

CAMPUS BOUND

PREMIER COLLEGE ADMISSIONS
and FINANCIAL AID SERVICES

Brown University

45 Prospect Street, Providence, RI 02912

FAST FACTS

Website: www.brown.edu
Public or Private: Private
Campus Setting: Urban
Total Enrollment: 7,782
Undergraduates: 5,772
Male/Female: 47% / 53%
SAT CR Range: 640 - 750
SAT Math Range: 650 - 750
ACT Range: 27 - 32
Applicants: 18,300
Accepted: 14%
Enrolled: 60%
Returning Freshmen: 96%
Living on Campus: 90%
Admissions Contact:
401-863-2378
admissions@brown.edu

NEARBY SCHOOLS TO VISIT

[Providence College](#)
[Harvard University](#)
[Tufts University](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Campus Bound

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The Quick Overview

Don't let the pass/fail classes or the lack of academic requirements fool you; Brown University is just as competitive and cut-throat as any other Ivy League University. What sets it apart are its typically left-wing students that stand up to fight for any cause as well as the administration's appreciation of students from virtually every possible background.

History, Mission, and Geography

Located at the very top of Providence's "College Hill," Brown University stands tall. The University was founded in 1764 with the goal of educating a new colony of people that had fled from Massachusetts to find religious freedom. Today, the 140-acre campus is full of buildings with eclectic architecture from various time periods. The area immediately surrounding Brown is both residential and historic, yet the bustling Providence downtown is a five or ten minute walk down the hill. The city of Providence is small, yet offers plenty to do. Additionally, Boston is an easy 45 minutes away by car or train and New York City is a mere three hour trip.

Academics

At most schools, students are required to complete a rigorous set of core requirements; however, Brown students are only obligated to take thirty courses in any subjects they choose. An admission officer says, "At Brown, we see no evidence that tells us that students must take a rigid set of certain classes. We find our students are often self-motivated and make wise academic decisions on their own." Moreover, Brown students can take classes in a pass/fail manner where they receive grades of either Satisfactory or No Credit. Although this option often gives the school a lot of publicity, one student says, "Few students here actually take advantage of taking classes pass/fail. What graduate school will take you seriously with a bunch of S's on your transcript?" While it might appear that students are left floundering with little academic advising, this is not the case.

Campus Quick Looks™

Brown University

Freshmen participate in the Curricular Advising Program (CAP) where twenty students take a class together and meet with their advisor periodically. Many students take advantage of the option to design their own major where they integrate two majors to fit their specific interests. Students give their professors high marks, although one student reports, "They are only helpful when you initiate the contact." Both the History and Geology department are very strong and the most popular three majors are Biology, Economics, and International Relations. Classes are very small at Brown, averaging fifteen students each. Although the student-to-faculty-ratio is already a very low 9:1, Brown is looking to increase their faculty by about 20% in the next five years.

Student Body

Compared to their Ivy counterparts, Brown wins the award for the most liberal and diverse campus. Over 30% of students identify themselves as students of color and international students make up roughly 10% of the population. One undergraduate says, "Brown is a very accepting school and for that reason we have virtually every kind of person here." While it is safe to say, "There really is no one way to describe a Brown student," students tend to be politically aware and lean more toward the left. A myriad of cultural and ethnic groups have a strong presence on campus, as does the gay and lesbian community. With 96% of students hailing from outside the state of Rhode Island, virtually every state and dozens of foreign countries are well represented.

Campus and Residential Life

With a whopping 240 registered clubs and organizations, being bored at Brown is simply not possible if you have any motivation at all. Students are extremely active and one student says, "It's normal here to be involved in five or six clubs." If you can't find an activity that suits you, Brown encourages you to start your own club, and students often take advantage of this option. Some popular activities include participation in the oldest college radio station in the country, writing for the *Brown Daily Herald* or participating in one of the nineteen dance, drama, and musical groups on campus. Students interested in theater will be very busy as Brown has five theaters where they stage anywhere from forty to sixty productions each year. There are fraternities and sororities at Brown, yet Greek life is not overpowering as only 15% of men and 5% of women join. When students want to get off the hill, they can literally be in downtown Providence in minutes. Students can go to clubs and bars as well as cultural events since Providence has experienced somewhat of a renaissance in the last few years. One student says, "I love that I can have the greatest time on campus, but I can also go into an awesome city whenever I want. It's really the ideal geography for a college campus."

Housing is guaranteed for all students and undergraduates are required to live on campus for at least six semesters. Most dorms include double-occupancy rooms and one student says, "They are not glamorous; they are similar to every other basic college dorm I have seen." There are two main cafeterias: Sharpe Refectory and the recently updated Verney-Wolley Dining Hall. With such a diverse student population, menus are also extremely varied to suit the tastes of all students. Campus snack bars are open late (1:00am) so students are never left hungry.

Athletics

While athletics do not draw a lot of attention, the "Brown Bears" do compete in NCAA Division I sports with over thirty-seven varsity teams. With top-notch facilities, Brown's athletic complexes are complete

Campus Quick Looks™

Brown University

with a football stadium, hockey rink, Olympic sized pool, and 200-meter indoor track as well as several gymnasiums. While many of Brown's teams have done well in recent years, one athlete laments that there are few fans. He says, "I wish more students cared about sports or came out to root for us."



The College in a Nutshell

For the independent and mature student who has a clear view of his or her educational goals, Brown is the perfect fit. Otherwise, some students may find themselves feeling lost or unguided at Brown, and it is for these reasons that administrators strongly caution students who apply strictly based on its Ivy-League status and name recognition. While some of Brown's academic criteria may seem radical, Brown sees no reason to conform to "normal" standards and it seems their views are attractive—applications are on the rise, as is the university's endowment.

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