

Mission and History



FDU Mission Statement

Fairleigh Dickinson University is a center of academic excellence dedicated to the preparation of world citizens through global education. The University strives to provide students with the multidisciplinary, intercultural and ethical understandings necessary to participate, lead and prosper in the global marketplace of ideas, commerce and culture.

FDU Cares

Community We have an educational community that is diverse and demonstrates creativity, enthusiasm and responsibility.

Advantage We strive to provide the values of education and the opportunity for personal growth and enrichment.

Respect We care about one another and ourselves and are committed to treating all people with civility and consideration.

Ethics We believe everyone's rights and freedoms should be respected and that we must act with integrity and accountability.

Support We endeavor to provide an environment for success based on cooperation, communication and caring.

Brief History

Founded in 1942 by Dr. Peter Sammartino and his wife, Sylvia (Sally), Fairleigh Dickinson University has grown into the largest private university in New Jersey. More than 12,000 students from 46 states in the nation and nearly 100 countries are enrolled on the University's two campuses in northern New Jersey and its overseas campuses in Wroxton, England, and in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Beginning as a two-year junior college, Fairleigh Dickinson expanded to a four-year curriculum in 1948 to fill the need for higher education in northern New Jersey. In 1954, the first graduate program, a master's degree in business administration, was offered, and Bergen Junior College was purchased as a second campus in Teaneck (Metropolitan Campus). In 1956, Fairleigh Dickinson gained University status and, one year later, the 178-acre Vanderbilt-Twombly estate was acquired to serve as the Madison location (Florham Campus).

FDU became the first American university to own a campus in England when it acquired Wroxton College from Trinity College, Oxford University. Opened in 1965, Wroxton College offers American students an array of graduate and undergraduate programs as well as an enriching cultural experience. Formerly a 13th-century abbey, Wroxton College is now a beautifully restored and modernized Jacobean mansion.

Recognizing that the student profile on most U.S. campuses is changing dramatically, the University's New College of General and Continuing Studies, now known as Anthony J. Petrocelli College of Continuing Studies was formed in 1998 to address the special educational needs of nontraditional students, including adult learners.

In 2000, the Board of Trustees adopted a newly focused mission; to prepare students for world citizenship through global education.

Vancouver Campus, which opened in 2007, offers undergraduate students one of the few opportunities to earn an American college degree while studying in Canada. Because more than 30 percent of Vancouver's residents hail from China and Southeast Asia, Vancouver Campus is particularly attractive to international students from China, Southeast Asia and Pacific Rim countries, but it is open to students from around the world.

Each of the University campuses has developed a unique character and vitality. Students benefit from studying at a comprehensive University that offers a wide range of programs and courses, but they also enjoy an atmosphere of warmth and personal attention usually found at much smaller institutions.

Today, FDU offers nearly 100 degree programs at the associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels. Its wide range of offerings, coupled with the depth and expertise of its faculty, has Fairleigh Dickinson University poised to serve the citizens of New Jersey and beyond.

Florham Campus

The Florham Campus located in Morris County, N.J., bridges the towns of Florham Park and Madison. The campus consists of 178 acres, part of Florham, the former country estate of early 20th-century socialites Florence Vanderbilt and Hamilton Twombly. Florham is a contraction of the first names of the couple. The campus has been in existence since 1958.

The Florham Campus is primarily a residential campus, supported by a strong student-life program. The campus has active fraternities and sororities, diverse student activities and dynamic Division III and intramural athletics programs. Resident undergraduate students are joined in class by undergraduate commuter and adult and certificate students. Along with graduate students, they utilize first-class educational resources that are either retrofitted into the campus's distinctive and appealing original structures or set in state-of-the-art buildings, several constructed within the last decade.

Historic Landscape and Architecture

Frederick Law Olmsted, renowned designer of New York City's Central Park, planned Florham's landscape. The surviving principal buildings, designed in the Georgian Revival style by the firm McKim, Mead and White in the 1890s, have been adapted for educational uses. The 100-room mansion (now Hennessy Hall), centerpiece of the campus, is the work of Stanford White and is similar in design to the 17th-century addition to King Henry VIII's Hampton Court Palace in England. Most of the interior decoration, such as the staircases and fireplaces, are of Italian marble, worked by craftsmen brought from the same country. In addition to classrooms and offices, the mansion holds a chestnut-paneled billiard room (now Hartman Lounge) and the magnificent Lenfell Hall drawing room.

Nature

The campus lies on a picturesque ridge; the terminal moraine of the last major glaciation of 10,000 years ago. A diverse collection of specimen trees adds interest and beauty to the scenery. Many large white oaks, some more than 150 years old, shade some areas, and "Fossil Tree Hill" has fine specimens of the ginkgo and the dawn redwood (*Metasequoia*). Wildlife is protected on the grounds and deer, wild turkey and particularly groundhogs are frequently seen. More than 100 species of birds have been listed for the campus. The Periodical Cicada (*magicicada septendecim*) makes a spectacular appearance every 17 years, but is not due again until the summer of 2030.

In Brief

- There are more than 2,600 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate students attending the Florham Campus. Minority students comprise about 10 percent of the student population.
- Sports include men's Division III programs in baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, swimming and tennis; women's Division III programs in basketball, cross country, field hockey, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis and volleyball; and intramural sports in aerobics, basketball, bowling, flag football, golf, karate, racquetball, softball, street hockey, tennis, Timex fitness week and volleyball.
- Three out of every four freshmen live in campus housing. First-year students generally are assigned housing in the Twomblys, two traditional-style residence halls with double rooms and a common bath. Upper-division students live in The Village, Park Avenue Residence Hall, featuring apartment-style suites, and the Rutherford Residence Hall.
- Campus activities include an active Greek community with national social fraternities and sororities, as well as a national service fraternity. The campus theater produces student-written and directed plays, as well as student productions of major plays.
- The Academic Support Center is housed in the residence hall complex, offering easy access to free tutoring, word-processing support and special seminars.

