About Temple University

Mission Statement

Temple University is a national center of excellence in teaching and research with an international presence.

Temple’s talented faculty and its broad curriculum of over 300 academic programs provide superior educational opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students, without regard to their status or station in life. Temple’s richly diverse student population and the dramatic growth of Temple’s residential campus community of student scholars enrich the educational and extracurricular life of all Temple’s people.

While the University especially serves students from Greater Philadelphia, it is enlivened by a rapidly increasing number of students from across Pennsylvania, throughout the nation, and around the world. Temple maintains an international presence with campuses in Tokyo and Rome and prestigious programs in London, Beijing, and six other locations worldwide.

A long-time leader in professional education, Temple prepares the largest body of practitioners in Pennsylvania and is among the nation’s largest educators in the combined fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, podiatry and law. In addition, Temple offers more than four dozen doctoral and more than 100 master’s degree programs that contribute to research and scholarship. Temple seeks to create new knowledge that improves the human condition and uplifts the human spirit. To achieve this goal, Temple maintains its commitment to recruiting, retaining, and supporting outstanding faculty that prize diversity of thought, excel in scholarly endeavors, and support the aspirations of capable students.

Temple University’s Aspirations for a New Century

Striving to fulfill its mission in this new century, Temple will continue to provide access to superior education for committed and capable students of all backgrounds and to develop its main campus as a residential community of student scholars. A new generation of exceptionally qualified and talented faculty will be recruited to join the University’s current roster of fine teacher-scholars.

Temple will enhance existing centers of academic excellence, advance additional targeted programs to national leadership, broaden knowledge through research and creative endeavors for the benefit of society, and expand the Honors program and other special learning opportunities for undergraduates.

The creation and renovation of facilities will support research and creative work, advance instruction and marshal knowledge to enhance the quality of life for Temple’s fellow citizens in North Philadelphia. The University will develop stronger bonds with its alumni, whose success embodies the transformational power of a Temple education.

A View of Temple University

As a comprehensive, public research university, Temple University offers a commitment to teaching combined with a desire to learn from new experiences. The university is dedicated to new technologies and cutting-edge research built upon decades of practical experience in the field.

Located in the heart of metropolitan Philadelphia, Temple’s Main Campus reflects the history and diversity of 130 years of educating men and women. Since its humble beginnings in 1884, Temple University continues to affirm its commitment to learning, teaching and living with the help of dedicated faculty and staff, as well as the construction of various facilities, including state-of-the-art “smart” classrooms in Tuttleman Learning Center; the Liacouras Center (a thriving sports, entertainment and recreation complex); the TECH Center (one of the largest on-campus computer facilities of its kind in the United States); Alter Hall (the home for the Fox School of Business and Management); the Tyler School of Art building; and the new Architecture Building. Renovations were recently completed for Pearson McGonigle Halls (a state-of-the-art basketball practice facility that also includes additional recreational space, classrooms, offices and atrium) and Edberg-Olsen Hall (a football practice facility that includes an expanded weight training room, a new physical training and injury rehabilitation center and teaching, collaboration and study space for the student athletes). Mitchell and Hilarie Morgan Hall, which consists of a 27-story residential tower along with adjacent low- and mid-rise structures and a dining facility, opened in Fall 2013. The new seven-story Science Education and Research Center is scheduled to open in fall 2014.

As an internationally-recognized institution, Temple has earned its reputation. Temple’s commitment to teaching and research has attracted top faculty members to each of its 143 bachelor’s degree programs, as well as to its professional, master’s, and doctoral programs. A recent university initiative has resulted in the hiring of many new faculty members from top institutions across the country. Temple professors are committed not only to research and teaching but to their students as well. A 14:1 student-to-faculty ratio ensures that students and professors develop a close rapport that enhances the learning experience.

