

College Admissions Personalized Report: Columbia University

Public Health, Biological Sciences | Debate | Swimming | Chinese

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School Information

Basic Information

Year Founded	Locations	Setting	Motto	School Mascot	Schools and Pre-Professional Schools	Religious Affiliation
1754	New York City	Urban	In Lumine Tuo Videbimus Lumen (In Thy Light Shall We See Light)	Roar-ee the Lion	Columbia College, School of Engineering and Applied Science, School of General Studies, and several graduate and professional schools	Nonsectarian

Ranking

National Undergraduate School Ranking	Ranking Trends
12	Was 3 in 2021, consistently in top 5 prior to 2024 [1], [2]

Tuition and Fees

Columbia University's undergraduate tuition and fees for the academic year 2024-2025 are approximately \$68,000 annually. The total estimated cost of attendance, including fees, room, and board, is around \$92,742 [3].

Student Body

Size of Undergraduate Enrollment	Size of Graduate Enrollment	Total Student Body	Gender Distribution (Undergrad)	Ethnic Diversity Stats
8,148	21,929	30,077	49% male, 51% female	45% minority representation among undergraduates (Fall 2022), 39% international students (Fall 2023) [6]

Unique Features

- **Ivy League Membership:** Columbia is one of the eight prestigious Ivy League schools, known for its academic excellence and historical significance.
- **Core Curriculum:** Columbia's Core Curriculum is a distinctive feature providing a strong foundation in humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences [5].

- **Location in New York City:** Situated in the heart of New York City, Columbia offers students unparalleled access to cultural, professional, and academic opportunities [5].
- [1] <https://www.college.columbia.edu/news/columbia-ranked-3-us-news-and-world-reports-best-colleges-guide>
- [2] <https://www.college.columbia.edu/news/columbia-ranked-fourth-us-news-world-report-s-ranking-national-universities-0>
- [3] <https://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/affordability/cost>
- [5] <https://blog.collegevine.com/what-is-columbia-university-known-for>
- [6] <https://admissionsight.com/columbia-diversity-statistics/>

Admissions and Financial Aid

Columbia University Research

Admit Rate

Below is the table with Columbia University's undergraduate admission statistics:

Number of Undergrad Applicants	Undergraduate Acceptance Rate
40,084 (Class of 2024)	6.1% (Class of 2024) from US News and World Report

Average SAT

Columbia University reported an average SAT score of 1524. The 25th percentile score is 1500, and the 75th percentile score is 1560, indicating the highly competitive nature of Columbia's admissions process [1].

School Values

Columbia University is known for its distinctive values: - **Commitment to Diversity:** Columbia emphasizes creating a diverse and inclusive student body through its holistic admissions process [2]. - **Urban Environment:** Located in New York City, Columbia provides a vibrant urban setting that offers significant cultural, social, and professional opportunities. - **Strong Research Focus:** As a leading research institution, Columbia prioritizes innovative research and scholarship among its students and faculty.

Student Qualities

Columbia seeks students with the following qualities: - **Academic Excellence:** High SAT/ACT scores and top class rankings are common among admits. - **Diverse Perspectives:** Applicants are encouraged to present a holistic picture of themselves beyond test scores and grades [2]. - **Leadership and Engagement:** Students who demonstrate leadership skills and active engagement in their communities are valued.

Matriculation Rate

The following table summarizes the matriculation rate and related statistics for Columbia undergraduates:

Matriculation Rate	Average Undergrad Salary Earned	Average Undergrad Salary in Public Health and Biological Sciences
Not specified	\$79,000 (six years post-enrollment) [3]	\$36,220 (Biology) [4]

Financial Aid

Columbia University offers financial aid to its students as follows:

Overview	Criteria	Percentage of Students Receiving Financial Aid	Application Process	Amount Awarded
Columbia provides need-based financial aid.	Based on demonstrated financial need.	50% of students receive financial aid	Students must apply for financial aid when applying for admission.	Average aid package of \$69,026 [5]

Columbia's financial aid policy ensures that students from all financial backgrounds can attend without the burden of excessive debt. They are known for their generous financial aid packages, aimed to cover 100% of demonstrated need, ensuring accessibility for students from various financial backgrounds.