Graceful Buildings Old and New

Hennessy Hall (mansion) is the centerpiece of the campus. This 100-room Georgian-style masterpiece was designed in

the 1890s by Stanford White, and replicates a wing in Henry VIII's Hampton Court. Most of its interior decorations (such as staircases and fireplaces) are in Italian marble, worked by craftsmen brought from the same country. The mansion also holds the chestnut-paneled Hartman Lounge (the former billiard room) and Lenfell Hall, then a ballroom and drawing room, now used for meetings and special events.

Today, Hennessy Hall (mansion) contains classrooms and administrative offices. Visitors to campus also would not want to miss the Italian and Clowney Gardens located along the sides and back of Hennessy Hall.

The Roberta Chiavello Ferguson and Thomas George Ferguson Recreation Center includes a gymnasium with three full-size basketball courts and seating for 2,000 spectators, an elevated jogging track, eight-lane competition swimming pool, racquetball courts, weight rooms and fitness center.

The John and Joan Monninger Center for Learning and Research (includes campus library) includes the sunny Hassan Orangérie, which originally provided the Florham estate with fresh citrus fruit through much of the year. The center has extensive holdings supportive of the campus academic mission and interlibrary loan arrangements with the other FDU New Jersey campus, and with library resources nationwide. The Science Building was adapted from the former garage and stables of the estate.

Rutherford Hall, named for the University's first campus and the newest Florham Campus residence hall, opened in September 2003. Nearly 300 upperclassmen enjoy spacious double bedrooms with private bathrooms.

The Stadler, Zenner, Hoffmann-La Roche Academic Building features 20 state-of-the-art classrooms wired for computers and offering interactive-television capabilities, seminar and conference rooms, a psychology laboratory and a student/faculty lounge which includes a café.

Metropolitan Campus

The Metropolitan Campus in Teaneck, N.J., is ideal for students who want to take advantage of the energy and the opportunities of one of the world's most exciting places, New York City, but who also prefer the serenity of a pleasant suburban environment.

The attractive, 88-acre campus is nestled in a quiet residential community, stretching along the east and west banks of the tranquil Hackensack River. Homes, shops, ethnic restaurants and parks are within walking distance, as well as shopping malls, community groups and office and professional buildings. In addition, just five miles away lies Manhattan, with its almost unparalleled collection of cultural, educational and career resources. Bus and train services make it easy for students to venture into and out of the city.

The campus features FDU's largest student population and the University's most diverse student population, including international students from nearly every corner of the globe. Thus, students gain the opportunity to learn and study with those from cultures and with perspectives far different from their own. In addition, many adults pursue undergraduate and graduate studies on the Metropolitan Campus, giving students the chance to get to know and study with professionals who are established in their careers.

The campus features a strong career focus, serving as home to many of FDU's business, professional, science and health care programs. Students have a full range of degree options from associate to doctoral. University College: Arts • Sciences • Professional Studies, the Silberman College of Business and Anthony J. Petrocelli College of Continuing Studies are all based on the campus.

Campus facilities blend contemporary classroom buildings with quaint Dutch Colonial-style homes used as faculty and department offices. In all, there are more than 54 buildings, including a library; student center; athletic, fitness and recreation centers; radio and television studios; science and engineering laboratories; and three distinctive styles of residence housing. Dickinson Hall features state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories and computer facilities.

Vancouver Campus

As a leading innovator in global education, Fairleigh Dickinson University seeks new ways to offer its unique learning opportunities to students worldwide. The University's newest campus opened in 2007 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Located in western Canada near the U.S. border, Vancouver is one of the world's most scenic, cosmopolitan and multicultural cities.

Vancouver Campus offers undergraduate students one of the few opportunities to earn an American college degree while studying in Canada. Vancouver Campus welcomes students from around the world to create a culturally diverse learning environment. The campus offers resources to students who need additional support in developing their English-language skills before starting degree studies. The operation of Vancouver Campus is facilitated by the Fairleigh Dickinson University of British Columbia Foundation, which is a British Columbia, Canada, not-for-profit entity.

Wroxton College

In 1965, Fairleigh Dickinson University opened Wroxton College, Oxfordshire, England. In doing so, FDU became the first university in the United States to own a branch campus abroad.

Located less than three miles from Banbury (the largest market-town in England), just outside of Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon, and only a 50-minute train ride from London, Wroxton College is situated on 56 acres of beautiful countryside with surrounding ponds, walking trails and a quaint village of thatched-roof cottages. Students live and study in the Abbey, a 17th-century Jacobean mansion with a variety of unique rooms, lecture halls, computer room and facilities. In addition, students have their meals in the adjoining carriage house which also contains "The Buttery," an on-campus social pub as well as a lecture hall.

A semester at Wroxton is possible for any student, second-semester sophomore year or above with a 3.00 cumulative grade point ratio. Students are advised to visit with an academic adviser to plan academically for a semester abroad.

Alma Mater

Goodhart-Davis

Praise to thee, O Alma Mater, faithfully we sing,

Hear our joyful voices ringing, Fairleigh Dickinson. Campus halls, that oft recall us, memories will bring, Campus lights will ever guide us, when the day is done.

Chorus

Alma Mater, we will cherish, each day of the years,

We were privileged to spend here, tho' our parting nears.