Watching over Low Plaza is Alma Mater, a bronze sculpture by Daniel Chester French, famous for his statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Alma Mater is also the subject of many Columbia legends, including that the first student in every new class to find the hidden owl on the statue will be the class valedictorian.

Want to know where this is on campus? You can find all the places shown in photographs throughout this book on the campus map on the inside front cover. Just look for the location code on each photo.
Call it blue sky thinking, a bolt of blue inspiration, or rhapsody in blue. Everything you need to realize your personal, professional, and doing-good-in-the-world ambitions is here.

Learning from today’s iconic thinkers and leaders not just in books but in person. Living in a city driven by the smartest, newest ideas. Adding your personality, friendship, and inspiration to one of the most diverse and interesting student bodies of any campus. Reveling in “Roar, Lion, Roar!” traditions and spirit both grand and quirky.

Earning lifetime intellectual confidence through a legendary Core Curriculum. Creating real-world solutions through the first-year engineering design course. Joining dozens of clubs, finding that one club that will be a true passion now and throughout your life.

Having the freedom to reach for any goal on a campus, in a city, in a community where shaping society, culture, and the world happens every day. **Dive into the Columbia Blue.**
Blue View: Part I

Named after former Columbia President Seth Low and patterned loosely on the Classical Pantheon, Low Library has the largest all-granite dome in the United States. No longer a library, Low houses the Visitors Center and the Office of the President, and is used for campus events.
Alfred Lerner Hall is Columbia’s student center. Lerner is home to the Center for Student Advising and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, as well as student group advising, and The Office of Financial Aid. It also includes resident lounges, two dining venues, a black box theater, pool and game room, 7,000 undergraduate mailboxes, two computer rooms, offices for student organizations, and numerous event spaces, including a 1,100-seat auditorium and a 400-seat cinema.
Butler Library is the centerpiece of the Columbia University Libraries, one of the ten largest academic library systems in the nation. Housing close to one-third of the Libraries’ on-site collections, Butler Library includes more than 600,000 rare books and 25 million manuscripts, and the world-famous Oral History Research Office and collection. Several books and screenplays have been written here, including Nobel Prize-winning novelists Orhan Pamuk’s The Black Book and alumnus Dan Futterman’s Oscar-nominated script for the film Capote.
Exponential Education
Every aspect of the Columbia experience opens doors to an ever-deeper set of opportunities. Each of these beginnings is the tip of the iceberg, the first domino, the catalyst in an education with unending exponential power that builds throughout a Columbian’s life. Call it Columbia to the power of infinity.
Columbia

In 1754 Columbia University was founded as King’s College by royal charter of King George II of England. It is the oldest institution of higher learning in the state of New York and the fifth oldest in the United States.

Undergraduate Programs

5,800 undergraduates; one of the most diverse student bodies in the country.

- Nearly 100 Programs of Study, from Earth and Environmental Engineering to Creative Writing to Urban Studies.

- 60+ majors in the humanities and social sciences.

- 22 majors in all branches of the biological, natural, and physical sciences.

- 40+ engineering majors and minors.

Columbia students can choose from almost 200 study abroad programs.

- Nearly 80% of undergraduate classes have fewer than 20 students.

- A student to faculty ratio of 6 to 1

- 3 to 1 in the physical sciences.

- 12+ conservatory-caliber arts majors and programs.

- Almost 400 research opportunities reserved for Columbia Engineering undergraduates through the Undergraduate Research Involvement Program.

- 35,000+ Undergraduate alumni network.

- 250,000 University alumni network.

- 22 libraries.

- 79 Nobel Prize winners are Columbia alumni, faculty, or former faculty. More Nobel Laureates have graduated from or taught at Columbia than any other university in the Ivy League.

- 143 faculty in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which studies and sets the nation’s direction of research in science and technology policy, global security, social policy, and the humanities. Its founders include Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington.

- 45 members of the National Academy of Sciences.

- 40+ a cappella, comedy, dance, film, music, and theatre clubs and organizations.

- More than 200 research institutes and centers, including a wide range of world-class laboratories.

- 31 NCAA Division I teams, 45+ club and 40+ intramural Sports.

- 20+ residence halls.

- 12+ on-campus dining halls and cafés.

- First gay-rights advocacy group on any college campus.

- First African American advocacy group on a multi-racial campus.

- First college literary magazine.


- 45 members of the National Academy of Sciences.

“Columbia has broadened my intellectual horizons, exposed me to the most diverse and unique individuals and communities, challenged me to step out of my comfort zone, and ultimately introduced me to an incredible world of opportunities that surpass any expectation I could have ever had.”

PATRICIA KLARIC, La Paz, Bolivia; Financial Economics and Political Science

500

$1 Billion

annually to the University in research funding.

A science and engineering faculty generating more income from patents than any other university.

More than 22

libraries.
Columbia as Engine of Innovation
A map of the labs, lecture halls, and landmarks where ideas and inventions from anthropology to FM radio began.
Columbia as Culture of Connection

Columbia is an in-person kind of place — a crossroads of connections where there is no distance at all between those on their way to living lives of impact and influence and those already doing so. Here are just some of the people who recently visited campus and connected with students.
New York City: Your Living Laboratory

The world’s city, home to major institutions in innovation, culture, media, science, education, health, politics, finance, and technology. Our New York is a neighborhood, a classroom, a leader, a community, a testing ground, a cultural wonderland, a source of inspiration, a home, a friend, an indispensable resource.

Meet with client running for office as part of your internship at a political consulting and strategy firm.

See "Medea" at the Japan Society with your Literature Humanities seminar classmates and professor.

Work with New York City Parks and Recreation to design new playgrounds throughout the city.

Eat the best cannolis in the city at the San Gennaro Festival in Little Italy.

Work with New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to design new playgrounds throughout the city.

Intern in the global investment research division of Goldman Sachs on Wall Street.

Have lunch with alums at Chelsea Market to learn about their social media and tech incubator.

Help write scripts while interning at MTV in Times Square.

Lead a team designing a green roof for a synagogue in Brooklyn.

Explore the five boroughs of NYC on bicycle for your NYC history class.

Conduct research at the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory at the Botanical Gardens in the Bronx.

Get an internship at the United Nations working with the U.N. Development Programme on energy issues.

Climb to top of the Brooklyn Bridge to test its wires with your Civil Engineering class.

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Lead a team designing a green roof for a synagogue in Brooklyn.

Jam with fellow Columbians at Smoke Jazz & Supper Club Lounge on Broadway near campus.

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Columbia as Global
Several dozen campus initiatives bring the world to Columbia. Several hundred study abroad opportunities and research projects take our students and faculty around the globe.

Here’s what makes us global:
- An international student body (over 160 countries represented)
- A cosmopolitan faculty
- Our World Leaders Forum
- Earth Institute
- Global Core requirement
- One of the most comprehensive area-studies programs in the United States
- Study abroad on 5 continents, in regions from Asia to North Africa and the Middle East to the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands, as well as on
- Partnerships with communities, governments, and institutions around the world
- Global research for all majors, including hands-on engineering and social entrepreneurship
- We not only bring global leaders to campus, we select the best graduates whose heads of state, policymakers, and leaders for good in countries around the world.

Columbia University
Columbia gives students a home in the most global city in the world — where the world comes to you and you go to the world.

Index
World Leaders Forum
Approximately 20 World Leaders Forum events per year bring remarkable leaders to campus for lively, un inhibited dialogue. A few past participants include President Bill Clinton, Nicolas Sarkozy of France, Vladimir Putin of Russia, Vaclav Klaus of the Czech Republic, and the Dalai Lama.

Study Abroad
Columbia students can choose from almost 200 programs in over 150 cities around the globe. Approximately one-third of Columbia undergraduates study abroad for a semester or year. This does not include summer programs, fellowships, and global field studies that are part of classes or research projects.

Countries Represented by Students
With more than 10,000 undergraduates and graduate students from over 150 countries and places of origin, Columbia ranks as one of the top U.S. colleges and universities in international enrollment.

Global Centers
Columbia has an ever-growing network of research centers located in cities around the world, including Mumbai, India, Paris, France; Beijing, China; and Amman, Jordan. New Centers are opening in Buenos Aires, Istanbul, Santiago, Chile, and Istanbul, Turkey.
Columbia as the Start of Great Things

Just a few of the Columbians whose time here allowed them to make their mark, to change the course of history, and to make the world a better place.
Columbia Days
The Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and Columbia alum Herman Wouk once said Columbia is a place of “doubled magic,” where “the best things of all human history and thought [are] inside the rectangle” on the Columbia campus and “the best things of the moment [are] outside the rectangle of Columbia” in the City of New York. Students here experience that doubled magic on a daily basis. On the next few pages, some of them share highlights from a day in their lives on campus and in the city.

Clockwise:

Mike Linshi
An Industrial Engineering major from Illinois who recently started his day at the local Farmer’s Market and spent the evening designing a temporary pop-up space for an art society in Midtown Manhattan.

Sarah Steele
An English major from Pennsylvania who is also a film and television actress recently arranged the press junket she was doing for a movie so she wouldn’t miss her favorite literature class.

Jonathan Ricketts
A Mechanical Engineering major from New Jersey who does lab work on supersonic flow in the morning and heads to his internship at Atlantic Records in the afternoon.

Donia Abdelaziz
An Economics major from Egypt, her day recently started with a class on global economics and ended with one on orthography, with a Vogue internship in between.