- [1] <https://www.prepscholar.com/sat/s/colleges/Columbia-University-sat-scores-GPA>
- [2] <https://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/apply/process/class-profile>
- [3] <https://www.gradreports.com/rankings/columbia-university-in-the-city-of-new-york>
- [4] <https://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/affordability>
- [5] <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/colleges/columbia-university/tuition-and-costs>

Notable News and School Traditions

Recent Events at Columbia University

Notable Recent Successes	Recent Controversies	Major Strategic Initiatives
Four Columbia alumni received 2024 Pulitzer Prizes in categories such as public-service journalism, music, biography, and general nonfiction.	Columbia is rethinking its commencement ceremony due to campus protests. Concerns about security and potential disruptions, along with student concerns about President Shafik's presence, have led to considerations of cancellation or relocation. An alternative graduation ceremony is being planned by some faculty and staff.	Columbia University Libraries' strategic directions for the next five years focus on building an inclusive community, stewarding high-quality collections, engaging students, and leading innovation in library practices.
V. V. Ganeshanathan, a Columbia alumnus, won the Carol Shields Prize and the UK Women's Prize for Fiction in 2024.	Columbia University President Nemat Shafik rebutted claims that the university is a hotbed of antisemitism, though acknowledging a rise in incidents.	Columbia is emphasizing collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to diversity and inclusion in its strategic plans.

School Traditions

Tradition	Description	Reason for Importance
Alma Mater Owl Legend	Students search for the hidden owl on the Alma Mater statue, a tradition that dates back many years.	Encourages exploration of campus history and fosters a sense of belonging.
Tree Lighting and Yule Log Ceremony	An annual event marking the holiday season with a festive tree lighting and the traditional yule log.	Celebrates community spirit and provides a festive break during the academic year.
Varsity Show	A satirical musical production put on by students, showcasing humor and campus life.	Highlights student talent and creativity, reinforcing community bonds.

Student Pastimes

Popular Student Pastimes	Hang Out Spots	Social Places	Description	Reason for Importance
Attending Bacchanal	South Lawn	Various campus venues	A large spring concert event featuring popular artists.	Offers a shared experience that enhances campus culture and student camaraderie.

Popular Student Pastimes	Hang Out Spots	Social Places	Description	Reason for Importance
Visiting Morningside Heights	Morningside Park	Local cafes and restaurants	Exploring the neighborhood around Columbia, including parks and eateries.	Connects students with the local community and provides relaxation opportunities.

School Spirit

- **Alumni and Student Quotes:**
 - “Columbia University has a vibrant and diverse community that makes every student feel at home.” – Columbia Alum
- **School Spirit Events:**
 - Homecoming Weekend: Celebrates Columbia pride with sports events, alumni reunions, and community activities.
 - President’s Annual Fun Run: An inclusive event promoting health, wellness, and school spirit.
- [1] <https://magazine.columbia.edu/article/4-columbia-grads-win-2024-pulitzers-and-other-alumni-news>
- [2] <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/columbia-commencement-graduation-ceremony-rcna150582>
- [3] None
- [4] <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2024-04-17/columbia-universitys-president-rebuts-claims-she-has-allowed-school-to-become-a-hotbed-of-hatred>

Campus Life & Reviews

Student Life

Columbia University provides a multifaceted student life experience, enriched by its location in New York City. The vibrant city life, alongside a diverse range of clubs and activities, is frequently highlighted by students as a major perk. However, challenges such as the high cost of living, administrative issues, and a competitive academic environment are also noted by students.

Student Quotes: - “Columbia’s location is unbeatable. The city offers endless opportunities and experiences.” [1] - “Though the academic rigor is rewarding, the stress levels can be quite high. More support from the administration would be appreciated.” [2]

Alumni Review

Alumni from Columbia University often reflect on the institution’s rigorous academic programs and the diverse campus community. The Core Curriculum and extensive research opportunities are seen as key advantages that helped shape their careers. However, the high cost of education and pressure to perform are common criticisms.

Alumni Quotes: - “Columbia’s demanding academic environment prepared me well for my career, and the connections I made are invaluable.” [3] - “While the tuition was a significant investment, the diverse community and access to NYC’s resources were worth it.” [4]

Dorms and Housing

Housing Options	Room Quality	Size of Rooms	Air Conditioned Rooms	Facilities
McBain Hall, East Campus, John Jay Hall	Generally well-maintained	Small to moderate	Most newer dorms have AC	Modern amenities, study lounges, gyms in some dorms

Both students and alumni have mixed reviews regarding Columbia's dorms. While the location is appreciated, the small room sizes and varying quality are often points of contention.

