

Princeton

IN BRIEF 2007-08



PRINCETON BY THE NUMBERS

BUILT IN 1756, NASSAU HALL IS THE OLDEST BUILDING ON CAMPUS.

PRINCETON IS A RESIDENTIAL CAMPUS WHERE HOUSING IS GUARANTEED FOR ALL UNDERGRADUATES FOR FOUR YEARS.

IN 2007, 1,127 BACHELOR'S DEGREES WERE CONFERRED AT COMMENCEMENT.

MORE THAN 50,000 SENIOR THESES, SUBMITTED BY STUDENTS BEFORE GRADUATION, ARE ARCHIVED IN THE UNIVERSITY'S MUDD MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY.

SHIRLEY M. TILGHMAN IS PRINCETON'S 19TH PRESIDENT.

PRINCETON HAS APPROXIMATELY 4,760 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

IN 2006–07, MORE THAN HALF OF ALL UNDERGRADUATES RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID.

IN 2005–06, STUDENTS FROM 29 DEPARTMENTS PURSUED STUDY ABROAD IN 31 COUNTRIES.

A DINOSAUR HEAD, A GOBLIN, AND A MONKEY CLOWN ARE JUST THREE OF THE MANY GARGOYLES ON PRINCETON BUILDINGS.

NEARLY 300 TEAMS PARTICIPATE IN THE INTRAMURAL SPORTS PROGRAM.

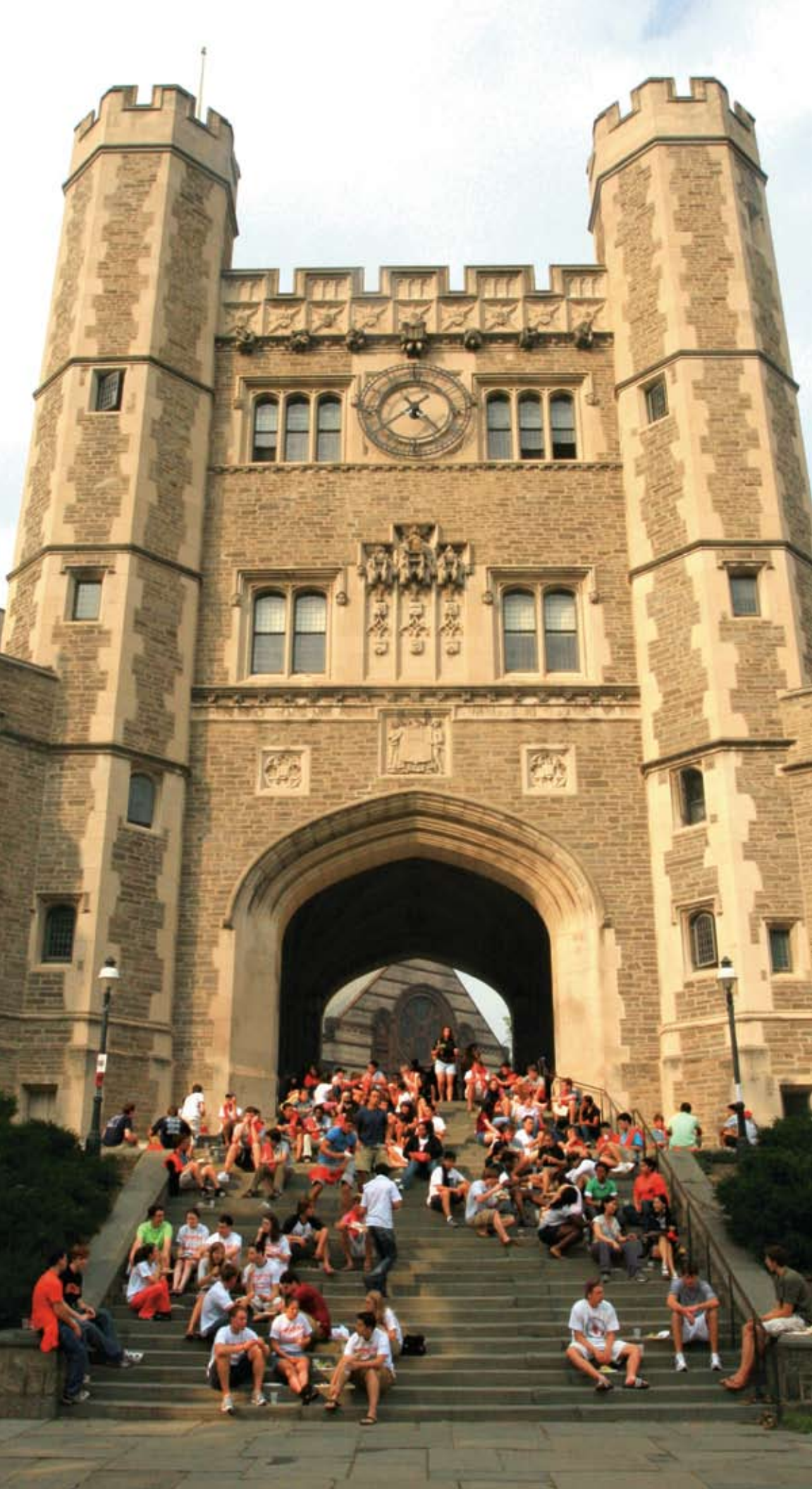
SIX BACHELOR'S DEGREES WERE CONFERRED BY PRINCETON AT ITS FIRST COMMENCEMENT IN 1748.

THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA INCLUDES NEARLY 100 MUSICIANS.

THERE ARE 350 SPECIES OF TREES ON CAMPUS.

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Chartered in 1746, Princeton is the fourth-oldest college in the United States. Princeton is an independent, coeducational, nondenominational institution that provides undergraduate and graduate instruction in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering.

As a research university, Princeton seeks to achieve the highest levels of distinction in the discovery and transmission of knowledge and understanding. At the same time, Princeton is distinctive among research universities in its commitment to undergraduate teaching.

The campus of 500 acres is located in Princeton, New Jersey, a town of approximately 30,000 residents situated about an hour's train ride south of New York City and an hour's train ride north of Philadelphia. It is about equidistant from Newark Liberty International Airport and Philadelphia International Airport.

There are approximately 4,760 undergraduate students enrolled at Princeton. An entering freshman class usually numbers 1,245, with students coming from all parts of the United States and from more than 50 countries. The men-to-women ratio in recent years has been 51:49. International students comprise about 9 percent of the undergraduates. More than half of the students in each entering class receive financial aid.

Princeton has approximately 850 full-time faculty members. All faculty members at Princeton teach as well as engage in scholarly research. The faculty includes recipients of the Nobel Prize in physics, literature, economic sciences, and medicine.



The Academic Program

Academic Options

Princeton offers two undergraduate degrees: the bachelor of arts (A.B.) degree and the bachelor of science in engineering (B.S.E.) degree. Within these degree programs, students can choose from among 34 fields of concentration (commonly called “majors”). There are also more than 35 special interdisciplinary or interdepartmental programs that offer students wide-ranging opportunities to extend their academic interests. (For instance, a geosciences major may also earn a certificate in musical performance, or an electrical engineering major may also earn a certificate in Latin American studies.) Students may also apply for an independent concentration outside existing programs. Undergraduates are admitted to the University and not to a particular department or interdepartmental program and have until the second semester of their sophomore year to choose a departmental major.

Completing the A.B. Degree

Freshmen and sophomores in the A.B. program normally complete 17 courses by the beginning of the junior year. Students complete one or two semester-long courses in each of seven general areas: (1) epistemology and cognition, (2) ethical thought and moral values, (3) historical analysis, (4) literature and the arts, (5) quantitative reasoning, (6) science and technology, with laboratory, and (7) social analysis. In the final two years, students continue to pursue coursework but also engage seriously in independent study in their field of concentration. In addition, all A.B. students must satisfy the writing requirement by taking a one-semester writing seminar in the freshman year. All A.B. students must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language.

Completing the B.S.E. Degree

For the B.S.E. degree, the course of study encompasses a broad sweep of engineering science and includes in its program a number of courses in the social sciences and the humanities. By the end of the second year, engineering students complete the equivalent of four semesters of mathematics, two semesters of physics, one semester of chemistry, and one semester of

computing. B.S.E. students also must complete a minimum of seven courses in the humanities and social sciences, including one course from four of the following six areas: (1) epistemology and cognition, (2) ethical thought and moral values, (3) foreign language, (4) historical analysis, (5) literature and the arts, and (6) social analysis. Engineering students also complete a one-semester writing seminar during the freshman year.

A.B. Departments

Anthropology, Architecture, Art and Archaeology, Astrophysical Sciences, Chemistry, Classics, Comparative Literature, Computer Science, East Asian Studies, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Economics, English, French and Italian, Geosciences, German, History, Mathematics, Molecular Biology, Music, Near Eastern Studies, Philosophy, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Religion, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Sociology, Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Cultures, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

B.S.E. Departments

Chemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Operations Research and Financial Engineering.

