



Stuart L. Nachbar

College Counselor

Member: HECA, NACAC, NJACAC, PACAC

322 Windsor Court

Ewing, NJ 08638

(609)406-0062

stuart@educatedquest.com

www.educatedquest.com

University of Delaware

The University of Delaware (UDel) is a fairly large university—with just under 19,000 undergraduates—in the nation’s second-smallest state.

Unlike most state universities, the large majority of UDel’s undergraduates—nearly 65 percent—of UDel students come from out of state. The university’s proximity to Interstate 95 also has a lot to do with its popularity. Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC. are all less than two and a half hours from campus. Newark (locally pronounced “New-ark”) is also served by Amtrak trains to those cities.

The university is quite fortunate to be surrounded by states: Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania that have more selective flagship state schools. Outside of Delaware, UDel pulls the largest share of its freshman class (20 percent) from neighboring New Jersey, followed by New York (13 percent), Pennsylvania (10 percent) and Maryland (6 percent).

UDel is not super-selective. Just over 60 percent of the students who applied to join this year’s freshman class were offered admission. Just over a quarter of them decided to come. Delawareans have a much easier time getting in. Over two-thirds who applied did, and 56 percent of them deposited. Their average SATs were 1210 (out of 1600). UDel recently became test-optional for residents, but non-residents must submit scores. More than 23,000 non-residents applied for that 2,900 seats that were reserved for them. Just over 14,000 were offered the opportunity to claim one. Their average SATs were 1260, about the same as they were at Rutgers-New Brunswick and Penn State-University Park.

UDel’s freshman retention rates have been around 92 percent each year since 2011. Over 77 percent of the students who entered in 2011, 2012 and 2013 graduated within four years. Among flagship state universities only the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the University of Virginia, the College of William & Mary and the University of Michigan have done better at graduating a class—and all of these schools are far more selective than UDel.

Costs

UDel charges residents approximately \$13,200 in tuition and fees. Non-Residents are asked to pay approximately \$33,300. Room and board charges for those who live on campus average approximately \$12,100.

The student who chooses UDel is more likely to be a non-resident, and therefore more likely to cross shop against the non-resident charges of other state universities as well as those of their home state. If that person comes from New Jersey, s/he would find that UDel costs approximately \$300 less than the University of Maryland-College Park and about \$1000 more than Penn State-University Park. None of these schools offers especially generous merit-based aid to non-residents who are not among the very best students.



Stuart L. Nachbar

College Counselor

Member: HECA, NACAC, NJACAC, PACAC

322 Windsor Court

Ewing, NJ 08638

(609)406-0062

stuart@educatedquest.com

www.educatedquest.com

UDel is a smaller school than comparable public options in the neighboring state, excluding the University of Pittsburgh, which has about the same number of undergraduates. But prospective students and their parents who reside in neighboring states should consider the added costs, and well as possible debt, from choosing UDel over their home state university, when they are offered admission to both.

UDel graduates in 2016 who took out loans owed, on average, just under \$33,200, according to the Project on Student Debt. The maximum that they could have borrowed over four years under the Federal Direct Student Loan program was \$27,000. While nearly 40 percent of the Class of 2016 graduated with no debt at all, 15 percent of the class had borrowed from a source other than the Federal Government. The levels of debt for the UDel graduates appear to be high for a state school that has had more success than most at graduating a class.

Curriculum

UDel is structured around seven schools: the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College of Arts and Science, Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics, College of Earth, Ocean and the Environment, College of Education and Human Development, College of Engineering and the College of Health Sciences. With only seven schools that grant a Bachelor's degree, UDel is less fragmented than the flagship schools in the neighboring states. For comparison, Rutgers-New Brunswick and the University of Maryland-College Park each have 12 separate schools that grant Bachelors degrees.

UDel's College of Arts and Science, the largest school, enrolls approximately 6,000 students, about a third of the undergraduate student body. According to the university's Office of Institutional Research, enrollment in the College of Arts and Sciences has remained steady as have those in Business (2,500 full-time undergraduates), Engineering (2,400) and Health Sciences (2,400). [Interest in Agriculture and the College of Earth, Ocean and the Environment rose from 2013 through 2017, but interest in Education declined.](#)

In addition to the requirements for their school and major, all UDel students are requirements to take 12 credits in each four areas: [Creative Arts and Humanities](#), [History and Cultural Change](#), [Social and Behavioral Sciences](#) and [Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology](#). While there are introductory courses within each area, there are also [special topics](#). Freshmen also take expository writing as well as a First Year Experience course.

UDel is also one of the largest schools to require at least three credits of experiential learning of every student, called the Discovery Learning Experience. It is easily fulfilled in majors that have internships, clinical assignments, student teaching or other practical work experience incorporated into their degree requirements. The Discovery Learning Experience can also be an independent study, including funded research or study abroad.



Stuart L. Nachbar

College Counselor

Member: HECA, NACAC, NJACAC, PACAC

322 Windsor Court

Ewing, NJ 08638

(609)406-0062

stuart@educatedquest.com

www.educatedquest.com

The most popular majors at UDel include General Business Administration, Finance, Biological Sciences and Psychology. There are also special interests that have [attracted large numbers](#) of students including Fashion and Apparel Studies, Geography, Hospitality Business Management and Human Development and Family Studies.

