How many students attend Fairfield? Where are they from?

There are approximately 3,300 full time undergraduates at Fairfield. Fairfield is described as a small to mid-sized university. There are approximately 1,200 graduate students. Students hail from 38 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and more than 42 countries. Approximately 47% of students are from New England, 46% are from the Mid-Atlantic, and 7% are from other regions and countries.

What are the admission requirements?

Fairfield University uses a holistic review process in the evaluation of our prospective students, looking at all aspects of a student’s record when making our admission assessment. Factors taken into consideration are strength of curriculum, GPA (including grade pattern, rank in class if available), standardized test scores (SAT or ACT) if submitted (see Test Optional Policy below), recommendations, personal essay, and extracurricular activities.

What is the average GPA of last year’s incoming freshman class?

The average GPA is approximately an A-/B+ average. Students that were competitive in the applicant pool achieved this GPA while taking advanced, honors, AP, IB, and college level courses if offered at their school.

What is the average SAT/ACT of last year’s incoming freshman class?

The SAT scores of the middle 50% of last year’s incoming class were between 1110 and 1290 (Critical Reading and Math sections only), 1690 and 1920 (All three sections, Critical Reading, Math and Writing). The ACT scores of the middle 50% were 25-29. These numbers should not be considered a cutoff for admission; they are strictly averages. Please keep in mind that Fairfield University is now test optional (see next question).

What standardized tests are required for admission?

Standardized test scores (SAT or ACT) are optional. Therefore, if a student does not feel that his/her standardized test scores are an accurate reflection of his/her overall academic ability and performance, test scores do not need to be submitted. The presence (or lack thereof) of test scores does not change a student’s chances of admission or scholarships.

Is an interview required for admission to Fairfield University?

No, interviews are not required. However, they are recommended for students who feel they would benefit from having an interview. The interview is strongly recommended for students who choose not to submit their standardized test scores. Interviews can be scheduled online at www.fairfield.edu/visit.

When is the application deadline?

The application deadline for Early Action is November 1st with a January 1st admission decision. The deadline for Regular Decision is January 15th with an April 1st admission decision. Both application processes use the same criteria to evaluate students for admission. Both options are non-binding and all admitted students have until May 1st to make a decision. The deadline for Early Decision is November 15th with a January 1st admission decision. This option is a binding decision and should a student be admitted, s/he must withdraw all applications from other colleges and universities.
How much is tuition?

For full-time undergraduate students, tuition is $43,170. Room & board total $13,190. Please don’t hesitate to contact your admission counselor to talk about scholarships and the financial aid process.

How do I get scholarships and financial aid?

A Fairfield University education is truly an investment in the student’s future. Every student is automatically reviewed for merit scholarships at the time of application. Last year merit scholarship awards ranged from $7,000 to $25,000 per year. Students interested in need based financial aid should fill out the FAFSA and the CSS Profile. Last year, over 70% of Fairfield students received financial aid support, totaling over $32 million.

What are Fairfield’s most popular majors?

In no particular order, the most popular majors are: Marketing, Finance, Communication, English, Biology, and Psychology.

What is the average class size? What is the student to faculty ratio?

The average class size at Fairfield is 22 students. The student to faculty ratio is 11:1.

Does Fairfield offer a pre-med/pre-law program? How successful is it?

Yes. The University has an advisory program in both of these areas. Students are assigned a special advisor who counsels them on types of classes they should take, the internships they should pursue, and exams necessary for acceptance into medical, dental, veterinary, or law school. No specific major is required for students to be in either of these programs, but certain courses are required as part of the Health Professions Program (HPP) for pre-medical students. About 90% of our graduates are accepted into law school and for the last two years 100% recommended students are accepted into medical schools. (Approximately 12 students each year)

Do you have XYZ major? Is it a good program?

All the majors at Fairfield are great! If you’d like more information about a specific major, you can check out our website at www.fairfield.edu.

Do students study abroad at Fairfield?

About 45% of students study abroad during their time at Fairfield, whether it is for a semester, year, or 10 day session. Fairfield currently sponsors programs in Florence, Italy; Galway, Ireland; Brisbane, Australia; Aix-en-Provence, France; Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania; and Madrid, Spain. The University also has affiliations with over 60 other programs on five continents.

Does Fairfield offer internships? When do students start interning, and where?

Students are encouraged to complete at least one internship while at Fairfield, although most students complete two or three during their undergraduate experience. Fairfield County has the largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies in the nation. This allows many of our students to get hands on experience as early as the summer after sophomore year. Visit www.fairfield.edu to see where our students are interning across all different majors!

What is the retention rate/graduation rate of the student body?

Over 90% of first-year students return after their freshman year. The four year graduation rate is 80%.
What is the career placement rate?

Approximately 98% of the Class of 2013 secured full-time professional employment, admission to graduate degree programs, or participation in volunteer service programs within 6 months of graduation. The percentage of graduates who obtained employment from on-campus recruiting was about 40%.

Is housing guaranteed for all four years?

Yes! Housing is guaranteed for all four years on campus for full time residential students. Approximately 80% of students live on campus. About 10% of the student population rent off campus (seniors at beach) and 5% commute from home.

I’m interested in playing XYZ sport for Fairfield. How do I contact the coach?

You’ll want to check out our athletics website at www.fairfieldstags.com. There, you can find the contact information for all NCAA Division 1 teams. We will also recommend that you fill out the prospective student athlete survey on the website. Go Stags!

Do I have to be Catholic to go to Fairfield?

Fairfield was founded in the Catholic tradition by the Jesuits- an order of priests who place high importance on education and service to others. We are proud of our heritage but welcome students of all faith backgrounds.

Do you have XYZ club at Fairfield?

Visit www.fairfield.edu to view all of our club, sports, and service opportunities. Fairfield has over 80 clubs and organizations!

Can students have cars on campus?

In an effort to transition to a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly campus, cars are restricted to junior and senior students. There is an off-campus shuttle and town is within walking distance!

Can I visit campus?

Absolutely! You can schedule a visit to campus online at www.fairfield.edu/visit. You can register for interviews through the website as well.

May I sit in on a class during my visit?

Yes, with adequate (about 2 weeks) notice! Fill out a Shadow a Stag request form to schedule a class visit during your trip to Fairfield. You can find more information about the class visit program at www.fairfield.edu/visit.

If there are any questions you can’t answer, direct them to email admis@fairfield.edu or call the Office of Undergraduate Admission at 203-254-4100 to speak to an admission counselor!