Certificate Programs

Academic areas in which students may earn certificates of proficiency include:

African American Studies, African Studies, American Studies, Applications of Computing, Applied and Computational Mathematics, Architecture and Engineering, Biophysics, Contemporary European Politics and Society, Creative Writing, East Asian Studies, Engineering and Management Systems, Engineering Biology, Engineering Physics, Environmental Studies, European Cultural Studies, Finance, Geological Engineering, Hellenic Studies, Judaic Studies, Language and Culture, Latin American Studies, Linguistics, Materials Science and Engineering, Medieval Studies, Musical Performance, Near Eastern Studies, Neuroscience, Quantitative and Computational Biology, Robotics and Intelligent Systems, Russian and Eurasian Studies, South Asian Studies, Teacher Preparation, Theater and Dance, Translation and Intercultural Communication, Urban Studies, Visual Arts, Study of Women and Gender, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Academic Year

An academic year runs from September to late May/early June and consists of two terms (fall and spring), with exam periods in January and May. A normal course load is four or five courses per semester, although many students take additional courses. Princeton does not offer summer sessions.

Freshman Seminars

Freshman Seminars offer first-year students an opportunity to work with a professor and a small number of classmates in a seminar on a topic of special interest. The seminars—at least 70 are offered annually—are hosted by the residential colleges.

Preceptorials

Most humanities and social science courses at Princeton include lectures and precepts. The “precept” is a small group in which the instructor promotes student discussion of lectures and readings.

Independent Work

Independent work for undergraduates is the hallmark of a Princeton education. All A.B. candidates must complete a junior paper or project and a senior thesis. Almost every B.S.E. student completes a senior thesis or a substantial independent research project. Independent work is conducted under the mentorship of a faculty member.

Study Abroad

Students are encouraged to include an international experience as part of their undergraduate education by participating in the Study Abroad Program. The program enables students to receive University credit for a semester or a full year of study in an approved program or foreign institution. Students in all majors are eligible to study abroad during the spring semester of sophomore year, one or both semesters of junior year, or fall semester of senior year. In addition to participating in semester-time study abroad, many students spend summers abroad for intensive language study, research for a senior thesis, or to undertake an unpaid internship. Last year, students from 29 departments studied in 31 countries.

The Honor System

The honor system has existed at Princeton since 1893. At Princeton, students take all written examinations under the honor system—that is, without a faculty proctor. They assume full responsibility for honesty and conclude each examination with a written pledge that they have abided by the honor code. The honor system is administered by a committee of 12 undergraduates.



A Community of Learning

Housing and Dining

Princeton is a residential university and provides housing for all undergraduate students. Freshmen and sophomores are required to live on campus in one of six residential colleges, which provide a variety of academic, social, and cultural programs. Juniors and seniors may elect to live in three of the colleges. Each college includes a cluster of dormitories, a dining hall, lounges, computer facilities, a library, game and television rooms, and, in some cases, theaters and other spaces for the arts. The student community in each college is supported by academic advisers, college administrators, and undergraduate residential college advisers.

Students have a wide range of dining options. Freshmen and sophomores typically take meals in dining halls in the residential colleges. Many upperclass students dine in one of the 10 historic eating clubs, which also offer social, athletic, educational, and community service programs. Other options for juniors and seniors include numerous dining facilities across the campus as well as opportunities for preparing meals in their campus apartments or co-ops. All juniors and seniors are given two extra meals a week in the residential colleges.

Key Campus Resources

The University has many libraries and hundreds of collections. The main library is Firestone, which has more than 70 miles of shelving and room for more than 2,000 students to study at any given time, including 500 enclosed carrels (many of which are assigned to seniors writing their theses). Undergraduates have access to more than 6 million printed volumes, 50,000 feet of manuscripts, 3 million microforms, and thousands of online journals and research tools.

The Princeton University Art Museum is a teaching museum for the Department of Art and Archaeology as well as a cultural resource for the entire University and surrounding community.

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) supports students with a powerful computing environment. A high-speed data connection and wireless service are available in every undergraduate dormitory room.

Frist Campus Center is a lively gathering place for the entire campus community and offers various dining options and places to relax, study, and talk. Other key campus centers include the Center for Jewish Life; the Davis International Center; the Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding; the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Center; and the Women's Center.

Student Activities

The Princeton undergraduate student body is a highly active one. There are six theaters of various sizes on campus and a host of theater groups including the Princeton Shakespeare Company, Theatre Intime, and the Princeton Triangle Club. Music opportunities include the Princeton University Orchestra, the Princeton University Concert Choir (Glee Club), the Princeton University Jazz Ensemble, the Princeton University Opera Theatre, the University Band, the Chapel Choir, the Gospel Ensemble, numerous chamber music groups, and several a cappella groups. There are more than 200 student organizations, including cultural/performing, multicultural, political, religious, service/social action, science, and a variety of media organizations. The *Daily Princetonian* is the student newspaper and WPRB is the student radio station. The American Whig-Cliosophic Society is the oldest college political, literary, and debating society in the United States (founded by Princetonians James Madison and Aaron Burr). Students have ample opportunity to pursue civic engagement projects through the Pace Center, the Student Volunteers Council, and Community House, among others.