Students flock to the Low Plaza steps — to sunbathe, socialize, and study — making it, in the words of a leading architect, a true “urban beach.”

Our students are part of an unparalleled mix of Ivy League university and world-class city.
Time to Discover
Amanda Olivo
Hometown: Garden City, NY
Columbia College
Major: Biochemistry

9:00 am
Wake up and head to Dodge Fitness Center for a workout.

10:00 pm
Quick cookie and tea break with suitemates.

10:30 pm
Reading Descartes’ Meditations on First Philosophy for paper I’m working on.

11:00 am
Next stop: Cornish lab in the Northwest Corner Building to check data from previous day’s experiment on D-amino acid tRNA pairing effects in the ribosome. Progressing on an independent project started last summer in preparation for first author publication.

1:00 pm
Ribosome team weekly meeting with Professor Virginia Cornish and Professor Ruben Gonzalez for an update on the project.

2:40 pm
Molecular Biology with Professor Ron Prywes; excited to finally be covering the translational machinery in class.

4:00 pm
Off to the MoMA to see the new Tim Burton exhibit with a friend.

6:00 pm
Time for a class called “Ignorance,” with Professor Stuart Firestein, Chair of the Department of Biology. It’s anything but; He invites professors to speak on ideas they wonder about and question in their own fields. Guest lecturer this week is Professor Eitan Grinspun of Columbia’s Department of Computer Science, who talks about his Hollywood animation work. He provided some breakthrough techniques for Disney on Tangled.

9:00 pm
Columbia Community Outreach meeting to plan the university’s largest annual day of service (approximately 1,000 volunteers). I am the co-coordinator.

10:15 am
Walk over to Hamilton Deli to get my usual egg and cheese and an iced coffee for breakfast; as chit-chat with Steve the owner for a few minutes.

9:00 am
Wake up and head to Dodge Fitness Center for a workout.

Noon
Grab a sandwich with my lab mate Casey at Milano Deli on 113th Street before meeting. (Hands down best sandwiches in the area).

2:40 pm
Molecular Biology with Professor Ron Prywes; excited to finally be covering the translational machinery in class.
Daily Drive
Matt Poss

Hometown: Lawrenceville, NJ
Columbia Engineering
Major: Mechanical Engineering

8:30 am
Off to Butler Library to work on problem sets and papers.

9:00 am
Art Humanities. This weekend we are going to the Met to look at Renaissance and 18th century European paintings. I don’t know how many times I’ve been to the Met, but I still seem to find new rooms and exhibits.

11:00 am
Off to Butler Library to work on the breakfast buffet. Every good day starts with the breakfast buffet.

8:30 am
Head to Ferris Booth in Lerner Hall for the breakfast buffet.

9:00 am
Head to Ferris Booth for the breakfast buffet. Every good day starts with the breakfast buffet.

9:00 pm
Meeting with my Senior Design group. We are working on an automatic shifting mechanism for a bicycle. Today we focused on adding data-logging functionality to the system so that power output and other ride parameters could be recorded throughout the ride.

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Afternoon and Evening Acts
Emily Nagel

Hometown: Ridley Park, PA
Columbia College
Major: English and Drama and Theater Arts

9:00 am
Intro to Computational Math and Physics.
We discuss Fourier transforms and their role in JPEG encoding.

10:30 am
Head to CEPSR (Schapiro Center) to spend a few hours taking measurements using single photon avalanche diodes and a high-powered laser in Professor Ken Shepard’s lab. I’m an undergraduate assistant to the research group.

5:00 pm
Hop the train to Brooklyn for my internship at TADA! I assist in staging a musical written and performed by first through fifth graders. Today we’re teaching the choreography to *Little Shop of Horrors*.

7:55 pm
Arrive at rehearsal for The Varsity Show. We’re doing a song about the new Ferris Booth Commons dining hall, but don’t tell anyone! The Varsity Show has a century-plus tradition of secrecy!

10:00 pm
Time for my Resident Adviser meeting to plan the next social event.

Noon
Drop by my adviser’s office to talk about proposing my thesis.

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Hop the train to Brooklyn for my internship at TADA! I assist in staging a musical written and performed by first through fifth graders. Today we’re teaching the choreography to *Little Shop of Horrors*.

7:55 pm
Arrive at rehearsal for The Varsity Show. We’re doing a song about the new Ferris Booth Commons dining hall, but don’t tell anyone! The Varsity Show has a century-plus tradition of secrecy!

10:00 pm
Time for my Resident Adviser meeting to plan the next social event.

Noon
Drop by my adviser’s office to talk about proposing my thesis.

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10:00 pm
Time for my Resident Adviser meeting to plan the next social event.
An urban wonder and historic treasure just a few blocks from campus — Central Park is 843 acres and 2.5 miles of paths for strolling, running, and biking, as well as gardens, green lawns, and playing fields; and home to Shakespeare in the Park and its very own zoo.

Educational Change
One Day at a Time
Terrell Winder
Hometown: Baltimore, MD
Columbia College
Major: Ethnicity and Race Studies

8:00 am
Prepare for student teaching with my sixth grade class at P.S. 333. My research interests are very tied to education so I’m hoping that my certification helps me to be a more effective graduate researcher.

9:00 am
Teach lesson on using powerful figurative language for poetry writing unit.

11:00 am
Head to work study job with the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

1:00 pm
To the Intercultural Resource Center, where I live, to catch up with friends.

4:15 pm
Comparative Ethnic Studies Senior Thesis Seminar.

6:00 pm
Dinner at Ferris Booth with friends followed byNotes and Keys (co-ed a cappella group) rehearsal.

3:00 pm
Meet with my mentor, Professor Marc Lamont Hill, who, in addition to being a Columbia professor, scholar, and activist, hosts the nationally syndicated television show Our World with Black Enterprise.

A Few Highlights, Instant Replay
Desiree Scherf
Hometown: Sao Paulo, Brazil; now Cologne, Germany
Columbia College
Major: Economics and Political Science

11:00 am
Colloquium on Major Texts of East Asia. Today’s reading was the incredibly popular Buddhist inspired tale of "Monkey" and his two companions.

1:00 pm
Campus job at Dodge with the athletics events team staff, where we prepare the basketball arena for that night’s game. It’s a great job, because you often get paid to watch a game that you would like to see anyways!

4:10 pm
Political Science Seminar on Varieties of Capitalism. So cool to trace back the cultural and behavioral differences between my home country of Germany and the U.S.

9:00 pm
Arrive at Butler, buy myself a chai latte at Café 22, walk to reading room (those high ceilings never get old) and find the familiar faces of friends all sitting together.
An Engineer’s Masterly Plan
Mary Byers
Hometown: Beaverton, OR
Columbia Engineering
Major: Operations Research

1:00 pm
After CC class, head to the world-famous waffle truck Wafels and Dinges, which is parked on 113th and Broadway almost every Monday. Enjoy a bacon and syrup waffle and lounge with my best friend on the steps of Low Library while talking about what upcoming concerts we want to see in the city.

2:00 pm
Have a quick meeting with my career counselor in the Center for Career Education. This summer I’m participating in the Columbia Experience Overseas program and will be interning in Singapore. We talk about what to expect and make sure that my passport and visa are all in place.

3:15-5 pm
I intern in SoHo at a start-up consulting firm, working on projects with a division of the United Nations. The best part about SoHo is people watching!

5:30 pm
Back up to campus, grab a quick dinner at Ferris Booth before my next class.

6:10 pm
Go to my Intro to Accounting and Finance class, where we learn about the causes and implications of the financial crisis of 2008.

10:45 pm
Head back to my suite in Hartley Hall, where fresh brownies are waiting for me. (One of my suitemates LOVES to bake!)

11:00 pm
Wake up and shower... take my time getting ready for class over my morning cup of coffee.

11:00 am
Head to Hamilton for Contemporary Civilizations. We have a very interesting discussion about contemporary revolutions in relation to the readings we did by Robespierre about the French revolution.

3:15-5 pm
Listen in Soho at a start-up consulting firm, working on projects with a division of the United Nations. The best part about Soho is people watching!

9:00 pm
At the Bacchanal meeting, the club that hosts the big campus-wide concert in the springtime, we discuss the artist we want to bring to campus this year. In the past we’ve had Kanye West, Vampire Weekend, and Of Montreal playing right on the steps of Low Library. Epic.

12:00 am
Study break: Skype date with Mom (it’s only 9 o’clock at home in Oregon).
From Premed to Piano Sonatas

Yoshiaki Ko
Hometown: Yokohama, Japan/San Francisco, CA
Columbia College
Major: Neuroscience & Behavior

9:10 am
Head to first class, Behavioral Neuroscience. Psychopharmacology is the topic of the day.

12:30 pm
Take the 1 Train down to Juilliard. At my lesson, discuss the interpretation of Beethoven’s Piano Sonata, Op. 110, with Professor Jerome Lowenthal.

11:00 pm
Stomach rumbling, convince a friend to accompany me on a Stroko’s run. After sandwiches in the John Jay lounge, fooling around on the piano leads to an impromptu chamber music session, where our attempts at sight-reading a Brandenburg Concerto end in amusement for all. Sleep can wait.

3:15 pm
Back at Columbia, meet with my adviser to discuss how best to fulfill my premed requirements.

6:00 pm
Run to my Music Humanities class in Dodge. This week we are focusing on Handel’s Messiah. My professor is hilarious and entertaining in the way she makes Music Humanities fun and interesting for everyone in the class.

