

YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH IS ON!

Find the Right College
FOR YOU





Lots of Choices. Let's Get STARTED

There are more than **5,000** colleges and universities in the United States alone. Narrowing down to just a handful of options, then choosing just one, may seem impossible. Do you picture your college campus surrounded by nature or in a city? Do you see yourself sitting in a large lecture room with hundreds of students, or in a small classroom where the professor knows you by name?

There are a lot of variables to consider when you're looking at colleges. Deciding what's most important to you will make it easier to find the right fit. Centenary University has created this guide to help you find a college that best fits your interests, goals, and needs. Use this as a guide as you begin your journey.

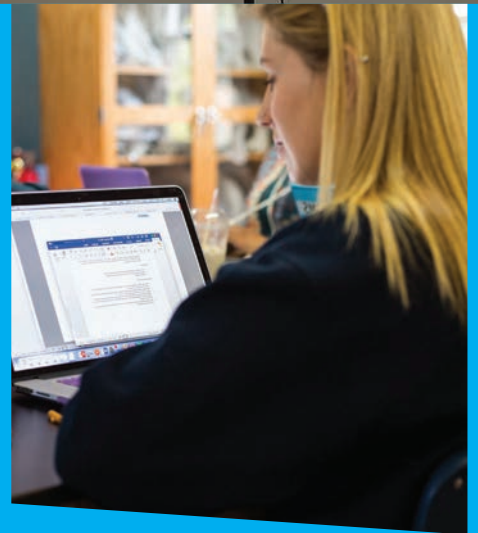
If you discover during your college explorations that Centenary best suits you, great, we'll look forward to reviewing your application. However, if you find a better match at another institution, we'll be glad to have helped you.

For now, let's go over some important things you should be considering as you begin searching for that one college that's right for you.

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Undecided about a major?

Don't sweat it. Two-thirds of full-time, first-year college students are either undecided about their major when they start college or change their major during their college career.



Identifying Characteristics

THAT MATTER TO YOU



Centenary University's
dedicated faculty collaborate
across academic disciplines to
help their students succeed.

At Centenary University, students are part of a tightly-knit community with a student-to-faculty ratio of 17:1! Students really get to know their professors and peers.

Big vs. Small

Big universities are like cities unto themselves with a lot of opportunities. At the same time, it can be easy to feel lost among such a large population, especially when hundreds of students fill an auditorium for a class. Small colleges aren't as big, of course, but with more access to professors they often offer more individualized attention and, in turn, feel more personal.

Private vs. Public

Some believe private schools will simply be too costly. This misconception is brought on when people compare "sticker prices" instead of the bottom-line cost of attending. Many private schools have private scholarships that aren't available at public schools. While checking out colleges, public or private, be sure to ask about their average financial aid package for new students. That's a more realistic estimate of affordability than sticker price.

Teaching vs. Research

Traditionally, college professors have three responsibilities: teaching, research, and service. Since large universities are typically more research-focused, their undergraduate courses are often taught by a graduate assistant (a person who serves in a support role, usually while completing post-graduate education) instead of professors. Small colleges are traditionally more teaching-focused. Research and service still matter at smaller institutions, but teaching students matters most.

Book Theory vs. Real World Application

If you plan to work and live in the real world, look for career-focused colleges that emphasize the practical application of academics. In particular, look for schools that offer experiential learning such as internships, study abroad, lab work, field work and co-operative employment. You'll graduate with a great degree—and a working resume!

One-on-One vs. On-Your-Own

Pay close attention to the colleges that emphasize advising students one-on-one. These are the institutions that will help you develop a plan—in writing—for your individual success in school. Colleges with this hands-on approach will work their hardest to help ensure you graduate in four years. Adding a semester or year to complete your degree adds time and costs you more. Personalized counseling from a college's faculty and staff will be incredibly helpful as you plan your future needs.

FAFSA Information

The FAFSA opens on October 1st. Practically every college's financial aid program requires you to complete the free application for federal student aid so you can see if you qualify for federal and state loans, grants, and/or work-study programs.

Choosing the Right COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Centenary University has great student residences, a vibrant campus life, nearby shops, restaurants and entertainment, as well as an active Commuter Council that keeps commuting students informed about campus happenings.

Living on Campus vs. Living at Home

When your college life centers on the college campus, rather than at home with your parents, you learn more about yourself as an individual. You make college friends a bit faster. You enjoy more personal growth and social opportunities since they are usually just a few steps outside of your residence hall.

Commuting has its pros and cons, as well. Students sometimes cite commuting as a way to save money since living on campus is an additional cost. A good question to ask colleges is what percentage of students commute to campus. If you're concerned you will miss out on a true "college experience," look for schools that have regular events designed to involve commuting students on campus.





Challenge vs. Support

You may hope to attend a highly-respected college where academic standards are high. If this is the case, you also want to know you will be able to get academic support when you need it. Look for colleges that provide a balance of both, with challenging majors and courses along with faculty and staff who will work with you personally to ensure your college work consistently meets expectations.

Answers vs. Questions

College professors may know a lot, but don't expect them to simply provide you with answers. Expect them to teach you how to ask good questions. Talented and devoted professors will help you appreciate that you may have to ask many questions before reaching one answer.