Student Government

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) plays a substantial role within the University community. Members of the USG, or students appointed by the USG, serve on virtually all important University-wide committees.

Athletics

Princeton is an NCAA Division I school. The University offers 38 varsity sports and nearly 40 club teams. Each year more than 1,000 students participate in intercollegiate varsity and junior varsity sports. Women's varsity sports include basketball, crew, cross country, diving, fencing, field hockey, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, squash, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, and water polo. Men compete in baseball, basketball, crew, cross country, diving, fencing, football, sprint football, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, squash, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, water polo, and wrestling.

Multicultural Student Organizations

Among the diverse range of student organizations are numerous groups that have a multicultural emphasis, such as:

Acción Latina y Amigos
AKWAABA: African Students Association
American Asian Students Association
Arab Society of Princeton
Asian Pacific American Heritage Council
Black History Month Planning Committee
Black Leaders on Campus
Black Men's Awareness Group
Black Student Union
Black Student Union's Leadership and Mentoring Program
Canadian Club
Carl A. Fields Center Governance Board
Chicano Caucus
Chinese Students Association
Community House
Consortium of International Student Organizations
Cuban American Undergraduate Group
Friends of Lebanon
German Cultural Organization
Hawaii Club
Hong Kong Student Association
International Students Association of Princeton
Japanese Student Association
Korean American Students Association
Latino Heritage Month Committee
Liberty in North Korea
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Native Americans at Princeton
Pakistani Students Group
Persian Society of Princeton
Philhellenic Activities Organization
Pride Alliance
Princeton Association of Black Women
Princeton Caribbean Connection
Romanian Students and Scholars Association
Russian Club
Singapore Society
South Asian Students Association
Southeast Asia Society
Taiwanese American Students Association
Turkish Students Association
Ukrainian Alliance
Union of Multiracial and Multicultural Students



Admission and Financial Aid

Admission

Admission to Princeton is quite competitive. In recent years, the University has offered admission to about 10 percent of those who apply. Successful applicants must demonstrate exceptionally high academic ability and performance. Personal strengths and nonacademic talents and commitment are also highly valued.

Application materials for admission and financial aid are updated annually and are available in the summer before a student's senior year. See *Questions and Answers* in this brochure for more information about Princeton's admission process. Also visit the Admission Office website (www.princeton.edu/admission).

Application Procedures

Princeton offers one admission program. The final postmark or electronic submission application deadline is January 1. We encourage applicants to submit their portion of the application by December 15, if possible. Applicants are sent notification of Princeton's decision in early April.

All admitted students who have applied for financial aid will receive notification with the decision letter of all aid for which they are eligible.

Entrance Examinations

Applicants for undergraduate admission normally are expected to take the following standardized tests: the College Board SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT (with Writing, where offered). In addition, all applicants must submit the results of three different SAT Subject Tests. (*Please note that the College Board English Language Proficiency Test does not count as a subject area test or as a substitute for the SAT Reasoning Test.*) Applicants who intend to pursue a B.S.E. degree should take one SAT Subject Test in either physics or chemistry and one SAT Subject Test in mathematics (Level I or II) in addition to a third Subject Test of their choice. To ensure that the results of these tests reach the Admission Office in time, applicants should make every effort to take them by January of the year of desired enrollment, as results of tests taken after January would not reach Princeton in time for consideration.

Students must make their own arrangements to take the tests, registering at least eight weeks before the actual test date and instructing the testing agency to send the results directly to Princeton University. (Princeton's College Board number is **2672**. Princeton's code for the ACT is **2588**.) For further information about the testing agencies, visit www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org.

Admission Data for the Class of 2011

(as of June 1, 2007)

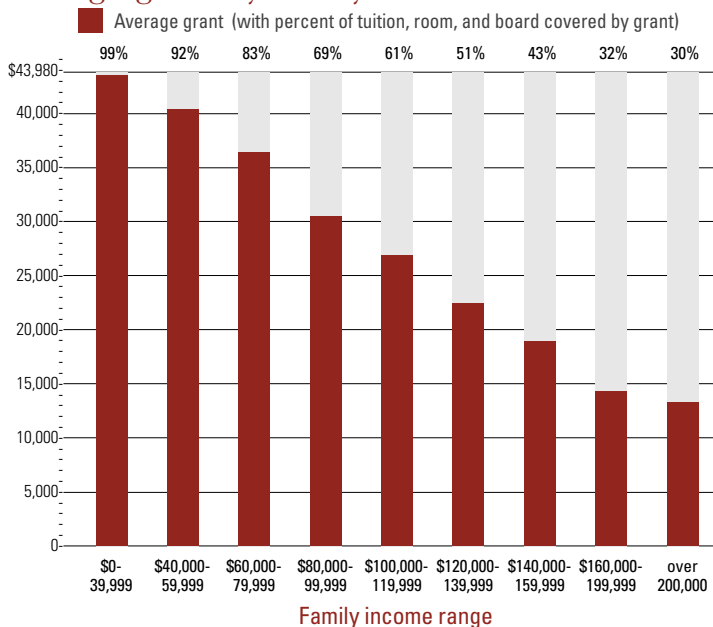
- Number of applicants: 18,942
- Applicants admitted: 9.6 percent
- Number of students enrolling in the Class of 2011: 1,245
- Diversity in the class:
 - African American: 8 percent
 - Asian American: 15 percent
 - Hispanic: 8 percent
 - Native American: <1 percent
 - Multiracial: 6 percent
- Students receiving financial aid: 54 percent
- International students: 11 percent