4:00 pm
I walk to Joseph Massad’s senior seminar class, Culture in the Modern Arab World. Today we discuss the music of Unn Kulthum and her legendary status throughout the Arab world while also considering the role music played in recent political events in Egypt.

11:00 am
Attend my History of the U.S.-Mexican Border class, where we discuss how the horse impacted the Comanche empire and its influence along the border.

4:00 pm
I walk to Joseph Massad’s senior seminar class, Culture in the Modern Arab World. Today we discuss the music of Unn Kulthum and her legendary status throughout the Arab world while also considering the role music played in recent political events in Egypt.

3:45 pm
Get started on assignments: read Montaigne’s Essays, brainstorm experiment proposals.

A quick subway ride from campus is Lincoln Center, the world’s leading performing arts center and home to a dozen world-renowned groups, schools, and organizations. The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Film Society of Lincoln Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Juilliard School, Lincoln Center Theater, The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet, New York City Opera, New York Philharmonic, and The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, and The School of American Ballet. It’s commonplace for Core professors to incorporate class trips to relevant Lincoln Center performances into their seminars.

Around the World
In a Few Hours

Destiny Sullens
Hometown: Idabel, OK
Columbia College
Major: Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures

11:00 am
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3:45 pm
Get started on assignments: read Montaigne’s Essays, brainstorm experiment proposals.
Editor's Agenda
Colin Sullivan
Hometown: Greenwich, CT
Columbia College
Major: Political Science

10:00 am
Wake up and shower. Finish a discussion post for my Urban Studies seminar the following day.

11:00 am

12:30 pm
Return to campus and get lunch with my friend Akhil, a Financial Engineering major. We reminisce about the summer we spent together in Scotland as part of an internship program through Columbia's Center for Career Education.

4:00 pm
Stop by Hamilton Hall to photograph the Chair of the first-year Core class Literature Humanities, as part of a story for the magazine Columbia College Today.

5:30 pm
Go to the Rotunda in Low Library for a lecture event with former Treasury Secretary. I was invited to attend the lecture through Professor Sunil Gulati’s Global Economy class that I took last spring.

7:00 pm
Grab a quick dinner at Chipotle with the Art Director for Spectator’s weekly magazine The Eye.

7:30 pm
Attend a Columbia College Young Alumni meeting as the senior representative to the committee’s executive board. We discuss fun events in the city and networking sessions for seniors and recent graduates.

9:00 pm
Return to my floor where I relax with my friends. Relaxation (which usually means procrastination) often occurs in the form of playing golf (we actually bought an artificial putting green) and having a dart-throwing competition in one of our rooms.
Common Core, Uncommon Education
Columbia University’s Core is the nation’s oldest and most renowned Core program and defines our graduates. All undergraduates participate in either the Columbia College Core or the Engineering Core. Ask Columbians about the value of their Columbia education and the Core is likely the first thing they will mention. They will tell you how the Core has given them an exceptional advantage at every turn.

The Core prepares students to engage their majors with a capacity to think within and beyond a specific discipline, providing them with a breadth of knowledge that promotes innovative thinking.

The habits of mind developed in the Core cultivate a critical and creative intellectual capacity that graduates call on long after college, in the pursuit and fulfillment of meaningful lives. Whether you meet a graduate from last year or fifty years ago, he or she will have wrestled with many of the same enduring books and themes — the same ideas next year’s first-year Columbians will tackle. For almost 100 years, the Core’s purpose has been to build a timeless basis for intellectual flexibility and confidence that defines every Columbia graduate.

Interdisciplinary & Innovative
The Core began with a single course called Contemporary Civilization that is still a cornerstone of the program. Today the Core also includes Frontiers of Science, Literature, Art, and Music Humanities, University Writing, and Global Core and language requirements. Immersing students in multiple disciplines so they can make connections across the world of ideas is a key part of the Core’s power. The Core prepares students to engage their majors with a capacity to think within and beyond a specific discipline, providing them with a breadth of knowledge that promotes innovative thinking.

Challenge & Community
Rather than general education requirements, you take a single set of courses in small, discussion-based seminars. All students encounter the same texts and issues at the same time so the critical dialogue takes place not only in the classroom but all over campus. Students challenge their thinking and deepen their insights together at every turn. The Core becomes a common base of knowledge that allows for greater depth of discussion in all classes throughout a student’s four years.

Timeless & Defining
The habits of mind developed in the Core cultivate a critical and creative intellectual capacity that graduates call on long after college, in the pursuit and fulfillment of meaningful lives. Whether you meet a graduate from last year or fifty years ago, he or she will have wrestled with many of the same enduring books and themes — the same ideas next year’s first-year Columbians will tackle. For almost 100 years, the Core’s purpose has been to build a timeless basis for intellectual flexibility and confidence that defines every Columbia graduate.

Foundation & Freedom
Students who are drawn to Columbia have an interdisciplinary way of approaching their entire lives. They find the Core an incredible intellectual foundation but it also exposes them to different fields, varying points of view, and disparate visions, freeing them from intellectual silos. They get to forge their own paths and make the impact they want.

Here’s what makes the program unique.

Dog-eared, flagged, and highlighted — you’ll read the books and study the art, music, societies, and scientific discoveries that define human history as much as they shape the world today.

A few of the authors, ideas, and texts that will become part of what you know through the Core:

- Niccolò Machiavelli, The Prince
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract
- Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations
- Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex
- David Hume, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding
- Immanuel Kant, Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals
- Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman
- Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America
- Voltaire, Candide
- Charles Darwin, On the Origin of Species
- Immanuel Kant, Critique of Pure Reason
- W.E.B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk
- Virginia Woolf, Three Guineas
- John Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding
- Aristotle, On the Motion of Animals
- Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman
- Immanuel Kant, Critique of Pure Reason
- Stephen Jay Gould, The Panda’s Thumb
- Immanuel Kant, Critique of Pure Reason
- Charles Darwin, The Origin of Species
- Virginia Woolf, Three Guineas
- John Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding
- Aristotle, On the Motion of Animals

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, founded in 1870, borders Central Park between 80th to 84th Streets. Its collections include more than two million works of art spanning five thousand years of world culture, from prehistory to the present and from every part of the globe. The Met is another example of the way Columbia’s resources extend to the city. Core papers, studios, and discussions frequently focus on original artists’ works that can be explored in the Met. Students also have opportunities to intern with the museum.

The Core is taught by leading scholars in all disciplines across the university. Here, Latin American historian and Professor Caterina Pizzigoni leads a discussion in her Contemporary Civilization class.
A Few Core Books
The Core fosters a lot of different sparks.”

The Core asks students to grapple with radically different ways of looking at the world, exploring into enduring themes such as virtue, justice, suffering, evil, friendship, family, loss, guilt, pride, loyalty, storytelling, power, representation, time, space, gender, and sexuality in works by authors as varied as Homer, Jane Austen, Frederick Douglass, and Fyodor Dostoevsky.

Hannah Perls
Weston, MA
Earth and Environmental Science

“I think sometimes people don’t understand that even though the Core is a specific set of courses, it enhances the freedom you have to try out different areas. I have friends who wanted to be English or history majors who became science majors after taking Frontiers of Science. I have another friend who thought she wanted premed but now she’s a philosophy major because she took the Core as well as other courses and deciding that science wasn’t for her.”

Alex Moll
New Orleans, LA
Math

“I knew I wanted to major in math and physics when I came here. I was very excited about the Core alongside the ability to do a very serious science major. I was really into the idea of this thought-out way of becoming well-rounded instead of just me randomly choosing classes.”

Joe Piscina
Pittsburgh, PA
Political Science

“It’s not a uniform experience where everyone learns to think exactly alike. You’re expected to be an individual, to have your own ideas, your own questions.”

Anna Rose Bianco
New York City, NY
English

“Our professor always says, ‘There is no one right answer.’ And then he asks questions to which you desperately want to know the answer. So we spend a lot of time in class — and out of class — helping each other. He’s adamant about not indoctrinating us, so he helps us develop our own theories.”

Melissa Hernandez
Aurora, IL
Film Studies

“You’re talking about essential texts and groundbreaking ideas. When you’ve got this kind of diversity, you’ll always get into debates; you’ll always see things from different perspectives, especially when you’re part of a community where everyone is capable of saying something that will blow your mind.”

David Chait
Edison, NJ
Economics and Political Science

“The Core is one of the reasons I applied to Columbia. I’m taking courses outside my major — in art and music, literature and philosophy and science — and that helps me think in more complicated ways about my major. I’m not the person I was when I started the Core. I’ve changed the way I think, the way I write, the way I see the world. And I did it on my terms.”

Regardless of their major or whether students can study the arts through the Core as well as take abundant courses in the visual arts, music, theatre, film and dance. In a city known for its arts and culture, the arts are also a significant part of extracurricular life.

Nathalie Barton
Hometown: Charlottesville, VA
Columbia College
Major: History and Political Science

One First-Year Student’s Schedule

The Core + So Much More

Core classes make up approximately one-third of your schedule at Columbia, leaving time each year — even your first one — to explore other areas or start coursework in your desired major.
**Columbia Engineering Core Curriculum**

The Engineering Core includes roughly half the Columbia College Core classes, science and math courses, a first-year, hands-on design course and professional level courses.

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**Min Yeoh**  
*Singapore*, Industrial Engineering and Operations Research  
“Most engineers just don’t have the opportunity to debate these really important topics like what is justice? What does personal happiness mean? You have to defend your ideas to your classmates, who may have interpreted the text in ways completely different than you did. You learn how to understand where they’re coming from, so you really diversify the way you think about things. Then you can apply that to your engineering. I feel like I’m leaps and bounds ahead of other engineers because of the Core.”

