



STRATEGIC ADMISSIONS ADVICE

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If you like the University of Virginia, we suggest you research Wake Forest University

With just under 4,800 undergraduates, Wake Forest is small compared with its ACC rivals but bigger than most liberal arts colleges. The strong Greek system dominates the social scene. Holds its own in the Atlantic Coast Conference with universities more than five times its size.

Long one of the top private schools in the Southeast, Wake Forest has transformed its regional recognition into a national reputation. Known for basketball—at least half the student body attends every home game, one junior says—Wake Forest's solid academics are worthy of a look as well. Students work hard, hence the nickname "Work Forest," but the university's size and strong Greek system means it's also easy to establish close friendships. "Wake Forest is the best of both worlds," says a political science major. "Academics are challenging and you're surrounded by motivated and intelligent peers. At the same time, students pride themselves on being social."

Located in the Central Piedmont region of North Carolina, Wake Forest's 340-acre campus features flowers, wooded trails, and stately magnolias. There are more than 40 Georgian-style buildings constructed of old Virginia brick with granite trim. That new mortar and stone complements the school's lush surroundings, including the 148-acre Reynolda Gardens annex, with a formal garden and greenhouses. The garden features one of the first collections of Japanese cherry trees in the U.S. In 2011, the university opened a new, 23,000-square-foot welcome center featuring public meeting spaces, staff offices, and a 260-seat auditorium. North Dining Hall, a two-story, 21,000 square-foot dining facility, opened in the fall of 2014.

To graduate from Wake Forest, students must complete two courses in health and exercise science, one foreign language course, a writing seminar, and a first-year seminar. In addition, students must take two courses in history, religion, or philosophy; one in literature; one in fine arts; two in the social and behavioral sciences; and two in the natural sciences, math, and computer science. Students must also satisfy quantitative reasoning and cultural diversity requirements. Popular programs include business, communication, political science, biology, and psychology.

"Wake Forest is certainly tough. Students are extremely driven in all aspects of life and bring that intensity to the classroom," says a senior. The Pro Humanitate Institute allows students to put their skills and knowledge to work helping the community; the center takes its name from the school's motto, which means "In Service to Humanity." Exceptionally able students may qualify for the "Honors in Arts and Sciences" distinction by taking three or more honors seminars during their first three years. Faculty members get high marks; graduate assistants teach some labs and health classes, but otherwise professors are at the lectern. "Students often have very close relationships with professors and see them as mentors," says one politics and international affairs major. Richter Fellowships fund collaborative research between students and faculty members. And for those who get claustrophobic in Winston-Salem, Wake Forest's own residential study centers on the Grand Canal in Venice and in London and Vienna beckon. Wake Forest offers more than 400 semester, summer, and yearlong study abroad programs in 200 cities in more than 70 countries worldwide; 62 percent of the student body participates.

"Students at Wake Forest are highly driven above all else," says a senior. Twenty-two percent of the student body hails from North Carolina; many others come from nearby Southern states. African Americans make up 7 percent of the university's student population, Asian Americans add 5 percent, and Hispanics contribute 6 percent, though Wake Forest's efforts to boost diversity continue. "We are not a politically active school," a senior explains. "Students tend to be very conservative," adds a sophomore. Qualified students receive scholarships based on academic merit, and the average award is approximately \$12,184. There are also several hundred athletic scholarships.

Seventy-four percent of students live on campus. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors are required to do so. "Dorms are, on average, fine. The newer ones are extremely nice and the older ones are livable," a student reports. Dining options have improved recently, students say: "The dining options are quite good. There are two standard cafeterias, as well as a Starbucks, Chick-Fil-A, Moe's, Subway, and other options." Students report campus security to be excellent, too. "Only minor instances of crime are reported," a junior says.

"Social life at Wake Forest is dictated by social groups: the Greek system, theme housing, and social groups. Off-campus parties are the most popular and conducted at houses owned by seniors in fraternities," says a student. Thirty-nine percent of men and 58 percent of women go Greek; fraternities have open parties on and off campus, and sororities have date functions and other invite-only events. "The social life at Wake Forest is heavily dominated by the Greek

system," says a student. "However, other organizations, such as Student Union, make a huge effort to bring other social options, such as concerts, movies, and events, to campus." Underage students find it difficult to obtain alcohol at campus parties, so many venture off campus to imbibe. The school's honor code helps to keep rowdy behavior in check; as one student says, "If you are caught with alcohol, and you are under 21, there are strict consequences." Everyone enjoys the annual homecoming festivities, and after the Demon Deacons score a victory on the basketball court, students roll the quad in toilet paper to celebrate. Other favorite events include a midnight concert by the school orchestra every Halloween, with members in full costume, and the Lifting Banshees comedy troupe, which helps students laugh off their stressful workloads. Another Wake Forest tradition is Hit the Bricks, an eight-hour relay race along the brick pathways of Hearn Plaza in honor of Brian Piccolo, a Wake Forest alumnus and Chicago Bears running back who died of cancer at age 26. Popular road trips are to the beach or the mountains; Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh are each 100 miles away, and Atlanta and the Washington/Baltimore areas are about five hours' drive.

The city of Winston-Salem is rich in culture, with a symphony, a Christmastime "Moravian love feast," and the well-known Carolina School of the Arts. It's also home to the corporate headquarters of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. "Winston is a very suburban town with a lot of young families and a Southern feel," a student says. In addition to Wake's on-campus Museum of Anthropology, a number of art museums-Reynolda House, the Museum of American Art, and Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art-are within three miles of campus. The town also has a strong music scene, with live bands playing at Ziggy's and the Garage. Popular volunteer activities include Project Pumpkin, a trick-or-treat night on campus for underprivileged children.

When it comes to sports, basketball is the undisputed king at Wake Forest. The men's team competes in the incredibly tough Atlantic Coast Conference and is perennially strong. Other solid teams include baseball, men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's soccer. Of course, virtually any contest against in-state rival UNC at Chapel Hill is guaranteed to get students excited. Intramural and club sports are also offered; the most popular intramurals include soccer, basketball, and flag football, though volleyball, water polo, and bowling are available, too. "Fun supersedes talent," a senior says. "Students are rarely left out of a particular game if they express interest in participating."

That spirit of involvement and dedication to the community pervades the Wake Forest experience. Whether students are serving the less fortunate or chipping away at their heavy workloads, they benefit from motivated peers, dedicated faculty, and gorgeous surroundings. "Learning to work under pressure and time constraints is pivotal to your future success," one student explains. "Wake students receive not only the advantage of small classes, but also the benefits of a big-name school for the next step in their lives."