Further Information

Students who are approaching the end of their junior year or the beginning of their senior year in high school are invited to request application materials by visiting the Admission Office website (www.princeton.edu/admission) or by writing to:

Admission Office
 Princeton University
 Box 430
 Princeton, NJ 08542-0430 USA
 Tel 609-258-3060
 Fax 609-258-6743

Average grant by family income—Class of 2011



Financial Aid

Princeton's need-based financial aid program is one of the best in the country. Committed to ensuring economic diversity within the student body, Princeton admits students without regard to their family's financial circumstances and provides grants and campus jobs to meet the full demonstrated need of all students offered admission. *Princeton does not require students to take out loans. These policies apply to both domestic and international applicants.*

Under Princeton's need-blind policy, the Admission Office makes its decisions without regard to a student's economic circumstances. If a student is offered admission, the Financial Aid Office considers any financial aid application that student may have made, calculates the student's financial need, and awards a combination of grant and campus job funds to meet the full need.

About 54 percent of Princeton's Class of 2011 is receiving a need-based grant directly from the University.

Fees and Expenses

(for the academic year 2007–08)

Tuition	\$33,000
Room and board	\$10,980
Misc. expenses (books, laundry, telephone, recreation, etc.)	\$3,395
<i>ESTIMATED TOTAL</i>	<i>\$47,375</i>

Financial Aid Awarded

(for the academic year 2007–08)

Estimated:	
Grant dollars for all undergraduates	\$82 million
Grant dollars for the Class of 2011	\$22 million
Average grant for the Class of 2011	\$31,000

Students can estimate their eligibility for a specific amount of financial aid by using **Princeton's Early Estimator** on the Financial Aid website (www.princeton.edu/estimator).



Visiting Princeton

Campus Tours

A campus visit can offer an informative and enjoyable introduction to everyday life at Princeton. Among the places of special interest on campus are Nassau Hall, the University's oldest building and one-time seat of the Continental Congress; Firestone Library; the University Chapel; Prospect Gardens; Frist Campus Center; and the Princeton University Art Museum.

One-hour tours of campus are conducted by student guides (the Orange Key Guide Service) throughout the year. For a complete schedule of campus tours and detailed information about where tours originate, visit www.princeton.edu/tours or call 609-258-3060. We invite you to stop at the Admission Office in Clio Hall to get more information or ask questions.

The School of Engineering and Applied Science welcomes visits from students interested in engineering. Tours are offered weekdays when classes are in session and during the summer between early July and late August. For more information, call 609-258-4554 or visit www.princeton.edu/tours.

Students also are encouraged to visit Princeton via the Web: www.princeton.edu.

Admission Information Sessions

General information sessions, conducted by an admission officer, are about one hour in length and are available on weekdays. Parents and students are welcome, and no reservations are necessary. Please call the Admission Office at 609-258-3060 or check the website at www.princeton.edu/tours for the information session schedule and a map with directions to Clio Hall.

Traveling to Princeton

AUTOMOBILE: From the north, take the New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 9 (New Brunswick). Follow signs for Route 18 north, and soon after, U.S. Route 1 south. Drive on Route 1 for about 18 miles, and then turn right onto Washington Road and into campus.

From New England, from the New York State Thruway take Interstate 287 south to Route 206 south to Princeton.

From the south, take the New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 8 (Hightstown); follow signs for Hightstown and then Princeton.

From the west, take Interstate 95 north from Philadelphia to Route 1 north. Follow Route 1 to Alexander Road and follow signs to Princeton.

Note: Detailed driving instructions and a MapQuest link can be found at www.princeton.edu/main/visiting. For recorded directions, call 609-258-2222 using a touch-tone telephone.