Community

UDel has a less intimidating campus setting than the larger flagship public schools in the neighboring states. The campus itself has a main Green with Colonial style, late 18th/early 19th century building designs, much like the University of Virginia or the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The university reported to US News that just over two-thirds of the student body remains on campus during the weekends, very good for a state university.

Signage welcoming travelers into downtown Newark calls the commercial center the Great American Main Street. In one case, it's true. Practically every chain eatery has a restaurant here. But there are plenty of local establishments, too, including several with liquor licenses. It's easy for UDel students, aka 'Blue Hens' to leave campus and walk into the downtown, and there are also buses to help. All students are allowed to have cars, but freshmen are given the lowest priority for parking passes. However, a car is really not really necessary except for trips to the supermarket. Anyone who lives near campus can walk to practically anything downtown.

A look at the university's [Clery Report](#) shows that reported incidents of most crimes went down dramatically from 2014 to 2016. However, it also shows that while arrests for the most reported crimes, Drug and Alcohol Related Offenses, have gone down, reported judicial referrals rose considerably. In 2014 there were 148 alcohol-related judicial referrals. Two years later there were 644. During the same period, drug-related judicial referrals rose from 24 to 99. This could be attributed to better reporting and/or law enforcement.

Athletics at UDel do not have a high media profile as they do at the flagship state schools in neighboring states. However, the 'Fightin' Blue Hens' compete in more sports (21) than the University of Maryland-College Park (20). UDel won the 2016 NCAA Division I (scholarship) National Championship in Women's Field Hockey. The university has won six national titles in football (NCAA Playoff Subdivision) and has former head coaches in the College Football Hall of Fame. Other successful sports include Men's Lacrosse, Men's and Women's Basketball and Women's Volleyball.

Comforts

UDel requires all freshmen to live on campus and guarantees that students will have access to on-campus housing for all four years. About a fifth of the undergraduate student body pledges fraternities or sororities, many of which have houses. However, UDel does not have a 'Fraternity Row' on or immediately near campus.

Freshman may be assigned to one of eight residence halls. The newer halls: Louis L. Redding, Eliphalet Gilbert and George Read are among the nicest modern residences



Stuart L. Nachbar

College Counselor

Member: HECA, NACAC, NJACAC, PACAC

322 Windsor Court

Ewing, NJ 08638

(609)406-0062

stuart@educatedquest.com

www.educatedquest.com

one might find on a public university campus. These halls have air conditioning and heat controlled in the individual room as well as spacious kitchens and common area lounges. Redding and Gilbert are corridor-style halls where several rooms share a common bathroom. Read is suite-style; two double rooms share a common lounge and bathroom. Redding and Gilbert are also home to the University's Honors Program.

The university owns apartments in only one complex, a high-rise called Christiana Towers. The Towers has its own dining hall for students who do not want to cook all of their meals as well as its own campus bus stop. One and two-bedroom apartments are available in the Towers, which back up to a state park. Ray Street, a low-rise suite-style hall, houses student-designed Special Interest Communities as well as a group that raises puppies to help the blind. Upper-class students also have the option of living in some of the University's oldest halls on the North and South Central Green, within easy walking distance of the academic center of campus.

Each meal plan is a combination of meals and points. The points may be used to purchase food at the student center stores and restaurants. Every student has one free chance to change their plan during the semester. Students have 16 places they can go to get food on their meal plan; they are not limited to campus dining halls. Each dining hall serves different meals at the same time.

Practically all students who live off campus live less than two miles from campus [but rents can get pricey](#), around \$700/person/month.

Connections

Given UDel's location and home states of its students, it is probably no surprise that the largest cohorts of alumni are based in or around Philadelphia (about a third of the base), New York City (about a fifth), Washington DC and Baltimore, according to data in [LinkedIn.com](#). But UDel also has sizable contingents in Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Denver.

Just over eight percent of UDel alumni make a contribution to their alma mater, according to data supplied to US News, around the same level of loyalty as alumni of Rutgers-New Brunswick and the University of Maryland-College Park have to their schools, but lower than either the University of Pittsburgh or Penn State-University Park.

UDel is quite transparent with [career outcomes information](#) for 20 years of graduating classes. The university's Career Development Center, [after gathering data for 80 percent of the Class of 2016](#), reported that 73 percent of the class was employed and 23 percent were continuing their education full time. The university allows visitors to search the data by major as well, a nice service for those who are still considering the school.

Conclusions

One can argue that UDel is a lot like a larger private university, only the students get a big discount off the bat. But their indebtedness is about the same, sometimes higher.



Stuart L. Nachbar

College Counselor

Member: HECA, NACAC, NJACAC, PACAC

322 Windsor Court

Ewing, NJ 08638

(609)406-0062

stuart@educatedquest.com

www.educatedquest.com

UDel's success at graduating a class should be envied within higher education. The university admits a class that, statistically, has a lower average GPA and lower average test scores than a freshman class at Penn State-University Park, the University of Maryland-College Park and the University of Pittsburgh. Yet a higher percentage of UDel freshmen finish on time.

However, a university with 19,000 undergraduates and an endowment in excess of \$1 billion could consider loosening the spigot on scholarship aid to attract and assist more students. Other schools, public and private, have sent their graduates on to employment or further education with less debt.

Report Card: University of Delaware

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