

# The American University: A View from Columbia

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New York

# The Birth of the Research University

Early Colleges

Land-Grant Universities

Agricultural Research

Engineering, Technology, Science

German Model for Ph.D.'s

# Collaborations

Close Ties to Industry, Government,  
and Foundations

Significant Funding for Research from  
Outside the University

# Sources of Research Funding

National Institutes of Health

National Science Foundation

DARPA

National Endowments for the  
Humanities and the Arts

Foundations

Private Donors

# University Discoveries

Leading Sources of Medical Research,  
Environmental Science, Computer  
Technology, Genomics, Fiber Optics,  
Space Exploration Technology,  
Transportation Engineering, etc.

# Academic Freedom

Tenure Protects Professors from  
Political or Political Reprisals  
Faculty Free to Pursue Their Own  
Research

Attracted Large Number of  
Distinguished Scholars from other  
nations

# Mass Education

Rapid Growth in Enrollments

After World War II

GI Bill, Federal and State subsidies

Route to Social Mobility

Rapid Growth of State Universities and  
Community Colleges

Approximately 60 percent attend  
college

# Problems of US Universities

Prohibitive Costs Bar Many Students

Visa Difficulties for Foreign Students  
and Faculty

High Cost of Research

Research Crowding out Teaching

# Threats to US Universities

Government Support leads to  
political interference

Media and Political Attacks on  
controversial scholars

Wealth Imbalances

# Columbia as a model

Ranked number 8 in most recent US  
News poll

Ranked number 7 in most recent  
world rankings

# Funding the University

## \$2.6 billion budget, FY 2009

Tuition

Endowment (\$6.5 billion)

Gifts (\$400 million+ annually)

Government Grants

Foundation Grants

Patent and License Income

# The Teaching Mission

The Liberal Arts Tradition

Diversity of Knowledge

Linking Teaching and Research

Small Classes

Strong Emphasis on Teaching

# Undergraduate Students

Highly selective admissions (8.9% of applicants accepted)

Ranked second in racial and ethnic diversity among US universities (50% minorities in 2009)

Students from every state in the US and from 30 foreign countries (10% of undergraduates from outside US)

4200 undergraduates in Columbia College

1300 students in Engineering College

1000 students in General Studies (for older students)

200 students at Barnard College, affiliated with Columbia

# Undergraduate Tuition and Financial Aid

Very high costs (\$50,000/year)

Almost half of tuition used for financial  
aid

Families making under \$60,000 pay  
nothing

Families making under \$100,000 pay  
less than 20 percent of costs

More than half of families receive  
financial aid

# Undergraduate Curriculum

Core Curriculum

Majors and Concentrations

Research and other internships

Study Abroad

# Most Popular Undergraduate Fields

Economics  
Political Science  
Psychology  
History  
English  
Biology

# Undergraduate Extracurricular Activities

35 Interscholastic Athletic Teams

22 Club Athletic Programs

Student newspapers and magazines

Student Theater and Music  
organizations

175 student clubs

Arts Initiative

# Graduate Students

Approximately 15,000 graduate students across 13 schools

2<sup>nd</sup> most international graduate student body in US – 40%

Ph.D.s, MAs, and professional degrees

# Funding Graduate Students

A&S Ph.D. candidates receive full tuition and stipends

Ph.D. candidates in other schools receive varying amounts

Most MA students receive little or no financial aid

Most graduate students take out loans, work, and/or rely on families

# Leading Graduate Programs at Columbia, A&S

Anthropology  
Art History  
Chemistry  
East Asian Studies  
Economics  
Earth and Environmental Science  
English  
History  
Languages  
Middle East Studies  
Political Science  
Physics

# Leading Professional Programs at Columbia

Journalism (#1)

Architecture (#1)

Social Work (#2)

Law (#4)

Public Health (#6)

Business (#8)

Medicine (#10)

# Physical Plant

Tremendous growth in academic facilities in US since 1960

Columbia growth constrained by location

Pressure to expand science and technology facilities

Manhattanville Expansion

# Recruiting Faculty

Tenured faculty drawn from junior faculty and from leading scholars at other universities

Tenure determined by departments, schools, and provost

# Retaining Faculty

Competitive Salaries

Subsidized Housing (NYC)

Health Insurance

Subsidized Private Schooling and  
Child Care

University Contributions to Tuition  
for Faculty Children

# What Makes Columbia Successful?

Tradition of Intellectual Leadership

New York City

Exceptional Research Faculty

Highly Talented Students

Diversity

Successful Fundraising

International Focus