TRAIN: N.J. Transit trains to Princeton Junction Station can be boarded at New York City’s Penn Station. From Philadelphia, take SEPTA’s R7 train from 30th Street Station to Trenton Station and switch to N.J. Transit to Princeton Junction; Amtrak also runs from Philadelphia to Princeton Junction, but less frequently. From Princeton Junction, a single-car train, known locally as the “Dinky,” makes the five-minute trip to the southwestern corner of the Princeton University campus. Most buildings are then within walking distance. The Dinky does not meet every train, so consult a current schedule before making travel plans. Taxi service also is available from Princeton Junction.

AIRPLANE: Newark Liberty International Airport is most convenient to Princeton. The AirTrain monorail transports travelers directly from the airport to N.J. Transit trains on the Northeast Corridor line. At Princeton Junction, transfer to the Dinky (see above). Shuttle service between the airport and Princeton is available through the Olympic Airporter (their courtesy phones are located at the airport terminals’ limousine counters). These vans stop regularly at the Parking Garage/Tiger Shuttle Stop and the Nassau Inn in Princeton. The Olympic Airporter also serves New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport.

From Philadelphia International Airport, trains, shuttles, and taxis are available to Philadelphia’s 30th Street Station; see the “Train” entry above for information on rail service.

BUS: New Jersey’s Suburban Transit Corporation provides bus service from the Port Authority Bus Terminal at Eighth Avenue and 41st Street in New York City. Buses leave New York and Princeton every half hour during the day for the two-hour trip.

Parking

Visitors should park in Lot 7 on the campus and use the campus shuttle, which operates all day, Monday through Friday. Please allow ample time, as the shuttle departs and arrives at the parking garage every 5 to 10 minutes. For more information, visit www.princeton.edu/main/visiting/aroundcampus/parking.

Visitors to town have a variety of municipal parking options, including centrally located parking garages; for information visit www.princetonparking.org.



The town of Princeton is situated between New York City and Philadelphia, with connecting rail service to both cities.



Questions and Answers

Here are questions the Admission Office staff is asked most frequently. If you do not find answers to your questions in this selection, please visit us on the Web at www.princeton.edu/admission or call 609-258-3060.

Eligibility

Are minimum grade point averages, class ranks, or test scores required for admission?

No. We consider all of these measures, but only within the context of each applicant's school and situation. In general, our most promising candidates tend to earn high grades and have comparatively high scores on standardized tests. These criteria, while important, do not by themselves provide a complete picture of each student's academic accomplishment or potential. We evaluate all aspects of a student's academic preparation.

Can students begin studies at Princeton during the spring semester?

No. Freshmen are admitted for the fall term only.

Is it possible to transfer to Princeton from another college or university?

No. At this time, Princeton does not offer transfer admission. Any student who has enrolled as a full-time degree candidate at another college or university is considered a transfer applicant and isn't eligible for undergraduate admission.

Does Princeton consider applicants who have been home-schooled?

Yes. We receive and consider applications from home-schooled students every year.

May high school juniors apply?

While we will consider applications from students who choose to leave high school early, they must be competitive with students who have completed rigorous, comprehensive coursework through senior year. This option tends to be most realistic for students who have exhausted their high school's academic offerings.

The Application Process

How and when should I begin my admission application?

You may request an information booklet at any point and application any time after the spring of your junior year. The online Common Application is available July 1. The online Princeton application is available in August.

When are applications due?

January 1 is our final postmark or electronic submission deadline. We encourage applicants to submit their portion of the application by December 15, if possible.

Does Princeton offer Early Decision?

No. We eliminated the Early Decision option in order to evaluate all applicants in one process.

Is financial aid available?

Yes. Princeton's need-based financial aid program is one of the strongest in the country. All applicants for admission are considered without regard to their family financial circumstances, including international students. Any student who feels his or her family resources will not cover the full cost of attendance is encouraged to apply for aid. Princeton meets the full demonstrated need of every admitted student with a combination of grant aid and a campus job. Students are not required to assume loans as part of Princeton's financial aid package.

How and when do I apply for financial aid?

You should apply for financial aid by February 1 of the year you plan to enter college.

Do students apply to specific academic departments or schools?

We ask you to tell us on the application which degree program you may be most interested in following: A.B. (liberal arts), B.S.E. (engineering), or undecided. We look particularly closely at the math and science preparation of students considering engineering studies. However, students apply to the freshman class of Princeton University, not to the engineering or liberal arts programs, and are not locked into a degree program (or a specific department within that degree program) upon admission. Students in the engineering school choose a concentration (major) by the end of the first year; liberal arts students have two years to choose a concentration.

How can I let the admission staff know about my special talent in the arts?

Please send samples of your work in the arts to the Admission Office, following the Guidelines for Submitting Arts Materials: Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts. Appropriate faculty will review your submissions and advise the admission staff regarding your abilities.

How can I let the admission staff know about my special talent in athletics?

