



The City University of New York  
205 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017  
cuny.edu

## About CUNY

**T**HE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK provides high-quality, affordable education for a record of more than 275,300 degree-credit students and 247,000 adult, continuing and professional education students at 24 campuses across New York City. The University has a legislatively mandated mission to be “of vital importance as a vehicle for upward mobility ... ensuring equal access and opportunity” to students, faculty and staff “from all ethnic and racial groups” in New York.

CUNY is an integrated system of senior and community colleges, graduate and professional schools, research centers, institutes and consortia. From certificate courses to Ph.D. programs, CUNY offers postsecondary learning to students of all backgrounds. CUNY students also continue to reflect remarkably diverse backgrounds, with family heritage linked to over 216 countries. Almost 40 percent of undergraduates were born outside the United States; about 44 percent are first-generation Americans; and about 42 percent are the first in their families to attend college.

CUNY colleges are attracting record numbers of high academic achievers, including numerous winners of top national honors. Our students include seven Rhodes Scholars, six Marshall Scholars, 10 Truman Scholars and dozens of National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellows. Over the past two years, CUNY students and alumni received 39 Fulbright Fellowships to conduct research or teach abroad.

The University's long list of distinguished alumni includes 13 Nobel Laureates, among the highest number from any public university. Faculty members include Guggenheim Fellows and winners of Pulitzer, Booker and National Book Awards. CUNY ranks among the top ten public and private universities and colleges in the number of its undergraduate alumni who have gone on to win “genius grants” from the MacArthur Foundation.

Throughout its history, the University has been an integral part of the city and state through partnerships with public schools, economic development initiatives, immigration aid and financial advice services and other community outreach programs. As CUNY has grown, the University also has strengthened its mission as a premier research institution, building an array of modern facilities and expanding the ranks of its world-class faculty. Visit [www.cuny.edu](http://www.cuny.edu) for more information.

**Contact:**

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## Chancellor James B. Milliken

**James B. Milliken** is Chancellor of The City University of New York, the nation's leading urban public university. Milliken was appointed Chancellor and Distinguished Professor of Law at the CUNY Law School by the CUNY Board of Trustees, effective June 1, 2014. Prior to his appointment at CUNY, Chancellor Milliken served as president of the University of Nebraska for a decade, where he also held appointments as professor at both the University of Nebraska's College of Law and the School of Public Administration. He previously served as senior vice president of the 16-campus University of North Carolina. He is member of the Council on Foreign Relations; the Economic Club of New York; the Executive Committee of the Council on Competitiveness; and the Business-Higher Education Forum. He is a past board member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the American Council on Education. He has been a national leader in innovation and economic competitiveness, global engagement and on-line learning.



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## Factcheck

- Alumni include 13 Nobel Laureates, among the highest number from any public university in the country.
- 19 MacArthur Fellows, including 15 undergraduates, placing CUNY in the top ten of public and private universities nationally with undergraduates who have won "genius awards."
- Winners of prestigious student awards include seven Rhodes Scholars, six Marshall Scholars, 10 Truman Scholars and dozens of National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellows.
- Faculty members include Guggenheim Fellows, winners of Pulitzer, Booker and National Book Awards.
- 80% of CUNY undergraduate students graduate debt-free and 70% of full-time undergraduates attend tuition-free.
- CUNY has raised \$2.8 billion since 2000 and has a \$3 billion goal by 2015.
- 38.5% of CUNY undergraduates have household incomes of less than \$20,000.

### Undergraduate Student Profile

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▶ Female/Male	56.8/43.2%
▶ Black/African American	26.2%
▶ Hispanic	30.7%
▶ Asian	19.8%
▶ White	23.0%
▶ Native American	0.3%
• Worked 20+ hours per week	30.2%
• Attended NYC Public Schools	75.4%
• Age 25 or older	26.7%
• Born outside US Mainland	37.0%
• Native Language not English	43.2%

### Tuition

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• Private four-year institutions	\$31,231
• For profit four-year institutions	\$15,230
• Public, four-year institutions	\$ 9,139
• CUNY Senior Colleges	\$ 6,330
• CUNY Community Colleges	\$ 4,800

**Total Students Served: 534,000; 275,300 degree students; 260,000 adult/continuing education**

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## A Brief History of the City University of New York

**B**OASTING WORLD-CLASS ACADEMICS, award-winning faculty and both new and enhanced campuses, today's City University of New York is attracting students who win National Science Foundation fellowships and Rhodes Scholarships, keeping a nearly 170-year-old commitment to educational excellence and opportunity.

Our mission dates to 1847 when founder Townsend Harris, an early champion of public education and a pioneering diplomat who was the first U.S. ambassador to Japan, called upon New York City to create a public academy of higher learning to “educate the whole people.”

An inaugural class of 143 academically qualified young men was soon assembled.

The fledgling school quickly grew in reputation and enrollment and, as a new century approached, plans were approved for an expansive neo-Gothic campus uptown that became the College of the City of New York. Twenty years after the first students entered the academy, a second school for the education of teachers, the Female Normal and High School – later renamed Hunter College in honor of its founder, Thomas Hunter – offered the same higher education opportunities to women.

Fueled by an immigration boom in the early 20th century, City College and Hunter expanded to include evening sessions in Brooklyn and Queens. In 1926, the state Legislature established a Board of Higher Education to oversee the growing municipal college system and expand public access in the city's outer boroughs. Over the next decade, Brooklyn College and Queens College were founded and Hunter established a Bronx campus, which decades later would become Lehman College.

Despite the city's limited resources, demand for public higher education continued to grow during the Great Depression. The colleges created night divisions that charged affordable tuition while offering students the opportunity to work toward their degrees or raise their grades to the levels required to enter the colleges' free baccalaureate programs. In the ensuing post-World War II years, another dramatic enrollment boom led to the creation of several community colleges, including one on Staten Island. In 1961, the state Legislature formally established The City University of New York, uniting what by then had become seven municipal colleges into a formally integrated system and authorizing the new University to offer doctoral programs. Today, the senior colleges have selective admission requirements. Community colleges continue to serve as portals to opportunity for applicants with a high school or GED diploma.

[more ►](#)

Since 2000, billions of dollars have been invested to rebuild, enhance and expand the University's 24 campuses. The CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, CUNY School of Public Health, Macaulay Honors College and the innovative Guttman Community College are among the colleges and graduate schools recently established. This greatly expanded University, serving record enrollments, offers tuition-free education to seven in 10 full-time undergraduates thanks to federal, state and CUNY financial aid. In contrast to the crushing debt other students typically carry at many public and private institutions, 80 percent of our students who earn an undergraduate degree graduate with no student debt.

The University's 21st-century mission remains true to its founding principles of academic excellence, scholarship and opportunity for all. CUNY boasts 13 Nobel laureates and the tradition of high academic achievement continues as our students win prestigious scholarships. In recent years, the University has produced 70 Fulbright scholars, 70 National Science Foundation fellows, 10 Truman scholars and seven Rhodes scholars.

With a flourishing reputation among students and educators alike, CUNY is defining value by providing the opportunity of a lifetime: a high-quality, competitive and remarkably affordable college education. It's an education that delivers in the marketplace, producing job-ready graduates with respected academic credentials. It's a 21st-century education, taught by top scholars on upgraded campuses that is transforming the student experience, bringing jobs to New York and stimulating economic development.

That's why more high-achieving students, and more students of all backgrounds and abilities, are choosing to study in vibrant New York City at The City University of New York.