ACADEMICS

Will I have the opportunity to do research as an undergraduate student?
With the support of the Undergraduate Research Office, undergraduates have the opportunity to engage in research and showcase their work annually through Carnegie Mellon's Meeting of the Minds Symposium. Carnegie Mellon hosts other on-campus resources to support the next big idea. The university's Swartz Center for Entrepreneurship serves the entire Carnegie Mellon community to accelerate bringing research innovations and promising ideas to the global marketplace and help all entrepreneurial students, faculty, staff and alumni tap into the innovation ecosystem.

Can I pursue interdisciplinary studies at Carnegie Mellon?
The university offers 90 majors and minors — including interdisciplinary options. At Carnegie Mellon, not only do our students have opportunities for academic collaboration and cross-disciplinary majors, but they're also exposed to a student body of leaders and innovators rich with different interests and ideas across the board.

Will I be taught by faculty or teaching assistants (TAs)?
Faculty members teach all courses at Carnegie Mellon. With more than 1,400 full and part-time teaching and research faculty members and a student-to-faculty ratio of 13:1, you'll have the opportunity to learn from world-renowned faculty — the best in the business. Approximately 96% of our faculty members have a Ph.D. or equivalent, and our award-winning faculty have been recognized by professional societies across the board. If there are TAs assigned to a class, they'll be assisting with labs or discussion sections.

What's unique about the liberal arts at Carnegie Mellon?
Carnegie Mellon University's Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences isn't an ordinary liberal arts school. From creative writing and neuroscience to behavioral economics and bioethics, the Dietrich College is home to over 60 majors and minors within eleven departments as well as research centers that often cross disciplines, allowing our world-class faculty and students to investigate and solve real-world problems.

Do you have any summer programs for high school students?
Our Pre-College programs, which mirror the undergraduate experience, give rising juniors and seniors the opportunity to explore their interests while receiving instruction from acclaimed Carnegie Mellon faculty and staff. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a robust student experience curated by Student Affairs staff and a team of residential staff who are current Carnegie Mellon students.

As a student at Carnegie Mellon, can I change my major/transfer between colleges?
Students can change majors or transfer between colleges depending on space availability in their desired program and fulfillment of requirements to enter that program. Some majors/colleges are more difficult to transfer into based on space availability. You'll work with your academic advisor on this process.

What electives can I take?
While our students are often focused and specialized within a particular academic area, there are a myriad of possibilities for interdisciplinary study, research, projects, etc. Students can
take classes across six academic colleges — as long as a schedule allows. Students can add additional majors and minors across colleges to pursue a wide range of interests through unique academic combinations.

VISIT

How can I learn more about Carnegie Mellon virtually?
The Office of Admission offers multiple online opportunities for you to learn more about Carnegie Mellon without ever leaving home. Explore all of our remote visit options here!

What will I see on a campus tour?
Led by our Tartan Ambassadors, the Virtual Campus Tour will allow you to explore our beautiful campus and ask our Ambassadors your questions about life at Carnegie Mellon. You’ll be able to see 15 different campus locations. The event will last approximately one hour, including the 50-minute tour and 10 minutes for Q&A with the Ambassadors. While we’re not currently offering on-campus tours, they typically feature a 60-minute student-led tour around various campus locations.

What’s Pittsburgh like?
Carnegie Mellon is proud to call Pittsburgh home. Pittsburgh is an internationally recognized city, known for its research and industry, world-class medical facilities, corporate headquarters, cultural community and professional sports teams. Discover more of Pittsburgh here!

Is there a bus that runs from the Pittsburgh airport to campus?
The 28X Airport Flyer Bus (sponsored by the Port Authority Transit) runs to Carnegie Mellon’s campus from the airport in about 40 minutes, depending on traffic. The trip is free for Carnegie Mellon students with their ID and costs $2.75 for other passengers. For more information about schedules and rates, please visit the official PAT website.

ADMISSION

When can I apply for admission to Carnegie Mellon?
You can apply for admission to Carnegie Mellon using the Common Application beginning mid-August.

What changes have been made to the fall 2021 application?
Carnegie Mellon University has adopted a test-optional policy for one year, removing the SAT/ACT standardized testing requirement for first-year fall 2021 applicants. SAT Subject Tests are also no longer considered in the admission process. Additionally, we will no longer ask about criminal history on the application; that information will instead be collected post-enrollment.

Is an audition or portfolio required if I’m applying to the College of Fine Arts?
A video prescreen is required for Drama and Music. Students who pass the prescreen will be invited for an audition. Students applying to Art, Architecture or Design will be required to submit an artistic portfolio, and in some cases include a creative essay or video or complete an interview. Learn more about the College of Fine Arts here.
What do I need to do in order to apply as an international student?