Temple’s campus extends further than its North Philadelphia roots. It offers campuses and programs of study in Center City Philadelphia, Ambler, Fort Washington and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Temple University Health Sciences Center, located just two miles north of the Main Campus, is home to the Temple University School of Medicine, the Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry, and the School of Pharmacy. It also includes the Temple University Hospital, a world-class medical facility. The Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine is located two miles southeast of the Main Campus. Temple’s appreciation for diversity and international experiences is reflected in the various international programs offered at the university. Temple has campuses in Rome and Tokyo, as well as opportunities to study on almost every continent in countries such as Brazil, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Ghana, Great Britain, India, Jamaica and Spain. Additionally, on campus, programs such as the Latin American Studies Semester provide an in-depth study of foreign cultures right at home.
Temple University was founded in 1884 by Dr. Russell H. Conwell as an outgrowth of his ministry at the Baptist Temple. Dr. Conwell wanted to make higher education available to all capable and motivated students regardless of their backgrounds and finances. His college began as informal classes for seven people and was first housed in the meeting rooms of his church.

130 years later, having emerged as a major educational enterprise, Temple University continues the Conwell mission. Today, Temple enrolls over 37,600 students, is the 25th largest university in the United States and is one of the nation's leading centers of professional education (law, dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, and podiatric medicine).

Temple is a world-class center of teaching, research, and health care. The university is identified in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as one of only 98 public institutions nationally (and one of four in Pennsylvania) that are designated as a “Research University - High Research Activity.” Temple serves as a vital research center for the United States government and is one of the three national survey research facilities.

From its roots in the historical and cultural richness of Philadelphia, Temple has become a major international university. With seven regional campuses as well as foreign campuses in Tokyo, Japan, and Rome, Italy, Temple attracts students from across the nation and around the world. In addition to its campuses in Tokyo and Rome, Temple has connections to campuses on virtually every continent, and its professors are known both nationally and internationally.

Through its 17 schools and colleges, Temple University offers academic programs on both undergraduate and graduate levels. There are 2 associate degree programs, 143 bachelor's programs, 131 master's programs, 52 doctoral programs, and 7 first professional programs. In addition, there are 17 undergraduate level and 74 graduate level certificate programs. In the 2012-2013 academic year, Temple University awarded 8,862 degrees as follows: 8 Associate's degrees, 6,080 Bachelor's degrees, 1,573 Master's degrees, 206 Doctoral degrees and 995 first professional (J.D., M.D., D.M.D., D.P.M., Pharm.D.) degrees. Temple University also awarded 124 Postsecondary certificates and 79 Graduate certificates.

The university is proud of its distinguished faculty, many of whom possess national and international reputations. These award-winning scholars and teachers offer students at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels the education and training they need to succeed. One of the nation's major centers of teaching, research, and service, Temple is one of three public research universities in Pennsylvania and the second largest in the state. It is a leader in medicine and biomedical research, and the Temple University Health System, Inc., provides the most advanced care for thousands of residents throughout the region.

Temple has been a leader in bold curricular initiatives. It was one of the first public research institutions to establish a rigorous, university-wide Core curriculum in its undergraduate schools and colleges. In 2007, Temple launched the General Education (http://bulletin.temple.edu/archives/2014-2015/undergraduate/general-education) program for incoming freshmen, and this program has expanded to include transfer students. Temple also has received national recognition for its Learning Communities, in which incoming freshmen form small groups according to their majors and interests. In addition, the university's Honors program is a model for other colleges and universities as it engages students in intellectually-stimulating and challenging coursework throughout their undergraduate career.

Temple University is a member of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education in Pennsylvania and is supported by student tuition; annual appropriations from the Commonwealth; federal grants; gifts from alumni, corporations, and friends; and income from endowments. The university is governed by a 36-member Board of Trustees.

Temple University is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education. Most of Temple's schools and colleges have received additional accreditation from other agencies, noted in each school and college's section of this Bulletin.
For more information on Temple University, visit the university's home page (http://www.temple.edu), view the Temple University Factbook (http://www.temple.edu/ira/data-analysis-and-reporting/institutional-reporting.html), and About Temple (http://temple.edu/about).

The Undergraduate University Policies specified in this Bulletin cover all students taking courses at all Temple University campuses worldwide.