Food Options

Food Options	Quality	Choices	Nearby Restaurants
Dining Halls, Cafes	Generally positive	Wide range, including vegetarian and vegan	Numerous options in Morningside Heights and Upper West Side

Columbia's food services are generally well-regarded, with ample options catering to different dietary needs. The availability of diverse dining experiences in nearby neighborhoods is a notable benefit.

Greek Life

Notable Fraternities and Sororities	Student and Alumni Reviews
Alpha Delta Phi, Zeta Beta Tau	Relatively low-key; not central to campus life

Greek life at Columbia is not as prominent as at other universities, with many students describing it as low-key. While some appreciate the networking opportunities, others feel it's not a significant part of their social experience.

Nearby Attractions

Cities Nearby	Notable Activities in the Area	Area Events
New York City	Broadway shows, Museums, Central Park	Seasonal festivals, Parades, Cultural events

The university's location in New York City offers vast opportunities for cultural and social engagement. Students frequently cite the proximity to iconic attractions and events as a major advantage of attending Columbia.

- [1] <https://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/life>

- [2] <https://www.niche.com/colleges/columbia-university/reviews/>
- [3] <https://ratemydorm.com/dorms/columbia-university>
- [4] <https://magazine.columbia.edu/article/campus-dining-ranked-1>

Academics - Major Public Health

Columbia University Public Health Major

Academic Philosophy

The undergraduate special concentration in Public Health at Columbia University is designed as an interdisciplinary program that complements a student's primary major. This approach allows students to gain a multifaceted understanding of public health issues. Students are required to complete 25 points of coursework, including five core courses and electives from various departments, emphasizing themes like inequality, globalization, urbanization, development, and aging. The program is flexible, allowing students to tailor their studies to specific interests within public health.

Type	Description
Rigid	Core curriculum includes Fundamentals of Global Health, Introduction to Public Health, etc.
Flexible	Interdisciplinary electives from various departments
Declaration	Not specified
Flexibility	High flexibility due to its interdisciplinary nature

Faculty

Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health has a robust faculty base, with 185 full-time members. Although the specific student-to-faculty ratio for the undergraduate program is not provided, Columbia University maintains an overall 6:1 ratio, indicating personalized academic attention.

Number of Faculty	Student-to-Professor Ratio
185	6:1 (not specific to Public Health)

Notable Research Programs

Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health is known for significant research initiatives such as the Center for Infection and Immunity and the Social and Spatial Epidemiology Unit. These programs contribute to global health by focusing on infectious diseases and health disparities [1].

Notable Professors

The faculty at the Mailman School includes eminent figures in epidemiology, health policy, and sociomedical sciences, who contribute significantly to global public health research and policies. Specific professors are not detailed, but their work underpins Columbia's high standing in public health education [2].

Unique Undergraduate Programs

The undergraduate concentration allows students to engage with public health issues from a societal perspective. Students complete core courses and electives, fostering comprehensive understanding. Specific student reviews are unavailable, but the program's interdisciplinary nature is a highlight.

Academic Culture

Information on the academic culture specifically for undergraduate Public Health students is limited. However, Columbia's overall environment is known for encouraging collaboration and faculty interaction, suggesting similar dynamics in Public Health.

Aspect	Description
Collaborative/Competitive	Likely collaborative
Access to Professors	Generally high at Columbia
Engagement with Professors	Typically strong
Class Size	Likely small, inferred from university trends
Workload	Not specified

Interdisciplinary Programs

The Public Health concentration allows for interdisciplinary study, but specific joint programs with Biological Sciences are not detailed in the information provided.

Research Opportunities

Columbia offers research opportunities, particularly through the Summer Public Health Scholars Program, which includes fieldwork and mentorship. Specific undergraduate research opportunities within the Public Health concentration remain unspecified [3].

Employment Opportunities

Columbia Mailman School graduates have a high employment rate, with the overall average salary at \$89,004. Specific undergraduate outcomes are not detailed, but the program's reputation suggests favorable prospects [4].

Top Employers	Notable Companies Nearby	Average Salary
Not specified	Not specified	\$89,004

Off-Campus Opportunities

Specific off-campus opportunities such as study abroad, student exchanges, or co-op programs for the undergraduate Public Health concentration are not detailed.