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**Diogo Izidoro**  
*Bellerose, NY*, Mechanical Engineering  
“The First-Year Design Course that’s part of the Core is why I really fell in love with Columbia engineering. The concept of the class is perfect — a hands-on engineering design experience that is pretty much unparalleled.”  
(An introduction to all nine engineering departments through real, hands-on examples from each department focused on the world’s most pressing concerns — sustainable energy, poverty, security, health. Projects are applicable to students’ majors and can lead to senior design projects.)

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**Megan Armstrong**  
*Ann Arbor, MI*, Biomedical Engineering  
“I think the Core is such a great way to incorporate Columbia College and Columbia Engineering students right off the bat. I’m taking University Writing right now. I am improving my writing, which is so important because especially nowadays, engineers need to know how to write. I’m also in a classroom with students who aren’t just in engineering but are majoring in politics and languages and dance and art. You see all these different ideas butting up against each other. I just think it’s awesome.”

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**Mike Strickland**  
*Cincinnati, OH*, Civil Engineering and Minor in Architecture  
“I’ve talked to people at companies in the field. They want to hire people who are more than just robots. They want people who can see the big picture, who can do the high-level technical work and put it in a broader context. A Columbia education is built for that kind of person.”

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**John Chavez**  
*Pflugerville, TX*, Biomedical Engineering  
“In the Engineering Core we really get to pick our passions. So for example, I can choose between taking Music Humanities or Art Humanities. Personally, I am really passionate about art so I can take Art Humanities versus Music Humanities … you really can guide yourself in the directions you want to go.”

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**Allison Duh**  
*Hometown: Potomac, MD*, Columbia Engineering  
Major: Electrical Engineering  
A cornerstone of the Columbia Engineering Core is the first-year design course — Art of Engineering. Projects in every discipline immerse student teams in real lab and city work. Write new firmware to hack an HP job calculator. Develop a vital signs monitor. Design and operate the “Smart Grid.” Use applied physics and math to explore electric guitar design. Combine computer engineering, chemical engineering and economics to develop renewable energy sources for automobiles. “Build” New York City in Civil Engineering.

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**Engineering Core + So Much More One First-Year Student’s Schedule**

Engineering and liberal arts core classes make up approximately half of your schedule over your four years at Columbia, leaving time each year — even your first — to explore electives, minor in a liberal arts area or start coursework in your desired major.

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**Courses (Columbia Core)**

**Courses (Columbia Engineering Core)**

**Research Project**
Giants Among Us
At Columbia you’re part of knowledge in the making — yours and the world’s. The beauty of being on this campus is that today’s thought leaders, genius innovators, and literary lions want to teach. These giants in their fields, who keep open office hours and teach and mentor undergraduates, have a way of inspiring their students to take their own giant steps.

Jeffrey Sachs
Director of The Earth Institute; Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, Professor of Health Policy and Management

Undergraduate Course
Sustainable Development

Professor Sachs is the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. From 2002 to 2006, he was Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals. Sachs is also President and Co-Founder of Millennium Promise Alliance.

“Columbia faculty and researchers lead the most cutting-edge ventures in environmental and sustainable development and our students are integral to this work.”
Farah Griffin  
Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies; Former Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies

**Undergraduate Courses**  
Literature Humanities (Core); African-American Literature Survey I and II; Remapping the Black South; Recent undergraduate adviser for thesis titled “Nonwhite Women as Transformational Agents in Disney Animated Films.”

The author of several books, Professor Griffin writes and speaks extensively on American and African-American literature, music, history, and politics.

“I love working with undergraduates — helping them discover their talents and capacity for intellectual growth. I love sharing my enthusiasm about the study of literature and music with them. I learn so much from my students. It enhances my own reading, research, and writing.”

Klaus Lackner  
Chair of the Earth and Environmental Engineering Department; Ewing and J. Lamar Worzel Professor of Geophysics, Earth and Environmental Engineering; Director of Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy, The Earth Institute

**Undergraduate Courses**  
Alternative Energy Resources; Energy, Minerals, and Material Systems

Professor Lackner is developing a revolutionary device — modeled on tree leaves — that reduces carbon dioxide in the air. He is a pioneer on the clean use of fossil fuels and other solutions to climate change.

“It is great to work with undergraduates because they can look at new ideas without preconceived notions. They can challenge you, and force you to get things right because you really have to explain it well, and can’t resort to shortcuts.”

Sunil Gulati  
Lecturer  
Department of Economics

**Undergraduate Courses**  
Global Economy; Principles of Economics; Sports Economics

Professor Gulati, a popular lecturer in the field of international economics, is the president of the U.S. Soccer Federation, and has been instrumental in developing the world’s biggest game in the United States.

“I get to believe in and live the fountain of youth 28 times every semester. Seeing the world as we saw it when we were in college is a fantasy for most people. Being a faculty member at a place like Columbia allows me to live that fantasy every day.”
Professor Miller leads Columbia’s Experimental Cosmology group, which is capturing snapshots of microwaves emitted just after the Big Bang. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and was chief science adviser to the NYPD Counterterrorism Bureau.

“In the laboratory and as a mentor it is great fun to provide students with access to some of the most exciting research at the cutting edge of cosmology and to help them see that they have things to contribute even as beginning undergraduates.”

Amber Miller
Dean of Science for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Professor of Physics

Undergraduate Mentor
Supervises undergraduate researchers working on cosmology experiments, and on a variety of related technology development projects.

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“In the laboratory and as a mentor it is great fun to provide students with access to some of the most exciting research at the cutting edge of cosmology and to help them see that they have things to contribute even as beginning undergraduates.”
Professor Vunjak-Novakovic is director of Columbia’s Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering. She focuses on regenerative medicine and technologies that save and improve lives — her lab has successfully grown replacement bones and heart muscle from human stem cells. “I gain a lot from working with undergraduates — mentoring some of our greatest talent to discover what they want to do in science. Undergraduates are also often the most creative in their ideas — knowing less they are braver.”

Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic
Professor of Biomedical Engineering; Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Medical Sciences (in Medicine); Vice-Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering; Director, Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering; Co-director, Craniofacial Regeneration Center

Undergraduate Courses
Biological Transport & Rate Process; Projects in Biomedical Engineering

Christia Mercer
Gustave M. Berne Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy; Chair of Literature Humanities

Undergraduate Courses
Literature Humanities (Core); Philosophy and Feminism; History of Philosophy

A Columbia Great Teacher Award-winner, Professor Mercer was drawn to teach Core courses by her interest in how philosophy, history, and art intersect. She is chair of Literature Humanities, one of the cornerstone Core courses.

“My own research has been very significantly influenced by the Core and teaching undergraduates here. I am editing a new book series for Oxford University Press. The idea of including interdisciplinary reflections in the series developed straight out of my work in the Core with students and fellow faculty.”

Martin Chalfie
William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Biological Sciences; Former Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences; Shared 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Undergraduate Courses
Biological Research Skills; Genetics

The Nobel Prize was awarded to Professor Chalfie for the introduction of green fluorescent protein (GFP) as a biological marker. GFP has become one of the essential research tools in the biological and biomedical sciences. “The very best undergraduates, and Columbia has many of these students, are just fun to work with. They are eager to learn and get excited about the material, whether in class or the lab. Sharing the excitement of discovery is one of the great joys of doing research, and introducing undergraduates to this excitement is very rewarding. I also enjoy watching students become independent.”

Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic
Professor of Biomedical Engineering; Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Medical Sciences (in Medicine); Vice-Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering; Director, Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering; Co-director, Craniofacial Regeneration Center

Undergraduate Courses
Biological Transport & Rate Process; Projects in Biomedical Engineering
6
High-Impact and Hands-On: Science and Engineering Research
In labs, in partnerships with New York City, and in global fieldwork — research at Columbia is about solving huge problems like climate change and hunger, as well as solving huge mysteries like the origin of the universe. It’s about impacting the world with new technologies, new social media, new ways of looking at the human body, new animation techniques. Getting involved in research here is no Ivory Tower exercise. It’s faculty and students actively working wonders.

Professor of Biology Brent Stockwell’s lab, where his team is discovering novel cell death pathways involved in cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

During a recent spring break, Earth and Environmental Science Professor and Lamont-Doherty researcher Nicholas Christie-Blick led his students on an eight-day expedition to investigate the dynamic processes that formed Death Valley.

Chemistry Professor Virginia W. Cornish (CC ’91) supervises undergraduate research each year. Her specialty is the interface of chemistry and biology, bringing together modern methods in synthetic chemistry and DNA technology to expand the synthetic capabilities of living cells.
“My students don’t sit on the sidelines. They expect to do critical work in the world. They want to do the real work of science and engineering. And we deliver.”

PATRICIA CULLIGAN, Professor of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics

$1 Billion in annual research.

100s of labs led by prize-winning faculty working with students have generated 600 different patents and $1.25 billion in gross revenue.

50%+ Undergraduates who major in science or engineering so scientists join an active community of inquiry of both faculty and students.

Some students are guaranteed research experiences for 4 years at time of admission.

84% admit rate to medical school, almost twice the national average.

4 undergraduate scholars programs designed to bring high-ability future scientists and engineers to Columbia and support their research goals.

22 top-ranked science majors from the traditional to the most cutting-edge, interdisciplinary areas of study.