Talented student athletes interested in one of our varsity Division I programs should contact our coaches for more information about varsity athletics at Princeton. Coaches will advise the admission staff about applicants with exceptional athletic talents. The Admission Office makes the final decision on each candidate.

Reviewing the Applications

What does Princeton look for in its applicants?

We review each application individually to get a sense of that student's particular combination of strengths. We don't have a profile of the ideal applicant or the ideal class. In fact, one of Princeton's greatest strengths is the variety of talents, personal qualities, experiences, and points of view in each incoming class. There are some qualities we hope all Princeton

students share: integrity, a deep interest in learning, and a devotion to both academic and nonacademic pursuits. Many also bring distinctive academic and extracurricular talents and achievements. Beyond those fundamental qualities, we consider how each candidate might contribute to the interesting mix of people we will bring together for that year's class.

Is different weight given to different parts of the application?

No. We consider all of the components of your application holistically and look to find your particular strengths.

How does Princeton measure academic promise?

We include many things in our assessment, particularly your secondary school program and record, as well as standardized test results and teacher and counselor recommendations. All these components are taken into consideration when we assess how students might fare in our rigorous academic programs, in which liveliness of mind, motivation, creativity, perseverance, and independent thought are as important as sheer ability. A prospective student's intellectual curiosity and academic excellence are the most important factors in our decision.

Do weighted grades or class rank matter in the evaluation of applications?

In trying to get a sense of the strength of the academic program you have pursued in high school, we look at your transcript course by course and consider all the information your school provides about your academic performance. We also ask the school official completing your Secondary School Report to comment on the rigor of your academic program in the context of what is available at your school. Weighted grades or class rank can be another measure of the strength of your academic program as compared to other students who also have many As, but we give equal consideration to applicants from schools that don't weight grades or rank.

To what extent are extracurricular activities considered in the application process?

In addition to academic qualifications, we are interested in what talents and interests you will bring to a college campus outside the classroom. We don't value one type of activity over another.

Rather, we value sustained commitment to your interests. Some of the students we admit have one well-honed talent; others have participated in a range of activities. We take particular note of leadership and exceptional talents or accomplishments.

Does Princeton limit the number of students who can be admitted from a particular school?

No. We will look at your application individually, in comparison to the entire applicant pool, not only in comparison to applications from other students at your school.

Will my choice of a main field of study affect my chance for admission?

On the application we ask you to indicate the degree program (A.B., B.S.E., or undecided) and the departments where you have the most interest. These choices don't affect your chances for admission, nor do they commit you to a particular course of study. More than 70 percent of our undergraduates are concentrating (majoring) in fields different from those they indicated when they applied.

Secondary School Credentials

Does Princeton require particular high school courses?

We don't prescribe a particular high school curriculum, but we do have suggestions for a course of study that will provide solid preparation for a challenging undergraduate program. Please see our website at www.princeton.edu/admission for these suggestions. Students who intend to pursue the B.S.E. should complete a year of calculus and physics prior to enrolling at Princeton.

Is there an advantage to taking honors, advanced, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate courses—even if it might be tougher to earn high grades?

Yes. We consider it a promising sign when students challenge themselves with advanced courses in high school. We understand that not all secondary schools offer the same range of advanced courses, but our strongest candidates have taken full advantage of the academic opportunities available to them in their high schools.

How does Princeton regard Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other such coursework? Is course credit given on the basis of test results?

We encourage students to stretch themselves with advanced courses, and we don't favor one program over another. We use the results on these tests as guides for placement in Princeton courses and advanced standing (that is, accelerating progress toward degree completion).

How does Princeton regard college courses taken during high school? Do college credits transfer to Princeton?

Taking college courses while you are a high school student indicates to us that you seek out academic challenges, but we do not expect students to have any college courses before they apply. Applicants who have taken college courses are most often at high schools not offering many advanced courses such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate.

Princeton does not offer credit toward degree requirements for college or university courses taken before you enroll. However, you can take SAT Subject Tests, AP exams, or placement exams offered by some academic departments at Princeton to demonstrate your knowledge in a subject, which may permit you to skip the introductory-level course in that area.

Are the courses I take in my last year of high school important in the admission process?

Yes. You should maintain a full academic course load for your senior year of high school. You will need to ask your school to send us your grades for the first semester or trimester of your senior year, along with the Mid-Year Report form. If you are admitted, we will ask for your final grades at the end of the school year.

Does it make a difference to Princeton whether I attend a public school or private school?

No. We consider how well you have used the resources available to you, regardless of where you attend school. In recent years about 55 percent of our entering classes have come from public schools, 33 percent from independent schools, and 10 percent from schools with religious affiliations. A few students in each incoming class have been home-schooled.

Standardized Tests

What tests do I need to take?