Study Abroad	Student Exchanges	Co-op Program
Not specified	Not specified	Not specified

- [1] <https://www.publichealth.columbia.edu/about-us/facts-figures>
- [2] <https://www.publichealth.columbia.edu/people/our-faculty>
- [3] <https://www.publichealth.columbia.edu/academics/special-programs/pathway-programs/summer-public-health-scholars-program/program-details>
- [4] <https://www.publichealth.columbia.edu/become-student/career-services/public-health-employment-outcomes>

Academics - Major Biological Sciences

Academic Philosophy

Columbia University's Biological Sciences program balances a rigid core curriculum with flexible interdisciplinary options. Students are required to declare their majors by their sophomore year, providing a structured yet adaptable academic pathway. This flexibility allows students to change majors if their interests evolve over time.

Academic Structure	Year to Declare Major	Flexibility to Change Major
Rigid (Core Curriculum) and Flexible (Interdisciplinary)	Sophomore Year	Flexible

Faculty

The Department of Biological Sciences boasts at least 30 faculty members. The student-to-faculty ratio is approximately 6:1, which is favorable and allows for more personalized attention compared to the national average [1].

Number of Faculty	Student to Professor Ratio
30+	6:1

Notable Research Programs

Columbia's Biological Sciences department is especially renowned for its research in molecular biology, neuroscience, and evolutionary biology. These programs have been instrumental in scientific advancements, enhancing Columbia's reputation as a leader in biological research. The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) allows students to engage in extensive research, culminating in an oral presentation and a research article [2].

Notable Professors

Notable professors include Martin Chalfie, a Nobel laureate recognized for his work on green fluorescent protein (GFP), which revolutionized molecular and cellular biology. Another eminent faculty member, Richard Axel, is renowned for his pioneering research in olfactory processing in the brain.

Unique Undergraduate Programs

Columbia offers unique undergraduate programs in Biological Sciences, including majors in Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Neuroscience and Behavior. Students appreciate the program's rigorous curriculum and extensive research opportunities, which are frequently highlighted in positive reviews.

Academic Culture

The academic culture within the Biological Sciences department at Columbia is both collaborative and competitive. Students report high levels of engagement with professors and active participation in small classes. Despite the intensive workload, the supportive environment and access to faculty contribute to a positive academic experience.

Collaborative or Competitive	Access to Professors	Engagement with Professors	Class Size	Workload
Both	High	High	Small	High

Interdisciplinary Programs

Columbia offers interdisciplinary programs that integrate Biological Sciences and Public Health, allowing students to explore the convergence of these fields. The special concentration in Public Health complements a student's major, requiring core courses and electives in themes like globalization and urbanization [3].

Research Opportunities

The department provides numerous research opportunities for undergraduates, such as the SURF program and the Amgen Scholars Program. These opportunities are highly valued by students for the hands-on learning and professional development they offer [4].

Employment Opportunities

Graduates from Columbia's Biological Sciences program frequently find employment with top-tier organizations such as Google, Goldman Sachs, and the National Institute of Health. The university's location in New York City provides access to numerous large companies, enhancing job prospects.

Top Employers	Notable Companies Nearby	Average Salary
Google, Goldman Sachs, NIH	Numerous large companies	\$39,400 (Starting Salary for Biology) [6]

Off-Campus Opportunities

Columbia University provides a variety of off-campus opportunities, including study abroad programs, student exchanges, and co-op programs, enriching students' educational experiences by offering global perspectives and practical experience.

Study Abroad Options	Student Exchanges	Co-op Program
Yes	Yes	Yes

- <https://www.collegefactual.com/colleges/columbia-university-in-the-city-of-new-york/academic-life/faculty-composition/>
- <https://www.publichealth.columbia.edu/academics/departments/epidemiology/research/research-labs-programs/belsky-lab/our-team>
- <https://sps.columbia.edu/academics/masters/bioethics>
- <https://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/academics/college/majors>
- <https://www.careereducation.columbia.edu/jobs-internships/employer-connections>
- <https://collegesimply.imgix.net/colleges/new-york/columbia-university-in-the-city-of-new-york/salaries/>

Athletics

Columbia University Athletics

Athletics Overview

Columbia University is renowned for its comprehensive athletics program, competing at the NCAA Division I level as part of the Ivy League. The program provides diverse opportunities for students to engage in athletics through its varsity sports teams as well as numerous club sports and intramural activities.

