

2. 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. Today, approximately 11,000 students from 31 states in the nation and 72 other countries are enrolled on the University's two campuses in northern New Jersey and its overseas campus in Wroxtton, England. 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 in Madison to serve as a third campus (College at Florham).

FDU became the first American university to own a campus in England when it acquired Wroxtton College from Trinity College, Oxford University. Opened in 1965, Wroxtton College offers American students an array of graduate and undergraduate programs as well as an enriching cultural experience. Formerly a 13th-century abbey, Wroxtton 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 Anthony J. Petrocelli College of Continuing Studies was formed in April 1998 to provide a unified approach to and enhanced focus on the adult learner and to continue to position FDU as a leader in providing learning opportunities in a strong academic foundation for students of all ages.

FDU has maintained its commitment to broadening global horizons and fostering greater international understanding. In 2000, the Board of Trustees adopted a newly focused mission for FDU: to prepare students for world citizenship through global education.

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 doctor's 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.

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.

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.