International students applying for admission do not need to follow an extensively different process from domestic students. These applicants should be aware that Carnegie Mellon does not offer financial aid for international students and should be prepared to assume the total cost of attendance.

What standardized tests are required for the different colleges and programs within Carnegie Mellon?

For the fall 2021 application, no standardized tests are required, as the SAT and ACT are optional for fall 2021. This test optional policy is a one-year accommodation being made as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. SAT Subject Tests are not required for or considered in the admission process. Applicants who are non-native speakers of English are required to submit results of either a TOEFL or IELTS English-language proficiency test.

If English isn’t my first language, do I have to take the TOEFL if I’ve lived in the U.S.?

The TOEFL or IELTS test is required for students who report their first language(s) as anything other than English, regardless of where the student has lived.

What is Carnegie Mellon's TOEFL code?

Carnegie Mellon's TOEFL code is 2074.

What scores do I need on my AP or IB tests to receive credit?

Students will need to earn a score of 4 or 5 on the AP tests or 6 or 7 on the IB tests for those tests to be considered for credit.

If I'm applying Early Decision, can I apply to more than one college or program at Carnegie Mellon?

Students applying Early Decision are only able to apply to one college or program.

What is the Office of Admission's mailing address?

The Office of Admission's mailing address is:

  Carnegie Mellon University  
  Office of Admission – Warner Hall  
  5000 Forbes Avenue  
  Pittsburgh, PA 15213

How can I receive more information on Carnegie Mellon?

You can sign up for our Admission Mailing List to receive important updates and mailings.

CAMPUS LIFE

What types of clubs are there on campus?

While our students work hard in the classroom, they have plenty of time to get involved in student organizations and extracurricular activities. Carnegie Mellon boasts over 300 student organizations encompassing a broad spectrum of activities, including social, service, media, academic, spiritual, recreational, athletic, religious, political, cultural and governance opportunities. To see the extensive list of organizations, and to find out if we have an activity you’re interested in, check out our directory of student organizations.
What's the student diversity like at Carnegie Mellon?
Attracting and retaining a diverse community remains important to Carnegie Mellon. We continue to work to recruit and retain students from underrepresented backgrounds, including those who seek to be the first in their family to graduate from a four-year institution. The university is also focused on inclusive policies and practices that build a sense of community among people with many backgrounds, skills and strengths. Learn more about the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion and other diversity initiatives on campus.

What unique traditions does Carnegie Mellon have?
Carnegie Mellon's school spirit & traditions are invaluable to our campus, and we have a set of traditions that are uniquely Carnegie Mellon. Some of our most beloved traditions include:

- Spring Carnival
- Booth
- Buggy
- The Fence

What types of job opportunities are there for current students or Carnegie Mellon graduates?
Our Career and Professional Development Center is dedicated to helping you leverage the value of a college education from Carnegie Mellon. Check out the latest post-graduate outcome information and data here. The Career and Professional Development Center also offers campus employment, internships, summer jobs, community service and more.

FINANCIAL AID

Is there a way to get an idea of what it will cost to attend Carnegie Mellon?
Carnegie Mellon offers a Net Price Calculator for students to complete to receive an estimated financial aid package. This tool is a great way to start a conversation with your family about affordability as you conduct your college search.

Your Net Price Calculator results aren't a guarantee of your actual financial aid offer, which may vary depending on institutional policy changes, official academic information and verified family financial information.

What kinds of financial aid does Carnegie Mellon offer?
Carnegie Mellon offers need-based financial aid to U.S. citizens, permanent residents and DACA recipients. We don't offer aid based on merit, athletic ability or test scores.

What forms are required to apply for financial aid and what are the deadlines?
Carnegie Mellon uses both the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and the CSS Profile (offered through the College Board). We also require students to submit copies of the tax documents used to complete these forms, including tax returns (1040) and W-2s. The preferred deadline to apply for financial aid is November 1 for Early Decision applicants and February 15 for Regular Decision applicants.

What is Carnegie Mellon's code for the FAFSA or CSS Profile?
FAFSA: 003242
CSS Profile: 2074
If I apply for financial aid, will it hurt my chance of getting accepted?
Carnegie Mellon follows a need-blind admission policy, so applying for financial aid will have no effect on your chances for admission. It may have an effect on which students we’re able to admit from the waiting list.

Is financial assistance available for international students?
Carnegie Mellon doesn’t offer financial aid to international students. If you’re an international student who plans to enroll at Carnegie Mellon, you and your family must assume the total cost of attendance.

What effect will receiving an outside scholarship have on my financial aid package?
Institutional grants and scholarships won’t be reduced due to the receipt of outside scholarships unless one of the following occurs:

- If a student received federal grants or loans, these funds, in combination with any other grants/scholarships, can’t exceed your financial need.
- All outside scholarships, in combination with all aid received, can’t exceed your cost of attendance.