17 engineering areas of study, all doing world-class research.

400 research positions reserved exclusively for undergraduates through Columbia Engineering’s Undergraduate Research Involvement Program (Sample projects: Anthropogenic climate change and the Arctic oscillation, brain imaging of psychological disorders, DNA cloning, electrophysiological measurements and signal processing, modeling and simulation of genetic networks, nanotechnology for solar energy and fuel cells, space physics, microwave heating and plasma sources, tissue engineering of cartilage-bone interface, virtual worlds and augmented reality.)
Science and Engineering Research: Opportunities Abound

There is a lab at Columbia doing cutting-edge research in nearly every sub-field of every discipline. Not only are there plenty of research opportunities on the Morningside Heights campus, but the many satellite campuses and affiliates of Columbia make it virtually impossible to not find the right lab. Along with the Medical Center, there is the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, the NASA Goddard Institute, and Nevis Physics Laboratories, just to name a few.

Sheldon Kwok
Toronto, Canada
Chemical Physics, Premed

“Since the beginning of my sophomore year, I have been working at Professor Kenneth Eisenthal’s lab in the Chemistry Department. The work we do focuses on studying the properties of metal nanoparticles with powerful femtosecond lasers. These lasers are so powerful that they can actually remove electrons from air! Even as an undergrad, I have been able to contribute significantly, even submitting a publication recently as the second author.”

Sarah Olazer
Dallas, TX
Biomedical Engineering

“For my senior design project, my team and I have been developing an iPad app to help children with autism better recognize emotions. As part of the project we have been collaborating closely with the New York Psychiatric Institute and Franklin Lakes Middle School. Franklin Lakes has a very comprehensive autism program. They have been kind enough to allow us to visit and meet their students, as well as allow their students the opportunity to try out our app.”

John Ruan
Mukilteo, WA
Astrophysics

“I am currently working on my senior thesis with Professor Jules Halpern on Gamma-ray bursts (GRBs). GRBs are jets of Gamma-ray photons emanating from supernovae in the death of massive stars and are among the most energetic phenomena in the universe. The hope is to try to understand the physical processes that produced these high-energy photons and the nature of the medium around the collapsing star.”

Danielle Bitterman
Woodbridge, CT
Environmental Biology

“I was drawn to Environmental Biology because of the amazing research opportunities available through the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology. The department is associated with the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC) through the Earth Institute. CERC is a research consortium that connects Columbia University, the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Botanical Garden, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the EcoHealth Alliance.”

Science & Engineering Library in the new “NoCo” interdisciplinary science and engineering building. The Northwest Corner Building includes the state-of-the-art library and labs as well as a lecture hall and café.

Professor of Physics Amber Miller researches the origin of the universe by observing the cosmic microwave background from the Big Bang. She leads Columbia’s E and B Experiment (EBEX), which consists of a 6,000-pound balloon-borne telescope launched into the stratosphere over Antarctica to capture snapshots of the light emitted by the hot plasma leftover from the big bang. EBEX complements two of Miller’s other projects, QUIET (the Q U Imaging Experiment), a telescope in northern Chile, and the Sunyaev-Zel’dovich Array, telescopes based in Owens Valley, California and shown in the photo above.
Columbia College
From understanding the forces of globalization to grasping life through the prism of a gene or a molecule, to expressing human yearning through the arts — in all of the areas calling out for intellectual attention at the highest levels, Columbia assembles strengths unique among the very best universities.

Columbia College is the epitome of having your cake and eating it too — all the benefits of a premier liberal arts college and all the reach of one of the most exciting research universities in the world.

A renowned college of arts and sciences, distinguished by a singular, intensive Core Curriculum. Close contact with prize-winning, path-breaking faculty.

Over 80 areas of study from creative writing to sustainable development to astrophysics.

One of Rodin’s famous castings of “The Thinker” appropriately stands before the entrance of Philosophy Hall. The building houses several departments, including Philosophy, English and Comparative Literature, and French and Romance Philology.

Areas of Study
- African Studies
- African-American Studies
- American Studies
- Ancient Studies
- Anthropology
- Applied Mathematics
- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Art History
- Art History and Visual Arts
- Astronomy
- Astrophysics
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Biophysics
- Business Management
- Chemical Physics
- Chemistry
- Classics
- Classical Studies
- Comparative Literature and Society
- Computer Science
- Computer Science-Mathematics
- Creative Writing
- Dance
- Drama and Theatre Arts
- Earth Science
- East Asian Languages and Cultures
- Ecology and Evolution
- Economics
- Economics-Mathematics
- Economics-Philosophy
- Economics-Political Science
- Economics-Statistics
- Education
- English
- Environmental Biology
- Environmental Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Ethnicity and Race Studies
- Evolutionary Biology of the Human Species
- Film Studies
- Financial Economics
- French
- French and Francophone Studies
- German Literature and Cultural History
- Hispanic Studies
- History
- History and Theory of Architecture
- Human Rights
- Information Science
- Italian Cultural Studies
- Italian Literature
- Jazz Studies
- Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- Linguistics
- Mathematics
- Mathematics-Statistics
- Medieval and Renaissance Studies
- Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures
- Modern Greek Studies
- Music
- Neuroscience and Behavior
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Political Science-Statistics
- Portuguese
- Psychology
- Regional Studies: East/Central Europe
- Religion
- Russian Language and Culture
- Russian Literature and Culture
- Slavic Literature and Culture
- Slavic Studies
- Sociology
- Statistics
- Sustainable Development
- Urban Studies
- Visual Arts
- Women’s and Gender Studies
- Yiddish Studies

Pre-Professional and Joint Degree Programs
- Premedical, Dental, and Law Programs
- The Combined Plan Program with Columbia Engineering — Earn both a B.A. at Columbia College and B.S. at Columbia Engineering in five years.
- International Affairs Five-Year Program — Earn B.A. and M.I.A. degrees in five years at Columbia College and Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs and Public Administration.
- Public Policy and Administration Five-Year Program — Earn B.A. and M.P.A. degrees in five years at Columbia College and Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs and Public Administration.
- Law — The AILE (Accelerated Interdisciplinary Legal Education) — Earn B.A. and J.D. degrees in six years at Columbia College and Columbia School of Law.
- Julliard Joint Program — Earn a B.A. at Columbia College and an M.M. from Julliard in five years or six years depending on area of study. Through the Julliard Exchange Program, Columbia students also can be invited to cross-register for weekly instrumental, composition, and vocal instruction with the Julliard faculty.

A Few Examples of Research Fellowships and Programs
- Biology and Biomedical Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships
- Political Science and History Edwin Robbins Summer Research Fellowships
- East Asian Studies Weatherhead Undergraduate Training Grants
- English Richmond B. Williams Traveling Fellowships
- Music The Rapaport Prize
- All Fields John W. Kluge Research Fellowships

Typical class size 10–19.

Classes taught in 50 foreign languages each year.

Classes and joint programs with Columbia’s prestigious graduate and professional schools, including law, business, medicine, arts, journalism, and international and public affairs, as well as other institutions like The Juilliard School.

Hundreds of research opportunities fueled by huge resources (major grants, top faculty mentors, premier facilities, and partnerships with other NYC and global research institutions). Students often publish in top journals and present at conferences world-wide.

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Hundreds of research opportunities fueled by huge resources (major grants, top faculty mentors, premier facilities, and partnerships with other NYC and global research institutions). Students often publish in top journals and present at conferences world-wide.
With the entire first-year class encountering the same texts at the same time, it’s not unusual to see students poring over the same books in dorm hallways and cafés — various groups weighing in on each other’s conversations.

Rhodes Scholar
I came as a freshman from the state of Montana, broadly interested in a liberal arts education and pre-law, and left four years later a Rhodes Scholar. After my first year, I got an internship in the United States Senate working on military and defense issues. I also worked part-time from Columbia managing a State Attorney General’s race in Montana. Later I became a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and one of two interns in the country working on health care reform at the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance. In the fall of my senior year, I learned I had been awarded both the Marshall Scholarship and the Rhodes Scholarship. I felt very lucky, though I really have the dedicated work of the Fellowships Office and Columbia faculty to thank.

Raphael Graybill
CC ’10
Pursuing Master’s in Political Theory at Oxford University

Marshall Scholar
Many of the most exciting opportunities offered to me at Columbia were entirely unexpected. As a sophomore, I took a class on colonial India to fulfill a Core requirement. I loved the class, and from there I became interested in colonial and post-colonial literature and history. I began taking Hindi and Urdu classes and, in the spring of my junior year, I studied abroad in Hyderabad, India. Last summer, I went to Dublin on a fellowship from the Columbia English Department, where I researched the influence of Indian philosophy on the Irish poet W. B. Yeats — research that I incorporated into my senior English thesis and positioned me so well for a Marshall Scholarship.

Anna Feuer
CC ’11
Pursuing Master’s in Global and Imperial History funded by Marshall Scholarship

Global Banker
I graduated from Columbia College with a major in American Studies. Since graduation, I have earned my M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and have worked in investment banking. Today, I work with clients and colleagues around the globe, from Tokyo to London, Sao Paulo to Hong Kong. My courses at Columbia changed my life. My favorite course was Contemporary Civilization. Nothing has ever challenged me like that course. My Columbia classmates were (and still are) the most brilliant, opinionated, articulate, provocative folks I know.