Number of Intercollegiate Teams	Number of Intramural Teams	Notable Successes
31 NCAA Division I varsity teams	Over 40 club sports and intramurals	Multiple Ivy League Championships, participation in NCAA tournaments

Columbia's athletics program has achieved significant success, highlighted by numerous Ivy League Championships, despite the absence of athletic scholarships, which aligns with Ivy League policies. This success underscores the university's commitment to maintaining a competitive athletic spirit.

Student Athletes

Columbia University, adhering to Ivy League standards, does not offer athletic scholarships. Instead, it provides financial aid based on need, ensuring that all students, including athletes, receive support based on their financial circumstances.

Number of Athletic Scholarships	Academic Restrictions on Students with Athletic Scholarships
None (need-based financial aid)	Must maintain good academic standing per NCAA and Ivy League standards

While Columbia does not offer athletic scholarships, it ensures that student-athletes have access to financial aid based on need. Academic integrity is upheld by requiring student-athletes to maintain high academic performance, consistent with Ivy League values.

Athletic Interests - Swimming

Columbia University offers substantial opportunities for students interested in swimming through its varsity teams. The swimming and diving teams compete in the Ivy League and participate in various championships, providing a competitive environment for student-athletes.

Intercollegiate Teams Related to Swimming	Major Championships	Intramural Teams Related to Swimming	Resources Available to Swimming
Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving	Ivy League Championships	Not explicitly detailed	Access to Dodge Fitness Center, dedicated coaching staff, comprehensive training programs

Columbia's swimming teams actively compete in the Ivy League, benefiting from resources such as the Dodge Fitness Center and experienced coaching staff. However, specific details on intramural swimming teams are not readily available, suggesting a primary focus on varsity-level competition.

- <https://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/life/here/athletics>
- <https://admissionsight.com/uncovering-the-world-of-columbia-athletics-a-comprehensive-guide/>
- <https://gocolumbialions.com/sports/2018/6/5/211516995.aspx>
- <https://gocolumbialions.com/news/2008/1/18/1370834.aspx>
- <https://gocolumbialions.com/sports/mens-swimming-and-diving/roster>
- <https://gocolumbialions.com/sports/womens-swimming-and-diving/roster>

Extracurriculars and Interests

Resources Related to Debate

Columbia University provides substantial resources for students interested in debate. The main organization is the Columbia Debate Society (CDS), which competes in parliamentary debate tournaments both nationally and internationally. CDS hosts three annual tournaments and engages in activities such as paid public debates and volunteer work [1]. However, specific physical spaces dedicated to debate at Columbia University are not clearly defined in the available information.

Clubs

Clubs Related to Debate	Number of Clubs	Brief List of Clubs Available
Debate and Public Speaking	6	Columbia Parliamentary Debate Society, Columbia Speech and Debate Club, Columbia Mandarin Debate Society, Youth For Debate, Debating Union, The John Jay Society

Music and Art

Cultural Events on Campus	Dedicated Spaces	Clubs and Groups
Midday Music: Jazz at Wang Pavilion, The Threepenny Opera student theater production	Miller Theatre, LeRoy Neiman Center for Print Studies	Columbia University Orchestra, Columbia Ballet Collaborative, CU Jazz Ensemble

Affinity Spaces

Number of Affinity Groups	Clubs Related to Chinese	Events Related to Chinese	Nearby Restaurants Related to Chinese
50+	Chinese Students Club, China Development Society	Lunar New Year Festival, Chinese Culture Night	Ollie's Sichuan, Han Dynasty

Religion

The Office of Religious Life at Columbia University, located in Earl Hall, supports the spiritual and religious needs of its diverse community. It offers spaces for prayer, reflection, meditation, and worship. The office includes over fifteen religious life advisors representing various faiths, providing counseling and leadership. Programs promoting interfaith dialogue are also sponsored [3]. Participation in religious activities is voluntary and there are no compulsory requirements for students.

Service

Columbia University's Debate Society offers numerous service opportunities, including organizing debate tournaments and engaging in community volunteer work. Students can participate in mentorship and coaching programs with local schools and community organizations [4]. There are no mandatory service requirements specifically tied to debate activities.

- [1] <https://columbiadebate.com>
- [2] <https://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/studentgroup/columbia-university-debate-society>
- [3] <https://www.tc.columbia.edu/diversity/resources/columbia-university-office-of-religious-life/>
- [4] <https://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/studentgroup/youth-debate>

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