A complete application includes official scores of the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT. In addition, all applicants must submit the results of three different SAT Subject Tests. We ask students who are considering the study of engineering to include a math subject test—Mathematics I or Mathematics II—and a subject test in either physics or chemistry in their three SAT Subject Tests. Students interested in areas outside of engineering may submit any three SAT Subject Tests, preferably in three different subjects. Please note that the College Board English Language Proficiency Test does not count as a subject area test or as a substitute for the SAT Reasoning Test.

How do admission officers use standardized test results?

We use the scores along with your grades and teacher references to make an informed assessment of your academic strengths. No one is admitted or refused admission on the basis of scores alone. For the SAT Reasoning Test, we look at your highest score on each of the three sections (critical reading, mathematics, and writing), even if you earned them on three different test dates. For the ACT, we look at your highest composite score. For the SAT Subject Tests, we look at your three highest subjects. If you've taken the same subject test more than once, we look at your highest score.

Interviewing

Do I need to have an interview as part of the admission process?

We try to offer all applicants the opportunity to have a conversation with an alumni volunteer. This is a chance for you to learn more about the Princeton experience, and for us to learn more about you. After you submit your application, a member of the Princeton Alumni Schools Committee in your area will contact you to arrange a convenient meeting time and place. We include the interviewer's comments in our review of your application. Interviews aren't required as part of the admission process, but we encourage candidates to accept the invitation. Don't be concerned if no interviews are available in your area; we will give your application full consideration without an interview.

Are on-campus interviews offered?

No. We offer interviews off-campus by the Princeton Alumni Schools Committee. You will be assigned an interviewer after you submit your application.

Letters of Recommendation

What letters of recommendation are required?

We ask for a letter from the guidance counselor, college adviser, or another school official to accompany the Secondary School Report, and letters from two teachers who have taught the applicant in academic subjects. You may also submit an optional reference from someone who knows you well (for example, an employer, a coach, a religious leader, a friend, or a family member).

Does it help to have extra letters of recommendation?

We believe that the required teacher and guidance counselor references (plus the optional reference, if you choose to include one) give us much of the information we need to make thoughtful, well-informed decisions. Additional letters are only helpful if the recommender knows the candidate well and provides new information.

International Students

Are applications from non-U.S. citizens treated differently in the admission process?

No. We consider all applications in the same way, regardless of citizenship or high school location. The admission process is also need-blind for all applicants, including citizens of countries other than the United States.

Are there special admission requirements for students applying from abroad?

If English is not the primary language spoken in your home and you attend a school where English is not the language of instruction, you must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in addition to the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT, and SAT Subject Tests. We also recommend that

students attending schools outside the United States use the International Secondary School Report form, which is tailored to foreign educational systems. Otherwise, there are no additional admission requirements for international students or U.S. citizens attending high schools abroad.

Is the Admission Office familiar with the educational systems of other countries?

We are familiar with the educational systems and academic credentials of most countries around the world. You're welcome to provide additional information about the educational system in your country.

Are international students eligible for financial aid?

Yes. The admission process is need-blind for both U.S. citizens and noncitizens. Our policy of meeting financial need in full for admitted students applies to all admitted students, regardless of citizenship.

The Admission Decision

May students who are admitted defer enrollment to another year?

Yes. Students who wish to take a year off from their studies may request to defer their enrollment for one year (and sometimes for an additional year). If you pursue this option, you may not enroll full time in a degree program at another institution during the deferral period. In recent years the activities of students taking a year off have included work, community service, travel, military service, arts training, and religious studies. We recommend students request a deferral after they are admitted and before May 10.

May I appeal my admission decision or ask to have the decision explained?

We cannot reconsider applications or offer individual explanations for our decisions. Most of our applicants are well qualified for Princeton. Since the admission staff must select a freshman class that's diverse in many ways from an abundance of highly able and accomplished candidates—and since all applicants are compared to the entire applicant pool—it is extremely difficult to explain why any one student is refused.

What is the Waiting List?

Since we don't know until after May 1 how many students will accept our offer of admission, we invite a number of our applicants to stay on a Waiting List in case we find there are remaining spaces in the freshman class. The list is unranked; if spaces become available, we will review the entire group of candidates on the Waiting List.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other federal, state, and local laws, Princeton University does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran in any phase of its employment process, in any phase of its admission or financial aid programs, or other aspects of its educational programs or activities. The vice provost for institutional equity and diversity is the individual designated by the University to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX, Section 504 and other equal opportunity and affirmative action regulations and laws. Questions or concerns regarding Title IX, Section 504 or other aspects of Princeton's equal opportunity or affirmative action programs should be directed to the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity, Princeton University, 321 Nassau Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544 or (609) 258-6110.

Credits

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