Lisa Landau Carnoy
CC ’89
Managing Director and Global Co-Head of Capital Markets
Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Passionate Playwrights
The guidance Columbia offered us helped us to find the courage and confidence to go forward and chase our dreams. Columbia will ask a lot of you, but in doing so, the school goes out of its way to provide you with every opportunity to find the answers. Most importantly, Columbia will surprise you by showing you a completely new way to think and feel about the world we live in.... We have seen our biggest dreams come true with Next to Normal, a piece that demanded from us the utmost passion, dedication, and risk; all of these things we learned at Columbia, the place that truly laid the foundation for our lives as working artists.

Tom Kitt CC ’96 and Brian Yorkey CC ’93
Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winners for Next to Normal

Fearless, Forward-Thinking Graduates
Columbia will ask a lot of you but it will also give you every opportunity to find answers. Becoming a fearless, forward-looking global citizen, thinker, change agent, and leader is what a Columbia education is all about, as alumni like those below will tell you.
One of a handful of top universities in the world with leading thinkers in engineering as well as every discipline and department. An unparalleled breadth of majors and minors, professional-level courses, hands-on design projects, research and internships in New York City and around the world, and Columbia’s legendary Core Curriculum — it’s a package you can’t find anywhere other than Columbia Engineering.

Curriculum — the world, and Columbia's legendary Core and internships in New York City and around courses, hands-on design projects, research breadth of majors and minors, professional-level every discipline and department. An unparalleled with leading thinkers in engineering as well as anywhere other than Columbia Engineering.

A university that is home to more Nobel Prize winners than any other university in the Ivy League.

Global Study and Internships: International experience geared to engineers and summer internships around the country through our Science, Technology, Engineering Program (STEP).

Entrepreneurial spirit: A minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, venture competitions for new ideas, collaboration with the Columbia Business School, and an entrepreneurship residential community.

Opportunities for classes, joint programs, and research in partnership with Columbia’s other world-class professional and graduate schools.

Areas of Study
- Applied Mathematics
- Applied Physics
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering

Engineering Core Classes
- The Art of Engineering: First-Year Design Course
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Math
- Physics

Sampling of Professional-Level Courses
- Atomic-Scale Engineering of New Materials
- Design of Buildings, Bridges, and Spacecraft
- Engineering in Medicine
- Molecular Engineering and Product Design

Engineering Minors
- Applied Mathematics
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Computer Science
- Earth and Environmental Engineering
- Electrical Engineering

Liberal Arts Minors
- Architecture
- Art History
- Dance
- East Asian Studies
- Economics
- English and Comparative Literature
- French
- French and Francophone Studies
- German
- Greek
- Hispanic Studies

The nation's third-oldest engineering school.

The top university in the country for revenue produced by patents held by faculty.

A university that is home to more Nobel Prize winners than any other university in the Ivy League.

17 engineering areas of study and an engineering Core Curriculum.

Over 20 minors in the liberal arts, plus innovative interdisciplinary minors in emerging fields.

Undergraduate Research Involvement Program (URIP): An imperative to involve undergraduates in major research unites all engineering departments. Undergraduates are part of research teams in labs and institutes across campus and in the city.

The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science occupies a cluster of buildings on the north end of campus. The cluster includes the Schapiro Center for Engineering and Physical Sciences Research (shared with the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences), the Seeley Winternitz Medical building, the Computer Science building, and the Engineering Terrain. Among the state-of-the-art facilities for engineers and scientists is also the new Northwest Corner Building — an interdisciplinary science and engineering teaching and laboratory complex that includes one of the world’s largest science library collections.

Created with both education and interaction in mind, the Botwinick Multimedia Learning Lab is an innovative facility for computer-aided design with 50 state-of-the-art workstations, a full set of professional-grade engineering software tools and a collaborative learning environment to help students engage in real-world interactions with community clients, Columbia Engineering faculty, and professional practitioners.

Columbia Core Classes
- Art Humanities or Music Humanities
- Literature Humanities, Contemporary Civilization, or Global Core
- University Writing
- Physical Education

Engineering Management Systems
- Engineering Mechanics
- Financial Engineering
- Industrial Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering

Mechanical Engineering
- Operations Research
Alumni Engineered to Lead
Columbia Engineers gain a deep understanding of engineering solutions as well as the world itself. They become leaders of their generation no matter what fields they ultimately choose.

Google Innovator

At Columbia, I majored in computer science. I did undergraduate research with the Center for Computational Learning Systems and the Cardiac Biomechanics Group. But the beauty of Columbia was that it also allowed me to do more than engineering, which actually makes me a better engineer. I was a member of the editorial board of the Columbia Spectator, an officer in a fraternity, designed the electronics system for a student-built racecar, was a teaching assistant for two master’s level computer science courses, and mentored an elementary school student in the Harlem Robotics program.

Chase Hensel
SEAS ’10
Google’s Associate Product Management Program

Cardiovascular Pioneer

I work with embryonic stem cell-derived heart cells to investigate how we can mediate repair in the heart. The practical applications of my work are all in the near future, where I hope we can make some significant contributions to the already large body of knowledge of cell therapy for cardiovascular diseases. As an undergraduate, I was given the opportunity to do a lot of independent work in designing and carrying out experiments, writing research papers, and traveling to conferences and meeting other researchers. Now, as a first-year Ph.D. student who holds an National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, I am continuing the work that initially attracted me to biomedical engineering.

Amandine Godier-Furnémont
SEAS ’09
Ph.D. Candidate in Biomedical Engineering

Space Explorer

Columbia not only provided me with an outstanding education, but also with a sense that I could accomplish whatever I set out to do in life. I could have never dreamed how fulfilling my life would be and how much I would enjoy my career. But I did know that deciding on Columbia would be a terrific start to whatever might lie ahead. I believe that every opportunity I have had in my career was built on the strong foundation that Columbia provided. I have had the good fortune to have flown on two Space Shuttle missions, and on each of them I paid tribute to Columbia. On my first spaceflight in March of 2002, I flew a Columbia Engineering flag on board Space Shuttle Columbia. That flag is now on display at the Engineering School.

Michael J. Massimino
SEAS ’84
Astronaut

Financial Interdisciplinarian

Coming out of high school, I didn’t want to be set apart as an engineer. I wanted to work with people from different backgrounds, and I wanted to contribute to the community. I majored in operations research and minored in economics and technological entrepreneurship. Today, I work for JPMorgan analyzing complex systems, working with people in every department across the bank, and staying aware of what’s happening in the world — not just in finance. It’s the perfect job coming out of Columbia Engineering. Columbia Engineering lets you apply your passion, your skills, in the real world. You become a social innovator and a technical entrepreneur.

Stephanie Hwang
SEAS ’10
Analyst
JPMorgan Chase
It starts with the people. **Columbia is a place of great friendships, a place where connecting is a way of life.** Being surrounded by so many incredible people all in one spot makes the global and the grand human and personal.

Columbia guarantees housing for all four years and 95% of our students live on campus. Columbia is its own village within Manhattan. More than a place to live, Columbia is a vibrant residential community.

Student photographers Angela Kadulescu and Bennett Hsing in collaboration with Ryan Bubinski, a student programmer, independently developed the “99 Columbians” multimedia project. The goal was to “bring together people that make up Columbia’s uniquely diverse student body.”

The entire 99 Columbians project can be found at www.99Columbians.com.

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Communities Within Communities

Residence hall life, small classes, research and project teams, clubs and causes, the campus events that bring everyone out exploring the city together create communities within communities. Your circles of community begin on our classic campus, and extend to the intimate, friendly neighborhood that surrounds us, on to the world-class city we are part of, and into the world itself.

Columbia Our Neighborhood

Our Neighborhood

Columbia’s neighborhood is Morningside Heights, which stretches from 106th to 125th Streets and is bordered by Central Park, Morningside Park, and Riverside Park.

Rich in both American and Columbian history and teeming with the energy of Columbia undergraduates, Morningside Heights is a charming residential enclave that is at once bustling and intimate.

Many undergraduate professors live in the surrounding neighborhood so Columbia is their home too.

We share the neighborhood with several other colleges — Barnard College, Manhattan School of Music, Union and Jewish Theological Seminaries, and Bank Street College of Education — creating our own brand of New York City college town.

Columbia’s 5,800 undergraduates share this beautiful place to live, study, play, work, research, and relax.

Our City

The Columbia University subway stop links you to every other corner of the city.

There may be no easier way to move to New York than to be a Columbian with a ready-made coveted place to live, a fantastic circle of friends, an intellectual-civicly engaged-nurturing community, automatic ties to a vast cultural and professional network, and transportation to the entire city steps away from campus.

On campus, Columbia is a microcosm of the world and so is New York. As a student here you truly become a citizen of the world — with friends and connections on campus, in the city, and around the globe.

You gain the knowledge and skills of an unparalleled education. You gain an independence and a confidence from living in New York that no other city can provide.

At Columbia your community is the world.

The World

You’re prepared to be at home anywhere in the world — stay in New York, move to London or Dubai, San Francisco or Washington, D.C. And you will already have a network of Columbia alumni when you get there.
Our Neighborhood, Our City

“What surprised me was how one family of students can own a part of New York. All day, all night, you’ll see friends and professors walking down Broadway. When you pull into the subway station at 116th and Broadway, the sign says Columbia, the walls are light blue, and you get off and think, ‘This stop is mine.’”