Tradition vs. Relevance

The intellectual value of a liberal arts education has been confirmed over many centuries, but this crucial foundation also can be relevant to your future. With a foundation in the liberal arts, you can apply the analytical and communication skills you develop studying literature or history in practically any profession: business, human services, environmental science, fashion design... the list goes on. Learn how the colleges you're considering help you apply liberal arts concepts in relation to today's inter-connected fields of study and emerging careers.

Centenary University emphasizes career-focused majors and relevant liberal arts. We want to help you thrive in the real world, not escape from it.

Centenary has full-time Career Development Center staff to help our students source opportunities.

Declaring a MAJOR

Programs of Study

Many college students either begin college without declaring a major or change their major before they graduate. If you aren't 100% certain about your future career, you want to enroll in a college that gives you a breadth of great choices for academic programs. You'd also like to know that a change in your direction doesn't have to mean starting over.



A great way to develop leadership skills is through a supporting role with working professionals. One way Centenary students do that is by aiding their professors in research.

A person wearing a riding helmet and a light-colored shirt is riding a white horse in a grassy field. The sun is low in the sky, creating a strong lens flare effect across the image. In the background, there are trees and a small building.

CENTENARY UNIVERSITY OFFERS

54
**ACADEMIC
PROGRAMS**

30
CONCENTRATIONS
20 MINORS

**FEEL FREE TO START WITH YOUR MAJOR
UNDECIDED.**

Future Flexibility

You expect your college education to prepare you for your first career, but the job market is constantly changing. New ideas and technologies lead to new careers. Sometimes they eliminate old careers! Nothing in life is certain, and your college education should reflect this. Find out how the colleges you are interested in prepare you for careers that haven't been invented yet. Ask how their programs of study set you up with skills for a lifetime of learning.

Leadership Opportunities

A college that incorporates leadership into its curriculum and extra-curriculars can significantly enhance your preparation for a career. Taking on a leadership or supervisory role on campus is great practice for defining goals, setting a course, and directing others. These are all resume-building skills that future employers will appreciate. Look for colleges that emphasize leadership. If opportunities begin as early as your freshman year, that's even better.

Grades

Just how important are your grades? Very important. They matter now because they are a driving force that will help you get into a great college and earn a merit-based scholarship. In college, your grades matter because most scholarships require that you maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) to continue receiving them each year. To be treated like a scholar, you have to perform like one. Ask the colleges you're considering about their merit scholarship programs, average student GPA, and average scholarship amount.

Visiting SCHOOLS

No two colleges are the same, so you should schedule a visit at each institution you are considering. Go on a tour of the campus, usually led by a current student. Meet with faculty if you can. Sit down with an admissions counselor and ask every question you want about the school. College is an investment in your future, so spend some of your time in advance to get a true feel for each college you're considering.

When you meet the students, when you sit in on a class, and when you talk with professors and coaches, you'll know whether a school fits you. Trust your instincts. Feel the decision in your heart as much as you think about it with your head.

We invite you to visit Centenary University in Hackettstown, New Jersey. Our safe and beautiful campus is in a Victorian-era neighborhood in the state's uncrowded northwest corner. We think it's a great college and we hope you agree. There's really only one way to find out. Visit today!

It's funny how some colleges get reputations for being nerdy schools or party schools or jock schools. Centenary attracts smart, creative, career-focused people who want to thrive in a community of collaborative learners. What kind of people do you want to go to college with?



What's Next?



You already knew that a college campus houses classrooms, labs, student residences, clubs and athletics, but now you also know that it's a community of learners from all over. It's a place where people intentionally come together to learn and grow. The best colleges create an environment where everyone challenges themselves to improve and help others.

There's a lot for you to start thinking about. If you have any questions about Centenary University in particular, or the college selection process in general, please feel free to contact a member of our Admissions staff. No matter where your college search is pointing you, we want to help.

Centenary University Office of Admissions

Toll-free 800-236-8679

**Email CentUAdmissions@centenaryuniversity.edu
centenaryuniversity.edu**

Fast Facts

- Quality, Private, Affordable
- Founded 1867
- 2330 Total Enrollment
- 1150 full-time undergraduate students
- 1180 adult and graduate students
- 62% women, 38% men from 22 states and 7 countries
- 83% of freshmen live on campus
- 54 career-focused programs
- 30 concentrations
- 20 minors
- 13 graduate degrees
- 28 buildings on 105 acres in Hackettstown and Long Valley, NJ
- Learning centers in Parsippany and Edison, NJ
- Environmental Science Center at NJ State Fish Hatchery
- 14 NCAA Division III intercollegiate teams (Colonial States Athletic Conference)
- Nationally ranked equestrian riding teams

Thank You

for your interest in Centenary University. We are an inclusive and collaborative learning community dedicated to preparing our students to enter society as professionals and global citizens. The Centenary experience is distinguished by a fundamental belief in the full potential of each student, a strong liberal arts foundation, focused career preparation, and a culture of service to the community and to the world.

Follow Us



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Centenary University of New Jersey is accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges; Council on Social Work Education (CSWE); Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC); and International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE).

Centenary University admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Act, Centenary University prepares, publishes and distributes an annual security report containing specific information about campus security. Policies and crime statistics are available at: Centenaryuniversity.edu/Safety



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