although they will pay far more for the educational experience than they might paid to attend the University of Connecticut or another flagship state school.

Within the School of Education graduating teacher candidates may participate in a mock interview fair with over 50 experienced recruiters from schools and school districts. There are also two certification nights to assist all teacher candidates. With the exception of the Secondary School English section on the Praxis II exam, [pass rates for the most recent graduates exceeded 90 percent](#).

Within the business program career services are a combination of voluntary workshops as well as credit-bearing courses. Business students take SB 101 in their very first semester where they learn to develop a business plan for a small bicycle distributorship. SB 111 is a professional development planning course that helps students set an academic and career direction. SB 112 is a skills-based course to prepare students for the job search. There is also a Mock Interview Fair where recruiters from 30 employers conduct mock interviews. The university also offers a four-credit International Immersion course as well as international internship options in the United Kingdom (including London and Dublin) and China, among other countries.

### Conclusions

Quinnipiac is a fine alternative to a larger university for a student who seeks an accelerated educational experience or a health sciences program—as long as they afford to come. Career services in the pre-professional programs are excellent considering the relatively short time that Quinnipiac has been a university. Livability has been a high priority, especially for upper-class students.

The university is at a positive tipping point in that more alumni who have graduated from the graduate and professional programs have attained the necessary standing to help support and grow the school and possibly hire younger alumni. This is the way that a good college becomes a better college over time. But while Quinnipiac has done better at retaining and graduating a class than its most similar schools in the New York area, it is still a “lesser-known” brand than the more selective research universities as well as the state university in its own state.



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The largest downsides to Quinnipiac are high costs as well as the lack of a “college town” setting near the three campuses. Access to a car is probably more important here than at most schools in the New York area. But that adds more to a very high price tag for an education.

### Report Card: Quinnipiac University

- Four-Year/Six-Year Graduation Rates: A/A
- Freshman Retention: B+
- Curriculum: A
- Costs: D
- Comforts: B+
- Community: B
- Connections: B+