LIZ VASTOLA, Scarsdale, NY, English and Art History
Home, Not Just Home Base

When you’re completely engrossed in conversation with your new floormates as you look out over the city lit up by a million lights … When you’re sitting next to an amazing alum at one of the frequent residence hall dinners … When you’re having hot chocolate with suitemates while you help them pick out Halloween costumes … When you bump into a professor you had last term who wants to know all about what you’re up to — at times like these you will suddenly realize that Columbia is more home than home base and the people around you are more family than just friends.

“The best thing about living in John Jay is the social component: everyone leaves their doors open to socialize. I loved being able to walk down the hall and stop to have four different conversations and I probably spent more time in my friend’s room than in my own.”
— J.T. Ramseur
Monterey, CA; Psychology

First-year students live in five different residence halls, all at the heart of campus.

Living Learning Center
The only first-year/sophomore/junior/senior integrated residential community on campus, this unique living arrangement can ease a first-year’s transition to college, providing guidance regarding community involvement in life at Columbia, class selection, exam preparation, and room selection. Close-knit relationships between first-years, sophomores, juniors, seniors, alumni, faculty, administrators, and visiting guests are the hallmark foundation of the LLC.

Res. Inc.
The Engineering-Entrepreneurship Residential Initiative, a.k.a. Res. Inc., puts students with a bent for entrepreneurship into one residential area for living and learning. Housed in Hartley-Wallach Hall, this unique living environment allows young entrepreneurs to conceptualize, create, and problem solve together. They also have programs specifically designed for them like small group dinners with successful entrepreneurs.

“Dean-in-Residence and Alumni Dinners
Dean-in-Residence host monthly dinners with small groups of students and prominent alumni. Students and alumni love how easy it is to strike an instant rapport with one another because of their common Core experience.”
— Seth Anziska
Teaneck, NJ; History

Students are guaranteed housing for all four years.

Faculty-in-Residence
Professors and their families live on campus too, hosting dinners, guest lectures, study breaks, and other programs in their homes. The connection to these professors outside of class gives students more ways to create meaningful and lasting friendships with faculty.

“Professors want to know you as a person. My Arabic professor is like an uncle to me; he invites his classes to his house for potluck with his family.”
— Seth Anziska
Teaneck, NJ; History

Special Interest Communities
A unique residential experience, Special Interest Communities enable sophomores, juniors, and seniors to live and explore common interests together. Examples of SICs include: Casa Latina, Community Health House, and Writer’s House, among several others. SICs have faculty advisors and create opportunities for students to connect with relevant faculty, administrators, alumni, and community leaders.

“Fifty years from now, this is the kind of thing we’ll remember: sitting in the hallway with a bunch of friends, talking about books until two in the morning.”
— Tom Santilli
Bencic, CA; History

Each residence hall has a network of students (Resident Advisers on every floor and a Community Adviser) to create programs and build community.
Club Life

As one alumna said, “Columbians expect to be involved.” You will meet other students like you — students who want to make an impact in their community, continue a familiar passion, or discover a new one. Clubs here are some of the most interesting, rewarding, close-knit, and fun micro communities you’ll ever be part of. Here are just a few of more than 500 student-run clubs and organizations, with new ones being created every year.

Media and Publications
The Birch - a journal for Eastern European and Eurasian Studies
The Blue and White
The Columbia Daily Spectator
Columbia Journal of Literary Criticism (CJLC)
Columbia Political Review (CPR)
The Columbia Review (Literary Magazine)
Columbia Science Review (CSR)
Columbia Student Government News
Columbia Undergraduate Law Review
Columbia Undergraduate Journal of History
Columbia University Science Journal (CUSJ)
The Columbian (Yearbook)
Conscience: The Journal of Sustainable Development
The Current (Journal of Jewish Studies)
The Federalist Paper
The Gatsby Magazine (Philosophy)
Jester of Columbia University Journal of Politics & Society
The Proxy Magazine
Rhapsody in Blue Tablet
Tectonic
Triple Helix
WBAR Radio
WCUC FM

Student Government
Activities Board at Columbia Columbia College Student Council Community Impact Engineering Student Council InterGreek Council Multicultural Greek Council Student Governing Board

Student Initiatives
(Student-led programs in conjunction with administrative support)
Academic Success Programs
Columbia Mentoring Initiative (CMI)
Columbia University Scholars Alliance Committee on Instruction Committee on the Core Community Principles Initiative Days of Dialogue Double Discovery Center Freedom School Gay Health Advocacy Project (GHAP) Global Recruitment Committee Go Ask Alice! Intercultural Resource Center (IRC) Multicultural Recruitment Committee Office of Multicultural Affairs Advisory Board President’s Council on Diversity President’s Council on Student Affairs ROOTS SisterCircle Students of Color Leadership Retreat (SOCURL) Undergraduate Recruitment Committee Voices Raised

Academic

Environmental
Columbia/Barnard Earth Coalition Columbia University Food Sustainability Project CoreFoods Food Cooperative Green Umbrella at Columbia University Students for Economic and Environmental Justice

Gender and Sexuality
Athena Pre-Law Society Columbia Queer Alliance Columbia Men Against Violence Everyone Allied Against Homophobia Feminist Thought Feminists United on Campus GayPride GenderRevolution & Queer Peers and Allies Greenpeace Productive Outreach for Women Proud Colors Q House Queer Awareness Month Smart Women Lead

Society of Women Engineers
Take Back the Night
V-Day
Women in Politics
Women’s History Month
Women’s International Business Council

Political/Activist
Action for Immigrant Rights
American Civil Liberties Union
Amnesty International
Campaign to End the Death Penalty
Colleges Against Cancer
Columbia Anti-War Coalition
Columbia College Conservative Club
Columbia College Libertarians
Columbia Global Justice
Columbia Global Solutions
Columbia Green Party
Columbia International Relations Council and Association
Columbia Net Impact
Columbia Political Union
Columbia Student Solidarity Network
Columbia Students for International Service
Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine
Columbia UWICF
Columbia University College Democrats
Columbia University College Republicans
Columbia University Development Initiatives
Columbia University Liberty in North Korea
Democracy Matters
FEED @ Columbia University
Feed2012
Hamilton Society
International Socialist Organization
Jews for Social Justice
LionPAC
LUCHA
PROIsrael PROgressives

Student Enterprises
Columbia Bartending Agency and School of Mixology
Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs
Columbia University Tutoring and Translating Agency (CUTTA)
Inside New York magazine

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Roar, Lion, Roar

Whether you are a varsity athlete or an avid sports fan, Columbia has a proud history of achievement. An original member of the Ivy League, Columbia offers 31 NCAA Division I varsity sports, and 45+ club and 40+ intramural sports. With 14 Ivy League Championships since 2007 and several Olympians and Olympic medalists, Columbia has an exceptional program and tradition for serious players or any athlete or fan with a fierce love of the game.

Men’s Varsity Sports
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Fencing
- Football
- Gulf
- Rowing: Heavyweight
- Rowing: Lightweight
- Soccer
- Squash
- Swimming & Diving
- Tennis
- Track & Field: Indoor
- Track & Field: Outdoor
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

Women’s Varsity Sports
- Archery
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Fencing
- Field Hockey
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Rowing
- Soccer
- Softball

Club Sports
- Aikido
- Archery
- Badminton
- Ballroom Dance
- Bowling
- Boxing Training
- Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
- Capoeira
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Figure Skating
- Go Ju Ryu Karate
- Hiking
- Hockey (Men)
- Hockey (Women)
- Kayaking
- Kendu
- La crosse (Men)
- Masters Swim
- Moy Yee Martial Arts
- Racquetball
- Road Runners
- Rock Climbing
- Rugby (Men)
- Rugby (Women)
- Sailing
- Shotokan Karate
- Ski Racing
- Swing Dance
- Table Tennis
- Taekwondo
- Tennis
- Triathlon
- Ultimate Frisbee (Men)
- Ultimate Frisbee (Women)
- Volleyball (Men)
- Volleyball (Women)
- Water Polo (Men)

Intramural Teams
(Co-ed, Men’s, and Women’s teams and tournaments in several of the following sports)
- Basketball
- Dodgeball
- Floor Hockey
- Football
- Indoor Soccer
- Kickball
- Outdoor Soccer
- Racquetball
- Squash
- Volleyball

34 Olympians
13 NCAA team championships
47 NCAA individual championships
14 Ivy League Championship teams in the last four years.

“I love Friday nights in February when the campus is serene, but you walk into Levien Gymnasium, and there’s suddenly the blaring noises of referee whistles, the band playing, and the packed house yelling.”

Jim Pagels, Coppell, TX; American Studies
Columbia Moments: Tried and True Blue
Columbia moments: they happen because of the people who come here and because of our history. **They happen because this city is part of us and we are part of it.** Completely unique to each student yet, oh so Columbia. They could only happen here.

Each year our Bacchanal festival brings a free concert to campus. Past performers have included Kanye West, Common, Outkast, Snoop Dogg, Talib Kweli, and Vampire Weekend. Student bands also compete in a Battle of the Bands. In fact, the Columbia alumni who formed Vampire Weekend first played at a Columbia Engineering Battle of the Bands.

**Orgo Night Merriment**

The night before the Organic Chemistry Final — Orgo Night. I saw a thousand students spiraling up the Lerner ramps, waiting to go inside, all obviously taking a break from studying for finals. At midnight sharp, you hear the sound of instruments and all of a sudden, the marching band storms into the room playing songs and reading jokes while the rest of us are standing on the tables and chairs dancing and laughing. **Debbie Goodman, Lido Beach, NY; CC**

**Varsity Show, Opening Night**

I saw a thousand students spiraling up the Lerner ramps, waiting to go inside, all obviously taking a break from studying for finals. I thought of how unique this tradition was: Columbia’s big end of the year bang was a musical in which the whole school comes together to poke fun at ourselves. I thought about how I had been running around the city all day, looking for the most specialized lighting equipment or set dressing. I thought about how incredibly talented everyone was that I had the good fortune to work with. More than anything, what made that moment so Columbia was the combination of tradition and freshness. It was the 116th time the students had assembled, but we were still presenting this new show. **Will Hughes, San Jose, CA; CC**

**A Year in Columbia Traditions**

Columbia Outdoor Orientation Program (August)  
New Student Orientation Program (August)  
President’s Annual Fun Run (September)  
World Leaders Forum (September)

“The night started the way most nights do when the weather is nice: on Low Steps. The plan: meet for dinner at Columbia Cottage, stroll down Amsterdam, explore Midtown. But as we were leaving we bumped into another group of friends. Ideas were exchanged. Dinner was now a quick bite at John Jay. The stroll had turned into a walk along 116th to watch a movie in Riverside Park.”

**Henry Jones, Rochester, NY; SEAS**

The Varsity Show, an entirely student-run performance, has been produced for over a century. The Varsity Show helped launch the creative genius of Rodgers and Hammerstein as well as Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt.

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Unexpected Advice

I’d just finished a round robin set of squash games with some kids on my floor when a man who introduced himself as Jeff asked me to play a couple of games. I made quite a fool of myself losing about five games 9-0. Now well aware that my squash game needed a lot of improvement, I asked him for some advice. Not only did he give me great constructive criticism but he stayed to practice some of the methods. When we decided to call it quits, he told me I should come to the next orchestra concert. Turned out I just played a pickup game of squash with the director of the Columbia orchestra. I couldn’t help but smile. BILLY FINK, Franklin Lakes, NJ; CC

Spring Awakening

I had just gone to see Spring Awakening (free tickets!) with a group of fellow Columbia freshmen. Afterward, as we stood on the corner of 50th and Broadway waiting for the light to change, one of us mentioned that one of the characters had referenced Achilles and Patroklos from The Iliad, who we had just been learning about in Lit Hum. Suddenly the entire group launched into a discussion/debate/free-for-all about the relationship between the two. I realized a minute later that we had been talking so intensely we’d missed the light. We’d also just acted out every Columbia guide book cliché about the unifying power of the Core Curriculum.

STEPHEN DAVAN, Hartsdale, NY; CC

“Aactivities that combine classic college experiences with the unique influence of New York are ‘Columbian’ to me. Perhaps the best example of this balance was a weekend this fall when, within 48 hours, I met Maggie Gyllenhaal while buying apples at the Columbia Farmer’s Market, tried dim sum for the first time with my floormates in Chinatown, and met the President of Denmark after sitting in the front row at his talk on global climate change and policy.”

ALISON HARD, Avon, CT; CC

Professorial Lunch

When I got an e-mail freshman year from my Chemistry professor, Ged Parkin, to have lunch with him and some of my classmates, I immediately replied yes. At the lunch, Professor Parkin talked about the amount and depth of research that goes on at Columbia every single day. But what stuck with me most was when he casually referenced a friend of his named Brian Greene, a world-famous string theorist. It was one thing to be an undergraduate student at Columbia; it was another to be invited into some of the most complicated scientific dialogue with some of the brightest professors in their fields so early in my academic career.

KUNAL GUPTA, Bethlehem, PA; SEAS

“ ‘My fellow first-years and I arrived at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, one of the most renowned museums in the world, shocked to find the museum reserved exclusively for us. It was then that I saw the vast amount of resources offered not only by the university, but also by New York City to Columbia students.’

JAKE GOREN, Encino, CA; SEAS

Unusual Advice

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Pausing the President

Fifteen members of John Jay 12 are crowded around my laptop as I stream President Obama’s address to Congress on health care. While the President’s speech lasted an hour, it took us until 4 AM to finish listening. Every five minutes we would pause the feed to debate what the President had just said. The debate was the most energetic I’d ever witnessed, and it was all due to the fact that every person watching that speech had a different perspective on the matter: There was an international student from Britain, an arch-conservative, a student whose mom had never been able to afford health insurance, and I was in the middle just trying to keep up!

STELE STERNBERG, Denver, CO; CC

A Year in Columbia Traditions (Continued)

Homecoming (October)
Midnight Mania (November)
Orgo Night (December)
Tree Lighting/Yule Log Ceremony (December)
Sledding on Low Steps (January)
Glass House Rocks (February)
Holi Hindu Festival (April)
Bacchanal (April)

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The stadium is part of the Baker Athletics Complex, home to Columbia’s football, baseball, track and field, crew, tennis, lacrosse, field hockey, softball, and soccer teams.
Where else but in a city that never sleeps will you find not only 24-hour libraries for night owls but also a 24-hour improv show each spring by the campus troupe Fruit Paunch?
Built in 1904 and designated a New York City landmark in 1966, St. Paul’s Chapel is nondenominational and provides a beautiful space for hundreds of events each year. Here one of our many student orchestras practices for an upcoming concert.
Enrollment
There are approximately 4,400 students in Columbia College and 1,400 students in Columbia Engineering. Over half of all students self-identified at the time they applied as Asian, African American, Latino/a or Native American, students come from all 50 states as well as Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and dozens of countries.

Admission
Admission to Columbia is most selective. Please consult our Web site for selection criteria and the secondary school curriculum we recommend. Fifty percent of students admitted to Columbia score between a 2150 and a 2320 on the SAT (32-35 on the ACT). Please consult the Web site for details on our testing policy. Over 90 percent of admitted students were in the top 10 percent of their high school class (in schools that provided a class rank).

Columbia utilizes The Common Application and requires the Columbia Supplement to The Common Application. We strongly encourage students to apply online. Please use the paper application only if you do not have access to the Internet. Visit www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions to access The Common Application and Supplement.

Financial Aid
Admission to Columbia is need-blind, which means that we will consider your application without regard to your financial need. The need-blind policy is in effect for all students receiving financial aid and will benefit from our need-based financial aid and will benefit from our no-loan policy. Even families who make over $100,000 may qualify for need-based aid and will benefit from our no-loan policy.

Cost of Attending
Estimated cost for the 2011-2012 academic year: tuition, $43,398; room and board, $11,020; fees, $2,202; books and personal expenses, $4,188; orientation and transcript fee (for first year only), $51. Total estimated cost: $59,719.

Information Sessions and Campus Tours
Information sessions with members of the admissions staff give you an opportunity to ask about the Columbia experience — the curriculum, residential life, extracurricular activities, advising, financial aid, New York City, admission requirements, and other topics. The campus tour that immediately follows is conducted by a current undergraduate student.

The information session and tour last about an hour each.

In addition to tours offering information about both Columbia College and Columbia Engineering, we offer specific science tours and Engineering tours on Fridays. Tours and information sessions begin in the Visitors Center, 213 Low Memorial Library. We do not offer information sessions and tours on University holidays. For a listing of specific sessions, tours, reservations, and exceptions, please visit www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/visit before making travel arrangements.

Request Information
To get on our mailing list, visit www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions. You will receive information and publications, including invitations to upcoming campus programs and receptions around the world.

Statement of Non-Discrimination
Columbia University admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the University. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, pregnancy, religion, creed, marital status, partnership status, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, military status, or any other legally protected status in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other University-sponsored programs.

From a one-room classroom with one professor and eight students, today’s Columbia has grown to become the quintessential great urban university. Dive in.

Design: Pentagram
Text: Andrea Jarrell
Photography: David Leventi; Matthew Septimus
With additional photography and illustration: 99 Columbians project; Albbich, Native American Council, CU Archives; Elden Barrosa; Alex Belcher; Stephen Bower Photography; R+Images; Columbia University Athletics; Columbia University Athletics/Geno Auriemma; Grounds Care; Carolina/Geary Images; Zana Cassady; Columbia Daily Spectator Senior Staff photographer; Columbia College Today; Comstock Images; Getty Image; Includes copyrighted material of DigitalGlobe, Inc., All Rights Reserved; Engineers Without Borders — Columbia Chapter; The Eye; Peter James Field; Erika Freimuth; Napoleon Hablot; Gavan Heller; Getty Images; R.T. Columbia University Players; Flynn Laurence; Ingrid Lapal; Getty Images; Jason Lee; Wade Marrat; Columbia University Athletics/ Mike McGinnis; Steve Petruccione; Pieter Redlinsky; Victoria Robison; Elke Rosenthal; Getty Images; Jim Shiromine; Getty Images; Char Smilga; Peter Szouz; Matthew Stockman-Getty Images; Fred Stiffl; Colin Sullivan; David Sundberg; Eric Whitney; Thomas; Sarah Weiss

No Loans
We have eliminated loans for all students receiving financial aid and replaced them with additional University grants.

No Parent Contribution
For students coming from families who receive income less than $60,000 per year (with typical assets), parents are not expected to contribute to tuition, fees, room, or board.

Reduced Parent Contribution
Students coming from families who make between $60,000 and $100,000 (with typical assets) have a significantly reduced parent contribution.

Work Exemption Program
To support students pursuing study abroad, research, internships, and community service opportunities, Columbia offers the opportunity to apply for additional funding and exemptions from academic year and summer work expectations.

Even families who make over $100,000 may qualify for need-based aid and will benefit from our no-loan policy.

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